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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the protector of nations, hallowed be Your Name. Give this day to the Members of this legislative body such self-discipline that they will choose not what they wish but what they ought. Give them also the strength of will so that they may accept the right, however difficult it is, and refuse the wrong, however attractive it may be. Lord, give them the wisdom to pray for each other, not only for those with whom they agree but also for those with whom they might disagree. Impart to them a unity of spirit as they deal with the diversity of ideas.

We pray in Your gracious Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TOM UDALL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 10, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SECURING AMERICAN JOBS THROUGH EXPORTS ACT OF 2012—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move that the Senate proceed to consideration of the motion to proceed to calendar No. 396, H.R. 2072.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title. The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to calendar No. 396, H.R. 2072, a bill to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are now on the motion to proceed to the Ex-Im bill. I hope we can pass the bill today. I haven't had an opportunity today to speak to the Republican leader, but I will do that shortly, and we will decide if there is a way forward.

I ask unanimous consent that the next hour be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the second half.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on a strong bipartisan vote yesterday, the House passed a piece of commonsense, job-creating legislation—the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank. We refer to it as the Ex-Im Bank legislation.

For many years this legislation has helped American companies grow and sell their products overseas, creating tens of thousands of jobs. And for years the bank has enjoyed broad bipartisan support. It passed by unanimous consent on one occasion and by voice vote on another occasion. It is the perfect example of the kinds of smart investments Congress should be making to spur job growth.

I hope the Senate will be able to quickly approve the House-passed measure today and do it by unanimous consent. I am optimistic that the 330-to-93 vote in the House yesterday will be enough to convince Senate Republicans they shouldn't hold up this legislation any longer—330 to 93. The process of reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank has taken too long. I hope we don't have to file cloture on this matter, but I will if we must.

Let me remind my colleagues that the Senate considered reauthorizing this important legislation in March, 2 months ago. Senate Republicans had an opportunity to support the measure then. Instead, all but three opposed it and the measure failed. American exporters have already waited in limbo for 2 months to see whether Republicans will come around in backing this business-friendly, job-creating measure. Businesses shouldn't have to wait

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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any longer. We can't afford more of the partisan obstruction we saw on this commonsense legislation last March. To get this to the President's desk this Congress—and every piece of legislation we pass must get to his desk or it doesn't become law—we need Democratic votes and Republican votes. That is just a reality. It means we absolutely must work together if we want to get anything done.

SENATOR RICHARD LUGAR

One man who has always been willing to extend a hand to colleagues across the aisle is the senior Senator from Indiana, Senator RICHARD LUGAR. His first priority has always been getting things done for the American people, whether that means keeping the world safe from nuclear war or looking out for the Hoosiers back home. One of the most historic pieces of legislation is known as Nunn-Lugar. It is an effort to reduce the number of nuclear weapons in our country and in the Soviet Union. It is a very important piece of bipartisan legislation, authored by Senators LUGAR of Indiana and Nunn of Georgia. It is important legislation.

Senator LUGAR has been a great advocate for the people of Indiana as well as a dedicated student of international affairs. I have the opportunity to call meetings with foreign dignitaries, and he is always there, seated at the table. He has always put the American people, in my estimation, first and his political party second. I was elected to the Senate to serve each and every Nevadan—not only Democrats, though I am proud to be one—and Senator LUGAR was elected to serve every Hoosier, regardless of political affiliation, and he has done that so well; it is why he has been in the Senate for more than three decades.

Throughout the history of this country, even in the most trying of times, times of great social and political unrest, our elected representatives have worked together despite their differences to do what is right for all Americans. So I worry when I see dedicated patriots such as Senator LUGAR drummed out by tea party zealots for being too willing to cooperate. But that is what happened on Tuesday. I worry when I hear a candidate for the U.S. Senate campaigning against bipartisanship and compromise between the two parties. That is really what he said, that there is too much compromise in Congress. That is what happened on Tuesday. I worry when a candidate for the U.S. Senate says clearly that he will put political party and partisanship before country and compromise. But that is what happened on Tuesday. That is nothing to be proud of.

That kind of attitude is why long-time political observers Thomas Mann and Norman Ornstein described today's GOP as "ideologically extreme" and "scornful of compromise." And it is why my friend Senator LUGAR said the following yesterday in his concession speech:

Bipartisanship is not the opposite of principle. One can be very conservative or very liberal and still have a bipartisan mindset. Such a mindset acknowledges that the other party is also patriotic and may have some good ideas.

I want to repeat that. This is what Senator LUGAR said in his concession speech yesterday:

Bipartisanship is not the opposite of principle. One can be very conservative or very liberal and still have a bipartisan mindset. Such a mindset acknowledges that the other party is also patriotic and may have some good ideas.

We should all remember, regardless of what our party affiliation is, that compromise has been the hallmark of this country for more than 200 years, especially in the U.S. Senate—compromise.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I certainly share my friend the majority leader's views about Senator LUGAR's record, but he has 8 more months to be among us and to serve this country. I think an appropriate time to celebrate his outstanding career would be when it comes to an end here in the Senate.

TIME FOR ACTION

With regard to what has been going on here in the Senate, the problem clearly is the majority, which seems not to be interested in accomplishing anything but, rather, turning the Senate floor into an opportunity for show votes for the President and his campaign.

Earlier this week the President repackaged a list of old ideas into a Post-it note checklist for Congress. He said he did not want to "overload" Congress. Unfortunately, besides the weekly political show votes to which I just referred to coincide with the President's campaign schedule, the work that needs to be done isn't—no budget, nothing to prevent the largest tax hike in history, and House-passed bills sitting in the hopper.

While the President is trying to manufacture arguments he can run on, House Republicans have spent the last year and a half voting on and passing energy and jobs bills. In fact, more than two dozen jobs proposals are currently collecting dust on the majority leader's desk. One after another, the House has passed a budget, a small business tax bill, bills to expand domestic energy production, and bills to reduce burdensome, job-killing regulations. Despite some saying nothing can get done in an election year, they are not done yet over in the House. I commend my House colleagues for their leadership, energy, and good work.

I have a suggestion. Instead of focusing on his political Post-it note checklist, the President and Senate Democrats should show some leadership and work with Republicans to move on critical progrowth bills. These proposals will help provide certainty and

provide a much needed boost to our economy. They would allow businesses to plan for the future and to begin to hire again.

Common ground can be achieved on these jobs bills, and Republicans stand ready to work with Democrats to get them passed. With nearly 13 million Americans unemployed and millions more underemployed or giving up looking for work altogether, inaction and political gimmicks and games are really just not acceptable. Action is required by this President and this Congress now, not after the election or by some future Congress or administration. The country's problems are far too pressing. The American people expect us to work together for the good of our country.

This year the Senate should pass a budget. Three years without a budget is completely unacceptable. Congress should also move on comprehensive tax reform, a true all-of-the-above energy policy, and the elimination of burdensome regulations that are hurting businesses and hindering job creation. And we can't stop there. Congress must act swiftly to put forth a plan to deal with the largest tax increase in U.S. history that is only—only—8 months away.

These are issues that can't be dealt with overnight. We need to start now. And anyone who says there is no time to get these things done either hasn't been watching the Senate floor lately or does not believe this country is headed toward a fiscal cliff. Where is the Democratic-led Senate and the President? Where are they? What are they waiting for? What is the reason for the delay? The President giving another speech loaded with the same old ideas that have failed before is not going to cut it anymore. The President's Post-it note checklist is insufficient to handle the challenges we face as a nation, and, frankly, it is completely counterproductive.

Yesterday the majority leader said Democrats are willing to make the tough choices. Well, we are waiting. We are waiting. And with all due respect, we have a tough time believing our friends across the aisle when the only issues they care about these days are show votes coordinated with the White House for political gain. So today let's stop the show votes that are designed to fail. Let's stop the blame games. Let's come together and do what the American people expect us to do. As I said yesterday, our offer still stands. We are ready when you are.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

There will now be 60 minutes of debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 2072 equally divided between the majority leader and the minority leader or their designees, with the majority controlling the first 30 minutes.

The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on the motion to proceed to the passage of the Export-Import Bank, legislation that has come over from the House and passed the House with a vote of 330 to 93, a pretty resounding vote in favor of moving forward on the Export-Import Bank, which is a major tool to financing manufacturing in the United States when they have products to be sold around the globe.

We hear the President talk all the time about the fact that we need to increase our exports. This is a very important tool that has existed for decades in helping businesses across our country produce product and get sales into overseas markets, so the fact this legislation passed the House again with an overwhelmingly positive vote—and, I should point out to my colleagues here in the Senate, without amendment. It was not amended on the floor. That is, my colleagues on the House side, both Republicans and Democrats, worked out such a positive proposal that it went to the House floor without amendment.

Now we have the chance to bring it up here and pass this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to do so very quickly because this legislation and this authorization for the Export-Import Bank is expiring at the end of this month.

So, yes, here we are again at the eleventh hour. Instead of giving predictability and certainty to a very important program, we are down to the last minutes about whether it is going to continue to operate in the normal way that it does. I am here to ask my colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle to move forward, do as your House colleagues did, agree to the legislation, and let's get it out of here so people know in and across America that this program will continue.

I toured Washington State, which has many companies that benefit from the Export-Import Bank. One of them was a company in Spokane, WA, SCAFCO, which happens to be one of the largest makers of grain silos in the world and they export these grain silos. They are used in the United States, but they are used all over the world. I saw 200 workers there who know firsthand how important it is to get this legislation adopted and moved forward, because it means sales of those grain silos all around the world. They have used this financing mechanism to expand overseas sales to 11 new countries and to make sure they were continuing to compete on an international basis.

If you look over the last 5 years, this bank has supported over \$64 billion of sales and exports in Washington State. Yes, some of those jobs are related to aviation, but 83,000 related jobs in Washington State are small businesses, companies such as Snoco in Moses Lake which is a machine shop, and they do repair parts for aircraft for 40 different clients spread across the globe.

We were at another company in Yakima, a music company. If anybody has heard of Manhasset Music Stands, it is an unbelievable story of a success of a company that has sales of over \$1 million to various countries around the globe; and people definitely like the fact that Made in America means quality and that they have been able to access all of these markets.

We saw a company in the Everett area, Esterline, which has built airplane parts and employs over 600 people, and has used this agreement. Basically, they build the overhead cockpit part of airplanes and they sell those to a variety of businesses all around the globe.

Without the financing of the Ex-Im Bank, these companies lose out on an international basis to the financing mechanisms that other countries have, whether that is Canada, Europe, or other places. This program is very successful and, I might add, adds billions of dollars back to the U.S. Government. This is not a program that costs us money. This is a program that basically generates revenue back to the Federal Government.

I want to say to my colleagues, there were several things that were added in the House bill—a GAO report on evaluating the banks and capital market conditions, making sure they do an annual report on due diligence and the purpose of the loan, additional requirements by Treasury, making sure we continue to oversee the Ex-Im Bank; so lots of language in making sure there is transparency in the Ex-Im Bank financing mechanism.

This is a good resolution. I applaud my colleagues in the House, Representatives HOYER, CANTOR, and BOEHNER, who all worked on this agreement, and I hope my colleagues move quickly on it.

There is one thing we know right now. We need to do everything we can to help our economy and to help jobs. The Ex-Im Bank has been a proven job creator in the United States, helping U.S. companies compete internationally. It has helped us pay down the deficit in the past. Now all we need to do is give it the certainty that it will continue to operate as of May 31 this year. So let's get on with this business of making sure we are focusing on the economy, and make sure, for the Ex-Im Bank, we proceed to this measure and pass it as soon as possible.

I thank the President, and I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Colorado is recognized.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, let me associate myself with the remarks of my colleague from the State of Washington, Ms. CANTWELL.

I heard the Republican leader talk about a progrowth agenda. There is nothing more progrowth than exporting American goods and services overseas to the growing markets all over the world, and the Ex-Im Bank has a

long record of providing the foundation on which our businesses, small, medium, and large, can do that. So let's bring up what the House has passed and move it through this Chamber as fast as possible.

STOP THE STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATE HIKE
OF 2012

Mr. President, I mentioned I wanted to stand this morning and speak on behalf of students all across America.

In my home State of Colorado, students and recent college graduates are literally struggling with a mountain of loan debt. As a mountain climber myself, I understand that mountains can be overcome. But in an economy such as this one, where recent college graduates are struggling to find work, we need to do more. We need to do everything we possibly can to make college more affordable. And that is where we, the Congress, come in.

The interest rate, as we all know, on the federally subsidized Stafford loans is set to double on July 1, barring congressional action, so we don't have much time to play political games here before the mountain of debt facing our students begins to grow even higher.

Student loans play a crucial role in making higher education possible for millions of Americans. For many Americans, higher education is the gateway to their future careers and to better paying jobs. That is a good thing for our families and it is a good thing for our economy, again referencing the Republican leader's concerns about a progrowth agenda.

More specifically, let me talk about what the federally subsidized Stafford loans do. They are designed for American students from low- to middle-income families so that they too can afford to go to college. At a time when students are facing escalating tuition costs and an uncertain job market after graduation, it would truly be irresponsible for us not to act as soon as possible. But I have to report to you and our colleagues that we are being blocked from doing just that.

There is a commonsense proposal before us that would prevent these student loan interest rates from doubling, but it is being filibustered. All these students want—all the young people we all know want—is an opportunity to better themselves and contribute to our Nation's economic growth. We have a chance to offer them that opportunity, but we have got to end the political games here and get to work. We can't let partisanship stand in the way of a college education for young Americans. It doesn't make sense, certainly out in my State of Colorado. Coloradans understand this, and they are telling me—as I think they are in the Presiding Officer's State, and States all across the country—just get it done. There is no time left to just get it done.

I asked Colorado students through my Facebook page to contact me with their concerns so I could share them here on the Senate floor, and I wanted

to bring their voices directly to the Congress so we would all understand better what is at stake in Colorado and all over our country so it might give us some additional motivation. So I wish to share a couple of stories here on the floor of the Senate.

Justyne Espinal is from Aurora. She is a single mother of two children. She is currently enrolled in nursing school after being displaced from her job in the mortgage industry. She enrolled in nursing school so she could provide for her family and contribute to the workforce. She said:

I am just barely making ends meet and need the help of student loans. Please don't double my interest rate.

Then there is Nicholas Collins, a senior communications major at the University of Colorado. He is in the middle of preparing for final exams this week, but he took time to write to me, and he wrote:

Senator Udall, I will be graduating two weeks from today. I could not imagine a future where students would be forced to pay up to \$1,000 more per year to pay off their loans . . . I would not be in the position I am today if it wasn't for federal aid.

The concerns that are expressed by Justyne and Nicholas are just a couple of vivid examples of the concerns facing millions of American students.

As you know, and we all know, there is a broad consensus that we have to prevent these Stafford loans from doubling on July 1. However, many of our friends on the other side want to raid the Prevention and Public Health Fund to offset the cost of these student loans. This fund is aimed at preventing chronic disease and it was implemented as a part of the Affordable Care Act. The Prevention and Public Health Fund helps to reduce chronic diseases, including diabetes and heart disease, while also providing much-needed dollars toward immunization for children.

I understand that the health bill was controversial. But to continue attacking it, especially when students' futures are on the line, is puzzling, to say the least. While we could be closing unfair tax loopholes, as the underlying bill proposes, the Republicans here in the Senate are telling us we have to choose between a bright future for our students or preventing chronic disease for millions of Americans. That doesn't make sense. This is about providing opportunity. To say we can no longer care for the sick or help prevent chronic disease if we want to help students is a false and, I might say, political choice.

There are plenty of tax loopholes, big oil subsidies and other savings, that don't leave students, the sick, or hard-working Americans out in the cold. We owe it to people such as Justyne and Nicholas to come together to find a way to ensure that American students continue to have access to affordable loans. I look forward to working with you and our colleagues here in the Senate to make sure we do right by our Nation's students on this. I would urge

all of us to end this impasse and, instead, work together. Let's roll up our sleeves, literally and figuratively, and find the right solution. Let's prove to Coloradans, to the students in Colorado and to all the students across our country, that the Senate can accomplish something important for our Nation's education system, our country, and our way of life.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of Colorado). Without objection, it is so ordered.

SENATOR RICHARD LUGAR

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I rise to just say a few words about my good friend and my mentor in the Senate, Senator RICHARD LUGAR. I heard both leaders this morning mention Senator LUGAR, and I thought I would rise for a minute to talk about him because I have been lucky to have him as a mentor since I arrived in the Senate. Senator MARK PRYOR organized for our class, when we came in, mentors, usually a senior Democrat, senior Republican, and Senator LUGAR was that mentor for me. As a result of that, I have spent a great deal of time with him, both in the Foreign Relations Committee and in a variety of meetings and he has always given me very valuable advice. Above all, his advice was to urge bipartisanship, not for its own sake but because it is what makes the Senate work and what allows us to move forward.

As one of the leaders pointed out, he is going to be with us for 8 more months, but I think there was something very important in the statement he made and I will read a few words and ask unanimous consent the full statement be printed in the RECORD thereafter.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1)

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. I want to read a few words from what he said after he suffered this electoral loss. These are words we should all listen to in the Senate because they are so wise. They give us advice and put us on a path we should be on. These are Senator LUGAR's words.

Legislators should have an ideological grounding and strong beliefs identifiable to their constituents. I believe I have offered that throughout my career. But ideology cannot be a substitute for a determination to think for yourself, for a willingness to study an issue objectively, and for the fortitude to sometimes disagree with your party or even your constituents. Like Edmund Burke, I believe leaders owe the people they represent their best judgment.

Too often bipartisanship is equated with centrism or deal cutting. Bipartisanship is not the opposite of principle. One can be very

conservative or very liberal and still have a bipartisan mindset. Such a mindset acknowledges that the other party is also patriotic and may have some good ideas. It acknowledges that national unity is important, and that aggressive partisanship deepens cynicism, sharpens political vendettas, and depletes the national reserve of good will that is critical to our survival in hard times. Certainly this was understood by President Reagan, who worked with Democrats frequently and showed flexibility that would be ridiculed today—from assenting to tax increases in the 1983 Social Security fix, to compromising on landmark tax reform legislation in 1986, to advancing arms control agreements in his second term.

I don't remember a time when so many topics have become politically unmentionable in one party or the other. Republicans cannot admit to any nuance in policy on climate change. Republican members are now expected to take pledges against any tax increases. For two consecutive Presidential nomination cycles, GOP candidates competed with one another to express the most strident anti-immigration view, even at the risk of alienating a huge voting bloc. Similarly, most Democrats are constrained when talking about such issues as entitlement cuts, tort reform, and trade agreements. Our political system is losing its ability to even explore alternatives. If fealty to these pledges continues to expand, legislators may pledge their way into irrelevance. Voters will be electing a slate of inflexible positions rather than a leader.

I hope that as a nation we aspire to more than that. I hope we will demand judgment from our leaders.

Those are the words of Senator LUGAR. I think they are very wise words. I think we should all read his whole speech and try to put the Senate on a better path.

EXHIBIT 1

Sen. Richard Lugar:

I would like to comment on the Senate race just concluded and the direction of American politics and the Republican Party. I would reiterate from my earlier statement that I have no regrets about choosing to run for office. My health is excellent, I believe that I have been a very effective Senator for Hoosiers and for the country, and I know that the next six years would have been a time of great achievement. Further, I believed that vital national priorities, including job creation, deficit reduction, energy security, agriculture reform, and the Nunn-Lugar program, would benefit from my continued service as a Senator. These goals were worth the risk of an electoral defeat and the costs of a hard campaign.

Analysts will speculate about whether our campaign strategies were wise. Much of this will be based on conjecture by pundits who don't fully appreciate the choices we had to make based on resource limits, polling data, and other factors. They also will speculate whether we were guilty of overconfidence.

The truth is that the headwinds in this race were abundantly apparent long before Richard Mourdock announced his candidacy. One does not highlight such headwinds publicly when one is waging a campaign. But I knew that I would face an extremely strong anti-incumbent mood following a recession. I knew that my work with then-Senator Barack Obama would be used against me, even if our relationship were overhyped. I also knew from the races in 2010 that I was a likely target of Club for Growth, FreedomWorks and other Super PACs dedicated to defeating at least one Republican as a purification exercise to enhance their influence over other Republican legislators.

We undertook this campaign soberly and we worked very hard in 2010, 2011, and 2012 to overcome these challenges. There never was a moment when my campaign took anything for granted. This is why we put so much effort into our get out the vote operations.

Ultimately, the re-election of an incumbent to Congress usually comes down to whether voters agree with the positions the incumbent has taken. I knew that I had cast recent votes that would be unpopular with some Republicans and that would be targeted by outside groups.

These included my votes for the TARP program, for government support of the auto industry, for the START Treaty, and for the confirmations of Justices Sotomayor and Kagan. I also advanced several propositions that were considered heretical by some, including the thought that Congressional earmarks saved no money and turned spending power over to unelected bureaucrats and that the country should explore options for immigration reform.

It was apparent that these positions would be attacked in a Republican primary. But I believe that they were the right votes for the country, and I stand by them without regrets, as I have throughout the campaign.

From time to time during the last two years I heard from well-meaning individuals who suggested that I ought to consider running as an independent. My response was always the same: I am a Republican now and always have been. I have no desire to run as anything else. All my life, I have believed in the Republican principles of small government, low taxes, a strong national defense, free enterprise, and trade expansion. According to Congressional Quarterly vote studies, I supported President Reagan more often than any other Senator. I want to see a Republican elected President, and I want to see a Republican majority in the Congress. I hope my opponent wins in November to help give my friend Mitch McConnell a majority.

If Mr. Mourdock is elected, I want him to be a good Senator. But that will require him to revise his stated goal of bringing more partisanship to Washington. He and I share many positions, but his embrace of an unrelenting partisan mindset is irreconcilable with my philosophy of governance and my experience of what brings results for Hoosiers in the Senate. In effect, what he has promised in this campaign is reflexive votes for a rejectionist orthodoxy and rigid opposition to the actions and proposals of the other party. His answer to the inevitable roadblocks he will encounter in Congress is merely to campaign for more Republicans who embrace the same partisan outlook. He has pledged his support to groups whose prime mission is to cleanse the Republican Party of those who stray from orthodoxy as they see it.

This is not conducive to problem solving and governance. And he will find that unless he modifies his approach, he will achieve little as a legislator. Worse, he will help delay solutions that are totally beyond the capacity of partisan majorities to achieve. The most consequential of these is stabilizing and reversing the Federal debt in an era when millions of baby boomers are retiring. There is little likelihood that either party will be able to impose their favored budget solutions on the other without some degree of compromise.

Unfortunately, we have an increasing number of legislators in both parties who have adopted an unrelenting partisan viewpoint. This shows up in countless vote studies that find diminishing intersections between Democrat and Republican positions. Partisans at both ends of the political spectrum are dominating the political debate in our country. And partisan groups, including outside

groups that spent millions against me in this race, are determined to see that this continues. They have worked to make it as difficult as possible for a legislator of either party to hold independent views or engage in constructive compromise. If that attitude prevails in American politics, our government will remain mired in the dysfunction we have witnessed during the last several years. And I believe that if this attitude expands in the Republican Party, we will be relegated to minority status. Parties don't succeed for long if they stop appealing to voters who may disagree with them on some issues.

Legislators should have an ideological grounding and strong beliefs identifiable to their constituents. I believe I have offered that throughout my career. But ideology cannot be a substitute for a determination to think for yourself, for a willingness to study an issue objectively, and for the fortitude to sometimes disagree with your party or even your constituents. Like Edmund Burke, I believe leaders owe the people they represent their best judgment.

Too often bipartisanship is equated with centrism or deal cutting. Bipartisanship is not the opposite of principle. One can be very conservative or very liberal and still have a bipartisan mindset. Such a mindset acknowledges that the other party is also patriotic and may have some good ideas. It acknowledges that national unity is important, and that aggressive partisanship deepens cynicism, sharpens political vendettas, and depletes the national reserve of good will that is critical to our survival in hard times. Certainly this was understood by President Reagan, who worked with Democrats frequently and showed flexibility that would be ridiculed today—from assenting to tax increases in the 1983 Social Security fix, to compromising on landmark tax reform legislation in 1986, to advancing arms control agreements in his second term.

I don't remember a time when so many topics have become politically unmentionable in one party or the other. Republicans cannot admit to any nuance in policy on climate change. Republican members are now expected to take pledges against any tax increases. For two consecutive Presidential nomination cycles, GOP candidates competed with one another to express the most strident anti-immigration view, even at the risk of alienating a huge voting bloc. Similarly, most Democrats are constrained when talking about such issues as entitlement cuts, tort reform, and trade agreements. Our political system is losing its ability to even explore alternatives. If fealty to these pledges continues to expand, legislators may pledge their way into irrelevance. Voters will be electing a slate of inflexible positions rather than a leader.

I hope that as a nation we aspire to more than that. I hope we will demand judgment from our leaders. I continue to believe that Hoosiers value constructive leadership. I would not have run for office if I did not believe that.

As someone who has seen much in the politics of our country and our state, I am able to take the long view. I have not lost my enthusiasm for the role played by the United States Senate. Nor has my belief in conservative principles been diminished. I expect great things from my party and my country. I hope all who participated in this election share in this optimism.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

STUDENT LOANS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, in just 2 weeks, similar to many proud parents, I will be watching as my youngest daughter walks across the graduation stage. For some students, this important milestone marks the end of their college days and the beginning of a professional career. This achievement should be filled with hope for a great future, but for many it will be a story saddled with student loan debt and uncertainty about the economy, their job prospects, and their future.

As I have listened to many of my Democratic colleagues discussing the extension of a special interest rate for the subsidized Stafford loans, I continue to hear false statements that would lead one to believe Republicans don't support extending this interest rate for students. This is simply not true.

In my State of South Dakota, nearly 30,000 students received subsidized Stafford loans during the 2010-2011 school year. While I support alleviating financial pressure on students, I did not support the partisan legislation brought forward by Majority Leader REID that would extend subsidized Stafford loans while raising taxes on some employers, not because the goal of the legislation is misguided but because the way the majority leader proposed to pay for the legislation is misguided.

Majority Leader REID's legislation, similar to its Republican counterpart, would extend the special rate of 3.4 percent for subsidized Stafford loans that existed for the 2011-2012 school year to the 2012 and 2013 school year. I agree with the extension of this special rate and would simply ask the majority leader to allow a vote on the Republican alternative, which I might add, passed the House of Representatives by a bipartisan vote on April 27. I voted against moving to the majority leader's bill because I disagree on two grounds with the way my Democratic colleagues proposed to pay for the temporary 1-year extension.

First, I fundamentally disagree with the idea of a permanent tax increase on certain job creators to pay for a temporary 1-year extension. We are talking about permanent tax changes to pay for temporary spending. That is bad policy. I furthermore believe any discussion about raising taxes should be addressed in a comprehensive tax reform discussion, not in a student loan bill.

Second, I disagree with diverting the payroll tax revenue away from the Medicare and Social Security trust funds, where it would ordinarily be directed. We saw this done during the health care bill a couple years ago, where Medicare reductions and revenue increases that were supposed to go to

extend the lifespan of Medicare were, in fact, used to pay for new spending. We cannot continue to try to fool the American people that we are somehow extending the lifespan of Medicare when we are spending that money on new programs.

We are essentially double counting revenue and spending the same money twice. We cannot do that. We cannot do that anywhere else in the country, in this economy. Yet in Washington, DC, that has become the practice. What this would do is take changes in the Tax Code that would ordinarily go into the payroll tax fund or Medicare trust fund and now that is going to be used to pay for something else. This is a practice we cannot continue; we cannot sustain. We all know our trust funds are headed toward bankruptcy and continuing to raid them and use them for other purposes is simply a recipe for disaster.

I agree with the 37 business groups that wrote a letter to Leaders REID and MCCONNELL strongly opposing the \$9 billion tax increase on small businesses proposed in the majority leader's legislation. These groups represent millions of employers, and they range from the National Federation of Independent Business to the Independent Community Bankers, to the National Restaurant Association. These 37 business groups all oppose the tax increases that would be included to pay to keep the interest rate at 3.4 percent.

I believe there could be bipartisan support for a proposal that has been put forward by Senators ENZI and ALEXANDER, who are both leaders on education policy in the Senate. They proposed an alternative that pays for a temporary 1-year extension of a 3.4-percent interest rate by taking money from a slush fund created by ObamaCare in 2010. The President and Democrats have supported taking money from the slush fund in the past, so it seems odd that now they are suddenly up in arms in support of a slush fund that is supposedly aimed at prevention.

The President's own fiscal year 2013 budget proposal recommends using the prevention slush fund for other Federal priorities. My Democratic colleagues in the Senate supported taking \$5 billion from the fund merely 11 weeks ago. So there is broad support for the idea of prevention, but the recent record of the use of prevention dollars shows these dollars are not being spent wisely. Funds in the prevention slush fund can be used on almost anything in the name of prevention and wellness. For example, jungle gyms, bike paths, farmers' markets, those are the types of things this so-called prevention slush fund is being used for. Keep in mind that in 2010, my Democratic colleagues used the \$9 billion in savings in Federal student program aid to pay for part of ObamaCare instead of using that money to address the looming issue of the scheduled return to these higher interest rates on student loans.

It only seems rational and fitting to use the money that came from the student loan industry to address the interest rates for subsidized Stafford loans. At least it strikes me as very logical that since these funds were diverted from the student aid fund in the first place to pay for ObamaCare, we ought to recapture some of those funds to help keep student loan interest rates at the lower 3.4 percent level.

It is particularly interesting that the President suddenly has taken such a deep interest in this issue, when in 2007 he didn't even show up in the Senate to vote for the original legislation that created the temporary phased-down interest rate for subsidized Stafford loans. So despite the President's rhetoric, the greatest threat to young people looking for a job isn't the loan rates but the Obama economy.

This year's crop of college students looking for jobs is confronting an economy in which unemployment has remained above 8 percent for 39 straight months. A recent Associated Press report found that one out of every two recent graduates is jobless or underemployed within 1 year of finishing school. Graduates who are lucky enough to find a job will earn 9 percent less than if they had graduated just a few years ago.

A Gallup poll released this week gives even more bad news for young adults. According to Gallup, underemployment for 18- to 29-year-olds has hovered around 30 percent for most of the past year. Those graduates lucky enough to find employment are more likely to find jobs as waitresses and bartenders than as engineers, physicists, chemists, and mathematicians.

On Tuesday, the President was out touting his to-do list for Congress. That is particularly interesting since the President had 3½ years to put policies in place that would strengthen the economy. Here is what our graduates are getting. Here is what that Obama economy has brought about: Long-term unemployment is up 89 percent; the number of Americans who are on food stamps is up 45 percent; gas prices have doubled; college tuition is up 25 percent; worker health insurance costs are up 23 percent; and the Federal debt we are passing on to future generations is up 47 percent. The only thing that has gone down on his watch is home values, which is down 14 percent.

Our country and our college graduates have had enough of the Obama economy. Instead of the to-do list the President has put forward, we have a to-stop list for you. Stop job-killing regulations that are hurting our small businesses' ability to create jobs, stop trying to raise taxes on small businesses and job creators who are the people who are going to hire our college graduates, stop blocking the Keystone XL Pipeline which would help wean our country from the dependence we have on foreign sources of energy, and stop the divisive use of class warfare that does nothing but divide Americans.

It is time for the President and Congress to come to the realization that we have to shift our focus away from election-year standoffs and come together to focus on changing the course of our lagging economy so we can once again put our young people back to work, which is the real objective that should be our focus. These other issues, which are a lot of campaign gimmicks, a lot of opportunities to politicize this issue or that issue, are counterproductive in the long run. The floor of the Senate is being used, it seems more and more these days, to make campaign points, political points, rather than to address the fundamental issues that are affecting Americans and our economy.

I would hope we can come together to work in a constructive way on policies that will get Americans back to work, and that means doing something about these regulations which are crushing the ability of our small businesses to create jobs. We hear about it every single day.

When I travel my State of South Dakota or elsewhere around the country, I hear from businesses, the people out there trying to create jobs, about regulations, about taxes, about the cost of things, their inputs going up. Those are the issues we ought to be addressing. We ought to figure out how to reform the Tax Code, how to reduce Federal spending and reform the entitlement programs so we can save Social Security and Medicare.

We ought to look at what we can do to put in place a real all-the-above energy strategy that would help keep energy costs affordable for people out there creating jobs. In my view, those are the types of things on which we ought to be focusing.

Frankly, we have seen a lot of action and activity in the other body, in the House of Representatives, many bills they have sent to the Senate that are small business bills that would address these very issues, such as the high cost of regulations, the issue of taxation, the issue of energy independence—all these things that we believe would lead us toward a stronger economy that would get Americans back to work and offer more opportunity to young people, to our college graduates as they emerge from their programs of study this year and in years to come.

Yet we continue to have the rhetoric on the floor of the Senate suggesting that somehow Republicans are not in favor of keeping interest rates low for student loans. Think about that. It is illogical to even suggest that. However, we do have a fundamental difference of finance as to how we ought to pay for that. The other side suggests we could pay for that by raising taxes on people who create jobs.

We believe we ought to go back and take the funds out of the prevention slush fund, which in the first place was created out of dollars that were allegedly saved when the Federal Government took over the student loan program, which happened as a part of

ObamaCare. Not a lot of people realize that because it got buried in the whole debate over health care.

The student loan program, which used to be administered out of private lenders where they originated and serviced the loans, has now been taken over by the government. In doing so, savings were counted that were then used to pay for the cost of the health care bill. So all we are simply doing is saying the slush fund that was created by the funds that supposedly were saved by moving the student loan program into the government ought to be used for student loan fund programs to actually keep the funds that ought to be used to fund keeping the interest rate low, down at 3.4 percent for college students today. As I said, it seems very fitting to me, very logical, and very intuitive that would be the way we would fund this.

But to suggest for a minute that somehow Republicans in the Senate are not in favor of keeping interest rates at as low a rate as possible for our college students is completely missing the point. It is massive election-year politics, and I hope we can get away from that and focus on not only a solution in the near term with this issue but also the bigger issue.

The bigger issue is the fact that I just mentioned, that literally one-half of all college students who are coming out are either not finding jobs or are underemployed. Those who are finding jobs are making significantly less than those who graduated just a few years ago. That is an economic problem. That is a problem that needs to be addressed not by simply having a debate about student loans but what we are going to do to get this economy growing again and get American businesses creating jobs.

We need to make it less expensive and less difficult for American businesses to create jobs, not more expensive and more difficult, which is precisely what is happening as a result of the policies coming out of this administration in the form of regulations and many of the legislative initiatives that are coming out of the Congress or at least proposed to come out of the Senate.

I wish to work with my colleagues on solutions that will put Americans back to work and give our college graduates greater opportunity, greater hopes for a higher standard of living and higher quality of life, something many of us have inherited from those who came before us. These opportunities are increasingly at risk and in jeopardy because of the amount of spending and the amount of debt and the policies coming out of Washington that are making it increasingly difficult for us to come out from underneath an economy that has anemic growth and chronic high unemployment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. BOOZMAN. First, I wish to thank the Senator from South Dakota

for his leadership in this area and very much agree with the comments he just made. Last week, while home in Arkansas, I had the opportunity to visit some of our State's excellent universities. While spending an afternoon at the University of Central Arkansas, I saw firsthand the innovative ways that UCA promotes undergraduate education in all areas, including science, arts, nursing, and business. For instance, the university's nursing program has entered into a partnership with a local hospital that will dramatically help address our State's growing nursing shortage.

One day later I was at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock to see its brandnew nanotechnology center. It is quite amazing. It is a state-of-the-art center that prepares students for a future in the exciting new world of nanotechnology, which in layman's terms is working with matter on an atomic and molecular scale.

Arkansas is well poised to take advantage of this exciting new world of economic opportunities and capitalize on nanotechnology breakthroughs discovered in UALR and other universities throughout the State. By pooling the brain power of academic and corporate partners throughout the State, the center's research is sure to lead to advances in the field of nanotechnology.

These innovative programs at UCA and UALR are perfect examples of how Arkansas' universities are moving forward with the future in mind. Our higher education institutions are in an elite class. We are blessed with top-notch facilities and premier educators. But that comes at a price.

The increasing mandates that Arkansas—and every State for that matter—are facing as a result of ObamaCare hurts our ability to fund our State schools. The extra burden placed on the State's Medicaid Program means much less money to spend for education. Our universities are forced to raise their tuition to cover the shortfall. Higher tuition puts the dream of college out of reach for many young Americans. This is why the Stafford student loan program is so important. Loans help students overcome obstacles they face when it comes to accessing a quality, affordable education. My three daughters attended college, so I am well aware of the financial toll tuition takes on a family's finances.

So we have to fix this issue concerning the interest rate increases before July 1. These interest rates should not be allowed to double. But the troubles facing young Americans are greater than rising interest rates for student loans.

For our graduates, it doesn't matter from where one gets one's degree if there are no jobs to be had once a person has a diploma in hand, and that is the problem with the job market our young people are graduating into today.

The reality is it is a tough time to be young. We have the lowest employ-

ment-to-population ratio for young adults since 1948. Over half of Americans under 25 who hold a bachelor's degree are unemployed or underemployed. Nearly 25 million adults live at home with their parents not out of choice but because they can't find work or earn enough to survive on their own. Any way we cut it, college graduates ready to chase the American dream have a huge roadblock awaiting them in this economy. We have to stop this trend. We have to work together.

While giving Arkansas students access to the very best education possible at an affordable rate, we must also work to ensure there is a healthy job market awaiting them upon graduation.

Earlier this week, the Senate majority brought forth its bill to extend the lower interest rate on federally subsidized Stafford college loans. I think everyone in this body agrees this needs to be done, and I am confident we will find a way to accomplish it before the deadline. But the reason the Senate majority's proposal failed is that it is the wrong approach.

Their proposal funded the extension by raising taxes on our small businesses. This idea of taxing and spending our way out of our fiscal mess is why the economy has not rebounded. Continuing down this path will only make it harder for graduates to enter the workforce.

Let's do what we all agree needs to be done and extend the low-rate loans, but let's be smart about how it is paid for. The proposal supported on this side of the aisle is identical to the version that passed the House in a bipartisan manner. It freezes the rate for 1 year by using money from an unused ObamaCare account to pay for it. This money is just sitting there, obligated for a program that is not operating, and the President already proposed cutting it in his own budget. It is likely this money will never be spent. So let's use it for a reason we all support: protecting student loans.

Student loans are supposed to increase access to college by helping millions of Americans earn a college degree. The student loan program should be a gateway to the workforce, not a barrier. Any extension of the low-rate loans paid for by tax increases is simply that—a barrier—because tax increases stifle job creation. Let's fix the problem without making our economic situation worse and get America working again.

With that, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I rise in support of H.R. 2072, the Export-Import Bank Reauthorization Act of 2012. I believe this jobs legislation will help provide U.S. exporters and workers with an important tool to compete in the global marketplace.

The Export-Import Bank is the official export credit agency of the United States, and it assists in financing the export of U.S. goods and services to international markets. Following the financial crisis, the bank experienced a dramatic increase in its activities as many companies struggled to find financing in the private market. Last year, the bank committed almost \$33 billion in support of U.S. exports, a new record.

The bank has been self-funding since 2008, returning nearly \$2 billion to the Treasury. In fiscal year 2011 alone, the bank generated \$400 million to offset Federal spending and bring down the budget deficit. When other countries are helping their own companies with export financing, we cannot afford to unilaterally disarm in the face of this global competition.

The Export-Import Bank's charter directs it to use exports to support American jobs, and last year the Export-Import Bank supported almost 290,000 Americans jobs. These are jobs in cities and towns across the Nation, at large companies as well as small businesses. In fact, last year the Export-Import Bank financed more than \$6 billion in exports by small businesses. In my home State of South Dakota, Ex-Im has worked with large and small businesses to help export goods all over the world.

Last September, there was unanimous bipartisan support when we passed a 4-year reauthorization bill out of the Banking Committee. Unfortunately, that measure was blocked on the Senate floor in March.

The legislation before us today reflects a bipartisan compromise developed in the House. While this bill is not perfect, I believe it is important to pass this legislation and ensure that the Export-Import Bank is able to continue providing financing assistance to American exporters and workers.

This is a jobs bill. Earlier this week, the House passed this bill by an overwhelming majority, 330 to 93. This bill extends the authorization of the bank until 2014. Like the Senate bill, this legislation will increase the bank's lending authority to \$140 billion. This is a significant improvement over earlier drafts in the House to only increase the cap to \$113 billion. Adopting the Senate's proposed lending authority limit helped to improve this bill. There are also additional provisions in the House bill similar to provisions in the Senate bill that will add transparency and accountability requirements for the bank, improve the bank's information technology infrastructure, extend the bank's Sub-Saharan African Advisory Panel, and provide for greater oversight of the bank's financing and any risks it might have to taxpayers.

I am also pleased the House included language that strengthens restrictions against companies doing business with Iran. These provisions, which reflect an earlier agreement by the House and Senate committees of jurisdiction, are vital to our efforts to increase the pressure on Iran's illicit nuclear program. I believe they are important provisions that strengthen the bill, and I am glad the House included them.

Lastly, the legislation includes the Senate's language on domestic content. This language, which is supported by labor groups, has important protections in it to ensure that goods exported by the bank continue to be made in America. Although there were efforts in the House to weaken this provision, I am pleased to see the House accepted the Senate's position on this important issue.

After multiple short-term extensions, I am relieved to see that this Congress will finally reauthorize the Export-Import Bank. I believe by reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank, we are taking an important step in supporting American businesses and workers. I commend Minority Whip HOYER and Majority Leader CANTOR in the House for coming to an agreement. I also thank Majority Leader REID for his tireless efforts in working to reauthorize the Ex-Im Bank.

As chairman of the Banking Committee over the next few years, I will continue to closely monitor the efforts of the Ex-Im Bank to ensure that it is effectively and efficiently supporting American exporters and workers. Today I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. LEAHY are printed in today's RECORD under "Morning Business.")

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN of Ohio). Without objection, it is so ordered.

PASSWORD PROTECTION ACT

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, privacy is a fundamentally and almost uniquely American value. It is the reason the Colonies rebelled—one of the major reasons they rebelled—against the British. The invasion of our homes by British soldiers without court approval, the lodging of those soldiers in

our homes without permission—the invasion of the fundamental rights of privacy was one of the basic reasons this Nation sought independence from the British. So throughout our history, privacy has been a value, a fundamental right affirmed again and again in our courts, enshrined in our Constitution and ingrained in our way of life.

That is the reason so many of us were offended and regarded as reprehensible and repugnant a practice that was revealed recently—a practice involving employers coercing and compelling the disclosure of log-in information, user names, and passwords to private accounts and private systems by job applicants. And the same kind of coercion and compulsion applied to current or existing employees as a condition of their continuing in their jobs. That kind of practice is abhorrent, and it is the reason that yesterday I, along with a number of my colleagues from both this body and others from the House of Representatives, introduced the Password Protection Act of 2012.

These practices are unacceptable for a number of reasons. An employer has plenty of ways other than accessing private accounts—Gmail, storage data, and accounts on Facebook or other social networking sites—to obtain information that is relevant to employer needs and interests in offering a position to someone. There are other means that are adequate and acceptable. What is not acceptable is coercing and compelling access to an applicant's e-mail account, which could contain all kinds of personal information that is inappropriate and unnecessary for an employer to know, information that is irrelevant, in fact, to the terms and duties of a person's employment.

Second, the disclosure itself endangers the security of that applicant's personal data as well as the Web sites themselves. Too many careless companies too often have lost customer data or employee information, allowing it to be breached through poor security practices. That is the reason I have proposed a measure that would require safeguards of that data—a separate measure that is before this Chamber now—to ensure adequate remedies when there are breaches and to require systems in place by employers to guard that information. An applicant who takes care to use encrypted networks or other personal safeguards may find his or her personal information—financial data, medical information—breached through no fault of his or her own simply because the company fails to take adequate steps to safeguard it.

There is another reason these practices are abhorrent; that is, identity theft by the employer itself—a continuing danger. That kind of potential danger is a real one that certainly raises this interest very squarely.

But maybe as important as any of these other interests is the danger of compromising the security of third parties—loved ones, family, friends—who have entrusted the person who is

applying for a job or who is employed by a company that breaches its responsibility by demanding this information. When an employer logs in to an employee's personal account, he sees that employee's e-mails with his or her spouse or Facebook pictures of siblings and children. Those parties are completely unaware that one of their friends' or family members' employers may be reading their correspondence or looking at their pictures. Imagine a daughter who tells her mother of a pregnancy, a son who acknowledges an addiction to a parent, a father who speaks of his wife's illness in confidence to his children. Each has an expectation of privacy that is betrayed and violated when an employer demands log-in information, user names, or passwords from a job applicant or a current employee. The impact is not only on that employee or job applicant but on innocent loved ones—friends, family—whose confidential information, e-mails, and other data may be exposed.

Of course, when information is exposed in this way, there is the danger of discrimination based on marital status, sex, gender, and other kinds of prohibited categories. So barring the compelled disclosure of this information actually is an aid to the employer because it ensures that none of these hiring or firing decisions is based on a prohibited category or discrimination.

The Password Protection Act addresses all these concerns and prohibits employers from forcing prospective or current employees to hand over personal, private financial information that has no place in the hiring process. The bill prohibits an employer from compelling or coercing an employee or prospective employee to provide access to a private system as a condition of employment. This means an employer cannot compel a prospective or current employee to provide his Gmail password, and an employer cannot force an employee or prospective employee to log on to a password-protected account so the employer may browse the account's content.

The Password Protection Act also very importantly prohibits retaliation, which is a danger with current employees. That retaliation could take all kinds of forms, but the demand for log-in information, user names, or passwords certainly creates a kind of presumption that the refusal to do so prompts action that can be regarded as retaliation. An employer who violates these legally required duties is subject to a penalty of \$10,000 per violation.

This act will protect employees from unreasonable invasions of their privacy—unreasonable invasions that have no commonsense basis—and it prevents unintended consequences. It doesn't prohibit social networking within the office on a voluntary basis, it does not bar employers from conducting valid investigations of misconduct, it does not prevent an employer from controlling the company's

own system—its own Facebook account, for example—and it provides that States may exempt certain categories of employees, such as individuals who deal with children who are under 13 years of age or Federal employees who may have access to classified or secure national security information. The bill also provides for reasonable exemptions that State law may make for State employees who are involved, for example, in law enforcement or corrections.

Like so many in this body, I have heard from countless Connecticut citizens who are not only offended but outraged by these practices reported in the press. Fortunately, many employers have shown they get it, they understand this deeply held value, and they have rejected these possible practices. Many who might have been contemplating engaging in them have likewise retreated and reversed their decisions. So merely shining a light, pointing the spotlight, and raising the issue has brought many employers to understand the commonsense force of objections to these practices.

I wish to thank grassroots groups, such as the 57,000 citizens at Bold Progressives, who signed a petition at ProtectOurPasswords.org to let Washington know—57,000 of them strong—they reject the idea that their employers will force them to hand over this personal, private information. I thank the activists at Access Now, who are similarly generating a groundswell of support for this initiative and working to protect employees' rights on the job. I also wish to thank companies such as Facebook, Twitter, Microsoft, and Google, which have cooperated and support this effort because they have an interest in preventing invasions of privacy, demands for information that are unnecessary, repugnant, reprehensible, and unacceptable. I thank all of them for working with us on this legislation.

Finally, I thank Senators SCHUMER, KLOBUCHAR, SHAHEEN, WYDEN, SANDERS, and AKAKA, as well as Representatives HEINRICH and PERLMUTTER on the other side of this body, for working with me in introducing this bill. I am hopeful the Congress will consider it promptly and successfully because I think it sets a marker and provides a milestone in protecting individual privacy against abhorrent invasions in the workplace and elsewhere that have no place in American life.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Rhode Island.

STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATES

Mr. REED. Mr. President, unless we act quickly, students across the country will face the largest increase of subsidized student loan interest rates in more than 40 years. In the last 40 years, the interest rates on subsidized student loans have never doubled from one year to the next. Yet that is what is happening unless we act before July 1—just 52 days from now.

Unless my colleagues on the other side of the aisle relent and allow legislation to fix this problem to come to a vote, we will see a doubling of the student loan interest rate from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent for all borrowing going forward for education in the United States related to the subsidized Stafford loan program. I know the Presiding Officer of the Senate, Senator BROWN of Ohio, has been taking an active leadership role on this front, along with Senator HARKIN, to ensure we can move effectively to prevent this doubling of the interest rate.

We are now in a time where, if you look across the financial industry, borrowing rates are at historical lows. We are essentially providing banks, through the Federal Reserve, with near zero percent interest loans. So it is incomprehensible that at this time, we would actually double the loan rates we would charge students who are going to college. Students and families cannot absorb these increases. It is a tough economy, and they are facing rising tuition and dwindling State support for higher education, making it more difficult and more complicated. To add to their burden by doubling this loan rate is bad public policy.

This will not only directly affect middle-income Americans, but in the longer run, it will affect the competitiveness, the productivity, and the success of our economy in a very competitive global economy.

We have to ensure also that we are not piling more and more debt on students. We have reached a point where student debt is becoming so extraordinarily difficult to bear that it inhibits people from going to school and it inhibits them from pursuing various professions after they graduate from college. If we add to this mountain of debt, we will create a huge financial problem going forward not just for the individual borrowers, the student borrowers, but for our economy.

According to Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce, over 60 percent of jobs going forward will require some post-secondary education by 2018.

That underscores the essential need to go to college. In 2010, only 38.3 percent of working-age adults had a 2-year or 4-year degree. So we are looking at a gap of the prepared individuals with a college education versus those jobs in the not-too-distant future that will require a college education. In order to fill that gap, we have to get more and more young people into school, into higher education and beyond, and by doubling the rate we will not be achieving that goal and that objective.

That is why I introduced the Student Loan Affordability Act in January to permanently keep the interest rate low, and that is why I was joined by Senator BROWN of Ohio and Senator HARKIN and many others, to step up and to make it quite clear that we cannot afford—for our country's sake and for the sake of many working-class

families across the country—to double this rate.

We should be debating today the Stop the Student Loan Interest Rate Hike Act. This is a fully paid-for 1-year extension of the current rate, to extend it for a year so we can look for a more permanent fix. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle insist they agree that we have to do this, yet they continue to filibuster this legislation. They continue to prevent us from bringing it to a vote. It is clear they have an alternative view in terms of how we pay for it. Well, let's put that to a vote, but let's not stop dead in its tracks a policy that both sides claim has to be fixed and that we have to avoid the doubling of this interest rate.

What we have done is propose to fix this problem and pay for it in a fiscally responsible manner by closing a glaring, egregious loophole in the Tax Code that enables certain wealthy individuals to shirk their responsibility to pay payroll taxes. This loophole predominantly benefits professional service providers such as accountants, lobbyists, and lawyers who derive all of their income from their professional labor. But because they choose to mischaracterize their income as a distribution from a subchapter S corporation instead of wages, they avoid paying payroll taxes.

In 2005, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration issued an audit report calling for action on this loophole which was described as a "multibillion dollar tax shelter."

The report also described a disturbing trend of businesses changing their status to the subchapter S corporation for the purpose of avoiding payroll taxes—not for the purposes of expanding employment, not for the purposes of a new or more efficient way to use capital, but essentially a tax dodge to avoid payroll taxes.

The inspector general reported:

In fact, advising small businesses to shelter earnings from self-employment taxes through the formation of S corporations has become a cottage industry. A search of the Internet yields multiple sites that offer advice, assistance, and encouragement to sole proprietors to convince them to become S corporations. The sole proprietors are advised that they can save thousands of dollars a year in employment taxes simply by incorporating. It is also possible on the Internet to gauge the size of the savings using computer-generated savings amounts based on the user's entries for anticipated profits and chosen salary levels. Not surprisingly, the lower the salary chosen, the higher the savings become, reaching maximum savings at a salary level of \$0.

Essentially what is being done in these professional corporations—or at least professional partnerships, these professional associations—is that they have glommed onto a very clever tax shelter. You incorporate as a subchapter S; you have your employer pay the subchapter S corporation; that subchapter S corporation pays you a modest minimal salary, and the rest is dividends taxed at a different rate and not subject to the payroll tax. We are try-

ing to close the tax loophole. Following the indications of the inspector general, a simple Internet search confirms this finding.

For example, one Web site has a section entitled "How to Reduce Your FICA Taxes If You Own an S-Corporation." That section provides a step-by-step instruction on how to use this loophole and even provides advice on how to avoid being caught up in an audit. The Web site advises owners of S corporations to pay themselves the lowest possible salary to reduce their FICA taxes—even if the distributions they take are a product of their labor.

Here is how the Web site explains how to take advantage of this loophole: It explains that as an employee of your S corporation, your salary is subject to Social Security and Medicare taxes, but the net profit of the S corporation is not subject to payroll taxes. The Web site goes on to explain:

... the idea is to pay yourself the lowest possible salary to minimize social security and Medicare taxes. Then you take the remaining net profit as a distribution, which is not subject to payroll tax.

This is a loophole we are trying to fix. This loophole should be fixed regardless of how we use the proceeds; but, frankly, we have a situation now where we have a pressing need to help families across this country avoid a doubling of the interest rate on student loans, and we have an egregious loophole that will allow us to responsibly pay for the maintenance of the lower interest rates. This seems to be an issue where public policy is well balanced.

We are told by our colleagues they agree with us you can't double the interest rate. They should also agree with us you can't continue to tolerate this loophole; and this is not only an appropriate way, but, indeed, it seems to me the best way to achieve our objective of preventing the increase to doubling of the student interest rate.

We are working very hard to try to get this bill up for a vote. If there are other proposals with respect to tax loopholes or the ways in which we can pay for this other than the proposal the House has suggested—which is go into the prevention funds for health care reform, which to me is adding to and compounding not only our fiscal problems but also going forward to our health care problems we are open to discussing them.

We are right now recognizing that unless we aggressively have prevention programs, our health care costs will explode going forward. Every day, people talk about the increasing cost of obesity in this society. Well, how do you get essentially a handle on that? You have to have resources for prevention, for counseling, for education, for nutritional programs. When we take those funds away, we run up the bill for health care. That bill ultimately is being paid, in many cases, by the same families who are struggling to find a way to send their children to college.

I urge all of my colleagues to move to get this bill on the floor. If we want to debate about different methods about payment, that is fine; let's take votes, and let's move on to passage.

I think we understand that time is running out. On July 1, the interest rate will double. We have seen progress going back a few months. Our colleagues on the other side were proposing budgets that recognized—indeed, supported—the doubling of this interest rate. In March and throughout the spring, they were assuming and they were supporting measures to double the interest rate. The good news now is they have said, no, you can't do that, we have got to keep the rate at 3.4 percent at least for the next year.

We are one step closer to a solution, but the final step is going to have to be responsibly paying for this proposal. And we have—Senator BROWN, Senator HARKIN, myself, Senator HARRY REID, and so many others—not only a responsible way to pay for it, but we have underscored and highlighted what is an egregious loophole, a tax shelter, a very clever ploy to avoid paying taxes on your wages through the mechanism of a subchapter S corporation magically converting them into dividends.

I think we can accomplish two important public policy goals in this legislation: keeping interest rates on student loans at the current level, helping families send their children to school; and closing a glaring loophole for tax dodgers in our tax system.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HAGAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I want to join Senator REED of Rhode Island, who just spoke very persuasively about the need to freeze interest rates for Stafford loans for college students in America. He also spoke, I thought very convincingly, about closing a tax loophole that has clearly been used to avoid—legally—taxes by lobbyists, consulting groups, lawyers—all of whom are using this tax loophole to the tune of tens of thousands of dollars, in many cases. The case of former Senator John Edwards and his law firm—not like most law firms but in his law firm—and former Speaker Newt Gingrich, one a Democrat and one a Republican, have shown the size of this loophole and how it can turn into tens of thousands of dollars. I am not accusing either of these gentlemen of doing anything illegally—

only taking advantage of a loophole we should close.

I come to the floor to make the case how important these subsidized Stafford loans are to college students. In my State of Ohio—as in the State of the Presiding Officer, the State of North Carolina—we have hundreds of thousands of students using these Stafford subsidized loans; in Ohio, some 380,000; in North Carolina I assume it is not too far off that. Students have enjoyed, if that is the right word, 3.4 percent interest rates on their loans rather than something higher.

What is discouraging is that this was a bipartisan effort. In 2007, the year I came to the Senate, President Bush and Democrats, the majority in both Houses, joining with many of my Republican colleagues in this body and the House of Representatives, locked in the subsidized Stafford student loan rate of 3.4 percent for 5 years from 2007 until this July. That expires in July. It was bipartisan then; it should be bipartisan now. But a couple days ago the Republicans filibustered. I am hopeful today or whenever this next vote is taken they will not.

I am going to, for 3 or 4 minutes, read a small number of letters, stories I have gotten from students in my State of Ohio who have come to my Web site and told us their stories. I urge people in Ohio to come to this Web site, brown.senate.gov/collegeloanstories. Just tell us your story.

I am not so cynical, but I think when my colleagues start listening to people at home, listening to students—I was at Wright State College near Dayton the other day and the University of Cincinnati and Cuyahoga in Cleveland. I met with students and I listened to their stories. Several of them stood and talked about what these student loans mean. Already, the average student who graduates from an Ohio 4-year university graduates with debt of about \$27,000. That means it is much harder for them to start a family, to buy a car, to buy a home, to start a business. That is why it is so important not to heap more burdens on them, put more debt on them.

I will close by reading three letters. Cody from Delphos, OH, northwest Ohio:

I graduated high school with the goal in mind to get my doctorate in pharmacy. After five years of hard work I am 9 months of practice rotations away from achieving my goal.

Along with that achievement comes a paralyzing amount of college debt from attending a private university.

In addition, I have hopes of doing an additional two years of residencies after I graduate to specialize in critical care/trauma, but since residencies pay less than half of a pharmacist's salary I may not be able to go further and reach my goal of becoming a clinical pharmacist specialized in critical care/trauma.

Help me reach my goals by keeping interest rates low and helping create affordable means by which those from low income families can attend college without have to accumulate the debt I have had to.

Allow youth to reach their full potential and be able to serve society in their best capacity by finding a solution to the rising cost of an education.

Nonya from Wooster, OH, east of where I grew up in Mansfield, about 30 miles away, writes:

Going to College changed my life and my whole families lives. The only reason I even considered going to college was because my mom did. The only reason she was able to go was student loans. And because my oldest daughter saw my mom and I doing it she is now attending college.

My family had a rough beginning, my mother and I both survived sexual abuse and the disease of addiction before finding a solution. School has been our way out. My mother now has a bachelors and is working as a licensed social worker. I am on my way to a bachelors as well.

How could I in good conscience say to my daughter "go to college" if I know she'll never be able to pay off her loans. I have never had a job as long as I have had the one I have today.

I am a student assistant at Wayne College and if it weren't for the availability of school loans I would have never stepped foot in the building that is now the center of my world and my daughters.

We go to school to make a better life for ourselves

Rebecca from Lorain, where I lived for many years, near Lake Erie:

When I matriculated at Lawrence University, a private liberal arts college in Appleton, Wisconsin, my family could not afford to contribute more than a few hundred dollars a year to my tuition, fees, and other expenses. I was Pell grant eligible. I took out Stafford loans. I also took out a private loan from my parents' credit union and committed to the full number of hours of federal work-study that I was eligible for. Even as a college freshman, I was deeply aware that the Pell grant, Stafford loans, and federal work-study programs were giving me access to an excellent education that otherwise would have been beyond my reach.

I worked hard in my classes, graduating Phi Beta Kappa and summa cum laude in two majors: Chemistry and English. I worked hard in my co-curricular activities, editing the college literary magazine and serving as president of the campus feminist organization. I also worked hard in my on-campus jobs: grading papers for the French department, tutoring in the Writing Center, mixing reagents in the Chemistry stockroom, and washing dishes in the student union diner.

With the outstanding education I had obtained—and a manageable amount of student loan debt to repay—I chose to go to graduate school in Chemistry. I earned a Ph.D. from Stanford University in 2003 and am now a tenured professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Oberlin College in Oberlin, OH. I teach bright young people who are interested in making the world a better place. I also conduct research on ovarian cancer detection that has been funded by the NIH. This is my dream job, and it began with the access to an excellent education.

It breaks my heart to think that if I were a high school senior today, I might not have the same opportunities to achieve. The Stafford loans, Pell grant, and federal work-study programs helped me become the educated person I am today.

These three letters were not different from the others. I just picked the top three my staff gave me from stories we have gotten because of our Web site. I will repeat the Web site: brown.senate.gov/collegeloanstories.

This tells us about work ethic. It tells about opportunity.

I will illustrate it in one other way. I cannot do it as well as Nonya and Rebecca and Cody did, but we all remember, if we paid attention to our history, in the forties and fifties, the GI bill gave literally millions of young American men and women returning from serving their country the opportunity to go to school. What the GI bill did was help millions of individual Americans, one at a time. But what that did collectively is it raised all boats. It created a huge amount of prosperity for our country because all these people went to college.

A lot of these people bought homes. Colleges were growing and expanding, creating more jobs. These people started businesses. These people were productive workers. These people invented things because they had the education, from going to college.

With these Stafford loans, it is not just helping Cody and Rebecca and Nonya and students today, it is helping all of us as a society, whether one goes to college or not. Some people don't want to go to college. Fine. We have career centers and trade schools and community colleges to learn welding, to learn carpentry, to learn rad tech, whatever people want to do, or go to a 4-year college. Give them the opportunity because we don't just help millions of Americans or millions of individual young people, we help society as a whole when we do this.

I pray and beg my colleagues, please pass this, keep student loan rates manageable, interest rates manageable so we can have more Rebeccas and Nonyas and Codys in our country. We will all benefit.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, during the worst recession since the Great Depression, which we are now fortunately coming out of, the highest the unemployment rate we ever got, even at the depths of that recession, for people with a college degree was 4.5 percent. We saw unemployment rates of 18 percent, 20 percent for certain groups of people—4.5 percent if one is a college graduate. It seems to me, first of all, that is an incredible stress test of the value of a college degree in this 21st century in which we are living. We ought to be making it easier, not harder, for students to go to college. However, as we know, interest rates on Federal student loans are scheduled to double from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent on July 1, unless Congress can get out of its own way and do what is right. For the life of me, I don't know why we

cannot come to an agreement. This is not a Democratic or Republican issue.

The cost of college has increased 550 percent since 1985. Two-thirds of students in this country rely on loans to afford college. In the past decade, average student loan debt has increased by more than 25 percent.

This, by the way, is not a function of people not doing the right thing. It is a function of the fact that median family income has continued to decline in this country for the first time in this country's history, while the cost of college has escalated like crazy. If this increase goes through, it would add thousands of dollars of debt to the more than 166,000 Coloradans who currently receive Federal student loans. Increasing the cost of loans for students already struggling to repay their loans harms both individual students and our fragile economy.

When I visited the University of Colorado at Denver just last month, I heard firsthand from students about how important low-interest rates are to that ability to afford college. Many of the students I heard from were worried their student loan debt would prevent them from achieving their career goals or buying a house or making other decisions they are confronting. In Colorado, the average student graduates with more than \$23,500 in debt. Just in the last hour, Jeremiah shared the following story with me on Facebook. This is less than an hour ago. He wrote:

I am studying geography and environmental science with an emphasis on urban studies and planning at the University of Colorado, Denver. I am the first of my family to attend college and 100 percent of my schooling is paid for by grants and student loans. I worry about the interest rate hike that is bound to happen this summer, and with the economy not in full recovery I worry even more about securing a job after graduation and how to afford repayment of my loans, especially if interest rates are to increase.

As the Presiding Officer probably knows, in her State and my State, college attendance is actually at a record high because there are young people all over this country—certainly in my State—who have sought refuge on our university campuses from an economy that doesn't have jobs for them—which is a great place for them to be. It is a great investment in them and a great investment in our future. But for Jeremiah and thousands of others, millions of other students just like them, we are threatening, through our inaction, to actually drive up the cost of college when that is where they need to be. That is the reason why, in the last 2 weeks, more than 1,300 Coloradans have written to my office to demand Congress act to prevent the student loan interest rate from doubling.

Here is one letter I received from Kim Haas, who is from Granby, CO. She wrote:

While I try to keep informed, I don't generally make a point to contact my representatives. On the issue of student loan rates doubling, I had to speak up.

My husband and I live in rural Colorado. I have been working toward becoming a professional counselor. Because of our remote location, I have done most of this online while staying home with my son. This takes a lot of self-motivation and time management skills. It also means taking on a lot of debt. Please take the actions necessary to prevent my rates from doubling. It is imperative to our financial, vocational, and life success.

Her life success. I suspect that most of these students are not all that interested in what party affiliation they are in. I think if they were here on this floor, which is empty today, they could use some Colorado common sense to actually get this done. In the Senate and in Washington today we are facing a filibuster even though we know in the end we are going to find a way to do what is right and keep these interest rates from rising.

Also, our Facebook page is continually updated. This is from Phil Townsend who wrote in—and I thought this was a pressing question about what we are focused on today.

Here is how Phil put it:

If you had a loan that would take you a decade to pay off even if you lived as cheap as possible and only ate ramen noodles, would you want its rates doubled?

This is real life for the people we represent, and we should get this sorted out.

Once again, I urge my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, to come together and give our students all across the country the security they need to pursue their education. For them this isn't a game. For the people who came to the University of Colorado at Denver a month ago and shared their thoughts with me, this isn't a game. This is real life. It is their lives. It is their futures. They are relying on us to sort this out and get it done, and we should.

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I want to take the opportunity to discuss the importance of reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank. Last month while in Colorado I had an opportunity to visit innovative businesses such as Coolerado, which creates energy-efficient air conditioners, Sandhill Scientific, which manufactures medical devices, and Leitner-Poma, which builds gondolas for ski resorts. They are building the gondola that is being installed in Vail this year to mark Vail's 50th anniversary. It was fun to see those American jobs being created for that great American industry.

All of these companies rely on financing options from the Export-Import Bank to help them compete in the international marketplace. In fact, while visiting Coolerado, I actually saw an 18-wheel truck back up to the loading dock at Coolerado to load a bunch of their devices to be shipped to Europe as a consequence of the work they had done with the Ex-Im Bank.

These are manufacturing jobs right here in the United States, stamped "Made in America" on the outside of these devices, and we have been unable

to get this through the Senate. Coolerado used credit insurance from the Export-Import Bank to help enter the international market.

As we emerge from the worst recession since the Great Depression, we should look for more opportunities to support the next Coolerado, Sandhill Scientific, or Leitner-Poma. Instead, we have been in this prolonged debate about the very existence of the bank, and now we are weeks away from the expiration of the bank's charter.

I am quite sure there is not a single one of our international competitors around the world that is engaged in this debate. In fact, they are engaged in absolutely the reverse, which is the question of how to create more exports for their domestic industries, and we should be doing the same.

As we look to strengthen and to reverse that curve I talked about earlier of median family income falling and to see rising wages again in this country and create more jobs, we should be looking for opportunities to increase exports at small businesses like the ones I saw in Colorado.

We face a profound structural issue in the economy today in this country. As I said on the Senate floor before, our gross domestic product is now higher than it was before we went into this recession, and productivity has been going off like a skyrocket since the early 1990s. As we responded to competition from China and India, the use of technology to make businesses more efficient and the recession itself drove productivity through the roof because firms had to figure out how to get through these difficult times with fewer people.

Median family income has fallen, and we have 23 or 24 million people in this economy who are either unemployed or underemployed. Wage growth and job growth—for the first time in the country's history—has decoupled from GDP growth. That happened during our last recovery under the previous administration. I make this statement not as a partisan observation; that is just the time that it happened. We saw economic growth, but we didn't see wage growth and we didn't see job growth. Now I fear we are seeing the same sort of trend in our economy.

There are two important solutions. One I mentioned earlier, which is that education is vitally important because if people are educated, they are more likely to get a job in this 21st-century economy. Remember, the worst that the unemployment rate ever got for people with a college degree was 4.5 percent.

The other part of that equation is innovation. It is businesses that start tomorrow, next week, and the week after that are actually going to create jobs that are going to lift wages. This is one of the reasons I have been so glad to work with the Presiding Officer as we think of new ways of approaching regulations at the FDA to ask the question: Are we driving bioscience in the United

States or are we driving venture capital offshore to look for other opportunities? We should be up day and night thinking about this in the Senate because that is how we are going to bring an alignment back between the economic growth the economists tell us we are having and the job growth and the wage growth the people at home want to see.

There is a lot of talk in this Chamber about winners and losers and how the government shouldn't pick winners and losers—we hear that a lot here—as if the current Tax Code isn't full of choices that have already been made about winners and losers. A lot of those choices that have been made have been made for the benefit of incumbents—not here but incumbent enterprises. However, it is the innovators that we are leaving behind.

As we think about comprehensive tax reform, which I hope we get to sooner rather than later, I think on every one of these questions we should be asking ourselves: Is this credit or is this incentive or is this inducement more or less likely to drive job growth in the United States, to drive incomes up in the United States, or to drive exports from the United States? If the answer to that is no, we should stop doing it. This has to be more thoughtful than a fight between one narrow interest and another narrow interest. I think the American people are demanding that, and we should respond.

In the short term, the work in front of us now is to get this Export-Import Bank bill to the floor, to get it voted on, and to pass it as they did in the House of Representatives yesterday.

I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I know we are on the motion to proceed to legislation dealing with the Ex-Im Bank. I rise today to urge my colleagues to proceed to this bill and to move forward and pass H.R. 2072, which would reauthorize the Export-Import Bank. We have a lot of debate on this floor on how we can grow our economy and grow jobs. One of the areas where there is agreement is that if America is going to be truly competitive in the 21st century, we have got to grow our export market.

Many American companies over the 20th century were blessed with the world's largest, most vibrant domestic market. But that market is maturing. On a going-forward basis, literally 95 percent of all the world's customer base lies outside the boundaries of the United States. So while maybe some of my colleagues may disagree with many of the President's goals, I think we

would all agree that doubling of exports in a 5-year timeframe the President laid out at the beginning of his administration is an area where there is great agreement.

If we are going to do that, we have to use all the tools we have available because, unfortunately, right now American exports as a percentage of GDP rank behind Germany, Canada, China, Italy, France, the UK, India, Brazil. We are way down in the middle of the pack. As the Chair of the Banking Committee's International Trade and Financing Subcommittee, I have spent a lot of time and effort trying to get into the details to see how we can make the Export-Import Bank one of the tools we have to help American businesses grow their exports, grow that percentage of GDP that depends upon trade, grow that ability to reach that 95 percent of the customer base around the world, and to make sure that this tool, which has been a successful tool for close to 45 years, gets reauthorized but also is reauthorized in a way that brings more transparency and more accountability to this institution.

The bill we will have before us, hopefully later today, does that, because if we fail to act, the authorization for the Export-Import Bank expires at the end of this month, and this tool that is so important to growing exports, growing jobs, candidly will be lost.

The bill we will take up, hopefully later today or shortly, reauthorizes the Export-Import Bank for 3 years. While I would have preferred a longer extension and a higher limit, higher absolute total loan limit, I am glad the bill we will deal with increases the bank's lending limit from \$100 billion to \$140 billion.

Remember, our Export-Import Bank is so much smaller than any of our competitors'. Even taking the lending cap up to \$140 billion will still mean we will pale in comparison to our competitors. These other nations are who we are competing with. I think it is important that we compare how our Export-Import Bank—which again in this last year made a profit, returned money to the taxpayers, and has been profitable year in and year out—how our institution compares with those of our competitors: Canada, our largest trading partner, the Canada that has a population size about one-tenth—actually smaller than one-tenth the size of the United States—has their equivalent Export-Import Bank three times the size of our Export-Import Bank.

Every day our Export-Import Bank and the American companies it supports face aggressive competition, as I mentioned, from China, Brazil, India, which all have very large export financing banks in their own right. In 2010 alone China did \$45 billion in lending, two-thirds of that to a single company, lending that was supported by their exporting financing operations, while our domestic Export-Import Bank did just \$13 billion in total. So

China, close to over 3 times, supporting their institutions, one of our largest competitors, versus our support for our American industry at one-third the size.

That same year, Brazil, a country much smaller than ours, provided \$18 billion in export finance; Germany, more than \$22 billion; France, more than \$17 billion; all much more than what we do. Each of them only has, as I mentioned, in total about one-fifth of our population.

So why would we, if we all agree that growing trade, growing exports, trying to access that 95 percent of the customer base that would then support American companies that are going to hire American workers, why would we unilaterally disarm and remove this tool from our toolbox as some in this Chamber have suggested?

Ironically, because in our country, we do not provide, I believe, adequate export financing, many American companies have gone to foreign export agencies, the result being if they get that foreign export support, oftentimes the price of that foreign export support means that subcontractors to those American companies then have to come from those respective countries, whether it is Canada, Brazil, India, et cetera, again costing American jobs.

I think this is a commonsense tool. It is a tool that has had a solid track record. It is a tool that has never cost the American taxpayers a dime. It is one that needs our immediate attention. Again, I hope we will get a large, overwhelming bipartisan majority of Senators who will reauthorize the Export-Import Bank, will reauthorize it at this \$140 billion level, will reauthorize it with the new transparency provisions that I was proud to add to this legislation, will reauthorize it with some of the new requirements in which the Export-Import Bank puts together a more comprehensive business plan, all additions that I worked on with my colleagues and added to this legislation.

That is, again, one more example where we can demonstrate to the American people we can come and work together, trying to spur that kind of job growth and export growth we are all looking for.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. MCCASKILL.) The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KYL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KYL. I ask that I be allowed to speak as in morning business for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORALITY OF FREE ENTERPRISE: CHARITABLE GIVING

Mr. KYL. Madam President, I have been coming to the floor to discuss why

free enterprise is morally superior to all other economic systems. I have explored how free enterprise promotes the pursuit of happiness properly understood, by emphasizing earned success, and how it lifts up the poor by raising living standards.

Today, I want to look at another way free enterprise lifts up the poor—by promoting the moral principles that make people more charitable and more socially responsible.

This perspective sharply contrasts with President Obama's campaign narrative about social responsibility. He and many of his supporters paint free enterprise as a system that inherently clashes with social responsibility. In his telling, free enterprise is a system that mainly promotes Gordon Gekko-style "greed" and riches for those who least deserve them—a system that must be reformed through higher taxes and larger government.

Most of the policies he has supported during the last 3 years demonstrate this perspective. The size and scope of the Federal Government has increased dramatically during his presidency. As he campaigns to get reelected, his main theme is that the only way some Americans can do better is if the government makes others worse off.

There is an important counterargument to this negative narrative. In a new book, *The Road to Freedom*, American Enterprise Institute President Arthur Brooks provides a comprehensive explanation of the morality of free enterprise and how it makes everyone better off by creating a more positive society. As Brooks writes, the principles that underpin free enterprise are moral principles, such as honesty, industriousness, thrift, and opportunity. Those principles make people more virtuous, not less.

Participants in free enterprise, for example, must be able to trust that those with whom they do business—that they will honor their contracts. By promoting greater trust and integrity, free markets promote the social and psychological linchpin of democratic prosperity.

Brooks elaborates:

The free enterprise system requires a culture of optimism and trust to function correctly—a positive sum, win-win mentality, and a desire for everyone to be better off. For many people, it produces more prosperity than they need to meet their daily requirements, a surplus that they will choose to direct to charitable purposes.

The prosperity and positive outlook that stem from free enterprise encourages people to help the neediest and most vulnerable members of society. Indeed, it is no coincidence that the United States is a more charitable country than those with bigger welfare states. Those who believe in and have benefited from the free-enterprise system believe that everyone should have the opportunity to prosper, and they are willing to help take responsibility for lifting others up. "Charitable giving appears to be part of most Americans' DNA," Brooks writes.

Americans are remarkably generous not only toward our fellow citizens, but also toward those suffering abroad. On a per capita basis, we give 3½ times as much to causes and charities as the French, 7 times as much as Germans, and 14 times as much as Italians. These findings correlate to volunteering as well.

Seventy to eighty percent of Americans donate money to charity each year. These donations add up to about \$300 billion annually. The money goes to religious causes and also secular activities, such as education, health care, and social welfare. Americans also donate large amounts of their time to help the less fortunate.

Indeed, there is a strong correlation between beliefs about the size of government and attitudes toward giving. As Brooks shows, those who believe in limited government give more to charity than those who hold more statist views. That makes sense. After all, a statist might argue that paying high levels of taxation is the equivalent of giving a lot to charity, since the government spends a large portion of its total revenue on social programs. By contrast, free-marketers would argue that government spending tends to crowd out private charity in ways that are both socially and fiscally harmful.

Americans can take well-justified pride in their charitable giving. Both in aggregate and relative terms, we are the most generous society the world has ever known.

As budget and tax debates move forward, we must remember that raising the top marginal tax rates could conceivably reduce charitable giving, because the biggest philanthropists would have less money to donate. This is just one of the many unintended—and undesirable—consequences that could result from the massive tax hike scheduled to take effect at the end of this year. If excessively high rates of taxation were the best way to cultivate a more generous and socially conscious citizenry, then Europeans would give more to charity than Americans. But that is simply not the case.

America's record on charitable giving demonstrates that free enterprise is the best way to boost charitable giving and foster the civic virtues that underpin a broadly shared prosperity.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CARDIN). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, the ordinary middle-class family is struggling to get a home loan. Tens of thousands of homeowners have lost their homes or are struggling to make payments on their home loans.

Meanwhile, Congress steadily dishes out billions of dollars in taxpayer-subsidized loans to large profitable companies. Eighty percent of these export-import loans are given to companies that are in the Fortune 500. So we are giving taxpayer loans to very profitable companies.

I am a great believer in capitalism, in the jobs corporations create. I defend profit and the benefits that accrue from leaving that profit largely in the private sector. I am not one who clamors for punitive taxes. I am not someone who thinks we need to punish corporations. But at the same time, I do not want my colleagues to construe that to mean I believe we should be subsidizing profitable corporations. I don't think taxpayer-subsidized loans should go to profitable companies.

President Obama has been passing out loans to his campaign donors. He has been using a campaign trough that he has set up over at the Department of Energy. Very wealthy multimillionaires and billionaires are getting loans through the Department of Energy, including Solyndra and BrightSource. People heavily involved in the President's campaign have been getting subsidized loans.

Republicans have been rightly criticizing the President for these Department of Energy loans to Solyndra, BrightSource, and others. Republicans have been correct in criticizing the President for trying to pick the winners and losers in energy production. Yet now a majority of Republicans are poised to vote for their own set of subsidized export-import loans. In fact, they want to increase the export-import loans by nearly 50 percent and pick the winners and losers in the export business. The Horse traders may disdain consistency, but the American people value principled and consistent opposition to deficit spending. The American people know hypocrisy when they see it. The American people know corporate welfare when they see it.

The Export-Import Bank, in fact, provided an \$18 million loan to a steel mill in China. Our steel industry has been in decline for decades and we loan \$18 million to our competitors? Who in their right mind would subsidize our Chinese competitors with loans? It makes no sense. Can we think of anything more insulting than loaning money to our competitors? Come to think of it, I might. We actually give foreign aid to China. We actually send China economic development assistance. Is it any wonder Congress has an 11-percent approval rating?

Many Americans are trying to hang on to their homes, struggling to make the payments on their own home mortgage, while very profitable big business is being given subsidized loans by the government. It makes no sense. What gives?

To add insult to injury, we are borrowing money from the same countries we are lending the money to. So we borrow money from India because we

run a deficit of over \$1 trillion a year—we borrow money from India—and then we are sending it back to them in the form of taxpayer-subsidized loans. It makes no sense.

Ex-Im loans, such as the loans to Solyndra and BrightSource, are simply forms of crony capitalism. With trillion-dollar annual deficits, surely we can vote to end corporate welfare. If companies are making billions of dollars in profits, can we at least end the welfare we are sending to these corporations?

I urge a vote against reauthorizing the Ex-Im Bank, and I hope my Republican colleagues will see the inconsistency of criticizing the President on one hand for his crony capitalism and then turning around and doing the same thing.

I support not reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank, admitting it is corporate welfare, and trying to save the taxpayers some of their hard-earned money.

Thank you very much, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WEST ACT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the Western Economic Security Today Act, the WEST Act, which I recently introduced with my good friend and colleague from Wyoming, Senator BARRASSO. This bill is an outgrowth of our work with the Senate Western Caucus and the Congressional Western Caucus. These groups, which include my good friend from Utah, Congressman ROB BISHOP, and Congressman STEVE PEARCE from New Mexico, are truly leading the way. We have been doing the hard work of identifying solutions that will promote job creation, boost America's energy production, and put our Nation on a better fiscal footing by encouraging economic growth.

We keep hearing from the Democratic leadership that Congress is dysfunctional. That may be. But it is not because of a lack of good ideas. It is because—in an effort to help the President in his reelection and shield vulnerable Democrats—the decision was made to promote politically motivated show votes rather than sound job-creating legislation.

Americans do not want higher taxes in the name of redistribution and government-dictated fairness. They do not want bureaucrats in Washington figuring out how to spread the wealth around, as then-candidate Obama put it in 2008.

What they want is economic opportunity and the security that comes with it. They want the freedom and opportunity to pursue new ventures, start

new businesses, and save for their retirement and for their children's education.

If the Democratic leadership ever decides to listen to the American people and advance reasonable legislation to grow the economy and create jobs, they could start with this WEST Act.

The WEST Act is a sound and solid bill, one that puts together some of the best ideas identified by the Western Caucuses, and my hope is it will meet with bipartisan support in the Senate.

This bill could not come at a better time. The proposals in the WEST Act will go a long way toward generating the employment and economic growth that citizens and taxpayers are longing for.

The proposals in the WEST Act should not be controversial in the Senate. The President claimed his \$½ trillion stimulus would create or save millions of American jobs. As it turned out, this was a hollow promise. But the WEST Act is the real deal. If the President and his party are serious about stimulating the economy, this legislation is a good way to do it and a good place to start.

The eight bills that Senator BARRASSO and I have included in this WEST Act have all passed the House of Representatives. They are common-sense, pro-growth policies, and I am confident these proposals, if put to the vote of the American people, would pass overwhelmingly. They certainly would in my home State of Utah. They should pass the Senate as well.

The bill has three main objectives.

First, we are going to put America back to work by producing more American energy. Our bill ends the Obama administration's de facto moratorium on drilling in the Gulf of Mexico in a safe, responsible, and transparent manner. We set firm timelines for considering permits to drill, and we require the administration to move forward promptly to conduct offshore lease sales that have been delayed or cancelled in the gulf and Outer Continental Shelf.

The WEST Act sets a production goal of 3 million barrels of oil per day by 2027, reducing foreign imports by nearly one-third. At a time when every job counts, our bill would produce thousands of high-paying jobs.

Second, our bill will help bring down energy prices, making it easier for Americans to drive their cars and heat their homes. We could produce over 1 million barrels of oil a day with our bill's elimination of confusion and uncertainty surrounding the EPA's decisionmaking process for clean air permits.

The bill prohibits the EPA Administrator from promulgating any regulation that takes into consideration the emission of a greenhouse gas in order to address climate change using the Clean Air Act.

And, third, our bill will protect agriculture by reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens. It amends the Federal

Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, or FIFRA, to ensure that National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits are not needed for the application of pesticides that are currently registered and regulated under FIFRA.

This provision of the bill will also ensure that diseases such as the West Nile Virus can be managed through mosquito abatement. It is very important for communities in Utah to be able to address these issues without constantly seeking approval from Federal overlords.

The bill also stops the EPA from imposing more stringent dust standards for 1 year. Additionally, it would afford States and localities the flexibility to address any rural dust issues before the Federal Government would have the authority to do so.

For the life of me, I do not understand the administration's stance on energy production. The Department of Energy claims there are more than 800 billion barrels of recoverable oil in oil shale in Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado. This is more than the proven reserves of Saudi Arabia. If we were able to develop this resource the way we are capable of doing, we could have a major impact on the jobless rate as well as the cost of energy in our country.

Last month, one of largest oil companies in the world announced a \$200 million investment in a commercial demonstration project for oil shale. The project will be in my home State, using technology developed by a Utah company.

Another major company that has been successfully developing commercial oil shale for more than 80 years is opening offices in Salt Lake City and seeking permits for a very large facility in my home State of Utah.

The State of Utah, local governments, and the business community support the development of these resources. Yet the President and his administration are working to stop this at all costs. The most recent roadblock was the rewriting of the final 2008 three-State programmatic impact statement to cut back by more than 70 percent the Federal lands available for oil shale and oil sands development. Well, I believe strongly that Interior Secretary Salazar has no authority whatsoever to take that action.

I recently heard from an energy company in Utah that it is easier to do business in Somalia than it is in the United States. Unfortunately, that is not a surprising sentiment. But that is what we have come to expect from President Obama. He talks a big game about fairness when it comes to raising taxes, but his energy policies are both regressive and elitist.

In the interest of appealing to the environmental interests of his wealthy supporters, the administration leaves middle-class people behind. Obstructing domestic energy production prevents the creation of high-paying jobs that provide good wages for families,

and it fails to bring down the high cost of fuel that hits middle and lower income families the hardest.

In fact, President Obama's energy agenda tops the list of pernicious policies that hurt American families, hinder economic growth, and harm businesses by dramatically raising the costs of everyday life. The administration's position is clear. The President wants to drive up the cost of gasoline and drive Americans out of their cars.

In 2008, when the President still harbored grandiose plans of changing the course of world history, his Energy Secretary, Secretary Chu, said his goal was to "boost the price of gasoline to the levels in Europe."

In the meantime, the President and his party suffered a humiliating defeat in the 2010 elections. Now, faced with the prospect of going the way of President Carter this fall, the administration is trying to walk back this position.

With voters facing \$4-a-gallon gasoline, Secretary Chu now claims he is doing everything he can to reduce the price of energy, and the President's advisers are suggesting that this is just a gotcha quote. It is not. It represents the real view of the President and those in his bubble.

The price of gasoline was no big deal to the President prior to being elected to the Senate and the White House. His short commute from his Hyde Park house to the University of Chicago might not even have required a car. His wealthiest supporters, those being appealed to with his anti-energy agenda, do not spend a significant amount of their income on gasoline. When Warren Buffett flies in his private jet to meet with the President to discuss plans for raising taxes on small businesses, he is not worried about the cost of jet fuel.

But for families who are now spending nearly \$100 to fill up their cars, the cost of gasoline is a big deal. Members of the President's party seem to get this. Even in the Senate, we see Democratic support for the President's decision to hold up the Keystone Pipeline collapsing, and for good reason.

The President's unilateral decision to kill that project might play well at Midtown Manhattan fundraisers where wealthy elites have the luxury of supporting a radical environmental agenda without worrying about the real-world consequences of that agenda for the middle class. But it was bad for jobs, bad for the economy, and bad for American families.

President Obama has said he wants to find an "all-of-the-above" approach to energy production. He need look no further than the WEST Act.

Having said that, I would like to personally compliment my dear friend and colleague, Senator BARRASSO from Wyoming. He is the leader of our Western Caucus. Frankly, we could not have a better leader. He understands these issues very well. We in the West understand that we have an obligation and we have the ability to be able to help

this country from an energy standpoint in ways that it needs help. We have the ability to be able to help save this country, and we intend to do so. This WEST Act would be a very good step in that direction.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, today I rise to echo the comments made by my colleague, Senator ORRIN HATCH of Utah.

Throughout Senator HATCH's distinguished career, he has served this Senate and this Nation in a number of major leadership capacities. I am most grateful for his ongoing leadership and the position he has taken in the Senate Western Caucus—that of being chairman of the caucus's Subcommittee on Public Lands.

Senator HATCH, along with Senator MORAN and I, has laid out a clear path to energy security and job creation. The bill is called the Western Economic Security Today Act, or the WEST Act.

President Obama told Congress he would "keep trying every new idea that works." He went on to say he would "listen to every good proposal, no matter which party comes up with it."

Well, last year Western Republicans laid out a clear path to energy security and job creation for the Western United States and for the country. The report is entitled "Jobs Frontier, Breaking Down Washington's Barriers to America's Red, White and Blue Jobs."

President Obama should listen to and embrace the findings in this report. The House of Representatives has passed key pieces of legislation over the past year from this Jobs Frontier Report. These are pieces of legislation that will begin to generate quality jobs and increase U.S. energy production.

These bills tackle key critical issues, such as encouraging energy exploration and production and removing unnecessary EPA regulations. This legislation would create thousands—thousands—of jobs for Americans.

The WEST Act contains language from eight of these bills already passed by the House that were part of the Jobs Frontier original report. This legislation accomplishes many of the goals of the Jobs Frontier Report. It does it by increasing affordable American energy. It does it by promoting agriculture and ranching. And it does it by overturning Washington's regulatory overreach.

The bottom line is this act is ready to create jobs now, today, and to set the Nation on the path to becoming more energy secure.

So I am here to congratulate Senator HATCH for bringing this important bill forward.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Wyoming. He has

been such a great addition to the Senate. He has an intimate knowledge of western lands and their productivity and what they could do if we were given the opportunity. He is just an all around good human being. I feel very grateful for his leadership, and I express my support for his leadership of the Western Caucus. He is one of the finest people here, and I personally want to thank him for the kind remarks he has just made.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION ACT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, earlier this week, the conference committee on the surface transportation reauthorization—more commonly known as the highway bill—met for its initial meeting. In the opening remarks that were made on Tuesday, it was encouraging that there seemed to be a general agreement on how important that Transportation bill is to our Nation.

As I will describe later, it is 2.9 million jobs that are associated with this bill. I should be specific and say 2.9 million jobs a year, since those jobs do not extend for eternity. But it is the most important piece of jobs legislation we could consider. I appreciated hearing from the Senator from Utah about the jobs concern of his energy proposal. Those are real jobs, they are immediate jobs. They are jobs that everybody understands, building our roads, highways, and bridges.

These local construction jobs are not only important in and of themselves, but they also help to maintain the transportation infrastructure that lowers the cost of goods and helps our economy across the board. We have had to close a bridge where I-95 crosses over the Blackstone River in Pawtucket. It is reopening. In the meantime people have to drive around 295. That costs time and fuel for shippers—and delays. It was an economic cost.

This is the real jobs bill that we can do something about. It is pending right now in conference. So it is imperative not only that the conference get this bill done but that they get it done as soon as possible.

Why do I say that? Well, there was a deadline of March 31 to get a new bill done, and the House of Representatives, unfortunately, did not pass a highway bill by the March 31 deadline. So on the eve of the expiration of that deadline, they passed an extension, and we are operating under that and a subsequent extension right now. The effect of that is not good for jobs. State departments of transportation and the private sector companies that provide the services that rebuild our roads and highways cannot make long-range plans when funding is based on short-

term extensions. Particularly in this economy, our States, our counties, and the companies that do this business simply cannot afford to extend themselves on contracts and on work where they do not know that the highway funding is going to be there to backstop them when it comes time to make the payments.

In many instances, for many products, a short-term extension actually requires the underlying construction project to be dropped. In Rhode Island, our State department of transportation, led by transportation director Michael Lewis, who is a very capable and experienced individual, has shown me their list of 96 major projects that they plan to do this year. But because of the uncertainty here on the highway bill, because the conference has not produced a result yet, because we are still operating under the extension, he says that about 40 of those projects may have to be shelved because until we get the bill done, he cannot count on Federal funds being there to help pay for them.

So every day, every week that goes by without a highway bill costs us jobs. It does not just postpone the jobs, it actually costs us jobs. The at-risk projects range from things as simple as lane striping to road repaving to major bridge repairs.

What they all have in common is that each one of those transportation projects means jobs for the construction workers who build them, the engineers who design them, and the companies that supply the materials. It is not just me saying this. Standard & Poor's recently published a report warning us that unpredictable Federal funding could stall our national transportation projects. A quote from the report:

As construction season begins in the northern half of the country, this continuing uncertainty in funding could force states to delay projects rather than risk funding changes or political gridlock come July. Once a long-term authorization is approved, we believe it will provide an impetus for transportation agencies to reconsider high-priority projects that had been shelved because of lack of funding. But if the authorization is extended by even more continuing resolutions, such high-priority projects will remain in limbo.

As time goes by, jobs evaporate. Continuing delays in transportation funding are putting this year's construction season at risk and are making it impossible for States to keep their construction projects moving. So it is not enough that we pass a highway bill out of this conference; it is imperative that we pass it soon. There have been enough delays already. We were supposed to have had it done on March 31, except that the House never actually passed a highway bill.

The Senate bill, fortunately, provides a solid framework for action, and for rapid action. This Senate transportation bill, called MAP-21, first passed out of the Environment and Public Works Committee last year, and it passed out of the Environment and

Public Works Committee on a bipartisan basis—indeed on a unanimous basis. There is not a lot that every member of the Environment and Public Works Committee agrees on. There is not a lot, frankly, that our chairman BARBARA BOXER and our ranking member JIM INHOFE agree on. But we all agreed that this was an important piece of legislation and reported it out of the committee on a unanimous basis. Then the bill came to the floor. There were no fast tracks, no “hide the ball.” This bill spent 5 weeks on the Senate floor. There were a great number of amendments that were considered during that period of deliberation. I believe the total is at 40 which were accepted either by vote or by agreement. And after that long, open, transparent, robust, regular legislative process in which Republicans and Democrats both contributed, the bill passed with strong bipartisan support of 75 Senators. That is pretty unusual around here.

MAP-21 is projected to save or create 1.9 million jobs. As I said, those are not jobs that last for eternity. The conjecture, I believe, is that they last for a year. This is 1.9 million jobs with a potential to create an additional million jobs through the increased investment in the TIFIA financing program, so a total of 2.9 million jobs.

In Rhode Island, that means the bill is expected to save or create up to 9,000 jobs. If its provisions for projects of national and regional significance are incorporated in the final bill, and if funding is provided through our appropriations process, that number actually goes up, because some additional projects can be added that are overdue in Rhode Island for work.

So MAP-21, the Senate highway bill, is a true compromise bill. It reflects the hard work of Chairman BOXER and Senator INHOFE, and it is a strong bipartisan signal from this body as to what our transportation bill should look like. Procedurally, the conference committee is reconciling this Senate bipartisan compromise bill with basically an empty envelope of a bill, a 90-day extension passed by the House, with an authorization to go to conference. Some controversial provisions were thrown in, unfortunately, that will make things more difficult and slower to get done, and more difficult and slower is not good when you are talking about passing the highway bill and the construction season is already beginning to get underway.

The most acceptable action and the one in the best interests of our country, the one in the best interests of our economy, the one in the best interests of our infrastructure, the one in the best interests of jobs in these construction projects, would be for the conference committee to report out the bipartisan Senate bill without a lot of controversial riders so that we can get a long-term reauthorization signed into law while there is still a full construction season ahead and get hard-

working Americans back to work rebuilding—as every American knows we need to do—our Nation's beat-up and decrepit transportation infrastructure.

I am pleased the conference is off to a good start. I am sorry we had to wait this long to get to this point. It would have been nice to have had this done on March 31 when the deadline came. But now that we are here, I urge all of the conferees to come to a quick resolution that honors the extensive bipartisan work that went into the Senate bill which has gotten us to this point.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. SHAHEEN.) The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I am here to speak, I believe, for the great majority of Americans who believe the time is long overdue for the Federal Government to fulfill its commitment and its responsibility to end the lawlessness at our borders. Only then can we put this matter, the deep frustrations that are occurring, behind us and move our country forward in a positive and united way.

Immigration security is especially important in these economic times. Illegal labor does, in fact, depress wages and makes it more difficult for out-of-work Americans to find good-paying jobs. Immigration security is also vital to stopping cartels that are creating violence around our borders and in our cities. The Federal Government has a duty to protect those living in communities which suffer every day from preventable drug and gang violence.

There is nothing compassionate about looking the other way when we can take concrete actions to make our schools and communities safer in every part of the country. There is nothing compassionate about a policy which makes it harder to protect not only Americans but immigrants who live in our country from gang violence that occurs in cities and at our border today.

Unfortunately, instead of compelling sanctuary jurisdictions, such as the city of Chicago, to cooperate with Federal law enforcement officers, the administration has gone after those States that are trying to assist the Federal Government to end the lawlessness in our country. Under the administration's new “prosecutorial discretion” guidelines, if the Department of Homeland Security doesn't consider someone a priority, that individual's deportation proceedings are closed and they are allowed to remain in the country. So far, the administration has granted this form of backdoor amnesty to almost 17,000 aliens illegally in the country, some of whom have been convicted of crimes.

The administration has also been resistant to the popular E-Verify program, never once including it in any of its jobs or economic plans. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE, has effectively ended worksite enforcement operations, meaning employers can continue to hire illegal workers rather than out-of-work Americans.

A determined President could take meaningful steps to stem the tide of illegality. I have been encouraged by Governor Romney's commitments on this issue. This is something I have worked at for some time, and I am absolutely convinced that with consistent, smart, effective leadership and a commitment on behalf of this country to end the lawlessness, it can be done and done quicker and with less difficulty than most people realize.

For example, Governor Romney recounted the following conversation he had with a Border Patrol agent, and it is so similar to ones I have had with Mr. BONNER, who headed the National Border Patrol Council. This is the conversation as Governor Romney recounted it:

They said, when employers are willing to hire people who are here illegally, that's a magnet, and it draws them in. And sanctuary cities, giving tuition breaks to the kids of illegal aliens . . . those things also have to be stopped. If we want to secure the border, we have to make sure we have a fence, determining where people are, enough agents to oversee it, and turn off that magnet. We can't talk about amnesty, we cannot give amnesty to those who have come here illegally.

That is what Governor Romney said he was told by the agents who have to deal with this every day and who try to do their job professionally, and I think that is correct. That is what they are telling me. That is what law enforcement officers have told me for some time.

Another example of how our country is so out of control is this government's failure to follow the rule of law with regard to Child Tax Credits.

The Treasury Department's own inspector general for Tax Administration, who analyzes problems within the agency and issues reports, reported that in 2010 the Internal Revenue Service paid illegal aliens a staggering \$4.2 billion in child tax credits for dependents, a great deal of whom don't even live in the country. This has been going on for years. This cannot continue. It must be stopped, and fixing it can't be delayed.

The Treasury IG report states:

Although the law prohibits aliens residing without authorization in the United States from receiving most Federal public benefits, an increasing number of these individuals are filing tax returns claiming the Additional Child Tax Credit, a refundable tax credit intended for working families. The payment of Federal funds through this tax benefit appears to provide an additional incentive for aliens to enter, reside, and work in the United States without authorization, which directly contradicts Federal law and policy to remove such incentives.

That is from the inspector general for Tax Administration at the U.S. Treasury Department, not my language. Of course, that is exactly correct. That is exactly correct. How could it be otherwise?

In a press report from Indiana, one of the illegal aliens admitted his address was used to file tax returns by four other undocumented workers who don't even live there. Those four workers claimed 20 children live inside that one residence, and as a result the Internal Revenue Service sent the illegal immigrants tax refunds totaling \$29,608. A tax credit is not a tax deduction, it is a direct payment, a direct transfer of wealth through the tax system to an individual—\$29,608.

The Treasury inspector general's report further stated:

Millions of people are seeking this tax credit who, we believe, are not entitled to it. We have made recommendations to the IRS as to how they could address this issue, and they have not taken sufficient action, in our view, to solve the problem.

Well, that is not acceptable. Now, \$4 billion is a great deal of money. Four billion dollars a year is about \$10 million a day. They found that \$4 billion was doled out to people who received this one benefit illegally. No wonder we have people taking vacations to Las Vegas on the government's dime. No wonder we are giving \$½ billion loans to failed companies like Solyndra. What are we doing here in Washington?

So I say it is time to end this. I would note that the House of Representatives has voted to end this, and so it is now time to see what this Senate will do. We need to act to end it also.

I have been in the Senate for 15-plus years, and being on the Judiciary Committee, we have seen the debate over immigration move forward, sometimes encouragingly and sometimes discouragingly. But every few years, it seems that the Washington masters of the universe who have willfully and deliberately failed to follow through on consistent promises to end immigration illegality begin to discuss some form of amnesty. They continue to incentivize the illegality but remain unwilling to take the necessary steps—not impossible steps—to secure the border on behalf of all citizens.

For example, just this week my good friend and able Senator, Mr. DURBIN, said that the DREAM Act is a bill that says: If you graduate high school and you have no serious problems when it comes to criminal convictions or moral issues and you either complete service in the military or 2 years in college, we will put you on a path to becoming legal and becoming a citizen.

But we have examined that legislation in its most recent version, and it would really in effect grant amnesty to millions of people here illegally regardless of whether they go on to finish high school, finish college, or serve in the military. That is what the legislation does. And the bill is certainly not

limited to children. It would apply to illegal immigrants who are in their thirties now. Because the bill has no cap, no limit, no sunset, no ending, it would allow people to remain eligible for the rest of their lives, at any age, to claim this benefit. Once they are naturalized, those granted DREAM Act amnesty would then have the right to legally petition for entry into the United States of their family members, including their adult brothers and sisters and the parents who caused their illegal presence in the United States to begin with, easily tripling the number of green card holders.

This is a big issue. We need to be careful about these things. We need to consider what we are doing here.

The bill's provisions are so broad, they are open to those who have even multiple misdemeanor criminal convictions that could include drunk driving and certain sexual offenses. But the bill goes further, offering safe harbor protection to those here illegally, those who have pending deportation proceedings against them. Those deportation proceedings have to stop even when the individual might pose a risk to Americans when that deportation may be based on the commission of serious crimes.

This is especially dangerous because the safe harbor would also apply to those from terror-prone regions in the Middle East. In fact, the DREAM Act altogether ignores the lessons of 9/11, going so far as to open eligibility to those who previously defrauded immigration authorities, as did many of those 9/11 hijackers.

So you say: Well, JEFF, what are we going to do? What can we do here? You say no, no, but we need to have a plan. We need to do something.

Please, colleagues, think this through. The way forward for our country, the right way, the way to end the bitterness and develop common solutions for all residents is, first, secure the border, as Americans have asked their government to do year after year and this Congress and this administration have failed to do so.

We must rebuild the trust, the trust of the American people, before other actions are taken. How commonsensical is that? People have a right to believe we will promise enforcement and give amnesty. That has been the pattern. We give the amnesty but don't do the enforcement. That is why people are upset with Washington. Why shouldn't they be? It has gone on for several decades. It has gone on since I have been in the Senate. We have to follow through on the commitments that have been made to the American people to do what we promised. It is time to end the lawlessness, not surrender to it.

With determined leadership from the White House and support in the Congress, we can, in just a few years, I am totally convinced, solve the problem at our border, restore the rule of law, put an end to the border violence, and create a sane, just, and lawful system of

immigration for America—a system that we can be proud of, a system that befits a nation as great as ours.

Madam President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BEGICH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, with summer approaching, the travel season will soon be in full swing, and this week we celebrate National Travel and Tourism Week. It is a time to call attention to the importance that travel and tourism play in our national economy and in the creation of jobs.

I know the Presiding Officer understands this issue very clearly because, for his State of Alaska, like the State of New Hampshire, travel and tourism is a very important industry. The fact is that the travel and tourism industry is one of the top 10 industries in 48 States, and it supports over 14 million American jobs. In New Hampshire, travel and tourism is our second largest industry, and it supports over 60,000 jobs in New Hampshire.

The Travel Promotion Act, which Congress passed in 2010, and of which I was very proud to be one of the cosponsors, will help the United States compete for foreign travelers. This year we will begin to see the impact of this landmark legislation.

For most of our history, the United States has been one of a very few developed countries that did not advertise overseas. The Travel Promotion Act changes all of that because it created what is called Brand USA. It is a low-cost public-private partnership, and Brand USA has just started rolling out an advertising campaign for America. Brand USA is going to leverage millions of dollars in contributions to the private sector to help encourage more foreign travelers to bring their dollars to the United States. This is important because what we have learned in New Hampshire is that overseas visitors tend to stay longer when they get to America and they tend to spend more money. For the first time we are going to be advertising overseas to attract visitors to come to the United States.

But there is even more we can and should do working together to support the travel sector. Traveling and tourism rely on a good infrastructure, on keeping our highways, our bridges, and our airports running. That is essential for the travel industry to grow. That is why it was so important that this year—after many years of trying—we finally reauthorized the FAA, and with that legislation are putting in place a new NextGen system of air traffic control that is going to allow our airplanes to get from point to point faster and more efficiently.

That is why it is so critical that we pass the highway bill that is pending in Congress, which is at a committee of conference. We passed that bill in the Senate on an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote, and now we need to get this bill out of the Congress.

We also need to look at ways to improve our visa system so we can make it easier for foreign travelers to come to the United States. We need to pass legislation—and there are several bills that have been introduced—that will help us clear the backlog of visa applications so we can make sure those travelers who want to come to the United States are going to be able to do so, again bearing in mind that those overseas visitors tend to stay longer and spend more money.

I want to conclude by highlighting what is an exciting new campaign in New Hampshire to help build New Hampshire's reputation as a world-class travel destination with something to offer for everyone. I know a lot of people have been to New Hampshire every 4 years as part of our Presidential primary. A lot of people are familiar with our State's slogan, "Live Free or Die." This slogan actually captures what was uttered by GEN John Stark, who was a Revolutionary War general talking about the British during the Revolution. A few days ago our State Division of Travel and Tourism Development launched a new campaign to promote New Hampshire to show the world what we have to offer as a unique travel destination, and that campaign very cleverly plays on our famous State slogan. We can see in this advertisement "Live Free and Explore." It is one of our beautiful lakes. We can see the family out canoeing.

We also have another one, "Live Free and Reconnect." Here is a family out hiking. We can see some of our mountains in the background. They are not quite as high as the mountains in Alaska, but we think they are a great place for families to come and explore. Hikers can enjoy and reconnect and relax.

This one is "Live Free and Discover." Again, kids getting ready to jump into one of our lakes. We can see the wilderness in the background. This is another great example of one of the opportunities New Hampshire has to enjoy our beautiful State.

We are very proud of what New Hampshire has to offer. We have a new logo that shows how you can visit our travel and tourism site on the Web and see what New Hampshire has to offer. We hope all of those who come to experience our Presidential primary will come back every 4 years and maybe in the meantime look at what we have to offer for enjoying the natural beauty and activities of the State. We would like that, but I understand that all of us here in Washington have very busy schedules and sometimes finding time to travel is difficult. Fortunately, soon we are going to have a great opportunity for everyone on the Hill to expe-

rience what New Hampshire has to offer without even leaving the building. On June 6, the New Hampshire State Society and our office are going to be hosting a reception called "Experience New Hampshire." It is a great opportunity to experience New Hampshire's signature hospitality, our history, our culture, and our scenic beauty. I invite all of my colleagues to enjoy New Hampshire beverages, to taste some of the menus from our historic grand homes, our charming inns, and to come and celebrate with us.

As we celebrate travel and tourism this week, I hope all of us will take a few minutes to reflect on the importance of this industry to our State and local economies and to the country.

I thank the Chair.

I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRANKEN.) Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 396, H.R. 2072, which is an act to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States be adopted; that there be no amendments, motions or points of order in order to the bill other than budget points of order and the applicable motions to waive; that there be 1 hour of debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees prior to a vote on passage of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object. I would ask the majority leader to modify his request to accommodate a few amendments.

Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the request be modified to allow the following amendments: Corker No. 2102, financing for transactions subsidized by export credit agencies; Vitter No. 2103, prohibitions on funds used for energy development outside of the United States; Toomey No. 2104, a \$40 billion increase contingency; Lee No. 2100, phaseout; and Paul No. 2101, limitation on Ex-Im support.

I further ask unanimous consent that following the disposition of the listed amendments, the bill be read three times and the Senate proceed to vote on the passage of the bill with a 60-vote threshold. Before the Chair rules, I would say the sponsors of the amendments would be prepared to enter into short time agreements in order to facilitate consideration of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the modification?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, these amendments that have just been listed, we are familiar with three of them. The other

two I have not had the chance to review nor has my staff, and I do not think anyone else has. We will be happy to continue to study these. I will take a look at them—happy to do that.

The only thing I would say is that—and I have other things to say, and I know my friend the assistant Republican leader has places to go, so I would give a statement later. But based on what I have just said and what I am going to say, I object.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I appreciate that. I hope we can continue to work together. As to the original request then, we would have to pose an objection as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard to both requests.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, yesterday, the House sent the Senate a bipartisan reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank. The bill the House passed reflects the negotiated agreement that was struck between Republican and Democratic leaders. They worked hard to come up with an agreement.

As one would expect with an agreement of that nature, the House passed it with a very strong vote. The vote was 330 to 93. Every single Democrat voted for the measure. Only the far right tea party wing of the House Republican caucus voted against the bill—93 of them. So it was 330 to 93.

The House considered no amendments. The House passed the bill on a suspension calendar. For those of us who served in the House, that is a bill that comes up and there is almost no debate. It takes a two-thirds vote to pass it. They do it for noncontroversial items. This measure is noncontroversial. It should have never been controversial. We brought it up 2 months ago, and we were stunned when the Republicans would not let us move forward on it.

So the House did the right thing yesterday. This is the sort of bill the Senate should now simply pass without amendment. It is so unusual here. I have been in Congress 30 years. But this is a new one. Even bills that they agree on they want to mess around with. In years past, this would have gone through just like this. Forget about what took place 2 months ago. But now the House passed something 330 to 93, and we are here playing around with it. It should be done. We should have passed it yesterday. This thing is going to expire.

It is hard to comprehend what the new mantra of the Republicans in the Senate is. I do not get it. As I indicated in earlier days, the Senate would have passed this bill by unanimous consent, as we have done before, this same legislation. But these days, the far right tea party wing of the Senate Republican caucus—I used to just talk about the House wing of the tea party, but it is over here now—thinks everything has to be a fight—everything.

So we are going to have to have a vote on this rather than do it by unanimous consent. The bank will hit its

lending limit any day. Its current authorization ends at the end of this month, May. So it will be very important we work to pass the House bill as quickly as possible. If we amend the bill and send it back to the House, we have to start all over again. The House is basically not in session this month, under their very difficult schedule of working 2 weeks on and 1 week off and then sometimes longer than that. I do not know when they are going to be here. It would be so much better, on a noncontroversial, very important piece of legislation—last year, 300,000 jobs—not 30,000 but 300,000.

We understand the Senate Republican caucus wants to offer amendments. The amendments are—I do not know for sure, but just glancing at them, I think they may be relevant. We will take a close look at them. There is no question the ones I am familiar with are efforts to gut the program. One of the amendments just eliminates it. How about that?

So we are going to continue looking at the amendments we have and those we have not studied and look at them. I will try to be reasonable. So as we do that, we are going to vote on this. I am going to file cloture in just a second, which I hate to do—another motion to proceed. Boy, if there were ever a time when TOM UDALL and JEFF MERKLEY were prophetic, it is tonight. These two young, fine Senators said it was time to change the rules in the Senate. We did not. They were right. The rest of us were wrong or most of us anyway. What a shame.

Here we are wasting time because of the Republicans. This week we have accomplished a lot. We had a vote on a judge and we voted on cloture on the Republicans defeating our ability to get something done with student loans. That is our workload this week. I know it has been tough.

That was sarcastic, of course, but it is just absolutely mindless what is going on. Then, to top it off, one of the finest Members of the Senate we have ever had was defeated yesterday by a man—listen to this—who campaigned on the platform that there is too much compromise in the Senate. He is going to come back here and not compromise with anybody on anything. Now that is what we need in the Senate, more people who are willing to do nothing but fight.

I am going to do whatever I have to do to take the steps to keep this measure moving forward. I hope we can do it next week. I hope we can do it without a lot of trouble, of which we already have too much.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 396, H.R. 2072, an Act to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes.

Maria Cantwell, Tim Johnson, Harry Reid, Mark Begich, Mark Udall, Tom Udall, Patrick J. Leahy, Sherrod Brown, Jack Reed, Charles E. Schumer, Richard Blumenthal, Richard J. Durbin, Kay R. Hagan, Daniel K. Inouye, Michael F. Bennet, Kent Conrad, Benjamin L. Cardin.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I am finished. But I wish to say again for those who are listening here or watching, Senator UDALL and Senator MERKLEY wanted to do something to change the rules regarding filibusters. If there was anything that ever needed changing in this body, it is the filibuster rule.

It has been abused, abused, and abused by my Republican colleagues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I appreciate the majority leader's actions on trying to move us forward on a very important jobs bill. The Export-Import Bank is a way to fund manufacturers in the United States so their products can be sold around the globe. It is kind of similar to a Small Business Administration finance program for exports.

We know the President has said we need to increase exports. This is a program that has been in place for decades, never controversial at this degree. Now all of a sudden we are, weeks before the authorization expires, sitting here arguing over whether we can move forward on this bill.

I have great respect for the Senate. But there are some times when the Senate does not get to work out a deal, and we are presented with something that has been worked out by the House of Representatives. We can go back to what the majority leader said, how we got in this spot; that is, objecting to every motion to proceed, objecting to every motion to proceed. Pretty soon all the work stacks up. We try to move legislation and every motion is objected to. So the consequence is we run out of time and we run out of a way to get to a compromise.

In this case, guess what happened. The House came up with a compromise. The House, even to the degree that some of the amendments that some of my colleagues wanted to offer, got implemented into the House compromise bill that now passed the House of Representatives with, whatever, 300-plus votes to 93.

With my colleagues, basically, continuing to just try to derail the normal process, we have had to take now a House bill that I think encompasses many of the things people wanted to

see either in reforms or ways to make the bank more transparent or ways to make sure we are focusing on things that are going to help U.S. manufacturers win the day in a very competitive market.

So I say to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, yes; Mr. BOEHNER and Mr. CANTOR worked out a compromise. So now we can again take more time here and analyze it and see whether you agree with that. I certainly like when the Senate works out agreements, and oftentimes we have asked our House colleagues to vote on them. But we now have the student loan bill that needs to be done, this Export-Import Bank that needs to be done, and many other important economic agenda items we should get to for this country.

I hope when the cloture motion comes forward, my colleagues will realize the only thing people are trying to do now—they can vote no on the program if they don't like it because they are primarily amendments to defund the bank. These are not perfecting amendments to a compromise that has been worked out. They want to express their opposition. They will have a chance to do that.

I hope for the sake of thousands of jobs in the United States, for the sake of U.S. competitiveness in a global market, where these companies are competing with other companies around the globe, my colleagues will realize this is a compromise piece of legislation. Let's get it done next week and onto the President's desk so we can go about winning more jobs in a very competitive global economy. That is what we need to do. Holding out 1 more, 2 more, or 3 more days, or another week just to get an amendment saying you hate the Ex-Im Bank, that is not the way to get things done for America.

I hope my colleagues will support moving ahead so we can get this onto the President's desk.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AWARDING A CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO MEMBERS OF THE CIVIL AIR PATROL

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Banking Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 418 and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title. The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 418) to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; and that any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 418) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 418

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The volunteer members of the Civil Air Patrol (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "CAP") during World War II, civilian men and women ranging in age from 18 to 81, provided extraordinary public and combat services during a critical time of need for the Nation.

(2) During the war, CAP members used their own aircraft to perform a myriad of essential tasks for the military and the Nation within the United States, including attacks on enemy submarines off the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coasts of the United States.

(3) This extraordinary service set the stage for the post-war CAP to become a valuable nonprofit, public service organization chartered by Congress and the Auxiliary of the United States Air Force that provides essential emergency, operational, and public services to communities, States, the Federal Government, and the military.

(4) The CAP was established, initially as a part of the Office of Civil Defense, by air-minded citizens one week before the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 1, 1941, "out of the desire of civil airmen of the country to be mobilized with their equipment in the common defense" of the Nation.

(5) Within days of the start of the war, the German Navy started a massive submarine offensive, known as Operation Drumbeat, off the east coast of the United States against oil tankers and other critical shipping that threatened the overall war effort.

(6) Neither the Navy nor the Army had enough aircraft, ships, or other resources to adequately patrol and protect the shipping along the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coasts of the United States, and many ships were torpedoed within sight of civilians on shore, including 52 tankers sunk between January and March 1942.

(7) At that time General George Marshall remarked that "[t]he losses by submarines off our Atlantic seaboard and in the Caribbean now threaten our entire war effort".

(8) From the beginning CAP leaders urged the military to use its services to patrol coastal waters but met with great resistance because of the nonmilitary training and status of CAP pilots.

(9) Finally, in response to the ever-increasing submarine attacks, the Tanker Committee of the Petroleum Industry War Council urged the Navy Department and the War Department to consider the use of the CAP to help patrol the sea lanes off the coasts of the United States.

(10) While the Navy initially rejected this suggestion, the Army decided it had merit,

and the Civil Air Patrol Coastal Patrol began in March 1942.

(11) Oil companies and other organizations provided funds to help pay for some CAP operations, including vitally needed shore radios that were used to monitor patrol missions.

(12) By late March 1942, the Navy also began to use the services of the CAP.

(13) Starting with three bases located in Delaware, Florida, and New Jersey, CAP aircrews immediately started to spot enemy submarines as well as lifeboats, bodies, and wreckage.

(14) Within 15 minutes of the first Coast Patrol flight, the pilot had sighted a torpedoed tanker and was coordinating rescue operations.

(15) Eventually 21 bases, ranging from Bar Harbor, Maine, to Brownsville, Texas, were set up for the CAP to patrol the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coasts of the United States, with 40,000 volunteers participating.

(16) The CAP used a wide range of civilian-owned aircraft, mainly light-weight, single engine aircraft—manufactured by Cessna, Beech, Waco, Fairchild, Stinson, Piper, Taylorcraft, and Sikorsky, among others—as well as some twin engine aircraft such as the Grumman Widgeon.

(17) These aircraft were painted in their civilian prewar colors (red, yellow, blue, etc.) and carried special markings (a blue circle with a white triangle) to identify them as CAP aircraft.

(18) Patrols were conducted up to 100 miles off shore, generally with 2 aircraft flying together, in aircraft often equipped with only a compass for navigation and a single radio for communication.

(19) Due to the critical nature of the situation, CAP operations were conducted in bad weather as well as good, often when the military was unable to fly, and in all seasons (including the winter) when ditching an aircraft in cold water would likely mean certain death to the aircrew.

(20) Personal emergency equipment was often lacking, particularly during early patrols where inner tubes and kapok duck hunter vests were carried as flotation devices since ocean worthy wet suits, life vests, and life rafts were unavailable.

(21) The initial purpose of the CAP was to spot submarines, report their position to the military, and force them to dive below the surface, which limited their operating speed and maneuverability and reduced their ability to detect and attack shipping.

(22) It soon became apparent that there were opportunities for CAP pilots to attack submarines, such as when a Florida CAP aircrew came across a surfaced submarine that quickly stranded itself on a sand bar. However, the aircrew could not get any assistance from armed military aircraft before the submarine freed itself.

(23) Finally, after a number of these instances, a decision was made by the military to arm CAP aircraft with 50 and 100 pound bombs, and to arm some larger twin engine aircraft with 325 pound depth charges.

(24) The arming of CAP aircraft dramatically changed the mission for these civilian aircrews and resulted in more than 57 attacks on enemy submarines.

(25) While CAP volunteers received \$8 a day flight reimbursement, their patrols were accomplished at a great economic cost to many of the members of the CAP who—

(A) used their own aircraft and other equipment in defense of the Nation;

(B) paid for much of their own aircraft maintenance and hangar use; and

(C) often lived in primitive conditions along the coast, including old barns and chicken coops converted for sleeping.

(26) More importantly, the CAP Coastal Patrol service came at the high cost of 26 fatalities, 7 serious injuries, and 90 aircraft lost.

(27) At the conclusion of the 18-month Coastal Patrol, the heroic CAP aircrews would be credited with the following:

- (A) 2 submarines destroyed or damaged.
- (B) 57 submarines attacked.
- (C) 82 bombs dropped against submarines.
- (D) 173 radio reports of submarine positions (with a number of credited assists for kills made by military units).
- (E) 17 floating mines reported.
- (F) 36 dead bodies reported.
- (G) 91 vessels in distress reported.
- (H) 363 survivors in distress reported.
- (I) 836 irregularities noted.
- (J) 1,036 special investigations at sea or along the coast.
- (K) 5,684 convoy missions for the Navy.
- (L) 86,685 missions flown.
- (M) 244,600 total flight hours logged.
- (N) More than 24,000,000 miles flown.

(28) At least one high-level German Navy Officer credited the CAP with being the primary reason that submarine attacks were withdrawn from the Atlantic coast of the United States in 1943, when he said that "[i]t was because of those damned little red and yellow planes!"

(29) The CAP was dismissed from coastal missions with little thanks in August 1943 when the Navy took over the mission completely and ordered the CAP to stand down.

(30) While the Coastal Patrol was ongoing, the CAP was also establishing itself as a vital wartime service to the military, States, and communities nationwide by performing a wide range of missions including—

- (A) border patrol;
- (B) forest fire patrol;
- (C) courier flights for mail, repair and replacement parts, and urgent deliveries;
- (D) emergency transportation of personnel;
- (E) target towing (with live ammunition being fired at the targets and seven lives being lost) and searchlight tracking training missions;
- (F) missing aircraft and personnel searches;
- (G) rescue of aircraft crash survivors;
- (H) radar training flights;
- (I) aerial inspections of camouflaged military and civilian facilities;
- (J) aerial inspections of city and town blackout conditions;
- (K) mock bombing attacks on cities and facilities to test air defenses;
- (L) aerial searches for scrap metal materials;
- (M) support of war bond drives;
- (N) airport guard duties;
- (O) support for State and local emergencies such as natural disasters;
- (P) recruiting for the Army Air Force; and
- (Q) a cadet youth program which provided aviation and military training.

(31) The CAP flew more than 500,000 hours on these additional missions, including—

- (A) 20,500 missions involving target towing (with live ammunition) and gun/searchlight tracking which resulted in 7 deaths, 5 serious injuries, and the loss of 25 aircraft;
- (B) a courier service involving 3 major Air Force Commands over a 2-year period carrying more than 3,500,000 pounds of vital cargo and 543 passengers;
- (C) southern border operations flying more than 30,000 hours, with 7,000 reports of unusual sightings including a vehicle (that was apprehended) with 2 enemy agents attempting to enter the country;
- (D) a week in February 1945 during which CAP units found seven missing Army and Navy pilots; and

(E) a State in which the CAP flew 790 hours on forest fire patrol missions and reported 576 fires to authorities during a single year.

(32) On April 29, 1943, the CAP was transferred to the Army Air Forces, thus beginning its long association with the United States Air Force.

(33) Hundreds of CAP-trained women joined military women's units including the Women's Air Force Service Pilots (WASP) program.

(34) Many members of the Women's Air Force Service Pilots program joined or re-joined the CAP during the post-war period because it provided women opportunities to fly and continue to serve the Nation that were severely lacking elsewhere.

(35) Due to the exceptional emphasis on safety, unit discipline, and pilot discipline, and the organization of the CAP, by the end of the war only 64 members of the CAP had died in service and only 150 aircraft had been lost (including its Coastal Patrol losses from early in the war).

(36) There were more than 60,000 adult civilian members of the CAP in wide range of positions, and CAP aircrews flew a total of approximately 750,000 hours during the war, most of which were in their personal aircraft and often at real risk to their lives.

(37) After the war, at a CAP dinner for Congress, a quorum of both Houses attended with the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President thanking the CAP for its service.

(38) While air medals were issued for those participating in the Coastal Patrol, little other recognition was forthcoming for those efforts or for the other services the CAP volunteers provided during the war.

(39) Despite efforts to end the organization at the end of the war, the CAP had proved its capabilities and strengthened its ties with the Air Force and Congress.

(40) In 1946, Congress chartered the CAP as a nonprofit, public service organization and in 1948 as the Auxiliary of the United States Air Force.

(41) Today the CAP conducts many of the same missions it performed during World War II, including a vital role in homeland security.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AWARD.—

(1) AUTHORIZED.—The President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design in honor of the World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol collectively, in recognition of the military service and exemplary record of the Civil Air Patrol during World War II.

(2) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award referred to in paragraph (1), the Secretary of the Treasury shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(3) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the gold medal referred to in paragraph (1) in honor of the World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol, the gold medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where it shall be displayed as appropriate and made available for research.

(B) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should make the gold medal received under this paragraph available for display elsewhere, particularly at other locations associated with the Civil Air Patrol.

(b) DUPLICATE MEDALS.—Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in

bronze of the gold medal struck under this Act, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dyes, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

(c) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund, an amount not to exceed \$30,000 to pay for the cost of the medal authorized under section 2.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 2(b) shall be deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I will speak about S. 418, which we just passed. I thank all my colleagues for allowing it to go through on a unanimous consent basis.

This bill awards a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol. I introduced this legislation last year, and it currently has 85 cosponsors.

This legislation will offer long overdue recognition to a small group of people who answered the call to duty at our Nation's time of maximum danger.

Seventy years ago, during the height of World War II, Civil Air Patrol members in small aircraft began searching for German U-boats off the Atlantic Coast. This was a time of great peril for the Nation when over 400 ships were sunk in U.S. waters, many in view of Americans on shore, and the military didn't have enough aircraft and ships to stop this carnage. That is why the Civil Air Patrol answered the call.

Their mission was highly unusual because these pilots were civilian volunteers flying their own airplanes in combat operations, often at their own expense. The mission was for Civil Air Patrol aircraft to force the U-boats below the surface of the water, making their attacks on shipping much more difficult and time consuming. As soon as the Civil Air Patrol pilots took to the air, they spotted so many U-boats that the military quickly armed their aircraft with small bombs and depth charges. From Maine to Texas, Civil Air Patrol aircraft flew these missions in pairs up to 100 miles offshore, in all seasons, often in bad weather. These CAP, as they are known, put themselves at great risk, flying over water at low levels with only a compass, one radio, and minimal survival gear to help if they got into trouble. Many pilots had to ditch in the water. Twenty-six pilots lost their lives and 90 aircraft were lost.

During an 18-month period, the Civil Air Patrol flew over 24 million miles on its antisubmarine coastal patrols. It spotted 173 U-boats, attacked 57, and sank or damaged 2. It also escorted over 5,600 convoys and reported 17 floating mines, 36 bodies, 91 ships in distress, and 363 survivors in the water. Most importantly, CAP's constant

presence over the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico was a major factor in pushing enemy operations away from the coast and protecting vital shipping and cargo up and down our coastlines.

In 1943 German U-boat attacks ceased off the Atlantic coast of the United States. One high-level German officer credited the Civil Air Patrol with being the primary reason for withdrawal, saying, "It was because of those damned little red and yellow airplanes."

As the U-boat threat ended, Civil Air Patrol expanded its homeland security and emergency operations to include search and rescue, border patrol, forest fire patrol, and disaster relief in every State in the Nation.

By war's end, nearly 60,000 members had participated in the Civil Air Patrol and flew 75 million miles over 750,000 hours in support of critical homefront missions. Its volunteers ranged in age from 18 to over 80. Many served for the entire war, while others, most of whom later joined the military, served for shorter periods. A substantial number received "belligerent" certificates indicating they had participated in combat-related duty with the Civil Air Patrol.

The individual accounts of Civil Air Patrol pilots' performance and heroism are too numerous to recount, but just a few examples can illustrate the valor with which they served.

For instance, Maj. Hugh Sharp and Lt. Eddie Edwards from Rehoboth, DE, landed their Sikorsky amphibian in high seas to rescue two other CAP airmen who had to ditch their plane. They found one crew member who was badly hurt, but they were unable to take off due to a pontoon damaged during a rough landing in 10-foot seas. They made a decision to taxi the aircraft back to land, but they quickly discovered that the damaged amphibian listed too far to the left and it didn't make much progress. It just sort of went around in circles. So Eddie volunteered to climb to the end of the right wing to keep the plane in balance. The next day, when a Coast Guard ship met the aircraft, Eddie had to be carried from the wing after holding on tightly for 11 hours in freezing and wet conditions. Both pilots were awarded the first Air Medals of the war by President Roosevelt.

Capt. Francis "Mac" McLaughlin flew coastal patrol missions from Daytona Beach, FL, for 17 months. During that time, he, along with Albert Crabtree, ditched a Fairchild 24 aircraft in the Atlantic and floated in a life raft for several hours until the Coast Guard picked them up. They quickly became members of the "Duck Club," an exclusive organization that recognized those who survived a CAP ditching. There would soon be many in that club, as I mentioned. When the coastal patrol ended, Mac went to Massachusetts to tow aerial targets, the CAP's second most dangerous duty after the coastal patrol. Seven CAP pi-

lots and observers would be shot down and killed during gunnery practice. Mac, who served the entire war on Active Duty with the Civil Air Patrol, passed away at the end of 2011.

Another CAP veteran was Lt. Charles Compton, who flew from Coastal Patrol Base 1 at Atlantic City, NJ, on antisubmarine and convoy escort missions. He recently noted:

Convoys could be attacked at any time. We had a war going on and the threat of German submarines off the east coast. Our job was to make it less easy for the German submarines to surface without being detected.

Charles, who lives near Chicago and turned 95 last summer, remembers that during these dangerous missions, pilots often used sunken ships as points of reference to help them navigate when over water. He added that, unfortunately, sunken ships were plentiful at that time. Recently recognized for his service with Civil Air Patrol's Distinguished Service Award, he credits the exceptional efforts of his fellow Atlantic City squadron members for the honor he received.

These are just three stories, but they are illustrative of Civil Air Patrol's many World War II heroes. More importantly, these stories serve as a powerful reminder of the dedication and service that all gave to our Nation.

When the war ended, Civil Air Patrol members received the recognition they deserved. Over time, however, their story was lost to much of the Nation. This Congressional Gold Medal will ensure that this story is told over and over to future generations and recognizes the Civil Air Patrol and its World War II members for their critically important service to our Nation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CARBON POLLUTION

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I want to speak about the ongoing and deliberately overlooked problem of carbon pollution and what it is doing to our planet.

In the context of these remarks, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an article entitled "Game Over for the Climate," written by Jim Hansen and published in yesterday's New York Times.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From The New York Times, May 9, 2012]

GAME OVER FOR THE CLIMATE

(By James Hansen)

GLOBAL warming isn't a prediction. It is happening. That is why I was so troubled to read a recent interview with President

Obama in Rolling Stone in which he said that Canada would exploit the oil in its vast tar sands reserves "regardless of what we do."

If Canada proceeds, and we do nothing, it will be game over for the climate.

Canada's tar sands, deposits of sand saturated with bitumen, contain twice the amount of carbon dioxide emitted by global oil use in our entire history. If we were to fully exploit this new oil source, and continue to burn our conventional oil, gas and coal supplies, concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere eventually would reach levels higher than in the Pliocene era, more than 2.5 million years ago, when sea level was at least 50 feet higher than it is now. That level of heat-trapping gases would assure that the disintegration of the ice sheets would accelerate out of control. Sea levels would rise and destroy coastal cities. Global temperatures would become intolerable. Twenty to 50 percent of the planet's species would be driven to extinction. Civilization would be at risk.

That is the long-term outlook. But near-term, things will be bad enough. Over the next several decades, the Western United States and the semi-arid region from North Dakota to Texas will develop semi-permanent drought, with rain, when it does come, occurring in extreme events with heavy flooding. Economic losses would be incalculable. More and more of the Midwest would be a dust bowl. California's Central Valley could no longer be irrigated. Food prices would rise to unprecedented levels.

If this sounds apocalyptic, it is. This is why we need to reduce emissions dramatically. President Obama has the power not only to deny tar sands oil additional access to Gulf Coast refining, which Canada desires in part for export markets, but also to encourage economic incentives to leave tar sands and other dirty fuels in the ground.

The *global warming* signal is now louder than the noise of random weather, as I predicted would happen by now in the journal *Science* in 1981. Extremely hot summers have increased noticeably. We can say with high confidence that the recent heat waves in Texas and Russia, and the one in Europe in 2003, which killed tens of thousands, were not natural events—they were caused by human-induced climate change.

We have known since the 1800s that carbon dioxide traps heat in the atmosphere. The right amount keeps the climate conducive to human life. But add too much, as we are doing now, and temperatures will inevitably rise too high. This is not the result of natural variability, as some argue. The earth is currently in the part of its long-term orbit cycle where temperatures would normally be cooling. But they are rising—and it's because we are forcing them higher with fossil fuel emissions.

The concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has risen from 280 parts per million to 393 p.p.m. over the last 150 years. The tar sands contain enough carbon—240 gigatons—to add 120 p.p.m. Tar shale, a close cousin of tar sands found mainly in the United States, contains at least an additional 300 gigatons of carbon. If we turn to these dirtiest of fuels, instead of finding ways to phase out our addiction to fossil fuels, there is no hope of keeping carbon concentrations below 500 p.p.m.—a level that would, as earth's history shows, leave our children a climate system that is out of their control.

We need to start reducing emissions significantly, not create new ways to increase them. We should impose a gradually rising carbon fee, collected from fossil fuel companies, then distribute 100 percent of the collections to all Americans on a per-capita

basis every month. The government would not get a penny. This market-based approach would stimulate innovation, jobs and economic growth, avoid enlarging government or having it pick winners or losers. Most Americans, except the heaviest energy users, would get more back than they paid in increased prices. Not only that, the reduction in oil use resulting from the carbon price would be nearly six times as great as the oil supply from the proposed pipeline from Canada, rendering the pipeline superfluous, according to economic models driven by a slowly rising carbon price.

But instead of placing a rising fee on carbon emissions to make fossil fuels pay their true costs, leveling the energy playing field, the world's governments are forcing the public to subsidize fossil fuels with hundreds of billions of dollars per year. This encourages a frantic stampede to extract every fossil fuel through mountaintop removal, longwall mining, hydraulic fracturing, tar sands and tar shale extraction, and deep ocean and Arctic drilling.

President Obama speaks of a "planet in peril," but he does not provide the leadership needed to change the world's course. Our leaders must speak candidly to the public—which years for open, honest discussion—explaining that our continued technological leadership and economic well-being demand a reasoned change of our energy course. History has shown that the American public can rise to the challenge, but leadership is essential.

The science of the situation is clear—it's time for the politics to follow. This is a plan that can unify conservatives and liberals, environmentalists and business. Every major national science academy in the world has reported that global warming is real, caused mostly by humans, and requires urgent action. The cost of acting goes far higher the longer we wait—we can't wait any longer to avoid the worst and be judged immoral by coming generations.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. The article begins with two simple sentences: "Global warming isn't a prediction. It is happening."

He talks about the dangers of the Canada tar sands and what that means for us if we go ahead with that project. His conclusion is this:

If Canada proceeds, and we do nothing, it will be game over for the climate.

Canada's tar sands, deposits of sand saturated with bitumen, contain twice the amount of carbon dioxide emitted by global oil use in our entire history.

He looks at the recent extreme weather that people—not only across the country but across the world—have been noticing. He concludes:

We can say with high confidence that the recent heat waves in Texas and Russia, and the one in Europe in 2003, which killed tens of thousands, were not natural events—they were caused by human-induced climate change.

So the risk we face is a real one, and we are actually seeing it begin to happen in present time. He says:

The tar sands contain enough carbon—240 gigatons—to add 120 parts per million to our atmosphere. As I have said before on the Senate floor, we have lived for 8,000 centuries within a range between 170 and 300 parts per million of carbon in our atmosphere. That is the bandwidth within which the human species has lived on this

planet, and we have gone rocketing out of that bandwidth in recent years. We are now at 390 parts per million out of a bandwidth, for 800,000 years, between 170 and 300 parts per million. The tar sands would add 120 parts per million to that. That would take us to 510, if my math is right.

Tar shale—a close cousin of tar sands found mainly in the United States—contains at least an additional 300 gigatons of carbon.

This shows the folly of what Dr. Hansen describes:

... as a frantic stampede to extract every fossil fuel through mountaintop removal, longwall mining, hydraulic fracturing, tar sands and tar shale extraction, and deep ocean and Arctic drilling.

Jim Hansen is somebody who is worth listening to. He has been writing about this now for more than 30 years.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a posting by Neil Wagner entitled "Hansen Had It Right in 1981 Climate Report."

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

HANSEN HAD IT RIGHT IN 1981 CLIMATE REPORT

(By Neil Wagner)

A recently rediscovered 1981 paper, written by NASA atmospheric physicist James Hansen and others, has been analyzed and found to be impressively accurate about the course of climate change since its publication.

The 10-page paper (available at this link), which was published in the journal *Science*, had been overlooked for decades when researchers Geert Jan van Oldenborgh and Rein Haarsma from the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute uncovered it and began scouring its contents.

The paper's impressive prognostication is the best kind of vindication for Hansen, who has suffered more than his share of the slings and arrows from climate deniers in the media, such as Fox News, Rush Limbaugh, and Andrew Breitbart. He's also taken hits from "climate confusionist" Physicist Freeman Dyson, and has charged that the Bush administration tried to silence his warnings about global warming's urgency.

Deniers of climate change often look for boogymen in their attempts to disprove the phenomenon's existence. As a means of putting a face on the "global warming hoax," an individual is often singled out for attack. In his new book, *The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars*, scientist Michael E. Mann calls this technique the Serengeti Strategy, since the technique is akin to lions singling out vulnerable prey from a herd.

The links below provide current information about some of the paper's projections: Atmospheric carbon increase, Formation of drought prone regions, Sea level rise, Antarctic ice erosion, Opening of the Northwest Passage.

The complex world of climate science rarely enjoys such clear and simple validation. When such an opportunity presents itself, we owe it to ourselves to make some noise about it. Haarsma and van Oldenborgh's findings should be shouted from the rooftops.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. He says:

A recently rediscovered 1981 paper, written by NASA atmospheric physicist Jim Hansen and others, has been analyzed and found to be impressively accurate about the course of climate change since its publication.

The 10-page paper . . . which was published in the journal *Science*, had been overlooked

for decades when researchers Geert Jan van Oldenborgh and Rein Haarsma from the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute, uncovered it and began scouring its contents.

The paper's impressive prognostication is the best kind of vindication for Hansen, who has suffered more than his share of the slings and arrows from climate deniers in the media . . .

He concludes:

The complex world of climate science rarely enjoys such clear and simple validation. When such opportunity presents itself, we owe it to ourselves to make some noise about it.

With appreciation to Jim Hansen, how the actual science has borne him out over the past 30 years, and with respect for the predictions he makes, we should as soon as we can begin to address ourselves to this problem.

Jim is not alone. An array of scientific organizations wrote us all a letter back in October of 2009 whose conclusion is pretty clear and stark in scientific language:

Observations throughout the world make it clear that climate change is occurring and rigorous scientific research demonstrates that the greenhouse gasses emitted by human activities are the primary driver. These conclusions are based on multiple independent lines of evidence and contrary assertions are inconsistent with an objective assessment of the vast body of peer reviewed science.

We act as if it is something new, but, in fact, it is not. The determination that carbon dioxide would warm the planet as it increased its concentration in the atmosphere was figured out around the time of the American Civil War by an Irish scientist who worked in England named John Tyndall. What Tyndall discovered we have proven to be true, as since then we have dumped gigaton after gigaton of carbon into our atmosphere, loading it up to the point now, as I said before, that we are well outside the bounds that have protected our species for 800,000 years on this planet.

The scale of what 8,000 centuries means is perhaps best measured against the time that scientists now believe man first began to engage in agriculture, first started scratching the earth and putting seeds into the ground. Before then, we were primarily hunter-gatherers, leading a very primitive life. So we have gone from beginning to scratch the earth and plant things to be, 10,000 years later, the species we are. We lived within this bandwidth of 170 to 300 parts per million for 8,000 centuries. To veer outside of it is significant and hazardous.

I am delighted that Mr. Hansen, despite all the abuse that has been heaped on him, continues his work. I hope the time comes when we start to listen to the voice of what our planet is telling us, the voice of what our scientists are telling us, the voice of what our children are telling us, and not just the voice of what the lobbyists for the polluting industries—particularly the oil and gas industries—are telling us.

Frankly, the lobbyists for the polluting oil and gas industries are not

telling us the truth. They are not telling us the truth. The truth is becoming increasingly apparent, and the problem is that as time goes by you can reach tipping points that are irrecoverable. It would be really tragic for us to look back and think, if we had been able to act on time, if we had listened on time to the signals of our Earth, our planet, the signals that are plainly in our face, we could have made a world that was better and safer for our children. But, instead, in our folly, in our greed, in our willingness to listen to the falsehoods of these polluters, we shot past that point, and there is no way to recover it now.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO MARY LEAHY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise on the Senate floor today to pay tribute to Mary Leahy, director at the Central Vermont Adult Basic Education—sister, friend, and lifetime educator—who is retiring this month.

For 40 years, Central Vermont Adult Basic Education has provided free literacy services for adults and out-of-school youth. Thirty-seven of those years, Mary Leahy has been at the helm. In her role as codirector at Central Vermont Adult Basic Education, Mary dedicated herself to preparing lower skilled workers to meet the demands of the shifting economy.

Whether it was attending townhalls, community centers and libraries, or knocking on doors directly, Mary has spread the word. She has recruited members for this program all over the State.

I have seen the joy in the face of a grandfather able to read a children's story to a grandchild—something the grandfather was not able to do for that child's parent because he could not read when they were a child.

In a recent article honoring Mary in the Times Argus, Vermont Poet Laureate Sydney Lea said these kind words about Mary:

This has been way beyond a job for Mary; it's really a vision of humanity that she's been dedicated to. I have an admiration for her that is pretty close to boundless.

I agree with my friend Sydney. Mary's lifelong passion for learning has enabled countless Vermonters to gain the critical skills needed to participate in today's workforce. In our country today, 88 million adults face at least one educational barrier, such as no high school diploma or no college, and only 3 to 4 percent of the workers with the most limited literacy proficiencies receive the basic skills training from

their employers. Under Mary's guiding hand, Central Vermont Adult Basic Education has allowed Vermonters, young and old, to reach their full potential and to be successful both in the classroom and in the workforce—I might add parenthetically, also just in their everyday lives.

As her older brother, I have known Mary all her life. She is a loving, intelligent, and hard-working person. She has the soul and talent of an artist and the generosity of a saint in sharing her talent and commitment.

I am so proud of Mary, and I ask unanimous consent that the Times Argus article "Closing a Chapter" be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From The Times Argus, April 30, 2012]
CLOSING A CHAPTER: MARY LEAHY ENDS
CAREER AT ADULT BASIC EDUCATION
(By David Delcour)

Pages turn, chapters end, books close, and Mary Leahy—a woman who has dedicated her life to literacy in central Vermont—knows that better than most.

On Tuesday, Leahy plans to put the proverbial "period" at the end of her 37-year career with Central Vermont Adult Basic Education. The Marshfield woman's name has become synonymous with the organization where she's worked for nearly four decades.

And Leahy will tell you she's treasured every minute of it.

"I'm surprised I'm leaving," Leahy said during a Friday afternoon interview at CVABE's office on Washington Street in Barre. "This is what I am because the work is every bit at the center of my heart."

For those unfamiliar with CVABE, "the work" involves providing "free, individualized and confidential academic services" to folks who range in age from 16 to 90-something.

Many are high school dropouts, some are immigrants struggling to learn English, and still others are challenged by a growing "digital divide" that didn't exist back in 1975 when a much younger Leahy ditched her job as a high school art teacher to try something completely different.

Seated in an armchair located in the shadow of a paper mache version of Barre's "Stonecutter" memorial—this one holding a book in an outstretched hand, instead of a hammer at his side—Leahy said she has never regretted enlisting as a foot soldier in one of the earliest fronts in the "War on Poverty."

"When this job opened up, I went for it and it's grabbed every single bit of imagination that I have," she said. "It has been endlessly interesting and incredibly rewarding."

It was also real work, according to Leahy. "Back then all of us were working out of our cars and going here and there and everywhere," she recalled. "I've tutored in barns, I've tutored in churches, I've tutored in restaurants . . . wherever people were and (wherever they) felt comfortable."

Leahy's initial assignment was to expand the then-loose-knit, Barre-based program into five communities in Washington, Orange and Lamoille counties.

"That meant literally going through the hills and knocking on doors and saying: This is a program, it's free, and do you know anybody . . . who would find it helpful?" she recalled.

Those trips, Leahy said, were as much a search for "students" as they were an at-

tempt to recruit volunteers, whom, she is quick to note, have long been the backbone of CVABE.

That outreach paid off, according to Carol Shults-Perkins, who joined CVABE two years before Leahy and is the other half of the organization's long-standing "executive team."

"We've been delivering, and committed to delivering community-based services here in central Vermont for more than 40 years now, but it really was Mary (Leahy) who began—community by community, town hall by town hall, library by library engaging individual community members . . . and ensuring that community partnership and community participation has been part and parcel of the community-based services we provide."

According to Shults-Perkins, who will soon assume the role as CVABE's first executive director, the thought of running the organization without Leahy sharing the helm is going to take some getting used to.

"We have worked as a team for 35 years," she said. "You can't replace Mary (Leahy)."

Shults-Perkins won't get any argument from Newberry resident and Vermont Poet Laureate Sydney Lea. Lea, an 18-year member of CVABE's board of directors and its current president, thinks highly of the woman who recruited him during a chance encounter in a hospital parking lot.

"This has been way beyond a job for Mary (Leahy); it's really a vision of humanity that she's been dedicated to," Lea said.

"I have an admiration for her that is pretty close to boundless," he added, noting when he had to pick someone to install him as poet laureate last year, he turned to Leahy.

"She (Leahy) was the first person who came to mind," he said. "No fellow poets, no academics, just Mary."

A soft-spoken, silver-haired woman, with kind eyes and a tendency to deftly shift the focus of a conversation away from herself, Leahy speaks passionately about the importance of adult education, the courage of those who avail themselves to the services CVABE provides, and the commitment of an ever-changing cadre of volunteers who "find the time in their busy schedules to make a difference."

It's a recipe that works, according to Leahy, who spent one of her last days on the job pitching the merits of a program that has been her life's work.

"We're really the earliest of early ed(ucation) programs," Leahy said. "If parents are really important to their children's academic success, then for the parents who missed out on their own education, it stands to reason their child is not going to be on an equal playing field with other kids . . . That's where we come in."

"If we can place ourselves in the public imagination as part of the warp and weave of the entire fabric of education, then we're there for people whose time is right," she said. "When they're ready to learn (and) they want to learn, we're here to help."

Leahy said she is in the process of sifting through an office filled with notes, letters, and student work that underscore the life-changing nature of a basic education.

"It's like a memory tunnel," she said. "I'm unearthing all these wonderful things."

One was a note from a then-newly computer literate woman who thanked her CVABE teacher for helping her master modern technology.

"She was 90," Leahy said of the woman.

Although Leahy believes it is time for her to retire from CVABE, she said she won't be going far and will likely add her name to the organization's roster of volunteers.

"I'll be around," she said.

Leahy will also be missed, according to Lea, who penned a poem—"Her Eyes"—that he read at her recent retirement party.

Here is what Lea wrote:

HER EYES

—for Mary Leahy, on her retirement
I asked your friends about your eyes—what color
They were, in a few short words. The answers ranged
From what I'd expect, like sparkling, penetrating,
To ones that were anything but: the earliest green
Of spring, said one, another brook trout green.
And yet the words they used around the colors
They'd chosen made a chorus: compassion, kindness,
Acceptance, faithfulness, honor. What can I add?
Only that in my knowing and loving you
These years, I've beheld within those eyes a shine
That none of us will ever quite describe:
A certain mystery flicker born of watching
Pain for years yourself, and from its kindling
In them what we, in our own crude ways,
name hope.

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about a bill I introduced yesterday, the Army Arsenal Strategic Workload Enhancement Act of 2012.

I am grateful to be working with seven of my colleagues on this issue: Senator KIRK, Senator GRASSLEY, Senator HARKIN, Senator PRYOR, Senator BOOZMAN, Senator SCHUMER and Senator GILLIBRAND. Each of us understands the strategic contributions that arsenals make to our national defense. I am pleased that we have a bipartisan bill to put those capabilities on a firm footing for the future.

I know that the men and women at Rock Island Arsenal in my home State of Illinois deserve that firm footing. I was there just last month, seeing again for myself their good work to equip our troops.

The Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center, JMTC, employs some 1,700 highly skilled workers, at least half of whom are veterans. The JMTC is the heart of Rock Island's 8,600-person workforce, every one of them dedicated to providing our troops with what they need.

For more than 10 years now, they have made critical weapons, parts and materiel for our men and women on the front lines of Iraq and Afghanistan. Very often, they have produced items in a crisis, when no one else including the private sector could do it. And they have made it by the deadline and kept it affordable.

The arsenal has made things like armored HMMWV kits to protect against improvised explosive devices, IEDs, at a time in the war when, frankly, we were caught flat-footed by the threat. They have produced portable tool sheds so that vehicle maintenance can take place in theater instead of having to pull those vehicles off the

front lines. When the Army depleted its stock of a small but critical component for artillery repair, Rock Island stepped up to provide it on short notice.

These are the little-known, lifesaving contributions made by this arsenal.

So my colleagues and I have come together on a bipartisan basis to make sure this strategic asset has a strong future. Our bill would require the Army to create a strategic plan to ensure each arsenal receives the workload it needs to keep its workers' skills sharp. The Army does this type of systematic planning for some of its subdivisions, but not for arsenals. This bill addresses that.

Our bill also would ensure that these arsenals can compete for any military contract, defense-wide. Too often, arsenals are passed over in the contract process. But this bill will ensure these connections happen.

Rock Island's highly skilled workforce has a proven track record. It is in everyone's interest to strengthen this competition.

These two core provisions will help to ensure the long-term health of Rock Island Arsenal. They build upon a bipartisan effort last year by the Illinois and Iowa delegations to expand the arsenal's ability to enter into public-private partnerships. We have seen how these partnerships can drive innovation in new areas like titanium and metal alloys. And they cost the government nothing, all the while assisting in keeping the factory warm and these critical skills available when our country needs them when our troops need them.

I appreciated Senator LEVIN and Senator MCCAIN working with us through the National Defense Authorization Act last year to ensure these provisions were included. I look forward to working with them this year as well.

Rock Island Arsenal is a little-known gem in our military with great importance for our country. I hope we may continue to support their critical role by advancing the ideas I have discussed today.

RECOGNIZING THE BUSH
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the dedication and devotion shown by a group of men and women to their local community. The longstanding services of the Bush Volunteer Fire Department in Laurel County, KY, has been on the cutting edge of rural and volunteer fire departments in the State of Kentucky since the department's beginnings in 1975.

What is so inspiring about the individuals in the Bush VFD is that despite the obstacles placed before them, they have always persevered and prevailed. While the men and women of the department have experienced many successes and accomplishments, I think it is safe to say that these individuals

feel that their biggest achievement is the opportunity to serve and protect their fellow citizens in the face of danger.

The Bush Volunteer Fire Department was conceived of by a group of 13 local men who saw a flaw within their community. At the time, the Laurel County Fire Department presided over the Bush community, but the LCFD was over half-an-hour away. The 13 men in Bush decided that the LCFD was just too far away, and for the safety of their citizens, it was time to assemble a fire-fighting unit closer to home. The LCFD donated a 1947 K-model International fire truck, and just like that, the Bush Volunteer Fire Department was born.

Since the beginning of the department, the men and women at BVFD have sought to become the best that they could possibly be, by implementing new and innovative practices at each and every turn in the road. In less than a year since their start in 1975, the department had secured funds to develop a fire station to house its truck and equipment. Bush VFD was also the third rural volunteer department in the Commonwealth of Kentucky to receive a Class 7 rating from ISO.

In 2011, the department began a junior firefighter program to enlist the help of eager youth in the community in a safe and beneficial way. In 2011, BVFD also enlisted its first female member, Whitney Minton, who joined in alongside her father Rick. These changes, and others, have assisted the Bush Volunteer Fire Department in attaining much of the success it knows today.

I am encouraged by the passion for service of the men and women firefighters and EMTs of the Bush Volunteer Fire Department. Former Bush Chief Ernest Rudder has had the pleasure of following in his father's footsteps, Birchell L. Rudder, in working in the fire house. Ernest's son Marc joined the ranks once he had reached the proper age, and now his son Noah is anxious to be the fourth generation of Rudders to enter firefighting. The Bush Fire Department is truly a family affair for families like the Rudders.

I wonder if those 13 men who took it upon themselves in 1975 to enact change in their community ever thought their dream of a volunteer fire department would become such a huge success. Although this story is common in our country, let us not go without recognizing those who set themselves apart in pursuit of a better future, like those in the Bush community.

Mr. President, at this time I would like to ask my colleagues in the United States Senate to join me in paying tribute to the outstanding service of the many volunteers over the course of the lifetime of the Bush Volunteer Fire Department.

There was recently an article published in the Sentinel-Echo: Silver Edition, an eastern Kentucky local periodical magazine, highlighting the many years of service given by the Bush Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that said article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

[From the Sentinel-Echo: Silver Edition]

THEY ANSWER THE CALL

(By Sue Minton)

Imagine waking in the middle of the night with your home engulfed in a sea of black smoke, or out for an afternoon drive when you spot a cloud of smoke billowing from a distant hillside. The first call you make is to the county dispatch. Pagers buzz in pockets and on tables of volunteer firefighters, summoning them to their stations. And they always come.

Members of the Bush Volunteer Fire Department have been answering these calls for almost 37 years.

In April 1975, 13 men from the Bush community met at Providence Baptist Church for the purpose of organizing a fire department to protect the lives and property within their community.

The reason for starting the department, according to Dennis Minton, charter and current board of trustees member, was—"The Laurel County Fire Department was responding to calls in the county. It could be as long as 30 minutes from the time they received the call until they arrived at the scene (in the old Bush community). By this time, in most cases, the structure was on the ground or fully involved. The residents needed and deserved better protection within their community."

A fire department was organized and they received their first truck before they found a home.

"The Laurel County Fire Department donated the department a used 1947 K-model International," said Ernest Rudder, charter member and captain. "Because we didn't have a building, the truck was parked at different firemen's homes."

With fundraising and donations, in less than a year a two-story building was constructed off east Ky. 80 on Ky. 1803 adjacent to the "old" Bush School. To repay a proposed loan, in May of 1976 the fire department proposed a tax rate of .08 cents per \$100 on real-estate property. Today, that tax rate has been lowered to .0570 cents. The primary purpose of the loan was to pay for fire hydrants and dry hydrants, which were installed throughout the district.

This move paved the way for the district to receive a Class 7 rating from ISO. "We were the third rural volunteer department in the Commonwealth of Kentucky to be granted this rating," Rudder said. "This move also substantially lowered insurance rates for some homeowners."

Under the leadership of its first chief, Kenneth Smith (1975 to 1984), the department grew in manpower and equipment. But, at 3:43 a.m. on June 20, 1984, members of the fire department responded to a blaze at the last place they would have expected their own station.

Daybreak found the firefighters still on the scene, and the realization was sinking in they had lost their building and all their equipment.

The loss of the building was a major blow for the firemen and the community, but the Bush residents were never without fire pro-

tection. Other departments in and outside the county volunteered their service and equipment.

"One of the trucks brought to the fire by Laurel County Fire Department stayed until we got a new truck," Rudder said. "Bell County Fire Department also sent a tanker for us to use."

In January 1985, the community and county were invited to a dedication and open house for the newly rebuilt fire station.

The new station grew both in size and membership from 13 charter members without a fire truck or station into a roster of 42 active volunteers, seven of whom are EMTs; three Class A pumpers; and two tankers.

Bush Fire Department proudly protects more than 10,000 people living in an area of 35 square miles and operates out of two stations—Fire Station No.2, opened in 1993, is located on east Ky. 80 in the Lick Fork community. "Congressman Hal Rogers gave the dedication address," Rudder said.

Six chiefs were elected to command the department over the years; the current is Phillip Williams, and the longest serving chief was Don Minton (1999 to 2010).

The fire chiefs, along with their men, have one thing in mind: "to serve and protect the Bush community." And this they are doing by continuing their training and recruiting new members.

In 2011, the department initiated a junior firefighter program.

Also in 2011, Whitney Minton became the first female member of the department, joining her father, Rick, a sergeant.

In volunteer fire departments, and for many in close-knit rural communities, it is natural that one generation would follow the next on the department roll.

And it was a given that Marc Rudder would follow in the footsteps of his father, Ernest Rudder.

Marc Rudder knew that he would grow up to become a firefighter. "Being able to watch the firefighters help the people of the community in their time of need played a major role in the factor of me wanting to be a fireman," Marc Rudder said.

"I feel that the fire department is something that I have always known," he added. "I always played 'fireman' as a child. I did not know childhood without the fire department. I got to play with small toy fire trucks and big real fire trucks."

"Yes, he has been interested in all things fire or EMS since he was just a small child," Ernest Rudder added. "Like he said, his first toys were fire trucks, ambulances and police cars. It is just natural that he would want to be a firefighter."

"Marc was with me at the fire department meetings from the time he was a small boy," he added. "He was around the volunteers and he learned as we did."

At that time, the fire department didn't have a junior firefighter program, so Marc could not join the department. But by the time he was 16 years old, he was taking classes with the other firemen. "When he could 'officially' be on the roster, he was ready to be certified with his required 150 hours of training," his father said.

"One of my first jobs was as an EMT with Ambulance Inc. of Laurel County," Marc Rudder said. "And I feel this was due to the influence the fire department had on me."

His exposure to the volunteers at Bush Fire Department has, in a round-about way, given him that experience that is now his life's career.

Rudder, who is the State Fire Rescue Training Area 13 Coordinator with the Kentucky Fire Commission, said the knowledge he learned at the Bush Fire Department has helped him each day in his job.

"I feel that coming from a volunteer department serving a rural community has a

great benefit over many other people that I work with across the country."

He coordinates an office that provides training and assistance to 67 fire departments in eight counties in southeastern Kentucky. His office is also an assisting agency to the fire departments in the area for any information that they might need to better serve their communities. Rudder has studied at the National Fire Academy in Maryland and also serves on committees across the region, state, nation, and world.

The fourth generation of the Rudder family, Noah, can't wait to follow in the footsteps of his great-grandfather, grandfather and father.

His great-grandfather, Birchell L. Rudder, was an original member of the board of trustees, being elected in 1975, elected chairman of the board of trustees in 1979, and served as chairman until 1996, but remained on the board until his death in 2002.

Noah Rudder, a seventh-grader at North Laurel Middle School, has been coming to the Monday night meetings like his father, Marc, for a long time. He is just waiting until he is old enough to become a junior firefighter.

"I like to go to the fire department because I know all the people and they are like family to me. And I enjoy learning about firefighting and seeing the equipment," he said.

"Incidentally, Noah is an authority on all things having to do with 9/11," his grandfather added.

Also, Noah's aunt, Dawn, and her husband, Frank Kilby, are members of the Laurel County Volunteer Fire Department.

"The department is comprised of members from all walks of life and everyone brings something to the table," Ernest Rudder said. "During an emergency, we are all business. We are a department of friends and neighbors. But we are always willing to welcome another member."

"We like what we do. We volunteer our time to help people when they need it. It's giving back to the community. And the department has an excellent relationship with the community. They visit schools to present fire-safety programs, allow children to climb onto their fire trucks, and participate in local parades and other civic functions."

From its earliest beginnings, the Bush Volunteer Fire Department has realized the importance of training for this most hazardous job. Proper training ensures that the best interests of the citizens are being served and they are able to return to the station without the life of a firefighter being harmed or lost.

Requirements for being a certified firefighter in Kentucky are the same, but Bush requires each member to obtain at least 20 additional hours of training a year.

"Many of the members are certified or currently obtaining emergency medical technician training, which requires more training every two years," Marc Rudder said.

"This training will enable the EMTs to provide medical care to the community and assist the EMS agency."

Because of the extensive training Bush Fire Department members receive, they hold the honor of being five-time Kentucky Firefighter Olympic Champions, having won the title in 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, and 1993. The team retired undefeated.

"Firefighters have become more aware of the dangers of being firefighters, EMS workers and police officers since 9/11," he continued. "Many new training requirements have come about since Sept. 11, 2011, and I believe the people who want to be firefighters realize the dangers and the great responsibility that being a firefighter entails. I imagine all the

fire departments have gotten better and train harder because of 9/11."

Every firefighter is by law a "peace officer" and duty-bound to report anything unseemly they come across.

In the post-9/11 world we live in today, firefighters are expected to do even more to safeguard the lives of residents in their districts. They must be able to address all hazards, not just fires.

As "first responders," firefighters can provide information to emergency-response agencies that have not yet arrived on the scene. They can determine the situation and decide what resources are required, whether it be an ambulance, law enforcement, hazmat team, or an arson investigator.

House fires kill and injure thousands yearly, and cost many more their valued possessions and memories.

"The activity report for 2011 has Bush Volunteer Fire Department responding to 102 calls," Ernest Rudder said. "Thankfully, only nine were structure fires. We had several grass fires and about five or six vehicle fires. The vast majority of our calls these days are to assist Ambulance Inc. of Laurel County with automobile accidents or to answer and investigate residential smoke or fire alarms."

Rudder said it would be hard to designate the most dangerous fire the department had responded to over the years. "But the Blackwater Church fire was really big with a roof collapse. The big fires in the city of London that we've assisted with and the fires at Chaney Lumber were big and dangerous. We've never had anyone seriously hurt, but recently, on a mutual-aid fire with Laurel County, two of our men were knocked down when the garage doors and ceiling fell on them. Luckily, there were several other firemen there who pulled them to safety."

TRIBUTE TO KENTUCKY WORLD WAR II VETERANS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of a group of men from the Commonwealth of Kentucky who all acted bravely and valiantly during their time of service in the United States Armed Forces in World War II. Glenn Combs, Toleman Combs, Mansell Stone, Benjamin Garrison, Walter Garrison, Rufus Miller, Earl Hobbs, and Elvy Roberts, who are all from different towns and hollers in Clay County, KY, each has a fascinating story of his experiences while in the military. And it is my hope to share a few of those with you today.

When the United States of America decided to enter the Second World War, we did so with an insurmountable level of patriotism, dedication, and determination to defeat the Axis Powers. Men were going to extreme lengths to enlist and answer the call to serve their country, and protect freedom and democracy in the foreign countries around the world in which it was being tested.

Earl Hobbs, one of the men in this group of eight, had learned that he was just 2 pounds shy of the minimum weight required by the U.S. Army at the time of his enlistment. Upon hearing this news, he hurriedly ran to the nearest convenience store and purchased 3 square pounds of bananas. He gobbled them down right there outside the grocery, every last one of them.

Later that day he passed the physical, including the weight requirement, and was an official member of the U.S. Armed Forces. It was instances like Earl's that truly inspire me; instances of men and women going to such great lengths to secure their freedom and the freedom of the ones that they love.

Earl's action that day so long ago was just one of many from what we call the "Greatest Generation." Men and women alike across the Nation assumed new and unfamiliar assignments and positions that they may not have been comfortable with, all for the cause of defending liberty and securing freedom. We must look to the veterans of not only the Second World War, but the veterans of all the Nation's conflicts and struggles, with the utmost respect. We must not take for granted the inalienable rights we have so passionately fought to gain and maintain, and we must never forget those who have made the greatest sacrifice made by many on behalf of those rights.

I truly cherish the opportunity to stand on the floor of the U.S. Senate today to speak on behalf of these eight men and relate a true story of a local Kentucky "Band of Brothers" who decided to honor God and country and selflessly serve all those who inhabit this great Nation.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the great contributions of Glenn Combs, Toleman Combs, Mansell Stone, Benjamin Garrison, Walter Garrison, Rufus Miller, Earl Hobbs, and Elvy Roberts to the cause of freedom.

In July of 2011 there was an article published in the Manchester Enterprise, Clay County's local newspaper, which featured the truly unique journey these eight World War II veterans have experienced in their lifetimes. I ask unanimous consent the said article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to appear in the RECORD as follows:

[From the Manchester Enterprise, July 28, 2011]

A CHAPTER IN WWII HISTORY

Note: This week's feature story covers eight individuals who aided their country to take part in World War II. This story was graciously sent in by Ted Garrison.

After a thorough debate on the world situation, expressing their personal opinions and obligations for a month, they made a decision. They would honor God and country, and defend the Republic of the United States in WWII.

Glenn and Toleman Combs, Mansell "Dude" Stone, and Benjamin and Walter Garrison enlisted in the U.S. Army. Another of the Garrison brothers, Theo, wanted to join, but he was informed that it would be more important to the war effort for him to remain at home and continue to mine coal.

When I first began my research on this small group, I thought Rufus "Jamup" Miller and Earl Hobbs were with them. I found that they entered the military at a different date, but these men (as did so many others) endured enormous hardships during their service, so I decided it necessary to include them in this brief history of patriotism and uncommon valor.

The small group of recruits departed Manchester on October 16, 1940, to be inducted into the military at Ft. Thomas, KY. Walt Garrison was 18 years old at that time. Walt and a friend from Kentucky earned the top scores for expert riflemen in their company. Later, Uncle Walt laughed and blamed snow for causing him to lose to his friend by one point the day they were at the rifle range.

Toleman Combs, Ben Garrison, and Walt Garrison were assigned to Anti-Tank Company of the 10th Infantry Regiment attached to Lt. General George S. Patton's 1st Armored Division of the 3rd Army. Glenn Combs was assigned to Headquarters training and was a Glider Wing of the 82nd Airborne Division.

I believe we should mention that Capt. Elvy Roberts, born on Beech Creek in Clay County, commanded a Glider Wing in the 101st Airborne at Normandy. He also participated in two parachute jumps there. Elvy Roberts made a career of the U.S. military and led the 6th Army as a Lt. General in Vietnam.

The 10th Infantry, with other Army units, including segments of the 101st and 82nd Airborne, were stationed in Iceland. The troops weren't informed that this location was actually a staging area in preparation for the Normandy invasion. Normandy was one of the most important events of WWII. They shipped out of Iceland bound for an unknown destination. After arriving offshore, the 10th Infantry Regiment stayed aboard ships during the first three days of the battle. Their orders were to wait until inclement weather cleared enough to move the tanks and anti-tank guns onto the beaches.

The day before the landing, in the pre-attack briefing, they learned the location was Normandy, and details of the mission were revealed. At that time, they were unaware that their friend, "Dude" Stone, was in the initial attack on the German-held beaches. Soldiers of the 82nd and 101st Airborne had already fought a fierce battle, starting June 3, 1944. "Dude" had gone in with a glider wing. There were 200 men in his wing, and only nine survived.

10th Infantry Regiment and other units prepared to attack. The Anti-Tank company departed the USS Republican by landing crafts and stormed the beach on June 6 at 6:30 AM. Uncle Walt said, "The scene was terrible, but we had a job to do. We could see fortifications blown apart, tank wreckage, and the bodies of American airborne troops lying on the beach."

I asked him if he was afraid when they hit the beach, and he answered, "No, but I was very angry when I saw how the Germans had treated our soldiers." American troops had sustained approximately 6,036 casualties during the first hour of the invasion and over 2,400 at Omaha Beach alone, but they had gained a toehold.

American troops were able to fight their way over the beaches and hundred-foot high cliffs to move ahead a few miles and dig in for approximately 24 hours, thus securing the area. This was a process they repeated, moving the line forward. During these advances, Uncle Walt and a soldier of German ancestry performed sniper and reconnaissance duty for their company. On one occasion near the Modelle River in France, A-T Company came under mortar and rifle fire from a small town. Walt and Wolfgang split up and worked their way toward each end of the village, firing on the enemy positions as they moved in. When they were close, Wolfgang yelled to the enemy troops using the German language, telling them they were surrounded and ordered them to surrender.

Approximately 150 German soldiers surrendered. There was at least one SS Trooper with them. Walt and Wolfgang referred to that episode as their Sgt. York Trick!

Earl Hobbs was discovered to be two pounds under the required body weight at the induction center. He ran to a nearby grocery store, bought three bounds of bananas, hurriedly ate the fruit and passed the physical. Was this an example of youthful patriotism or what?

After basic training, Earl was schooled in armor at Ft. Knox, KY. He was assigned to a tank crew in the 1st Armored Division. During a battle near Algeria, Africa, his tank was disabled and the crew was forced to evacuate. They were captured by German soldiers and taken to a POW camp, Stalag 3B in Berlin, Germany, where he was a prisoner for 27 months.

While he was in this camp, fellow Clay Countian Squire Baker was incarcerated there for three or four months, then moved out to a different location. Squire and surviving members of their bomber crew had been shot down and captured. Stalag 3B was liberated by Russian allies. Earl said, "The Russians were much more cruel than our former German captors."

Rufus "Jamup" Miller, Jr. was inducted into the military at Cincinnati, Ohio, August 13, 1943. After basic training at Camp Blanding, Florida, he was assigned to K Company of the 339th Infantry, Third Battalion. They were heavily involved in the assault on the Gustav line.

This location was in Italy. K Company's losses were very heavy, nearly 55 percent. Most of the casualties in K Company were from the minefields. However, they also encountered mortar, rifle, and machine-gun fire. "Jamup" was among the wounded. The 339th Infantry was one of the three regiments of the 85th Infantry Division. In WWI, they were nicknamed the "Polar Bears."

The 85th had a proud and famous history. The second time "Jamup" was wounded was in the North Apennines Campaign in bitter fighting east of Mount Verruca. He was also involved in the PO Valley campaign as well as the Rome-Arno Campaign. After being wounded twice, Miller was transferred to the military police. June 5th, 1944, the 339th did their victory march through Rome.

Glenn Combs was at the induction center when doctors decided his feet were a little flat for the infantry. He went through basic training and into Headquarters Company of the 1st Armored Division. In December of 1942, they traveled to North Africa by ships. Glenn was involved in battles at Anzio, Kasserine Pass, Tunisia, and Algeria. After avoiding a near disaster at Kasserine Pass, the commanding general was relieved and Col. Robinett was placed in charge of operations. Because of his excellent strategy and leadership in attaining victory in a very negative situation, Col. Paul "Little Man" Robinette was promoted to Brig. General. Kasserine Pass was considered to be the first major battle won by American forces in North Africa. Glenn Combs was promoted from staff sergeant to junior warrant officer, and in a few months to chief warrant officer. Glenn said, "One of the reasons I was promoted through the enlisted ranks to officer was due to so many men getting killed in my company."

These men served approximately five years. Walt Garrison was one of the fortunate. He didn't receive a scratch. Uncle Ben wasn't so lucky. He was wounded in the shoulder by shrapnel from an exploding artillery shell on a hill near the Moselle River in France.

Walt Garrison was one of those veterans who could talk about his war experience. Ben, "Dude," "Jamup," and many others were too scarred emotionally, mentally, and physically to recall their combat duty.

I apologize that I'm unable to provide more complete information concerning the sac-

rifices these men made for our country. They and many more of those veterans are heroes and should never be forgotten. The American people who lived during the WWII era earned a reputation as "The Greatest Generation." I truly believe they deserve that compliment. Not only in military service, but also in different walks of life, many of them had exemplary attitudes and accomplishments.

At this time, Glen Combs is the only one of these men still living. He is 92 and in poor health.

Toleman Combs passed away November 29, 1995, and is buried at Nancy, KY. Rufus "Jamup" Miller died February 3, 1997, and is buried in Manchester. Benjamin Franklin Garrison died at Wilmore Veteran's Hospital December 27, 1997, and is buried at Memorial Gardens in Manchester. Walter Garrison passed away on May 22, 2002.

Years ago, Uncle Walt decided to be buried with some of the soldiers he served with at Normandy. He was laid to rest in Butler County Memorial Park "Field of Honor" near Hamilton, Ohio.

Earl Hobbs died November 25, 2003, and is buried at Memorial Gardens in Manchester. Mansell "Dude" Stone passed on July 2, 2004, and is buried in Harts Branch Cemetery outside Manchester.

TRIBUTE TO BURT BACHARACH

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I salute the life and accomplishments of Burt Bacharach, who received The Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song on Tuesday night. This award is given to musicians whose lifetime contributions to the field of popular song demonstrate the standard of excellence associated with George and Ira Gershwin. Mr. Bacharach received this award jointly with cowriter Hal David, which is the first time in the history of this award that it has gone to a songwriting team. This prestigious honor not only celebrates their work, but it places them among the ranks of Paul Simon, Paul McCartney, and Stevie Wonder, all previous recipients.

Born in Missouri and raised in New York, Burt built a name for himself over his six-decade career as one of the country's most respected and honored songwriters. His partnership with Hal David created such beloved songs as "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head," "What the World Needs Now is Love," "Walk on By," and "Alfie." The duo first began collaborating in the 1950s at the Famous Paramount Music Company, and among their first big hits were "The Story of My Life," made famous by Marty Robbins, and "Magic Moments," performed by Perry Como.

Following on their first successes, between 1962 and 1972 their songs were almost continuously on Billboard Magazine's singles chart. During this time they worked with an array of singers, including Dionne Warwick, B.J. Thomas, Dusty Springfield, The Carpenters, Tom Jones, Jackie DeShannon, Gene Pitney, and Herb Alpert. Together, Burt and Hal have written numerous hits that have helped launch the careers of some of America's most celebrated musicians.

Mr. Bacharach, one of the most honored and successful composers of our

time, has earned three Academy Awards and eight Grammy Awards. These include the 1997 Grammy Trustees Award, which he shares with David, and the 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award. Even after being inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame, he is still touring and performing all over the world.

I ask my Senate colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Mr. Burt Bacharach on this well-deserved honor.

TRIBUTE TO PATROLMAN BEN CAMPBELL

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Patrolman Ben Campbell of Copley, OH, for being honored as a 2012 National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) TOP COPS award recipient for the brave and heroic actions he has displayed in the line of duty.

On August 7, 2011, Officer Ben Campbell responded to a report of shots fired in a Copley Township neighborhood and he found a very grisly scene. An armed suspect had shot eight people, killing seven, and was still at large in the neighborhood. Without waiting for backup, Officer Campbell took off on foot after the suspect. As he scoured the area, he heard more gunshots and ran in their direction. Suddenly he found himself in an open area, with no protection, but surrounded by trees and houses, any one of which could be concealing the shooter. Moments later, the suspect stepped out from behind a house and pointed an automatic pistol directly at Officer Campbell. Officer Campbell commanded the shooter to drop his weapon, and when the man refused, the Officer had no choice but to shoot, killing the suspect.

It was a horrible tragedy, but without Officer Campbell's unhesitating courage, it would have been far worse. A subsequent investigation confirmed this when more than 200 rounds of ammunition were discovered in the suspect's car.

For his commitment to the Copley community, as well as his tremendous acts of bravery on August 7, 2011, I would like to recognize and thank Mr. Campbell for his service and congratulate him on receiving the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) TOP COPS award.

2011 U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION HONOREES

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, every year the U.S. Small Business Administration, SBA, honors our country's local entrepreneurs, hardworking Americans who have built businesses from ideas and created jobs for their communities. I would like to congratulate the eight outstanding entrepreneurs from Connecticut who were recognized in 2011, most especially, A. Gregory Bachmann of Torrington, Connecticut's DYMAX Corporation, who

was named 2011 Connecticut Small Business Person of the Year.

The SBA has advocated for small businesses in Connecticut since 1953, providing assistance through the Federal Small Business Innovation Research, SBIR, Program, facilitated at Connecticut Innovations. This support has included more than \$500 million of financing, education and training, and procurement aid for individuals with big ideas and businesses wanting to expand by taking technological risks.

The winner of the Small Business Person of the Year award must meet eight sets of criteria, including staying power, growth in number of employees, increase in sales and/or unit volume, current and past financial performance, innovativeness of product or service offered, response to adversity, contributions to community-oriented projects, and the products exported and markets served.

In 1979, Mr. Bachmann inherited the business his parents had started in their basement. Now, DYMAX makes its home in a 100,000 square foot building and operates facilities globally, including in Germany, China, Hong Kong, and Korea. It offers innovative technology, such as adhesives, coatings, epoxies, masking resins, and light-curing systems, to manufacturers who rely on innovative solutions for reliable, cost-effective, and quick automated assembly. Most recently, DYMAX has successfully experimented with UV and LED technology as a cutting-edge way for companies to grow. In addition to the tremendous progress Mr. Bachmann has made since his parents' vision, I commend him for ensuring that his company remains environmentally conscious while making remarkable strides in research and development. DYMAX also gives back to Connecticut's less fortunate, and has received an award from United Way of Northwest Connecticut for "conducting the most unique employee incentive program" for contributions to their annual food drive.

In addition to the title of Small Business Person of the Year, the SBA recognizes seven other businesses or individuals in Connecticut every year as Minority Small Business Champion, Veterans Advocate Champion, Explorer of the Year, the Jeffrey Butland Family Owned Business of the Year, Region One Subcontractor of the Year, Women in Business Champion, and Financial Services Champion.

Clayton Williams and Dennis Brown are two of the 2011 awardees who are driven by their passion for the potential of small businesses and the ways they can transform lives. I have seen firsthand the tremendous roots local businesses have set in New Haven and the central part they play in the city's community, so it is no surprise that Mr. Williams, the city of New Haven's small business development officer, received the 2011 Minority Small Business Champion award. He has worked tirelessly on behalf of minority entre-

preneurs as part of the Office of Economic Development to help fund and sustain the best, most promising ideas in the New Haven area. Veterans Advocate Champion Dennis Brown was awarded for his service as vice president of Business Counseling for Connecticut Community Investment Corporation, a nonprofit that works with small business owners to secure loans and develop strategy. A veteran and recipient of an SBA veteran's loan in 1982, Mr. Brown demonstrates that dreams can be realized with persistence. I applaud the SBA for recognizing the importance of providing for our Nation's heroes who wish to run their own businesses once returning home.

In addition, every year the SBA names an Explorer of the Year in Connecticut, acknowledging that risk confronts business owners every day. 2011 winner, On Site Gas Systems of Newington and its president, Frank X. Hursey, are committed to the most cutting-edge solutions and designs for reliable sources of gas used by a comprehensive set of industries, including emergency response, food preservation, automobile, and by our military.

Often, it is family owned businesses, hoping to continue the legacy of previous generations that become reliable sources of products or services central to their communities. The SBA named Jim Nilsson, owner and managing partner of Geissler's Supermarkets of South Windsor, as the 2011 Jeffrey Butland Family Owned Business of the Year. In 1923, Geissler's was a small storefront, and now it offers online shopping and delivery. Often family businesses in Connecticut also win other categories, and in 2011, the SBA honored Region 1 Subcontractor of the Year Thomas Dolan, Jr., for his work as president of Hi-Rel Products in Essex. Hi-Rel Products was started in the early 1970s by Mr. Dolan's father, who worked out of his Old Saybrook home to experiment with reliable precision components for microelectronics. Now, this technology has applications across a wide range of industries. Currently, Hi-Rel employs approximately 100 people in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

Lastly, I would like to recognize Margaret Sheahan, 2011 Women in Business Champion, and Patrick Lorent, 2011 Financial Services Champion, for their work in Connecticut in the legal and financial lending industries, respectively. Ms. Sheahan is founding partner of Mitchell & Sheahan of Redding and provides important legal counsel in employment and union disputes. Mr. Lorent was honored by the SBA for his role as vice president and manager of People's United Bank Government Lending Department where he connects United Bank with national, statewide, and local lending programs. This important work provides vital lifelines to the small businesses of Connecticut that can continue to focus on research and

development without worrying about their protection and sustenance.

The SBA continues to raise awareness and support for Connecticut's local entrepreneurs with their annual awards. The SBA and its 2011 honorees are inspirational, showing our Nation's budding business owners and leaders how to grow an idea to global proportions—driven by the most advanced research and technology and steadfast confidence in the American legacy of starting from the beginning to achieve greatness.

PHARMACY COMPETITION AND CONSUMER CHOICE ACT

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I rise in support of the Pharmacy Competition and Consumer Choice Act, S. 1058. In light of the Federal Trade Commission's recent decision to allow the merger of two Pharmacy Benefit Managers, creating the largest PBM in our nation, I call on my colleagues to join me in supporting this vital piece of legislation. The Pharmacy Competition and Consumer Choice Act, if enacted, would help protect patients and providers from soaring health-care costs and potentially anticompetitive conduct by PBMs, who are the middlemen in the prescription drug industry.

Over the past several years, I have spoken with many of Mississippi's pharmacists who feel powerless against PBMs and their overreaching influence in their industry. In Mississippi, where over 1 million individuals live in rural, medically underserved areas, community pharmacists play a pivotal role in providing health care to patients. These pharmacists, often the only health-care providers in an area, develop trusting relationships with their customers and communities. This legislation will help level the playing field between community pharmacies and PBMs, while ensuring Americans have access to the providers of their choice.

While a few States, such as my State of Mississippi, regulate the activities of PBMs, these powerful players in health care remain largely unregulated by the Federal Government. PBMs compete across state lines in our country, and this legislation would provide national anti-fraud oversight in each of our 50 States.

The need for this legislation is clearer now than ever. With the upcoming merger, one company will control 40 percent of the market. As one FTC Commissioner appropriately stated, it will be a "game changer."

I am an unyielding supporter of free markets, and I strongly believe this legislation would facilitate a more transparent, competitive, and fair marketplace for PBMs, pharmacies, providers, and patients. On behalf of the millions of Americans and businesses affected by the market practices of Pharmacy Benefit Managers, I urge my colleagues to pass the Pharmacy Competition and Consumer Choice Act.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRED CAPTAIN
THOMAS JEROME HUDNER, JR.

Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts. Mr. President, I rise today in tribute to retired United States Navy Captain Thomas Jerome Hudner, Jr. of Concord, MA, a true American hero. For his uncommon valor and dedication to the highest principals of our military, the Navy announced this week it will name the Arleigh Burke class guided-missile destroyer DDG-116 the USS *Thomas Hudner*.

It is a distinct honor, for an individual to have a Navy vessel commissioned in their name; it is an extremely rare honor indeed for a warship to be named after a living person. Yet there are few, if any, people more deserving of this honor than Tom Hudner.

A native of Fall River, MA, Hudner was a student at Philips Exeter Academy when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Already a leader on his school's athletic fields and in its student government, he responded to the call of duty and was admitted to the U.S. Naval Academy. Though World War II ended before his commissioning at Annapolis, Hudner began a storied Navy career that would ultimately earn him our nation's highest military honor.

During his first few years in the Navy, Hudner served as a communications officer aboard various warships before being accepted to the Navy's flight school in Corpus Christi, TX. After earning his "wings of gold," Hudner became one of the "Fighting Swordsmen" of Strike Fighter Squadron 32 (VF-32) aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Leyte*. Just a few years after the racial integration of the US military, Hudner began flying with a young ensign named Jesse LeRoy Brown, the Navy's first black pilot. Brown was born and raised in the segregated deep south town of Hattiesburg, MS, a world away from Hudner's upper middle class home in Fall River and the fields of Hudner's alma mater Philips Exeter Academy.

The relative calm of post-war life as a Naval Aviator aboard the Mediterranean-based USS *Leyte* would not last long. In the summer of 1950, less than a year after Hudner's flight certification, North Korean Communist forces invaded the Republic of Korea. Within months, President Truman would order the *Leyte* into action off the coast of Korea where Hudner and his wingman, Jesse Brown, immediately began flying reconnaissance and attack sorties against Communist positions. Not long after VF-32 joined the fight, China invaded and threatened to overrun US positions.

There are no routine missions in war-time, especially when flying close air support over enemy positions. Such was the case on the afternoon of December 4, 1950 when Hudner and Brown were on a mission to destroy enemy targets near the Chosin Reservoir. About an hour into the mission, Brown's Corsair was hit by enemy fire,

began to lose fuel and he was forced to crash land his aircraft into a snowy mountainside.

The events that transpired over the next few hours became enshrined in the history of American Naval Aviation.

Despite exposure to hostile ground fire, Hudner continued to make low passes over Brown, who was trapped in the wreckage of his destroyed aircraft. And, when Hudner saw that his wingman's plane was burning, he deliberately crash-landed his own aircraft and though injured in the violent landing, ran to Brown's rescue. You see for Hudner, never leaving one's wingman was more than a guideline, it was a covenant. Hudner, later a rescue helicopter pilot, tried in vain to free Brown from the wreckage. With night falling and Ensign Brown lapsing in and out of consciousness, Hudner was finally forced to evacuate the bitter cold crash site. Brown's final words to Hudner were to tell his wife, Daisy, that he loved her. He would have the chance to do just that in person. On April 13, 1951, Daisy Pearl Brown was in the audience when President Harry S. Truman presented Thomas J. Hudner, Jr. with the Medal of Honor for his heroic attempt to save Ensign Brown.

Over the next two decades, Hudner would continue to serve with distinction in the United States Navy. In addition to flying many of the Navy's newest jet fighters, Hudner's career would take him from various ships and air bases where he served in positions of increasing responsibility, including as executive officer of the USS *Kitty Hawk* during the Vietnam War.

Hudner and Daisy Pearl Thorne, she had since remarried, remained friends, their lives intertwined by the events decades earlier on a snowy mountainside on the other side of the globe. In fact, the two friends would be together at another ceremony some 22 years later when the US Navy commissioned the first American warship in honor of an African American, the USS *Jesse L. Brown*.

Hudner retired from the US Navy at the rank of captain in 1973, and while his day-to-day service in the Navy would end, this American hero would continue to serve his fellow veterans through the USO and a variety of veterans' organizations. For most of the 1990s, Hudner served with distinction as Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Veterans Affairs.

In closing, I will quote Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus:

Thomas Hudner exemplifies the core values of honor, courage and commitment the Navy holds dear. Naming the Navy's next DDG for him will ensure his legacy will be known, honored and emulated by future generations of sailors and Marines who serve and all who come in contact with this ship.

I thank Captain Hudner for his lifetime of exceptional service to our nation and his dedication to his fellow veterans and wish him and his wife Georgia all the very best in the years ahead.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

2012 ACADEMIC DECATHLON
CHAMPIONS

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the hard work and remarkable accomplishments of Granada Hills Charter High School's Academic Decathlon team for winning the 2012 Academic Decathlon—its second consecutive national championship. I want to congratulate all the members of the team: Christian Koguchi, Stella Lee, Priscilla Liu, Kimberly Ly, Hamidah Mahmud, Lev Tautz, Julia Wall, Sean Wejebe, and Jimmy Wu, as well as its coaches Matthew Arnold, Nick Weber, and Spencer Wolf.

Each year, hundreds of high schools throughout our Nation compete for the honor of becoming Academic Decathlon National Champions. This year, Granada Hills Charter High School not only became one of three schools to ever win consecutive national championships, but also set the highest score ever achieved at the Academic Decathlon National Championships.

Competing in an Academic Decathlon is a daunting task. The Academic Decathlon's intense 2-day national final competitions include multiple-choice testing in seven different events, speeches, essay writing, and interviewing exercises. Students spend many hours studying, practicing, and competing, often away from their family and friends. I invite all of my colleagues to join me and the State of California in congratulating California's Granada Hills Charter High School Academic Decathlon team on becoming 2012 National Academic Decathlon Champions.●

REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT
COLONEL ROBERT B. SHAIN

• Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of LTC Robert B. Shain, who passed away on Sunday, April 29, 2012. I would like to express my condolences to Lieutenant Colonel Shain's family, in particular his wife of 52 years, Sherry, his two daughters, Cynthia and Stephanie, his son, Michael, and his three grandkids, Bella, Jason, and Mia. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Nancy, and many nieces and nephews.

Robert Shain had an honorable and extensive career which began upon his graduation from the Military Academy at West Point in 1959. He served in the US Army for 20 years as an infantry officer as well as a fixed-wing and helicopter pilot. He completed two tours of duty in Vietnam and was awarded the Legion of Merit, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, two Bronze Stars, 27 Air Medals with V for valor, Meritorious Service Medal, Vietnamese Medal of Honor, and Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. He served as commander of the Executive Flight Detachment and pilot of the presidential helicopter,

Army One, for presidents Nixon and Ford from 1973 to 1976.

Following his retirement, he enjoyed a long professional career in the aeronautics industry. He was an active supporter of the National Rifle Association and a member of the Military Officers Association. However, I understand that his greatest joy in life was spending time with his loving family.

Bob Shain lived every aspect of his life whether service to his country, to his family, or to his business with unrivaled pride and dignity. The career of Lieutenant Colonel Shain serves as a reminder of the sacrifice and commitment that has carried our great nation through the toughest of times. His service to the people of the United States and the State of Iowa is worthy of much admiration and respect. I am grateful for his service and pay tribute to his patriotism.●

TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR JAMES OLESEN

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate Professor James Olesen from the Department of Music at Brandeis University, the winner of the 2012 Festival of the Creative Arts Award for Distinguished Contribution to the Arts.

The Festival, which began in 1952, celebrates the idea that “art activates dreams, revolution, and the future,” and Professor Olesen’s career is certainly deserving of this special recognition amid the creativity and community of the Festival that blooms on the Brandeis campus every spring.

Professor Olesen has spent his career striving for excellence and fostering musical greatness in his students as the Choral Director at Brandeis since 1972. He has served as Music Department Chair and collaborated with faculty members and other departments on various music programs. He was instrumental in the creation of the Office of the Arts and School of Creative Arts.

Throughout his long and illustrious career, Professor Olesen has sung as a professional chorister with numerous conductors, including Charles Munch, Gustav Meier, Leopold Stowkowski and the founder of the Festival, the legendary Leonard Bernstein.

Professor Olesen also has performed with premier musical organizations including the American Symphony Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, the Robert Shaw Chorale and the American Ballet Theater at venues including Carnegie Hall, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Metropolitan Opera.

Professor Olesen has also recorded for Columbia, RCA and Decca Records. He is former Director of the Back Bay Chorale and founded and directed the Orpheus Singers. In 2008, the University Chorus, under his direction, made the first international tour by any Brandeis student music ensemble.

His career reflects Mr. Bernstein’s belief that “the art of an era is a re-

flection of the society in which it is produced, and through creative endeavors the thoughts and expression which characterize each generation are revealed and transformed.”

I congratulate Professor Olesen on this wonderful achievement, thank him for his service to our young people, and salute all that he’s accomplished.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:31 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4133. An act to express the sense of Congress regarding the United States-Israel strategic relationship, to direct the President to submit to Congress reports on United States actions to enhance this relationship and to assist in the defense of Israel, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4967. An act to prevent the termination of the temporary office of bankruptcy judges in certain judicial districts.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 3:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2668. An act to designate the station of the United States Border Patrol located at 2136 South Naco Highway in Bisbee, Arizona, as the “Brian A. Terry Border Patrol Station”.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 4133. An act to express the sense of Congress regarding the United States-Israel strategic relationship, to direct the President to submit to Congress reports on United States actions to enhance this relationship and to assist in the defense of Israel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, May 10, 2012, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1302. An act to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Tracy, California, to the City of Tracy.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6029. A communication from the Chief of Policy and Rules Division, Office of Engineering and Technology, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Unauthorized Operation in the TV Broadcast Bands, Third Memorandum Opinion and Order” (ET Docket No. 04-186; FCC 12-36) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6030. A communication from the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Naval Explosive Ordnance Disposal School Training Operations at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida” (RIN0648-AY64) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6031. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Electric Motors and Small Electric Motors” (RIN1904-AC05) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2012; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-6032. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; California; Western Mojave Desert Ozone Nonattainment Area; Re-classification to Severe” (FRL No. 9669-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6033. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Ohio; Determination of Clean Data for the 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Standard for the Steubenville-Weirton Area” (FRL No. 9669-5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6034. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Commonwealth of Kentucky; Regional Haze State Implementation Plan; Correction” (FRL No. 9669-2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6035. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Nonattainment New Source Review

Rules" (FRL No. 9669-3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6036. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Quality Designations for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9668-2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6037. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Priorities List, Final Rule No. 54" (FRL No. 9668-1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6038. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule to Implement the 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard: Classification of Areas That Were Initially Classified Under Subpart 1; Revision of the Anti-Backsliding Provisions to Address 1-Hour Contingency Measure Requirements; Deletion of Obsolete 1-Hour Ozone Standard Provision" (FRL No. 9668-4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6039. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Model Safety Evaluation for Plant-Specific Adoption of Technical Specifications Task Force Traveler TSTF-432, Revision 1, 'Change in Technical Specifications End States (WCAP-16294)' Using the Consolidated Line Item Improvement Process" (NUREG-1431) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6040. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management and Volume Reduction" (NRC-2011-0183) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6041. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Administration, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Access Authorization Fees" (RIN3150-AJ00) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6042. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Section 42 Qualified Contract Provisions" (RIN1545-BD20) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 4, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6043. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Request for Comments on Reporting of Health Insurance Coverage" (Notice 2012-32) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6044. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Finalizing Medicare Regulations under Section 902 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) for Calendar Year 2011"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6045. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Request for Comments on Reporting by Applicable Large Employers on Health Insurance Coverage under Employer-Sponsored Plans" (Notice 2012-33) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6046. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Minimum Value of an Employer-Sponsored Health Plan" (Notice 2012-31) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6047. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Extension of Certain Wage Index Reclassifications and Special Exceptions for the Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems (PPS) for Acute Care Hospitals and the Hospital Outpatient PPS" (CMS-1442-N) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6048. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Community First Choice Option" (CMS-2337-F) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6049. A communication from the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to continuing disability reviews (CDR) completed in fiscal year 2010; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6050. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act, a report relative to action taken to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Hellenic Republic Concerning the Imposition of Import Restrictions on Categories of Archaeological and Byzantine Ecclesiastical Ethnological Material through the 15th Century A.D. of the Hellenic Republic; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6051. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on the Administration, Cost, and Impact of the Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) Program for Medicare Beneficiaries for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6052. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Defense Trade Cooperation Treaty with the United Kingdom" ((RIN0750-

AH70) (DFARS Case 2012-D034)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2012; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6053. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Contingency Contract Closeout" ((RIN0750-AH71) (DFARS Case 2012-D014)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2012; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6054. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; New Free Trade Agreement with Colombia" ((RIN0750-AH72) (DFARS Case 2012-D032)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2012; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6055. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Utilization of Domestic Photovoltaic Devices" ((RIN0750-AH43) (DFARS Case 2011-D046)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2012; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6056. A communication from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Authority to Require Supervision and Regulation of Certain Nonbank Financial Companies" (RIN4030-AA00) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6057. A communication from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of the Freedom of Information Act" (RIN4030-AA02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6058. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" ((44 CFR Part 67) (Docket No. FEMA-2012-0003)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6059. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" ((44 CFR Part 67) (Docket No. FEMA-2012-0003)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6060. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the Department in the position of Deputy Secretary, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6061. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Version 4 Critical Infrastructure Protection Reliability Standards" (Docket No. RM11-11-000) received in the Office of the President of the

Senate on May 8, 2012; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-6062. A communication from the Executive Director, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Annual Update of Filing Fees" (Docket No. RM12-5-000) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2012; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-6063. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to proposed amendments to parts 120, 123, 124, 126, 127, and 129 of the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6064. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2012-0042-2012-0045); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6065. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the implementation of the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 for fiscal year 2011; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6066. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on the Head Start Fiscal Monitoring Assessment"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6067. A communication from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Corporation for National and Community Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Chief Executive Officer at the Corporation for National and Community Service received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6068. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "New Animal Drugs; Ceftiofur Crystalline Free Acid; Gamithromycin; Tylosin" (Docket No. FDA-2012-N-0002) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6069. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disqualification of a Clinical Investigator" ((RIN0910-AG49) (Docket No. FDA-2011-N-0079)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 4, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6070. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive/Deputy Chief Acquisition Officer, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-59, Introduction" (FAC 2005-59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2012; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6071. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, trans-

mitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Employees Health Benefits Program: New Premium Rating Method for Most Community Rated Plans" (RIN3206-AM39) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2012; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6072. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prevailing Rate Systems; Redefinition of the Austin, TX and Waco, TX, Appropriated Fund Federal Wage System Wage Areas" (RIN3206-AM50) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2012; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6073. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "Review of the Permanent Supportive Housing Program—Department of Human Services"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6074. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-346, "DISB Fingerprint-Based Background Check Authorization Act of 2012"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6075. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-347, "Fresh Healthy Mobile Cart Vending Pilot in Underserved Areas Temporary Amendment Act of 2012"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6076. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-348, "Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Boundaries Temporary Act of 2012"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6077. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-349, "Medical Marijuana Cultivation Center Temporary Amendment Act of 2012"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6078. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-350, "Wrongful Death Temporary Act of 2012"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6079. A communication from the Chief of the Liaison and Policy Section, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Controlled Substances and List I Chemical Registration and Reregistration Fees" (RIN1117-AB32) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 4, 2012; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-6080. A communication from the Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Copayments for Medications in 2012" (RIN2900-AO28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2012; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-6081. A communication from the Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Vet-

erans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technical Revisions to Update Reference to the Required Assessment Tool for State Nursing Homes Receiving Per Diem Payments from VA" (RIN2900-AO02) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2012; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-6082. A communication from the Secretary of the Senate, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the receipts and expenditures of the Senate for the period from October 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2012; ordered to lie on the table.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. COBURN:

S. 3076. A bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code to require the public disclosure by trusts established under section 524(g) of such title, of quarterly reports that contain detailed information regarding the receipt and disposition of claims for injuries based on exposure to asbestos, and the filing of such reports with the Executive Office for United States Trustees; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 3077. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the Pro Football Hall of Fame; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PORTMAN:

S. 3078. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to install in the area of the World War II Memorial in the District of Columbia a suitable plaque or an inscription with the words that President Franklin D. Roosevelt prayed with the United States on June 6, 1944, the morning of D-Day; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. VITTER):

S. 3079. A bill to make participation in the American Community Survey voluntary, except with respect to certain basic questions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 3080. A bill to eliminate certain subsidies for fossil-fuel production; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 3081. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax rate parity among all tobacco products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BENNETT (for himself and Mr. JOHANNES):

S. 3082. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the National Veterans Support Network to carry out activities to support and supplement the mission of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 3083. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require certain non-resident aliens to provide valid immigration documents to claim the refundable portion of the child tax credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BURR:

S. 3084. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to reorganize the Veterans

Integrated Service Networks of the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. REED, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BEGICH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 3085. A bill to provide for the expansion of affordable refinancing of mortgages held by the Federal National Mortgage Association and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3086. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on acrylic staple fibers containing 85 percent or more by weight of acrylonitrile units and 2 percent or more but not over 3 percent of water, raw white (undyed), crimped, with an average decitex of 1.2 (plus or minus 10 percent) and fiber length of 38 mm (plus or minus 10 percent); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3087. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on acrylic filament tow containing 85 percent or more by weight of acrylonitrile units and 2 percent or more but not over 3 percent of water, colored, crimped, with an average decitex of 3.3 (plus or minus 10 percent) and an aggregate filament measure in the tow bundle between 660,000 and 1,200,000 decitex, with a length greater than 2 meters; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3088. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on filament tow of rayon; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3089. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on staple fibers of viscose rayon, not carded, combed, or otherwise processed for spinning, measuring 1.67 to 16.67 decitex and having a fiber length each measuring 20 mm or more but not over 150 mm; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3090. A bill to renew the temporary reduction of duty on staple fibers of viscose rayon, not carded, combed, or otherwise processed for spinning; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3091. A bill to extend the temporary reduction of duty on viscose rayon staple fibers having a decitex of less than 5.0; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3092. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on staple fibers of rayon, carded, combed, or otherwise processed for spinning, presented in the form of top; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3093. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on acrylic staple fiber, not dyed, not carded, combed, or otherwise processed for spinning, with a cut fiber length of 100 mm to 135 mm and a target length of 120 mm; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3094. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on acrylic staple fiber, dyed, not carded, combed, or otherwise processed for spinning, with a cut fiber length of 89 to 140 mm and a target length of 115 mm; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3095. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on acrylic staple fibers, dyed but not carded, combed, or otherwise processed for spinning, with a cut fiber length of 100 mm to 135 mm and a target length of 120 mm; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3096. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on acrylic staple fibers, not

dyed and not carded, combed, or otherwise processed for spinning, with a cut fiber length of 89 mm to 140 mm and a target length of 115 mm; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3097. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on acrylic or modacrylic staple fibers, carded, combed, or otherwise processed for spinning; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3098. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on mucochloric acid; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3099. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on 4-Chloro-3,5-dinitro-*a,a,a*-trifluorotoluene; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3100. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on [2,2'-bi-1*H*-indole]-3,3'-diol, potassium sodium salt; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3101. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures of 9,10-anthracenedione, 1,8-dihydroxy-4-nitro-5- (phenylamino)- and 3- Pyridinecarbonitrile, 5-[2-(2-cyano-4-nitrophenyl) diazenyl]-2-[2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)ethyl]amino]- 4-methyl-6- (phenylamino)- and 3-Pyridinecarbonitrile, 5-[(2-cyano-4-nitrophenyl) diazenyl]-6-[2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)ethyl]amino]- 4-methyl-2- (phenylamino)- and Acetic acid, cyano-[3-[(6-methoxy-2-benzothiazoyl)amino]-1*H*-isoindol-1-ylidene]-, pentyl ester; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3102. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures of 2,7-naphthalenedisulfonic acid, 4-amino-5-hydroxy-6-[2-[2-methoxy-5-[[2-(sulfooxy)ethyl]sulfonyl]]phenyl]di azenyl]-, sodium salt (1:4) and 2,7-Naphthalenedisulfonic acid, 4-amino-5-hydroxy-3,6-bis[2-[4-[[2-(sulfooxy)ethyl] sulfonyl]]phenyl]diazenyl]-, sodium salt (1:4); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3103. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures of chromate(2-), [3-(hydroxy-kO)-4-[2-[2-(hydroxy-kO)-1-naphthalenyl]diazenyl-kN2]-1-naphthalenesulfonato(3-)]-[2-[2-(hydroxy-kO)-5-[2-(4-methoxyphenyl)diazenyl]phenyl]diazenyl-kN2]-2-naphthalenolato(2--kO)-sodium (1:2) and coaltate(1-), bis[2-[2-[5-(aminosulfonyl)-2-(hydroxy-kO)phenyl]diazenyl-kN1]-3-(oxo-kO)-*N*-phenylbutanamidato(2-)]], sodium (1:1) and chromate(1-), bis[3-[4-[5-chloro-2-(hydroxy-lO)phenyl]diazenyl-kN1]-4,5-dihydro-3-methyl-5-(oxo-kO)-1*H*-pyrazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamidato(2-)]-, sodium (1:1); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3104. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on acid blue 324; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3105. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures-of cobaltate(3-), bis[2-[[[4-(hydroxy-kO)-3-[2-[2-(oxo-kO)-1-[(phey)lamino] carbonyl] propyl] diazenyl-kN1] phenyl] sulfonyl] amino] benzoato(3-)]-, ammonium sodium and coaltate(2-), [2-[[[4-(hydroxy-kO)-3- [2-[2-(oxo-kO)-1-[(phenylamino) carbonyl] propyl] diazenyl-kN1] phenyl] sulfonyl] amino] benzoato (3-)]][2-[2-(2-(hydroxy-kO)-5-[(phenylamino) sulfonyl] phenyl] diazenyl-kN1)-3-(oxoK)-*N*-phenylbutanamidato (2-)]], ammonium sodium; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3106. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Reactive Black 5; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3107. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain other made up articles; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3108. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on ethanol, 2,2'-[[4-[2-(3,5-dinitro-2-thienyl)diazenyl]phenyl]imino]bis-, 1,1'-diacetate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3109. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2,7-naphthalenedisulfonic acid, 3,3'-[carbonylbis(imino-4,1-phenylene-2,1-diazenyldiyl)]bis[4-amino-5-hydroxy-6-(2-phenyldiazenyl)-, sodium salt (1:4); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3110. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on disperse blue 77; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3111. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on cobaltate(1-), bis[4-(hydroxy-k O)-3-[2-[2-(hydroxy-k O)-1-naphthalenyl]diazenyl-k N1]benzenesulfonamidato(2-)]-, sodium (1:1); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3112. A bill to renew the temporary suspension of duty on cuprate (4-), [2-[[[substituted]-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl]amino]-2-hydroxy-5-sulfonyl]substituted]azo], sodium salt; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3113. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2-anthracenesulfonic acid, 1-amino-9,10-dioxo-4-[[3-[[2-(sulfooxy)ethyl]sulfonyl]phenyl]amino]-, sodium salt (1:2); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3114. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on cobaltate(2-), [6-(amino-kN)-5-[2-[2-(hydroxy-kO)-4-nitrophenyl]diazenyl-kN1]-*N*-methyl-2-naphthalenesulfonamidato(2-)]][6-(amino-kN)-5-[2-[2-(hydroxy-kO)-4-nitrophenyl]diazenyl-kN1]-2-naphthalenesulfonato(3-)]-, sodium (1:2); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3115. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on acetic acid, cyano-[3-[(6-methoxy-2-benzothiazoyl)amino]-1*H*-isoindol-1-ylidene]-, pentyl ester; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3116. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2-naphthalenesulfonic acid, 5,5'[[carbonylbis(imino-4,1-phenylene-2,1-diazenediyl)]bis[8-[2-(4-sulfoxyphenyl)diazenyl]-, sodium salt (1:4); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3117. A bill to renew the temporary suspension of duty on vat blue 66; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3118. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on disperse yellow 64; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3119. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on disperse red 60; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3120. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on staple fibers of viscose rayon, not carded, combed, or otherwise processed for spinning, measuring over 1.3 decitex but not over 1.66 decitex and having a fiber length each measuring 20 mm or more but not over 150 mm; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3121. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on modacrylic staple fibers containing 35 percent or more but not over 85 percent by weight of acrylonitrile units and 2 percent or more but not over 3 percent of water, not pigmented (ecru), crimped, with an average decitex of 2.2 (plus or minus 10

percent) and fiber length of 51 mm (plus or minus 10 percent); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3122. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on modacrylic staple fibers containing 35 percent or more but not over 85 percent by weight of acrylonitrile units and 2 percent or more but not over 3 percent of water, not pigmented (ecru), crimped, with an average decitex of 1.9 (plus or minus 10 percent) and fiber length of 51 mm (plus or minus 10 percent); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3123. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on acrylic staple fibers containing at least 85 percent by weight of acrylonitrile units and 2 percent or more but not more than 3 percent of water, not dyed or pigmented (ecru), crimped, with an average decitex of 1.9 (plus or minus 10 percent) and fiber length of 51 mm (plus or minus 10 percent); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3124. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on acrylic staple fibers containing at least 85 percent by weight of acrylonitrile units and 2 percent or more but not more than 3 percent of water, raw white (undyed), crimped, with an average decitex of 2.2 (plus or minus 10 percent) and fiber length of 38 mm (plus or minus 10 percent); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3125. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on acrylic staple fibers containing at least 85 percent by weight of acrylonitrile units and 2 percent or more but not over 3 percent of water, raw white (undyed), crimped, with an average decitex of 1.3 (plus or minus 10 percent) and fiber length of 38 mm (plus or minus 10 percent); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3126. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on acrylic staple fibers (polyacrylonitrile staple) containing 85 percent or more by weight of acrylonitrile units and 2 percent or more but not over 3 percent of water, not pigmented (ecru), crimped, with an average decitex of 1.3 (plus or minus 10 percent) and fiber length of 40 mm (plus or minus 10 percent); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3127. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on acrylic filament tow containing 85 percent or more by weight of acrylonitrile units and 2 percent or more but not over 3 percent of water, raw white (undyed), crimped, with an average decitex of 4.1 (plus or minus 10 percent) and an aggregate filament measure in the tow bundle from 660,000 to 1,200,000 decitex, with a length greater than 2 meters; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3128. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on acrylic filament tow containing 85 percent or more by weight of acrylonitrile units and 2 percent or more but not over 3 percent of water, raw white (undyed), crimped, with an average decitex of 2.2 (plus or minus 10 percent) and an aggregate filament measure in the tow bundle from 660,000 to 1,200,000 decitex, with a length greater than two meters; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3129. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on acrylic fiber tow containing 85 percent or more by weight of acrylonitrile units and 2 percent or more but not over 3 percent of water, raw white (undyed), crimped, with an average decitex of 3.3 (plus or minus 10 percent) and an aggregate filament measure in the tow bundle from 660,000 to 1,200,000 decitex, with a length greater than 2 meters; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3130. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Fluopyram; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3131. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on imdaziflam; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3132. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on flubendiamide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3133. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on fenhexamid; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3134. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on fluopicolide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3135. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Fenamidone; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3136. A bill to extend the temporary reduction of duty on Imidacloprid; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3137. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on 2,4-dichloroaniline; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3138. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on trinexapac-ethyl; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3139. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Cypermethrin; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3140. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on staple fibers of viscose rayon, not carded, combed, or otherwise processed for spinning, measuring over 1 decitex but not over 1.3 decitex and having a fiber length each measuring 20 mm or more but not over 150 mm; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3141. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Hostavin 3058; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3142. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Hostapur SAS; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3143. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on confectionery (including gum) containing synthetic sweetening agents (e.g., saccharin) instead of sugar; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3144. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on preparations intended to assist smokers to stop smoking; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3145. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Oxyfluorfen; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3146. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Acifluorfen; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3147. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain eyelash curlers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3148. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on manicure and pedicure sets; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3149. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on nail clippers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3150. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain plaiting material products

suitable for use in window shades; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3151. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain plaiting material products suitable for use in window shades; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3152. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on lithium chloride; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3153. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on lithium carbonate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3154. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on acrylic filament tow imported in the form of 8 sub-bundles crimped together, each containing 24,000 filaments (plus or minus 10 percent); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3155. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on acrylic filament tow imported in the form of bundles of crimped product, each containing 198,000 filaments (plus or minus 10 percent) with an average decitex of 4.0 to 5.6 (plus or minus 10 percent) and length greater than 2 meters; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3156. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on acrylic filament tow imported in the form of bundles of crimped product each containing 214,000 filaments (plus or minus 10 percent); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3157. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on acrylic filament tow imported in the form of bundles of crimped product of 250,000 to 350,000 filaments (plus or minus 10 percent) with an average decitex of 2.4 to 3.7 (plus or minus 10 percent) and length greater than 2 meters; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3158. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on acrylic staple fibers, not carded, combed, or otherwise processed for spinning, with a decitex of 2.4 to 3.7 (plus or minus 10 percent), a fiber shrinkage of from 0 to 22 percent (plus or minus 10 percent), and a cut fiber length of 89 to 140 mm, with a target length of 115 mm; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3159. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on acrylic filament tow imported in the form of bundles of crimped product, each containing 250,000 filaments (plus or minus 10 percent) with an average decitex of 3.3 to 5.6 (plus or minus 10 percent) and length greater than 2 meters; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3160. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Spiromesifen; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3161. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Indaziflam; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3162. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Flubendiamide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3163. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Sodium monochloroacetate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3164. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Reactive Black 31; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3165. A bill to renew the temporary suspension of duty on Pigment Yellow 154; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3166. A bill to renew the temporary suspension of duty on Pigment Yellow 175; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3167. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Pigment Yellow 151; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3168. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Hostanox P-EPQ; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3169. A bill to extend and modify the temporary suspension of duty on preparations based on ethanediamide, N-(2-ethoxyphenyl)-N'-(4-isodecylphenyl)-; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3170. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Hostavin 3055; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3171. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Nylostab seed; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 3172. A bill to renew the temporary suspension of duty on Ethanoyl chloride; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. Res. 453. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that supporting seniors and individuals with disabilities is an important responsibility of the United States, and that a comprehensive approach to expanding and supporting a strong home care workforce and making long-term services and supports affordable and accessible in communities is necessary to uphold the right of seniors and individuals with disabilities in the United States to a dignified quality of life; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. RISCH):

S. Res. 454. A resolution commending the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Department of Energy hosting the Third International Conference on Nuclear Power Plant Life Management; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CONRAD (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. TESTER, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota):

S. Res. 455. A resolution designating June 27, 2012, as "National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. HATCH, Mr. COONS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. TESTER, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BAUCUS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. Res. 456. A resolution commemorating and acknowledging the dedication and sacrifice made by the Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers who have been killed or injured in the line of duty; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. Res. 457. A resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Republic of Ar-

gentina's membership in the G20 should be conditioned on its adherence to international norms of economic relations and commitment to the rule of law; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. JOHANNIS (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. Res. 458. A resolution commemorating May 15, 2012, as the sesquicentennial of the founding of the Department of Agriculture; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 503

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 503, a bill to declare English as the official language of the United States, to establish a uniform English language rule for naturalization, and to avoid misconstructions of the English language texts of the laws of the United States, pursuant to Congress' powers to provide for the general welfare of the United States and to establish a uniform rule of naturalization under article I, section 8, of the Constitution.

S. 506

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) were added as cosponsors of S. 506, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to address and take action to prevent bullying and harassment of students.

S. 598

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 598, a bill to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and ensure respect for State regulation of marriage.

S. 740

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 740, a bill to revise and extend provisions under the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act.

S. 881

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 881, a bill to amend the Consumer Credit Protection Act to assure meaningful disclosures of the terms of rental-purchase agreements, including disclosures of all costs to consumers under such agreements, to provide substantive rights to consumers under such agreements, and for other purposes.

S. 1058

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1058, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure transparency and proper operation of pharmacy benefit managers.

S. 1086

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr.

INOUYE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1086, a bill to reauthorize the Special Olympics Sport and Empowerment Act of 2004, to provide assistance to Best Buddies to support the expansion and development of mentoring programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1111

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1111, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the tax on beer to its pre-1991 level, and for other purposes.

S. 1299

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1299, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of Lions Clubs International.

S. 1301

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1301, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2012 through 2015 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, to enhance measures to combat trafficking in persons, and for other purposes.

S. 1309

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1309, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to cover physician services delivered by podiatric physicians to ensure access by Medicaid beneficiaries to appropriate quality foot and ankle care.

S. 1512

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1512, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 1591

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1591, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Raoul Wallenberg, in recognition of his achievements and heroic actions during the Holocaust.

S. 1616

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1616, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain stock of real estate investment trusts from the tax on foreign investments in United States real property interests, and for other purposes.

S. 1718

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S.

1718, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to the application of Medicare secondary payer rules for certain claims.

S. 1796

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1796, a bill to make permanent the Internal Revenue Service Free File program.

S. 2003

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 2003, a bill to clarify that an authorization to use military force, a declaration of war, or any similar authority shall not authorize the detention without charge or trial of a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States and for other purposes.

S. 2017

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2017, a bill to secure the Federal voting rights of persons when released from incarceration.

S. 2103

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2103, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect pain-capable unborn children in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

S. 2118

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2118, a bill to remove unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats from seniors' personal health decisions by repealing the Independent Payment Advisory Board.

S. 2165

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 2165, a bill to enhance strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 2205

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2205, a bill to prohibit funding to negotiate a United Nations Arms Trade Treaty that restricts the Second Amendment rights of United States citizens.

S. 2245

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 2245, a bill to preserve

existing rights and responsibilities with respect to waters of the United States.

S. 2325

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2325, a bill to authorize further assistance to Israel for the Iron Dome anti-missile defense system.

S. 2347

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2347, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure the continued access of Medicare beneficiaries to diagnostic imaging services.

S. 2371

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2371, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to permit employers to pay higher wages to their employees.

S. 2388

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2388, a bill to reauthorize and amend the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002, and for other purposes.

S. 3053

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3053, a bill to require Regional Administrators of the Environmental Protection Agency to be appointed by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

S.J. RES. 38

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 38, a joint resolution disapproving a rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to the certification of nonimmigrant workers in temporary or seasonal nonagricultural employment.

S. RES. 402

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 402, a resolution condemning Joseph Kony and the Lord's Resistance Army for committing crimes against humanity and mass atrocities, and supporting ongoing efforts by the United States Government and governments in central Africa to remove Joseph Kony and Lord's Resistance Army commanders from the battlefield.

S. RES. 450

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 450, a resolution designating May 15, 2012, as "National MPS Awareness Day".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 3081. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax rate parity among all tobacco products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3081

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Tobacco Tax Equity Act of 2012".

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHING EXCISE TAX EQUITY AMONG ALL TOBACCO PRODUCT TAX RATES.

(a) TAX PARITY FOR PIPE TOBACCO AND ROLL-YOUR-OWN TOBACCO.—Section 5701(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "\$2.8311 cents" and inserting "\$24.78".

(b) TAX PARITY FOR SMOKELESS TOBACCO.—(1) Section 5701(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "\$1.51" and inserting "\$13.42";

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking "50.33 cents" and inserting "\$5.37"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following: "(3) SMOKELESS TOBACCO SOLD IN DISCRETE SINGLE-USE UNITS.—On discrete single-use units, \$50.33 per thousand."

(2) Section 5702(m) of such Code is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "or chewing tobacco" and inserting "chewing tobacco, or discrete single-use unit";

(B) in paragraphs (2) and (3), by inserting "that is not a discrete single-use unit" before the period in each such paragraph;

(C) by adding at the end the following: "(4) DISCRETE SINGLE-USE UNIT.—The term 'discrete single-use unit' means any product containing tobacco that—

"(A) is not intended to be smoked; and
"(B) is in the form of a lozenge, tablet, pill, pouch, dissolvable strip, or other discrete single-use or single-dose unit."

(c) TAX PARITY FOR LARGE CIGARS.—Paragraph (2) of section 5701(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended by this Act, is amended by striking "but not more than 40.26 cents per cigar" and inserting "but not less than 5.033 cents per cigar and not more than 100.66 cents per cigar".

(d) TAX PARITY FOR ROLL-YOUR-OWN TOBACCO AND CERTAIN PROCESSED TOBACCO.—Subsection (o) of section 5702 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting "or processed tobacco removed or transferred to a person other than a person with a permit provided under section 5713" after "wrappers thereof".

(e) CLARIFYING TOBACCO PRODUCT DEFINITION AND TAX RATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 5702 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

"(c) TOBACCO PRODUCTS.—The term 'tobacco products' means—

"(1) cigars, cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, pipe tobacco, and roll-your-own tobacco, and

"(2) any other product containing tobacco that is intended or expected to be consumed."

(2) TAX RATE.—Section 5701 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(i) OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCTS.—Any product described in section 5702(c)(2) or not otherwise described under this section, including any product that has been determined to be a tobacco product by the Food and Drug Administration through its authorities under the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, shall be taxed at a level of tax equivalent to the tax rate for cigarettes on an estimated per use basis as determined by the Secretary.”.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by this section shall apply to articles removed (as defined in section 5702(j) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) after the last day of the month which includes the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) DISCRETE SINGLE-USE UNITS AND PROCESSED TOBACCO.—The amendments made by subsections (b)(1)(C), (b)(2), and (d) shall apply to articles removed (as defined in section 5702(j) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) after the date that is 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 453—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT SUPPORTING SENIORS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES IS AN IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO EXPANDING AND SUPPORTING A STRONG HOME CARE WORKFORCE AND MAKING LONG-TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE IN COMMUNITIES IS NECESSARY TO UPHOLD THE RIGHT OF SENIORS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE UNITED STATES TO A DIGNIFIED QUALITY OF LIFE

Mr. HARKIN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 453

Whereas the aging of the baby boom generation will cause the number of individuals in the United States who are 65 years of age or older to increase from 40,000,000 to 70,000,000 during the next 2 decades;

Whereas 12,000,000 adults, nearly half of whom are under 65 years of age, need long-term services and supports due to functional limitations;

Whereas the decision of the Supreme Court in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999), mandates the end of unnecessary segregation of individuals with disabilities in institutions, and requires that individuals with disabilities receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs;

Whereas the vast majority of individuals in the United States prefer to receive long-term services and supports in their homes so that they may continue to live independently and with dignity;

Whereas the costs of long-term services and supports for seniors and individuals with disabilities are high;

Whereas the great expense of long-term services and supports can affect all individuals, regardless of income;

Whereas 70 percent of individuals who are 65 years of age or older will need some form of long-term services and supports;

Whereas the number of individuals who need long-term services and supports is projected to grow from 12,000,000 to 27,000,000 by 2050;

Whereas there are approximately 3,000,000 workers in the direct care workforce, leaving a huge gap between the services needed and the size of the current workforce;

Whereas the United States is experiencing a jobs crisis, as 25,000,000 individuals are unemployed or underemployed;

Whereas home care is one of the fastest growing industries in the United States economy, providing critical daily care, services, and supports to millions of individuals and families across the country;

Whereas an estimated 1,800,000 additional home care workers will be needed during the next decade to serve the growing population of seniors and individuals with disabilities;

Whereas the quality of home care jobs is poor, with low wages, few benefits, high turnover, and a high level of job stress and hazards;

Whereas home care and personal assistance workers earn a median hourly wage of \$9.40, and nearly half of such workers live in households that also rely on public assistance;

Whereas approximately 58 percent of home care workers work part-time, and approximately 40 percent of those part-time workers would prefer to work more hours;

Whereas nearly 23 percent of the individuals who provide home care services were born outside the United States;

Whereas a stabilized home care workforce would lead to improved continuity and quality of long-term services and supports;

Whereas the issue of long-term services and supports is a critical issue for women, as 70 percent of individuals who need such care are women 65 years of age or older, 90 percent of paid caregivers are women, and 85 percent of family members and friends who informally provide care are women who often have to leave the paid workforce to provide such care, and thus are at a financial disadvantage during their working years and face a reduction in Social Security benefits when they retire; and

Whereas a comprehensive approach that focuses on job creation and job quality, workforce training, pathways to citizenship and career advancement, and support for individuals and families is necessary to build a strong home care workforce and make quality long-term services and supports affordable and accessible for all individuals in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that a comprehensive approach to expanding and supporting a strong home care workforce and making long-term services and supports affordable and accessible in communities is necessary to uphold the right of seniors and individuals with disabilities in the United States to a dignified quality of life.

SENATE RESOLUTION 454—COMMENDING THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY HOSTING THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR POWER PLANT LIFE MANAGEMENT

Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. RISCH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 454

Whereas the Third International Conference on Nuclear Power Plant Life Management has been organized by the International Atomic Energy Agency and will be hosted in the United States for the first time from May 13–17, 2012, in Salt Lake City, Utah;

Whereas the Senate recognizes the important contribution of the United States, through the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy, and National Laboratories, to nuclear power plant life management;

Whereas conference attendees will discuss ways to safely and cost-effectively renew the operating lifetimes of many of the nuclear power plants in the world, especially the 104 operating commercial nuclear power reactors in the United States; and

Whereas the Senate recognizes the continuing importance of the 436 commercial nuclear power reactors that operate in 31 countries and currently provide 14 percent of the electricity in the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Department of Energy for hosting the Third International Conference on Nuclear Power Plant Life Management in the United States;

(2) applauds the efforts of conference attendees to discuss and explore the increased role of nuclear power plant life management in support of license renewal and the safe, long-term operation of commercial nuclear reactors throughout the world;

(3) thanks the International Atomic Energy Agency for organizing the Third International Conference on Nuclear Power Plant Life Management in the United States for the first time; and

(4) encourages Member States of the International Atomic Energy Agency to take advantage of the latest available technology to further develop licensing programs, promote safety, and secure the long-term success of commercial nuclear power generation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 455—DESIGNATING JUNE 27, 2012, AS “NATIONAL POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AWARENESS DAY”

Mr. CONRAD (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. TESTER, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 455

Whereas the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces, who proudly serve the United States, risk their lives to protect the freedom of the United States and deserve the investment of every possible resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being;

Whereas more than 2,000,000 service members have deployed overseas as part of overseas contingency operations since the events of September 11, 2001;

Whereas the military has sustained an operational tempo for a period of time unprecedented in the history of the United States, with many service members deploying multiple times, placing them at high risk of PTSD;

Whereas according to the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center, approximately

90,000 service members who have returned from overseas contingency operations have been clinically diagnosed with PTSD;

Whereas the Department of Veterans Affairs reports that—

(1) since 2002, more than 217,000 of the more than 750,000 veterans of overseas contingency operations who have sought care at a Department of Veterans Affairs medical center have been diagnosed with PTSD; and

(2) in fiscal year 2011, more than 475,000 of the nearly 6,000,000 veterans from all wars who sought care at a Department of Veterans Affairs medical center received treatment for PTSD;

Whereas many cases of PTSD remain unreported, undiagnosed, and untreated due to a lack of awareness about PTSD and the persistent stigma associated with mental health issues;

Whereas PTSD significantly increases the risk of depression, suicide, and drug- and alcohol-related disorders and deaths, especially if left untreated;

Whereas perceived or actual symptoms of PTSD or other mental health issues create unique challenges for veterans seeking employment;

Whereas the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs have made significant advances in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of PTSD and the symptoms of PTSD, but many challenges remain; and

Whereas the establishment of a National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day will raise public awareness about issues related to PTSD, reduce the stigma associated with PTSD, and help ensure that those suffering from the invisible wounds of war receive proper treatment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 27, 2012, as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day”;

(2) supports the efforts of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense to educate service members, veterans, the families of service members and veterans, and the public about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (referred to in this resolution as “PTSD”); and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I am submitting—for the third year in a row—resolution to designate June 27 as National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day. That date was inspired by the birthday of North Dakota National Guard Staff Sergeant Joe Biel. Staff Sergeant Biel served two tours of duty in Iraq as a Trailblazer, part of a unit responsible for route clearance operations. Each day, Joe’s mission was to go out with his unit to find and remove Improvised Explosive Devices and other dangers from heavily traveled roads to make it safe for coalition forces and Iraqi civilians to travel. Joe lost his post-deployment struggle and, suffering from PTSD, tragically took his own life 6 months after returning home. There is no doubt that Joe Biel is a hero who gave his life for our country.

I learned of Joe’s story because friends from his platoon, the 4th Platoon, A Company, of the North Dakota National Guard’s 164th Combat Engi-

neer Battalion, have organized an annual motorcycle ride across the State of North Dakota in his memory. The Joe Biel Memorial Ride serves as a reunion for the 164th, a memorial for a lost friend, and a beacon to those suffering from PTSD and other mental health issues across the region. The key point made to me by the event’s organizer, Staff Sergeant Matt Leaf, is that we have to raise awareness of this issue so that the lives of service members, veterans, and other PTSD sufferers and their families can be saved.

For many, the war does not end when the warrior comes home. All too many service members and veterans face PTSD symptoms like anxiety, anger, and depression as they try to adjust to life after war. We cannot sweep these problems under the rug. PTSD is real. We know PTSD is caused by a traumatic event. We also know that we are sending our troops into combat situations where they are going to experience traumatic events. We know that the percentage of PTSD diagnoses increases with each deployment into combat. We know, as a nation, that we must take responsibility to help our sons and daughters cope with what they have experienced. We owe them that much.

When our troops came home from Vietnam, we ignored their health concerns for far too long. When our troops came home from the first Gulf War we tried to make sure the government was doing all it could to resolve their health concerns. PTSD is this conflict’s Gulf War Illness. The Department of Defense has created a Defense Center of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury and teams with the National Institute for Mental Health and universities to address PTSD. The Department of Veterans Affairs has likewise established the National Center for the study of PTSD. These departments have made significant advances in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of PTSD and its symptoms to help us live up to our responsibility.

But more can and must be done. We need to ensure that these efforts are coordinated. In 1995, a President’s Advisory Commission was created to conduct an independent, open, and comprehensive review of government activities relating to Gulf War illness. Today, I am calling on President Obama to establish a new Presidential Advisory Commission to conduct a similar review of the Government’s efforts to address PTSD in order to maximize the time and treasure we are spending on solving this problem. We owe it to those who have served.

I am proud that Staff Sergeant Leaf and his fellow Trailblazers continue the annual Joe Biel Memorial Bike Ride, to be held on Memorial Day this year. I am proud that I was able to help boost their efforts to bring attention to this issue by creating a National PTSD

Awareness Day. I am proud to introduce this Resolution once again. Actions like these garner attention and help to eliminate the stigma surrounding mental health issues. They are about letting our troops and veterans know it is okay to come forward and say they need help—that it is a sign of strength, not weakness, to seek assistance. And they help show that we can, and we must, do more.

SENATE RESOLUTION 456—COMMEMORATING AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE DEDICATION AND SACRIFICE MADE BY THE FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WHO HAVE BEEN KILLED OR INJURED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. HATCH, Mr. COONS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. TESTER, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BAUCUS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. SESSIONS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 456

Whereas the well-being of all citizens of the United States is preserved and enhanced as a direct result of the vigilance and dedication of law enforcement personnel;

Whereas more than 900,000 men and women, at great risk to their personal safety, presently serve their fellow citizens as guardians of the peace;

Whereas peace officers are on the front lines in protecting the schools and schoolchildren of the United States;

Whereas in 2011, 163 peace officers across the United States were killed in the line of duty;

Whereas Congress should strongly support initiatives to reduce violent crime and to increase the factors that contribute to the safety of law enforcement officers;

Whereas there are more than 19,000 Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty while protecting their fellow citizens, and whose names are engraved upon the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, District of Columbia;

Whereas in 1962, President John F. Kennedy designated May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day; and

Whereas on May 15, 2012, more than 20,000 peace officers are expected to gather in Washington, District of Columbia, to join with the families of their recently fallen comrades to honor those comrades and all others who went before them: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates and acknowledges the dedication and sacrifices made by the Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers who have been killed or injured in the line of duty;

(2) recognizes May 15, 2012, as “National Peace Officers Memorial Day”; and

(3) calls on the people of the United States to observe that day with appropriate ceremony, solemnity, appreciation, and respect.

SENATE RESOLUTION 457—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA’S MEMBERSHIP IN THE G20 SHOULD BE CONDITIONED ON ITS ADHERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL NORMS OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND COMMITMENT TO THE RULE OF LAW

Mr. LUGAR submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 457

Whereas Argentina has enjoyed the privilege of membership in the Group of Twenty Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (G20);

Whereas, at the Summit of the Group of Twenty in 2008, G20 leaders declared that “our work will be guided by a shared belief that market principles, open trade and investment regimes, and effectively regulated financial markets foster the dynamism, innovation, entrepreneurship that are essential for economic growth, employment and poverty reduction”;

Whereas, at the Pittsburgh Summit of 2009, G20 nations “designated the G20 to be the premier forum for our international economic cooperation”;

Whereas, at the Cannes Summit of 2011, G20 leaders reaffirmed their “commitment to work together” and stressed among other principles the need to conduct International Monetary Fund surveillance of national economies, avoid protectionism and the need to reinforce the multilateral trading system, strengthen anti-money laundering measures, and combat financing of terrorism;

Whereas the Republic of Argentina has consistently violated the spirit and letter of these and other G20 declarations through its policy of expropriating the property of foreign investors, evading the judgments of United States courts, ignoring decisions of international arbitral forums, refusing to comply with International Monetary Fund membership requirements, and failing to implement anti-money laundering and terrorist financing measures;

Whereas the President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner has flouted international norms and agreements by proposing legislation to nationalize Argentina’s largest oil and gas producer, YPF SA, effectively expropriating the assets of foreign investors;

Whereas President Fernandez won congressional backing to seize YPF SA (YPFD) from Spain’s Repsol YPF SA (YPF), with the Argentina Senate approving the legislation on April 26, 2012, and the lower house of the Argentina Congress voting 207 to 32 on May 3, 2012, to back her bill empowering the Government of Argentina to take 51 percent of YPF;

Whereas Argentina has persistently ignored claims brought by United States and other countries before the International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), administered by the World Bank, despite receiving billions of dollars in loans from the World Bank;

Whereas Argentina remains one of only four countries, and the only G20 member, that refuse to submit to an International Monetary Fund review in violation of Article IV of the IMF Charter; and

Whereas the Financial Action Task Force has warned of Argentina’s failure to comply with fully 47 out of 49 recommendations to address the vulnerability of institutions to terrorist financing and money laundering, giving Argentina the worst evaluation of any G20 nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) finds that the Republic of Argentina has failed to meet the responsibilities inherent to membership in the G20;

(2) calls upon the President and the Secretary of the Treasury to work with the governments of the G20 to suspend the participation of the Republic of Argentina in the G20 until the Government of Argentina has fully demonstrated its intent to adhere to international norms of economic relations and to commit to the rule of law; and

(3) calls upon the President and the Secretary of the Treasury to work with the governments of the G20 members to condition any reinstatement of Argentina’s membership in the G20 on its demonstrated compliance with its international commitments and obligations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 458—COMMEMORATING MAY 15, 2012, AS THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE FOUNDING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. JOHANNIS (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. ROBERTS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 458

Whereas, on May 15, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed into law an Act that established a Department of Agriculture (12 Stat. 387, chapter 72);

Whereas President Lincoln gave the Department of Agriculture general authority to acquire and spread useful information on agricultural subjects and to assist in the development and use of new and valuable seeds and plants;

Whereas, in 1862, President Lincoln also signed into law the Act entitled “An Act to secure homesteads to actual settlers on the public domain” (commonly known as the “Homestead Act of 1862”); 12 Stat. 392, chapter 75) and the Act of July 2, 1862 (commonly known as the “First Morrill Act”); 12 Stat. 503, chapter 130), which, along with the creation of the Department of Agriculture, lay the foundation for Federal agricultural policy;

Whereas, in the 1850s, there was 1 farmer for every 2 people in the United States, while today the average farmer in the United States feeds more than 150 people;

Whereas the United States is now the second largest producer and the largest exporter of agricultural products in the world;

Whereas the role of the Department of Agriculture has expanded to include functions impacting nearly every aspect of the rural United States and beyond;

Whereas the Department of Agriculture helps to ensure the safety of the food supply of the United States, provides conservation assistance, collects market data, provides nutrition assistance, protects the health of plants and animals, supports rural communities, conducts agricultural research, maintains risk management tools for producers, and promotes agricultural exports; and

Whereas the professionalism, dedication, and work ethic of the public servants at the Department of Agriculture provide a shining example of why President Lincoln called the Department of Agriculture the “People’s Department”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the men and women of the Department of Agriculture on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the Department;

(2) celebrates the growth and success of agriculture in the United States; and

(3) honors the farmers and ranchers of the United States, whose ingenuity, adapt-

ability, and skill have created the safest and most abundant food supply in the history of mankind.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2099. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2072, to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2100. Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. DEMINT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2072, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2101. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2072, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2102. Mr. CORKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2072, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2103. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2072, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2104. Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Mr. DEMINT, and Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2072, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2099. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2072, to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 8 and insert the following:

SEC. 8. NONSUBORDINATION REQUIREMENT.

Section 2 of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635), as amended by section 7 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j) NONSUBORDINATION REQUIREMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Bank may not make or guarantee a loan that is subordinate to any other loan.”

SEC. 8A. FINANCING OF DOMESTIC FOSSIL FUEL PROJECTS; RESTRICTION ON FINANCING OF FOSSIL FUEL PROJECTS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.

(a) IDENTIFICATION OF DOMESTIC FOSSIL FUEL PROJECTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Export-Import Bank of the United States shall identify projects involving the production, refining, or transportation of fossil fuels in the United States that could benefit from the provision of financing by the Bank.

(b) FINANCING OF FOSSIL FUEL PROJECTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the Export-Import Bank of the United States identifies projects involving the production, refining, or transportation of fossil fuels in the United States that could benefit from the provision of financing by the Bank under subsection (a)—

(1) the Bank may provide financing (including guarantees, insurance, or extensions of credit, or participation in the extension of credit) with respect to those projects; and

(2) the Bank shall not provide financing with respect to any project that involves the production, refining, or transportation of fossil fuels in a foreign country until the Bank certifies to Congress that—

(A) all projects identified under subsection (a) have been reviewed; and

(B) with respect to each such project, the Bank—

- (i) has provided financing;
- (ii) has determined that the persons conducting the project have no interest in receiving financing from the Bank; or
- (iii) has determined that providing financing with respect to the project would present a risk of loss that is unacceptable under the standards of the Bank.

(c) ATTORNEY AND CONSULTING FEES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Export-Import Bank of the United States may, in providing financing with respect to a project identified under subsection (a), increase the amount of the financing to take into account the costs of any attorney or consulting fees incurred in—

(1) meeting the requirements necessary to obtain a permit from any Federal agency with respect to the project; or

(2) responding to any civil action relating to the environmental impact of the project filed in any Federal or State court by a non-governmental organization.

(d) DEFINITION OF FOSSIL FUEL.—In this section, the term “fossil fuel” means natural gas, petroleum, coal, or any form of solid, liquid, or gaseous fuel derived from natural gas, petroleum, or coal.

SEC. 8B. PROHIBITION ON, AND REPEAL OF MINIMUM INVESTMENT GOALS FOR, FINANCING OF RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS.

(a) PROHIBITION ON FINANCING OF CERTAIN RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Export-Import Bank of the United States may not provide any guarantee, insurance, or extension of credit (or participate in the extension of credit) with respect to any project that involves the manufacture of renewable energy products in a foreign country.

(b) REPEAL OF MINIMUM INVESTMENT GOAL FOR FINANCING OF RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS.—Section 534(d) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1990 (12 U.S.C. 635g note) is repealed.

SA 2100. Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. DEMINT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2072, to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . TERMINATION OF EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or any other provision of law, the authority of the Export-Import Bank of the United States under section 7 of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635f) terminates on May 31, 2013.

(b) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or any other provision of law, on and after June 1, 2013—

(1) the Export-Import Bank of the United States may not enter into any new agreement for the provision of a loan, a loan guarantee, or insurance, the extension of credit, or any other form of financing;

(2) the Bank shall continue to operate only to the extent necessary to fulfill the obligations of the Bank pursuant to agreements described in paragraph (1) entered into before June 1, 2013; and

(3) the President of the Bank shall take such measures as are necessary to wind up the affairs of the Bank, including by reducing the operations of the Bank and the number of employees of the Bank as the number

of remaining agreements described in paragraph (1) decreases.

(c) REPEAL OF EXPORT-IMPORT BANK ACT OF 1945.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or any other provision of law, effective on the date on which the Export-Import Bank of the United States has fulfilled all outstanding obligations of the Bank pursuant to agreements described in subsection (b)(1) entered into before June 1, 2013, the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635 et seq.) is repealed.

SEC. ____ . NEGOTIATIONS TO END EXPORT CREDIT FINANCING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall initiate and pursue negotiations with other major exporting countries, including members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and countries that are not members of that Organisation, to end subsidized export financing programs and other forms of export subsidies.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the President shall submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a report on the progress of the negotiations described in subsection (a) until the President certifies in writing to those committees that all countries that support subsidized export financing programs have agreed to end the support.

SA 2101. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2072, to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . PROHIBITION ON FINANCING BY THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES FOR PERSONS OR PROJECTS IN COUNTRIES THAT HOLD DEBT INSTRUMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any provision of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635 et seq.), the Export-Import Bank of the United States may not provide any guarantee, insurance, or extension of credit (or participate in the extension of credit) to a person or with respect to a project in a country the government or central bank of which holds debt instruments of the United States.

(b) DEBT INSTRUMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “debt instruments of the United States” means bills, notes, and bonds issued or guaranteed by the United States or by an entity of the United States Government.

SA 2102. Mr. CORKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2072, to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 25 and insert the following:

SEC. 25. LIMITATION ON FINANCING BY THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES TO TRANSACTIONS SUBSIDIZED BY OTHER COUNTRIES OR FOR WHICH PRIVATE SECTOR FINANCING IS UNAVAILABLE OR PROHIBITIVELY EXPENSIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any provision of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635 et seq.) or any other provision of law, the Export-Import Bank of the

United States may not provide any financing (including any guarantee, insurance, or extension of credit, or participation in any extension of credit) for the exportation of any article unless the Bank certifies to Congress in writing that—

(1) an export credit agency of a foreign country is providing financing for the exportation of a substantially similar article from that country; or

(2) private sector financing for the exportation of the article is not available or is prohibitively expensive.

(b) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED.—If the Export-Import Bank of the United States certifies under subsection (a)(2) that private sector financing for the exportation of an article is not available or is prohibitively expensive, the Bank shall also include in the certification the following:

(1) An explanation of why private sector financing is not available or is prohibitively expensive.

(2) An explanation of how financing by the Bank for the exportation of the article does not put the United States at a substantial risk of loss.

(3) If private sector financing is available but prohibitively expensive, an assessment of the difference between the cost of private sector financing and the cost of financing provided by the Bank.

(c) REPORT ON REGULATORY BARRIERS.—For any transaction relating to the exportation of an article financed by the Export-Import Bank of the United States after certifying under subsection (a)(2) that private sector financing is unavailable, the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit to Congress a report that—

(1) assesses the extent to which private sector financing is unavailable as a result of excessive regulation of domestic financial institutions by the Federal Government or the obligations of the United States under international agreements relating to risk management by financial institutions; and

(2) makes recommendations for eliminating the barriers to private sector financing identified under paragraph (1).

SEC. 26. CAPITAL RATIO REQUIREMENT FOR THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Export-Import Bank of the United States shall maintain a capital ratio of not less than 10 percent.

(b) CAPITAL RATIO DEFINED.—In this section, the term “capital ratio” means the ratio of the capital of the Export-Import Bank of the United States to the total outstanding principal balance of all loans made or guaranteed by the Bank.

SEC. 27. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Except as provided in section 9(b), this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the earlier of June 1, 2012, or the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2103. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2072, to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 8 and insert the following:

SEC. 8. NONSUBORDINATION REQUIREMENT.

Section 2 of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635), as amended by section 7 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j) NONSUBORDINATION REQUIREMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Bank shall not make or guarantee a loan that is subordinate to any other loan.”.

SEC. 8A. PROHIBITION ON FINANCING OF FOSSIL FUEL PROJECTS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES THAT ARE SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR TO CERTAIN FOSSIL FUEL PROJECTS IN THE UNITED STATES.

(a) **IDENTIFICATION OF CERTAIN DOMESTIC FOSSIL FUEL PROJECTS.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Export-Import Bank of the United States shall identify projects involving the production, refining, or transportation of fossil fuels in the United States that could benefit from the provision of a loan, loan guarantee, or other form of financing by a Federal agency.

(b) **PROHIBITION ON FINANCING OF CERTAIN FOSSIL FUEL PROJECTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, on and after the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Bank shall not provide any guarantee, insurance, or extension of credit (or participate in the extension of credit) with respect to any project in a foreign country that the Bank determines is substantially similar to a project identified under subsection (a).

(2) **CERTIFICATION REQUIRED.**—If, on and after the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Export-Import Bank of the United States provides financing with respect to a project involving the production, refining, or transportation of fossil fuels in a foreign country, the Bank shall certify to Congress that to the knowledge of the Bank there are no projects in the United States that are substantially similar to the project in the foreign country that could benefit from the provision of a loan, loan guarantee, or other form of financing by a Federal agency.

(c) **DEFINITION OF FOSSIL FUEL.**—In this section, the term “fossil fuel” means natural gas, petroleum, coal, or any form of solid, liquid, or gaseous fuel derived from natural gas, petroleum, or coal.

SEC. 8B. PROHIBITION ON, AND REPEAL OF MINIMUM INVESTMENT GOALS FOR, FINANCING OF RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS.

(a) **PROHIBITION ON FINANCING OF CERTAIN RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Export-Import Bank of the United States shall not provide any guarantee, insurance, or extension of credit (or participate in the extension of credit) with respect to any project that involves the manufacture of renewable energy products in a foreign country.

(b) **REPEAL OF MINIMUM INVESTMENT GOAL FOR FINANCING OF RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS.**—Section 534(d) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1990 (12 U.S.C. 635g note) is repealed.

SA 2104. Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Mr. DEMINT, and Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2072, to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 3 and insert the following:

SEC. 3. LIMITATIONS ON OUTSTANDING LOANS, GUARANTEES, AND INSURANCE.

Section 6(a)(2) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635e(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and”;

(2) in subparagraph (E), by striking the comma at the end and inserting “; and”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) during fiscal year 2012 and each succeeding fiscal year, \$100,000,000,000, except that—

“(i) the applicable amount for each of fiscal years 2013 and 2014 shall be \$120,000,000,000 if—

“(I) the Bank has submitted a report as required by section 4(a) of the Export-Import Bank Reauthorization Act of 2012;

“(II) the rate calculated under section 8(g)(1) of this Act is less than 2 percent for the quarter ending with the beginning of the fiscal year, or for any quarter in the fiscal year; and

“(III) the Secretary of the Treasury has certified in writing to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives that the Secretary has initiated the negotiations required by section 11(a) of the Export-Import Bank Reauthorization Act of 2012; and

“(ii) notwithstanding clause (i), the applicable amount for fiscal year 2014 shall be \$140,000,000,000 if—

“(I) the rate calculated under section 8(g)(1) of this Act is less than 2 percent for the quarter ending with the beginning of the fiscal year, or for any quarter in the fiscal year;

“(II) the Bank has submitted a report as required by subsection (b) of section 5 of the Export-Import Bank Reauthorization Act of 2012, except that the preceding provisions of this subclause shall not apply if the Comptroller General has not submitted the report required by subsection (a) of such section 5 on or before July 1, 2013; and

“(III) the Secretary of the Treasury has submitted to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives the text of a multilateral agreement to eliminate subsidized export financing programs (including aircraft export credit financing) agreed to by—

“(aa) each country that is a member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; and

“(bb) each country that is not a member of that Organisation that, during fiscal year 2012 or any fiscal year thereafter, provided export financing in excess of \$50,000,000,000.”

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 10, 2012, at 10 a.m. in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 10, 2012, at 9:30 a.m., in room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 10, 2012, at 10 a.m. in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a roundtable entitled “Medicare Physician Payments: Understanding the Past so We can Envision the Future.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 10, 2012, at 10 a.m., to hold a hearing entitled, “NATO: Chicago and Beyond.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled “Beyond Mother’s Day: Helping the Middle Class Balance Work and Family” on May 10, 2012, at 10 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on May 10, 2012, at 10 a.m. in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 10, 2012, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FOREIGN TRAVEL FINANCIAL REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriate provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following reports for standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel:

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2012

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Mike Johanns:									
Ghana	Cedi		504.11						504.11
South Africa	Rand		642.03						642.03
Tanzania	Shilling		193.53						193.53
Germany	Euro		265.29						265.29
Total			1,604.96						1,604.96

SENATOR DEBBIE STABENOW,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, Mar. 20, 2012.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FOREIGN CURRENCIES AND APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MARCH 31, 2012

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison:									
New Zealand	Dollar		266.00		448.70				714.70
Australia	Dollar		1,664.00						1,664.00
Senator Lamar Alexander:									
New Zealand	Dollar		266.00						266.00
Australia	Dollar		1,632.00						1,632.00
Matthew Sonnesyn:									
New Zealand	Dollar		266.00						266.00
Australia	Dollar		1,632.00						1,632.00
Paul Grove:									
Ghana	Cedi		178.00						178.00
South Africa	Rand		170.00						170.00
Tanzania	Shilling		54.00						54.00
Germany	Euro		28.17						28.17
Senator Daniel K. Inouye:									
Tunisia	Dinar		509.38						509.38
Israel	Shekel		1,398.00						1,398.00
Jordan	Dinar		716.16						716.16
Italy	Euro		1,412.68						1,412.68
Betsy Schmid:									
Tunisia	Dinar		497.55						497.55
Israel	Shekel		1,398.00						1,398.00
Jordan	Dinar		716.16						716.16
Italy	Euro		427.98						427.98
Kate Kaufer:									
Tunisia	Dinar		498.00						498.00
Israel	Shekel		823.50						823.50
Jordan	Dinar		716.16						716.16
Italy	Euro		708.50						708.50
Kay Webber:									
Tunisia	Dinar		497.55						497.55
Israel	Shekel		1,298.00						1,298.00
Jordan	Dinar		716.16						716.16
Italy	Euro		1,283.94						1,283.94
Stewart Holmes:									
Tunisia	Dinar		497.55						497.55
Israel	Shekel		1,169.00						1,169.00
Jordan	Dinar		716.16						716.16
Italy	Euro		1,054.94						1,054.94
Senator Thad Cochran:									
Tunisia	Dinar		497.55						497.55
Israel	Shekel		1,398.00						1,398.00
Jordan	Dinar		716.16						716.16
Italy	Euro		1,283.94						1,283.94
Senator Barbara Mikulski:									
Tunisia	Dinar		471.00						471.00
Israel	Shekel		438.00						438.00
Jordan	Dinar		381.00						381.00
Italy	Euro		386.72						386.72
Teri Spoutz:									
Japan	Yen		476.00						476.00
Korea	Won		240.00						240.00
M. Colleen Gaydos:									
Japan	Yen		520.00						520.00
Korea	Won		240.00						240.00
United States	Dollar				16,174.90				16,174.90
Alycia Farrell:									
United States	Dollar				17,324.90				17,324.90
Japan	Yen		520.00						520.00
Korea	Won		214.00						214.00
Alexander Keenan:									
Brazil	Real		2,723.82						2,723.82
United States	Dollar				4,528.60				4,528.60
Heideh Shadmoradi-Holley									
Brazil	Real		2,733.82						2,733.82
United States	Dollar				4,528.60				4,528.60
Carl Barrick:									
Brazil	Real		2,948.82						2,948.82
United States	Dollar				4,528.60				4,528.60
Dennis Balkham:									
Poland	Zloty		970.48						970.48
United States	Dollar				8,509.33				8,509.33
Igor Khrestin:									
Poland	Zloty		975.46						975.46
United States	Dollar				8,106.43				8,106.43
Senator Mark Kirk:									
Poland	Zloty		1,045.48						1,045.48
United States	Dollar				8,283.33				8,283.33
Rebecca Davies:									
Guatemala	Quetzales		314.54						314.54
Panama	Dollar		506.00						506.00
Colombia	Peso		860.00						860.00
United States	Dollar				1,373.90				1,373.90

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FOREIGN CURRENCIES AND APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MARCH 31, 2012—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Carol Cribbs:									
Guatemala	Quetzales		314.54						314.54
Panama	Dollar		506.00						506.00
Colombia	Peso		1,721.00						1,721.00
United States	Dollar				1,373.90				1,373.90
Howard Walgen:									
Panama	Dollar		506.00						506.00
Colombia	Peso		1,356.50						1,356.50
United States	Dollar				1,846.90				1,846.90
Charles Kieffer:									
Panama	Dollar		506.00						506.00
United States	Dollar				1,122.40				1,122.40
Senator John Hoeven:									
Afghanistan	Afghani		38.00						38.00
Egypt	Pound		84.00						84.00
Israel	Shekel		46.00						46.00
Tunisia	Dinar		51.00						51.00
Tim Rieser:									
Colombia	Peso		365.00						365.00
Cuba	Dollar		344.00						344.00
Delegation Expenses: ¹									
Italy	Euro					8,541.27			8,541.27
Jordan	Dinar					2,395.16			2,395.16
Tunisia	Dinar					6,652.54			6,652.54
Israel	Shekel					28,588.79			28,588.79
Total			49,910.21		78,150.49	46,177.76			174,238.46

¹ Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 2977.

SENATOR DANIEL INOUE,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Apr. 22, 2012.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FOREIGN CURRENCIES AND APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2012

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator James M. Inhofe:									
Afghanistan	Dollar		14.00						14.00
United States	Dollar				14,068.00				14,068.00
Anthony Lazarski:									
Afghanistan	Dollar		14.00						14.00
United States	Dollar				14,068.00				14,068.00
Senator Joseph I. Lieberman:									
United States	Dollar				8,844.95				8,844.95
Israel	Dollar		1,338.47						1,338.47
Tunisia	Dollar		157.00			333.00			490.00
Libya	Dollar					333.00			333.00
Senator Lindsey Graham:									
Ghana	Dollar		112.33						112.33
South Africa	Dollar		161.77						161.77
Tanzania	Dollar		46.75						46.75
Germany	Dollar		64.60						64.60
Richard Pery:									
Ghana	Dollar		112.33						112.33
South Africa	Dollar		161.71						161.71
Tanzania	Dollar		46.75						46.75
Germany	Dollar		64.38						64.38
Andrew King:									
Ghana	Dollar		112.33						112.33
South Africa	Dollar		161.71						161.71
Tanzania	Dollar		46.75						46.75
Germany	Dollar		64.38						64.38
Senator Mark Begich:									
United States	Dollar				11,932.70				11,932.70
Afghanistan	Dollar					29.81			29.81
Lindsay Kavanaugh:									
United States	Dollar				11,932.70				11,932.70
Afghanistan	Dollar					24.01			24.01
Senator John McCain:									
United States	Dollar				14,645.90				14,645.90
Philippines	Dollar		40.78						40.78
Vietnam	Dollar		71.04						71.04
Thailand	Dollar		383.47						383.47
Burma	Dollar		68.71						68.71
Robie I. Samanta Roy:									
United States	Dollar				8,795.00				8,795.00
Bahrain	Dinar		1,069.50						1,069.50
Jason W. Maroney:									
United States	Dollar				9,854.20				9,854.20
Kuwait	Dollar		425.95						425.95
Bahrain	Dollar		792.84						792.84
Senator Kay Hagan:									
Ghana	Dollar		112.33						112.33
South Africa	Dollar		107.93						107.93
Tanzania	Dollar		46.75						46.75
Germany	Dollar		84.65						84.65
Senator John McCain:									
Germany	Dollar		189.77						189.77
Senator Susan M. Collins:									
Germany	Euro		370.00						370.00
Senator Lindsey Graham:									
Germany	Dollar		142.69						142.69
Michael J. Siskak:									
United States	Dollar				8,795.20				8,795.20
Bahrain	Dollar		1,012.48						1,012.48
Senator Jeff Sessions:									
New Zealand	Dollar		317.62		4.04	20.76			342.42

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FOREIGN CURRENCIES AND APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2012—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Australia	Dollar		5,446.33		6.02		53.82		5,506.17
Senator Lenwood A. Landrum:									
New Zealand	Dollar		451.01		25.00				476.01
Australia	Dollar		4,375.13				11.00		4,386.13
Senator Mark Udall:									
Germany	Euro		370.00						370.00
Senator Lindsey Graham:									
United States	Dollar		5.72						5.72
Afghanistan	Dollar		20.42						20.42
Israel	Dollar		118.43						118.43
Egypt	Dollar		142.96						142.96
Tunisia	Dollar		13.47						13.47
Senator John McCain:									
Afghanistan	Dollar		20.42						20.42
Egypt	Dollar		108.57						108.57
Israel	Dollar		73.10						73.10
Tunisia	Dollar		19.91						19.91
Senator Joseph I. Lieberman:									
Germany	Dollar		259.66		814.00				1,073.66
Senator Jeff Sessions:									
Afghanistan	Dollar		20.42						20.42
Egypt	Dollar		422.79						422.79
Israel	Dollar		393.10						393.10
Tunisia	Dollar		111.64						111.64
Vance Serchuk:									
United States	Dollar				14,645.90				14,645.90
Philippines	Dollar		270.00						270.00
Vietnam	Dollar		148.00						148.00
Thailand	Dollar		244.00				142.86		386.86
Burma	Dollar		138.00						138.00
Margaret Goodlander:									
United States	Dollar		128.00		14,645.90				14,773.90
Philippines	Dollar		92.50						92.50
Vietnam	Dollar		138.00						138.00
Thailand	Dollar		326.58				142.86		469.44
Burma	Dollar		92.00						92.00
Vance Serchuk:									
United States	Dollar				10,200.95				10,200.95
Israel	Dollar		1,338.47						1,338.47
Tunisia	Dollar		157.00				333.33		490.33
Libya	Dollar						333.33		333.33
Margaret Goodlander:									
United States	Dollar				9,579.95				9,579.95
Israel	Dollar		1,213.92						1,213.92
Tunisia	Dollar		157.00				333.33		490.33
Libya	Dollar						333.33		333.33
Germany	Dollar		352.00		814.00				1,166.00
Adam J. Barker:									
United States	Dollar				837.90				837.90
Colombia	Dollar		1,525.00						1,525.00
Brian Burton:									
Germany	Dollar		215.77		814.00				1,029.77
Lucian L. Niemeyer:									
United States	Dollar				9,834.20				9,834.20
Kuwait	Dollar		72.00						72.00
Bahrain	Dollar		267.00						267.00
Senator Joseph I. Lieberman:									
United States	Dollar		77.69		14,645.90				14,723.59
Philippines	Dollar		32.88						32.88
Vietnam	Dollar		82.85						82.85
Thailand	Dollar		326.58				142.86		469.44
Burma	Dollar		15.00						15.00
Senator Kelly Ayotte:									
Germany	Dollar		133.21						133.21
Philippines	Dollar		99.15						99.15
Vietnam	Dollar		187.33						187.33
Thailand	Dollar		613.65						613.65
Burma	Dollar		68.40						68.40
Michael J. Noblet:									
United States	Dollar				784.00				784.00
Colombia	Dollar		449.00						449.00
Matt Rinkunas:									
Afghanistan	Dollar		13.47						13.47
Egypt	Dollar		169.87						169.87
Israel	Dollar		73.10						73.10
Tunisia	Dollar		13.47						13.47
United States	Dollar		13.12						13.12
Senator Richard Blumenthal:									
United States	Dollar		12.66						12.66
Afghanistan	Dollar		13.47						13.47
Egypt	Dollar		422.79						422.79
Israel	Dollar		397.96						397.96
Tunisia	Dollar		105.06						105.06
Christian D. Brose:									
United States	Dollar						50.00		50.00
Afghanistan	Dollar		28.00						28.00
Egypt	Dollar		179.00						179.00
Israel	Dollar		113.00						113.00
Tunisia	Dollar		76.00						76.00
United States	Dollar				14,645.90				14,645.90
Philippines	Dollar		206.00						206.00
Vietnam	Dollar		113.00						113.00
Thailand	Dollar		244.00						244.00
Burma	Dollar		77.00						77.00
Clarine Nardi Riddle:									
Germany	Dollar		138.99		814.00				952.99
Christian D. Brose:									
Germany	Dollar		147.00						147.00
Total			31,806.79		196,048.31		2,617.30		230,472.40

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1, TO MAR. 31, 2012

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Richard C. Shelby:									
New Zealand	Dollar		416.00						416.00
Australia	Dollar		2,414.00						2,414.00
William D. Duhne III:									
New Zealand	Dollar		416.00						416.00
Australia	Dollar		2,414.00						2,414.00
Anne Coleman Caldwell:									
New Zealand	Dollar		416.00						416.00
Australia	Dollar		2,414.00						2,414.00
Senator Michael Bennet:									
Turkey	Lira		237.25						237.25
India	Rupee		1,075.86						1,075.86
United States	Dollar				4,864.50				4,864.50
Andrew Leahy:									
Turkey	Lira		142.34						142.34
India	Rupee		612.09						612.09
Slovakia	Koruna		21.84						21.84
Senator Richard C. Shelby:									
Cuba	Peso		264.00						264.00
Colombia	Peso		471.00						471.00
Anne Coleman Caldwell:									
Cuba	Peso		264.00						264.00
Colombia	Peso		471.00						471.00
Total			12,049.38		4,864.50				16,913.88

SENATOR TIM JOHNSON,
Chairman, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs,
Apr. 2, 2012.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2012

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Kent Conrad:									
Cuba	Peso		544.00						544.00
Colombia	Peso		2,165.00						2,165.00
Sara Garland:									
Cuba	Peso		444.00						444.00
Colombia	Peso		1,505.00						1,505.00
Delegation Expenses ¹									
Cuba	Peso						143.64		143.64
Colombia	Peso				1,475.80		2,846.90		4,322.70
Senator Mark Warner:									
Turkey	Lira		432.97						432.97
India	Rupee		1,800.00						1,800.00
Slovakia	Euro		360.95						360.95
Mark Brunner:									
Turkey	Lira		277.96						277.96
India	Rupee		2,400.58						2,400.58
Slovakia	Euro		360.95						360.00
Delegation Expenses ¹									
Turkey	Lira						506.67		506.67
India	Rupee						8,434.35		8,434.35
Slovakia	Euro						2,875.58		2,875.58
Total			10,291.41		1,475.80		14,807.14		26,574.35

¹ Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR KENT CONRAD,
Chairman, Committee on Budget, Apr. 26, 2012.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FOREIGN CURRENCIES AND APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2012

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator John Thune:									
Ghana	Cedi		499.33						499.33
South Africa	Rand		608.36						608.36
Tanzania	Shillin		200.72						200.72
Germany	Euro		265.58						265.58
Delegation Expenses:									
Ghana	Cedi						957.00		957.00
South Africa	Shilling						906.80		906.80
Senator Max Baucus:									
Russia	Ruble		476.39						476.39
United States	Dollar				9,144.04				9,144.04
Amber Cottle:									
Russia	Ruble		661.00						661.00
United States	Dollar				9,144.04				9,144.04
Chelsea Thomas:									
Russia	Ruble		611.51						611.51
United States	Dollar				9,728.04				9,728.04
Hun Quach:									
Russia	Ruble		464.23						464.23
United States	Dollar				9,144.04				9,144.04
Bruce Hirsh:									
Russia	Ruble		623.93						623.93
United States	Dollar				9,144.04				9,144.04

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FOREIGN CURRENCIES AND APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2012—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Scott Mulhauser:									
Russia	Ruble		442.33						442.33
United States	Dollar				9,144.04				9,144.04
Jon Selib:									
Russia	Ruble		479.11						479.11
United States	Dollar				9,728.04				9,728.04
Paul Wilkins:									
Russia	Ruble		495.11						495.11
United States	Dollar				9,728.04		4,086.01		13,814.05
Delegation Expenses:									
Russia	Ruble						9,106.47		9,106.47
Bruce Hirsh:									
China	Renminbi		2,584.82						2,584.82
United States	Dollar				12,908.19				12,908.19
Heather O'Loughlin:									
New Zealand	Dollar		2,115.29						2,115.29
United States	Dollar				14,399.93				14,399.93
Gregory Kalbaugh:									
New Zealand	Dollar		1,969.03						1,969.03
United States	Dollar				14,399.93				14,399.93
Total			12,496.74		116,612.37		15,056.28		144,165.39

¹ Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 5012(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR MAX BAUCUS,
Chairman, Committee on Finance, May 1, 2012.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2012

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator John Barrasso:									
Ghana	Cedi		512.33						512.33
South Africa	Rand		650.25						650.25
Tanzania	Shilling		201.75						201.75
Germany	Euro		281.73						281.73
Senator Bob Corker:									
Switzerland	Franc		1,324.65						1,324.65
France	Euro		977.58						977.58
Senator John Kerry:									
Oman	Rial		73.00						73.00
Israel	Shekel		788.00						788.00
Saudi Arabia	Riyal		329.00						329.00
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		1,660.00						1,660.00
Jordan	Dinar		394.00						394.00
France	Euro		815.58						815.58
United States	Dollar				11,196.00				11,196.00
Germany	Euro		1,306.42						1,306.42
United States	Dollar				4,634.00				4,634.00
Qatar	Riyal		340.65						340.65
United States	Dollar				10,534.00				10,534.00
Senator Marco Rubio:									
United States	Dollar				1,106.50				1,106.50
Senator Jeanne Shaheen:									
Belgium	Euro		970.86						970.86
Senator Tom Udall:									
Turkey	Lira		436.59						436.59
India	Rupee		2,496.59						2,496.59
Slovakia	Euro		360.95						360.95
Michael Bright:									
Switzerland	Franc		1,082.10						1,082.10
France	Euro		1,157.10						1,157.10
Jason Bruder:									
Romania	Leu		777.59						777.59
Poland	Zioty		302.23						302.23
Belgium	Euro		1,131.45						1,131.45
United States	Dollar				4,827.30				4,827.30
Perry Cammack:									
Israel	Shekel		945.00						945.00
Saudi Arabia	Riyal		433.00						433.00
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		1,430.00						1,430.00
Jordan	Dinar		685.00						685.00
United States	Dollar				9,658.10				9,658.10
Kuwait	Dinar		435.00						435.00
Qatar	Riyal		362.00						362.00
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		367.00						367.00
United States	Dollar				16,149.90				16,149.90
Victor Cervino:									
Haiti	Dollar		250.00						250.00
United States	Dollar				1,106.50				1,106.50
Heidi Crebo-Rediker:									
Switzerland	Franc		2,170.00						2,170.00
United States	Dollar				812.30				812.30
William Danvers:									
Israel	Shekel		743.00						743.00
Saudi Arabia	Riyal		350.00						350.00
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		1,630.00						1,630.00
Jordan	Dinar		500.00						500.00
France	Euro		626.00						626.00
United States	Dollar				11,269.00				11,269.00
Germany	Euro		1,269.97						1,269.97
Qatar	Riyal		340.65						340.65
United States	Dollar				10,527.00				10,527.00
Gary Hart:									
Russia	Ruble		2,033.35						2,033.35
United States	Dollar				8,744.00				8,744.00
Chris Homan:									
Cuba	Dollar		224.00						224.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2012—Continued

Table with columns: Name and country, Name of currency, Per diem (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Transportation (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Miscellaneous (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Total (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency). Rows include Haiti, United States, Germany, Kuwait, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Nigeria, United States, Belgium, Haiti, Turkey, India, Slovakia, Sudan, South Sudan, Belgium, United States, Russia, Romania, Poland, Belgium, United States.

SENATOR JOHN KERRY, Chairman, Committee on: Foreign Relations, Apr. 27, 2011.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS, AMENDED, FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2011

Table with columns: Name and country, Name of currency, Per diem (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Transportation (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Miscellaneous (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Total (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency). Rows include Senator Susan M. Collins (United States, Jordan, Turkey), Ryan Kaldahl (United States, Jordan, Turkey), Vance Serchuk (Canada), Margaret Goodlander (Canada), Delegation Expenses:1 (Jordan).

1 Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN, Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, May 1, 2012.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2012

Table with columns: Name and country, Name of currency, Per diem (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Transportation (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Miscellaneous (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Total (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency). Rows include Vance Serchuk (United States, Egypt, Jordan, Qatar), Margaret Goodlander (Egypt, Jordan), Vance Serchuk (United States, Germany, United States, Egypt, Israel, Tunisia), Delegation Expenses:1 (Jordan).

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2012—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Total			4,623.66		8,943.90		228.25		13,795.81

¹ Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs,
May 1, 2012.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2012

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse:									
United States	Dollar				14,645.90				14,645.90
Philippines	Piso		338.69						338.69
Vietnam	Dong		379.17						379.17
Thailand	Baht		593.81						593.81
Burma	Kyat		228.18						228.18
Delegation Expenses: ¹									
Philippines	Piso					8.88			8.88
Vietnam	Dong					237.25			237.25
Thailand	Baht					441.19			441.19
Burma	Kyat					541.56			541.56
Senator Jon Kyl:									
New Zealand	Dollar		357.16						357.16
Australia	Dollar		4,099.97						4,099.97
Carolyn Leddy:									
New Zealand	Dollar		508.13						508.13
Australia	Dollar		4,280.00						4,280.00
Delegation Expenses:									
New Zealand	Dollar					945.84			945.84
Australia	Dollar				474.00	9,446.72			9,920.72
Senator Patrick Leahy:									
Cuba	CUC		544.00						544.00
Colombia	Peso		2,165.00						2,165.00
Senator Christopher Coons:									
Cuba	CUC		544.00						544.00
Colombia	Peso		2,165.00						2,165.00
John P. Dowd:									
Cuba	CUC		444.00						444.00
Colombia	Peso		1,505.00						1,505.00
Kevin McDonald:									
Cuba	CUC		444.00						444.00
Colombia	Peso		1,505.00						1,505.00
Lisa Hummon:									
Cuba	CUC		444.00						444.00
Colombia	Peso		1,505.00						1,505.00
Delegation Expenses: ¹									
Cuba	CUC					359.10			359.10
Colombia	Peso				3,689.55	7,117.00			10,806.55
Total			22,050.11		18,809.45	19,097.54			59,957.10

¹ Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR PATRICK LEAHY,
Chairman, Committee on Judiciary, Apr. 27, 2012.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2012

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Michael B. Enzi:									
New Zealand	Dollar		30.00						30.00
Australia	Dollar		840.00		174.00				1,014.00
Melissa Pfaff:									
Zambia	Kwacha		1,545.00		248.00				1,793.00
United States	Dollar				3,144.10				3,144.10
Anna Abram:									
Zambia	Kwacha		1,669.00		248.00				1,917.00
United States	Dollar				3,144.10				3,144.10
Ashley Cottingham:									
Zambia	Kwacha		1,639.00		248.00				1,887.00
United States	Dollar				9,905.10				9,905.10
Total			5,723.00		17,111.30				22,834.30

SENATOR TOM HARKIN,
Chairman, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions,
Apr. 25, 2012.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), REPUBLICAN LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2012—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Burma	Kyat								
Thailand	Baht						6,085.57		6,085.57
Thomas Hawkins:							312.12		312.12
Germany	Euro		1,120.18						1,120.18
Total			4,513.56		52,708.50		7,508.80		64,730.86

¹ Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under the Authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR MITCH MCCONNELL,
Republican Leader, Apr. 24, 2012.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2010

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Michael Bassett:									
Switzerland	Franc		1,378.73		143.28				1,522.01
United States	Dollar				1,698.00				1,698.00
Francine Henmie:									
Switzerland	Franc		1,378.73		143.28				1,522.01
United States	Dollar				1,698.00				1,698.00
Anne Oswald:									
Switzerland	Franc		1,378.73		143.28				1,522.01
United States	Dollar				1,698.00				1,698.00
Martin Schuh:									
Switzerland	Franc		1,378.73		143.28				1,522.01
United States	Dollar				1,698.00				1,698.00
Total			5,514.92		7,365.12				12,880.04

SENATOR HERB KOHL,
Chairman, Committee on Special Committee on Aging, Apr. 17, 2012.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2012

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Anne Oswald:									
Zambia	Kwacha		2,064.00						2,064.00
United States	Dollar				15,805.50				15,805.50
Total			2,064.00		15,805.50				17,869.50

SENATOR HERB KOHL,
Chairman, Committee on Special Committee on Aging, Apr. 16, 2012.

PREVENTING THE TERMINATION OF TEMPORARY OFFICE OF BANKRUPTCY JUDGES

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of H.R. 4967, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4967) to prevent the termination of the temporary office of bankruptcy judges in certain judicial districts.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I congratulate Senator COONS for a second time on the passage of legislation that will reauthorize 30 temporary bankruptcy judgeships in districts around the country. I was pleased to support Senator COONS' very strong and persistent efforts on this important legislation. The Judiciary Committee reported this legislation favorably on December 15, 2011.

The Senate passed the first version of this legislation on April 19. Despite the good intentions of everyone involved, a technical error was discovered after transmittal to the House of Representatives. Senator COONS worked quickly with the House Judiciary Committee to resolve that technical issue and, on May 9, the House took up and passed a perfected bill.

As I noted the first time the Senate acted on this legislation, the bill we pass today, when enacted, will reauthorize 30 temporary judgeships in 14 States and Puerto Rico. All of these positions have already expired, and without this legislation, upon retirement or departure of the judges in these positions, they could not be filled again. Needless reducing the resources of our bankruptcy courts does nothing but put more pressure on Americans who are already navigating a difficult economic environment. This legislation should help avoid that and provide some small degree of relief to overburdened bankruptcy courts around the country. Quite frankly, I

think we should be doing more and hope we will continue to make sure the Federal Judiciary has the resources it needs to serve all Americans.

As chairman of the Judiciary Committee, I will note once again my concern with a portion of the legislation the Senate passes today. In order to secure passage of this legislation, Senator COBURN insisted upon adding a section to the bill that purports to tell future Senate and House Judiciary Committees how to conduct their business. Unfortunately, the perfected bill we pass today retains this provision. Senator COBURN's amendment would dictate that before any of these 30 judgeships could be reauthorized again, the Senate and House Judiciary Committee's would be required to take certain steps and require a report from the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, AO. As a member of the Judiciary Committee, Senator COBURN knows that this is precisely what committees do in the ordinary course of

the consideration of legislation and what was done during the development of this legislation. Senator COONS worked with the AO, which made recommendations, and with bankruptcy judges in a variety of districts to determine where need was greatest. To codify an unenforceable mandate nominally imposed on future Congresses is unnecessary and unwise.

Once again I take the opportunity to thank and congratulate Senator COONS for his hard work and attention to this issue. This would not be passing again without his diligence, focus, and legislative skill. He has now done twice what has seemed impossible to do once.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4967) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

HONORING FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to S. Res. 456, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 456) commemorating and acknowledging the dedication and sacrifice made by the Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers who have been killed or injured in the line of duty.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I commend the Senate for agreeing to this resolution to honor the men and women who serve in law enforcement and to officially recognize May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day.

Despite the progress that has been made in improving officer safety, there is much work to be done. The year 2011 was an especially tragic one for the law enforcement community. Last year, 163 State and Federal law enforcement officers lost their lives in the line of duty. This is an increase from 2010 and a grim reminder of the sacrifices far too many individuals make serving their communities and fellow citizens. The Senate should continue to do all it can to support officer safety.

To recognize these sacrifices, as they do every year, law enforcement officers and their families from across the United States will come to Washington to pay tribute and honor the men and women who have lost their lives. And as I do each year, I will stand with them.

In 1962, President Kennedy designated May 15 as National Peace Offi-

cers Memorial Day. Once again I am proud to have introduced a resolution officially recognizing that designation and honoring these men and women, and all of those that came before them. I am glad we passed this official recognition today.

The safety of law enforcement officers across the United States should be something on which we can all agree. I hope the quick passage of this resolution will foreshadow future bipartisan work on behalf of the men and women who work day after day to protect all of us.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I will take a moment to recognize the significance of that measure. I know the Presiding Officer, in his many years as attorney general of the State of Connecticut, became keenly aware of the sacrifices our law enforcement officers are too often called upon to make to protect our communities. In the State of Rhode Island, we recently lost a Providence police officer who was killed in the line of duty. So it is a somber and important act that we take.

I ask unanimous consent that this resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 456) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 456

(Commemorating and acknowledging the dedication and sacrifice made by the Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers who have been killed or injured in the line of duty)

Whereas the well-being of all citizens of the United States is preserved and enhanced as a direct result of the vigilance and dedication of law enforcement personnel;

Whereas more than 900,000 men and women, at great risk to their personal safety, presently serve their fellow citizens as guardians of the peace;

Whereas peace officers are on the front lines in protecting the schools and schoolchildren of the United States;

Whereas in 2011, 163 peace officers across the United States were killed in the line of duty;

Whereas Congress should strongly support initiatives to reduce violent crime and to increase the factors that contribute to the safety of law enforcement officers;

Whereas there are more than 19,000 Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty while protecting their fellow citizens, and whose names are engraved upon the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, District of Columbia;

Whereas in 1962, President John F. Kennedy designated May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day; and

Whereas on May 15, 2012, more than 20,000 peace officers are expected to gather in Washington, District of Columbia, to join with the families of their recently fallen comrades to honor those comrades and all

others who went before them: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates and acknowledges the dedication and sacrifices made by the Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers who have been killed or injured in the line of duty;

(2) recognizes May 15, 2012, as “National Peace Officers Memorial Day”; and

(3) calls on the people of the United States to observe that day with appropriate ceremony, solemnity, appreciation, and respect.

COMMEMORATING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE FOUNDING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 458, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 458) commemorating May 15, 2012, as the sesquicentennial of the founding of the Department of Agriculture.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to the resolution.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 458) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 458

Whereas, on May 15, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed into law an Act that established a Department of Agriculture (12 Stat. 387, chapter 72);

Whereas President Lincoln gave the Department of Agriculture general authority to acquire and spread useful information on agricultural subjects and to assist in the development and use of new and valuable seeds and plants;

Whereas, in 1862, President Lincoln also signed into law the Act entitled “An Act to secure homesteads to actual settlers on the public domain” (commonly known as the “Homestead Act of 1862”; 12 Stat. 392, chapter 75) and the Act of July 2, 1862 (commonly known as the “First Morrill Act”; 12 Stat. 503, chapter 130), which, along with the creation of the Department of Agriculture, lay the foundation for Federal agricultural policy;

Whereas, in the 1850s, there was 1 farmer for every 2 people in the United States, while today the average farmer in the United States feeds more than 150 people;

Whereas the United States is now the second largest producer and the largest exporter of agricultural products in the world;

Whereas the role of the Department of Agriculture has expanded to include functions impacting nearly every aspect of the rural United States and beyond;

Whereas the Department of Agriculture helps to ensure the safety of the food supply of the United States, provides conservation assistance, collects market data, provides

nutrition assistance, protects the health of plants and animals, supports rural communities, conducts agricultural research, maintains risk management tools for producers, and promotes agricultural exports; and

Whereas the professionalism, dedication, and work ethic of the public servants at the Department of Agriculture provide a shining example of why President Lincoln called the Department of Agriculture the "People's Department": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the men and women of the Department of Agriculture on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the Department;

(2) celebrates the growth and success of agriculture in the United States and

(3) honors the farmers and ranchers of the United States, whose ingenuity, adaptability, and skill have created the safest and most abundant food supply in the history of mankind.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Monday, May 14, 2012, at 4:30 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 570 and 571; that there be 60 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of time the Senate proceed to vote, without intervening action or debate, on the nominations in the order listed; the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MAY 14, 2012

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 2 p.m., on Monday, May 14; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of Proceedings be approved to date; the morning hour be deemed expired and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use until later in the day; and that the majority leader be recognized; further, that when the Senate resumes legislative session following the votes on the Russell and Tharp nominations, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 2072.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am informed that it is the majority leader's intention to resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 2072, the Export-Import Bank reauthorization bill on Monday.

At 4:30 p.m., there will be an hour of debate on the Russell and Tharp nominations.

At 5:30 p.m., there will be up to three roll call votes on confirmation of the Russell nomination, confirmation of the Tharp nomination, and the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 2072, the Export-Import Bank bill.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, MAY 14, 2012, AT 2 P.M.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:11 p.m., adjourned until Monday, May 14, 2012, at 2 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 8033 AND 601:

To be general

GEN. MARK A. WELSH III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

GEN. PHILIP M. BREEDLOVE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE VICE CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 8034 AND 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. LARRY O. SPENCER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. NOEL T. JONES

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. WAYNE A. ZIMMET

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

ROBERT M. AGUE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant colonel

LESLIE A. WOOD

To be major

DAVID B. FRANKLIN
ANTHONY R. IANNUCCILLO
JOSHUA M. MCCONKEY
MATTHEW L. SMITH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be colonel

NATHAN BARRY ALHOLINNA
CARL R. ALVAREZ
SHAWN MICHAEL ANDERSON
MATTHEW P. ANDREWS

TIMOTHY W. AZBILL
SANDRA L. BEST
EDWARD E. BLACK
JAMES M. BRUHL
PHILLIP C. BUNTON
JOHNNIE A. BURTON, JR.
JEFFREY L. BUTLER
DARREN DENNIS WADE CHESTER
DAVID ANTHONY CLARK
LARRY K. CLARK
DAVID V. COCHRAN
CHRIS S. COLLINS
MARSHALL C. COLLINS
STEVEN EDWARD CONEY
MITCHELL D. CULP
SUSAN M. DICKENS
DAVID A. DIXON
BRADFORD RUSSELL EVERMAN
CHRISTOPHER E. FINERTY
MATTHEW GAGE
MARK ANDREW GREEN
PATRICK MARTIN GUINEE
TERRY E. HALL
ANTHONY W. HAMEL
ROBERT E. HARGENS
JODIE A. HARVEY
THOMAS J. HESS
JEREMY C. HORN
QUINCY N. HUNYECUTT III
BRIAN KURT JOHNSON
NATHAN H. JORGENSEN
SEAN R. KELLEY
DAVID J. KEMPSON
LAWRENCE JAMES KLEIN
JENNIFER R. KONDAL
JOHN S. LADNER
JOHN A. LEBLANC
MATTHEW WALTER LECLAIR
MICHAEL KEVIN LOVE
TIMOTHY JOSEPH MADDEN
DAVID V. MCNULTY
TAMARA DAWN MIELKE
TODD A. MITTON
MICHAEL H. MORGAN
KELLY JAMES PARKINSON
JOHN EVAN PATTERSON
SHAUN J. PERKOWSKI
KATHRYN C. PFEIFER
JOHN J. PTAK, JR.
THOMAS WILLIAM RYAN
GREGORY M. SCRIVNER
THOMAS R. SERRANO
KEITH B. SNYDER
MICHAEL S. SPENCER
JOHN G. TUGWELL
EDWARD L. VAUGHAN IV
RALPH C. WALSH, JR.
DAVID A. WEISHAAR
TIMOTHY LEE WILKINSON
DOUGLAS ALLAN WILLIAMS
JOHN P. YORK
CRAIG M. ZIEMBA

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be major

RHANDA J. BROCKINGTON
VICKIE M. SCHNACKEL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be major

RICHARD A. DANIELS
DANIEL J. HOLDWICK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

ANDREW C. GALLO
CHRISTA M. LEWIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

JOHN C. MOFFITT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

MIMMS J. MABEE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531, AND 3064:

To be major

JONELLE J. KNAPP

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY DENTAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531, AND 3064:

To be major

ROBERT E. BESSEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624, AND 3064:

To be major

LAUREL A. THURSTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531, AND 3064:

To be major

TINA M. MORGAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

KARL W. HUBBARD

To be major

BENJAMIN N. HOFFMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

JOANN B. COUCH
GILBERT R. GHEARING
SANDRA M. WANER

To be major

EDWARD E. BRIDGES
FRANK T. BRYANT
LEWIS RUBINSON
RICHARD J. YOON

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

MATTHEW F. PHELPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

JENNIFER D. GUNDAYAO
DAVID S. KEMP
SUSANNE M. MCNINCH
HUI K. PAK
GEORGE K. WERENSKJOLD
DONALD R. WILKINSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

DAVID A. ADAMS
HENRY C. ADAMS III
JEFFREY T. ANDERSON
ANDREW ARNOLD
TODD A. BAHLAU
STEPHEN E. BANTA
STEPHEN D. BARNETT
DOUGLAS J. BEAVER
PAUL W. BIERAUGEL
CRAIG T. BOWDEN
THOMAS A. BRADEN
MICHAEL D. BRATTON
RICHARD D. BRAWLEY
RICHARD T. BROPHY, JR.
DAVID J. BRYSON
SCOTT A. BUNNAY
JOHN F. BUSHEY
GEORGE J. BYFORD
KEVIN M. BYRNE
DOUGLAS W. CARPENTER
ANTHONY C. CARULLO
ROBERT B. CHADWICK II
STANFIELD L. CHIEN
MARK J. COLOMBO
TIMOTHY A. CRONE
JOHN J. CUMMINGS
BRIAN L. DAVIES
STERLING W. DAWLEY
CHRISTOPHER P. DEGREORY
ARTHUR M. DELACRUZ
JOSEPH A. J. DIGUARDO
JEFFREY S. DODGE
WILLIAM C. DOSTER
MICHAEL G. DOWLING
KRISTY D. DOYLE
ROBERT C. DUNN
JOHN L. ENFIELD
HUGH P. EVERLY
CHRISTOPHER P. FAILLA
JOHN W. FANCHEK
MARY J. FEINBERG
EDUARDO R. FERNANDEZ
JOSEPH F. FINN
MICHAEL A. FISHER
MICHAEL D. FISHER

SEAN M. FITZPATRICK
JOHN D. FREEMAN
RAYMOND A. J. GABRIEL
ROBERT M. GAUCHER
EDWARD S. GETTINS
LAWRENCE G. GETZ III
PAUL G. GIBERSON
DEREK B. GRANGER
MARKUS J. GUDMUNDSSON
DAVID K. GULUZIAN
JASON R. HAEN
LYLE D. HALL
STEVEN K. HALL
JEFFREY L. HAMMER
PATRICK J. HANNIFIN
RICHARD F. HAYES
EDWARD L. HEFLIN
KEITH M. HENRY
BENJAMIN L. HEWLETT
PAUL H. HOGUE, JR.
HEATH M. HOWELL
JEFFREY F. HYINK
CHRIS D. JANKE
DOUGLAS A. JORDAN
JASON T. JORGENSEN
JEFFREY A. JOSEPH
JOSEPH M. KEENAN
JOHN L. KELSEY
MARK D. KESSELRING
JEFFREY J. KIM
WILLIAM K. KIMMEL II
ROBERT T. KING
DAVID E. KOSS
DEREK M. LAVAN
MATTHEW L. LEAHEY
CRAIG E. LEE
LAWRENCE F. LEGREE
GARY LEIGH
ANTHONY J. LESPERANCE
OLIVER T. LEWIS
SEAN R. LIEDMAN
DAVID P. LITTLE
MICHAEL R. LOCKWOOD
DAVID A. LOTT
CORD H. LUBY
STEPHEN G. MACK
ALEXANDER R. MACKENZIE
JOHN J. MANN IV
DANIEL P. MARTIN
JOHN M. MAXWELL
CLYDE F. MAYS, JR.
WILLIAM A. MCCONVEY
BRIAN J. MCCORMICK
MAX G. MCCOY, JR.
STEPHEN D. MCKONE
SEAN G. MCLAREN
RICHARD J. MEGADOWS
CHRISTOPHER A. MERWIN
CARL W. MEUSER
CLAYTON W. MICHAELS
DAVID E. MILLER
CHRISTOPHER M. MILLS
JAMES D. MINYARD
KEVIN S. MOONEY
ANGELA MORALES
SEAN D. MORDHORST
PAUL G. MOVIZZZI
STEPHEN F. MURPHY
MARK T. MURRAY
THOMAS M. NEILL
JACK P. OLIVE
DANIEL F. OLSON
JOSEPH R. OLSON
JUAN J. OROZCO
MICHAEL B. PARKER
GARY J. PATENAUDE
RANDALL W. PECK
MIGUEL I. PEKO
GEORGE PEREZ, JR.
DAVID T. PETERSON
ERIC V. PETERSON
WILLIAM P. PEPEFLE
ERIC N. PFISTER
MANUEL A. PICON
GARY W. PINKERTON
WILLIAM E. POWERS
BRIAN J. QUIN
SCOTT E. RAUPP
COREY W. RAY
SCOTT F. ROBERTSON
GARY A. ROGENESS
ROBERT A. ROGNSKA
MATTHEW D. ROSENBLUM
MARK B. RUDESILL
MICHAEL S. RUTH
NICK A. SARAF, JR.
MICHAEL K. SAVAGEAUX
MICHAEL B. SAWIN
DAVID G. SCHAFFERT
MARK W. SCHMALL
MICHAEL S. SCIRETTA
LANCE G. SCOTT
DANIEL J. SENESKY
JEFFREY W. SINCLAIR
JOHN A. SIPES
WALTER M. SLAUGHTER
ANDREW F. SMITH
SCOTT M. SMITH
PHILIP E. SOBECK
GERHARD A. SOMLAI
BRIAN K. SORENSON
TIMOTHY F. SPARKS
JOHN D. SPENCER
SCOTT B. STARKEY
RANDY C. STEARNS
MATTHEW P. STEVENS
ANDREW B. STJOHN

CHRISTOPHER J. SWEENEY
JOSEPH M. TURK
ERIC H. VERHAGE
WILLIAM S. WALSH
EDWARD C. WHITE III
PAUL A. WHITESCARVER
JEROMY B. WILLIAMS
NILS E. WIRSTROM
ERIC P. WOELPER
RICHARD S. YOUNG
JOHN J. ZERR II

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

MARK D. LARABEE
EMIL T. PETRUNCIO
RICHARD J. WATKINS, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

GREGORY D. BURTON
BRIAN R. DURANT
CHRISTOPHER E. HAND
JOEL P. HARBOUR
JEFFREY T. HEYDON
HUGH J. HUCK III
JASON M. LLOYD
JOHN A. LOBONO
STEPHEN A. MARINO
JOHN C. MARKOWICZ
MARK M. MATTHEWS
KURT J. ROTHENHAUS
JOHN M. STUBBLEFIELD
JOSEPH M. TUITTE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

MICHAEL N. ABREU
JOHN W. BAILEY
ROBERT H. CASSOL
JEFFREY C. DALATRI
PAUL J. FILARDI
CRAIG D. GRUBB
MICHAEL M. HOCKER
MATTHEW S. MCLAURIN
JOHN H. ROUSSEAU
CHRISTOPHER M. SCHIMENTI
SCOTT D. TINGLE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

TRENT R. DEMOSS
ROBERT B. FARMER
CHARLES K. NIXON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

ROGER L. ACEBO
PEYTON M. ALLEN
DAVID L. ANSELMINI
ALAN D. ARMSTRONG
JEFFREY A. BAUMGARTEN
CLINTON D. BECK
TODD H. BISANG
JOSEPH R. BLAYLOCK
TERRANCE A. BRAND
RONALD G. BUDE
GEORGE J. BYRD III
PATRICIA C. CAREY
SHAWN C. CASEY
DOUGLAS A. COCHRAN
DAVID A. CROUNSE
KENNETH C. CROWE
MICHAEL W. DICKINSON
JOEY B. DODGEN
WILLIAM P. DONNELLY, JR.
DANIEL H. DRUCKENMILLER
DALE R. EADS
KEVIN B. EDWARDS
NELS S. ENBERG
DARIN A. ENGELHART
ANTHONY A. FREY
MICHAEL F. GILLET
PARKER B. GLASIER III
MICHAEL W. GOCHES
JEFFREY T. GUMAER
JAMES L. HA-JI
KELLY L. HANSEN
RUSSELL A. HARGROVE
CHARLES T. HEBERLE IV
ERIAN M. HOFFMANN
WILLIAM R. IRWIN
ELISABETH A. KIRKPATRICK
BRADLEY S. KNOWLTON
WILLIAM P. KRONEN
NANCY S. LACORE
CRAIG P. LAWS
CHADWICK M. LICHT
MARK H. LOKAY
JAMES LONGO
ALAN P. MACQUOID, JR.
BRADLEY J. MAY
MOIRA E. MCCARTHY

KENNETH C. MCDONNELL
JOHN J. MCGINN
KEVIN J. MCKEAG
VAN S. MCKENNY IV
MICHAEL J. MCMANUS
FERMIN S. MENDEZ
MELINDA K. MICHAEL
STEPHEN A. MILONE
BRIAN P. MOYERS
RUTHVEN P. NELSON, JR.
STEPHANIE L. NORDHOFF
CHRISTOPHER B. OLAES
JACK M. OMOHUNDRO
BRIAN E. PARK
ERIC A. PAYNE
MICHAEL G. PERKOW
WILLIAM B. PETERS
JOHN M. PETTIT
SAMUEL F. PHILLIPS
STEVEN J. POLLPETER
WILLIAM E. RANDALL
JAMES T. REID
DOUGLAS W. RHODES
CHARLES M. RICHARDSON
THOMAS L. ROBERTSON
ERICH R. ROEDER
ROMEO A. ROSARIO
KURTIS R. SANBORN
DUANE A. SAND
ANDREW A. SCHNEIDER
CLARK A. SCHROEDER
GREGORY J. SCHUSTER
EDWARD B. SEGO
SCOTT F. SINGER
SAMUEL E. SORGEN
DAVID L. SPERRY
STEVEN P. STACY
THEODORE V. SUMMERS
SCOTT H. SWORDS
ROBERT W. TAMARO
TONY TROUP
JAY R. VANNICE
BERTRAM W. WAGNER
WILLIAM M. WALES
LARRY D. WATKINS
WILLIAM S. WHITE
SALLY L. WILBUR
JEFFREY D. WILSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

THOMAS F. BOLICH, JR.
JERRY M. EDWARDS
HELEN H. FURBUSH
ANTHONY G. GIGLIO
KENNETH W. LARUE
JOHNNY M. MARSHALL, JR.
EUGENE H. MATTHEWS
THOMAS R. ORR
ALDEN D. PIERCE
STEVEN A. SWIFT
MICHAEL B. TRACY
ROBERT D. VANDERLUGT
MICHELE R. WATSON
DONALD R. XIQUES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

RAYMOND I. BRUTTOMESSO
JAMES D. COX
DAVID D. FERRIS, JR.
ROBERT A. GREEN
JEFFREY A. ISAACSON
DENNIS W. PRATHER
MICHAEL J. RIGO
MARK R. SANDS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

WILLIAM A. BAAS
MARK M. BAENZIGER
JAMES E. PUCKETT II

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

THOMAS J. AMIS
JOHN E. M. BROWN
SUEANN K. SCHORR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

JEFFERSON W. ADAMS
ROBERT B. SMITH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

ROBERT W. MULAC
WILLIAM K. SALVIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

COLETTE E. KOKRON
CURTIS L. MICHEL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

TAWNYA J. RACOOSIN
TODD D. WHITE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

ELISABETH S. STEPHENS
SHERYL L. TANNAHILL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

DONALD W. BOSCH
ANN H. DUFF
THERESA M. STICE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

DARREN E. ANDING
DANIEL S. BLACKBURN
MARK D. BRAZELTON
BRIAN A. CARPENTER
SCOTT W. EDWARDS
HEBERT F. FREDERICK
SCOTT K. FULLER
ANTHONY L. GILBERT
SCOTT R. GOOTEE
STEVEN P. KNIGHT
BRETT J. KORADE
EDWARD A. LIZAK
THOMAS A. LONG
DALE W. MAXEY
BRENT R. MCMURRY
SCOTT V. NEEDLE
CHRISTIAN PERRY
ROBERT T. RASCOLL
JOSEPH G. REHAK
STEVEN K. RENLY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

JEFF A. DAVIS
BRENDA K. MALONE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

MARK R. ASUNCION
DONALD A. CRIBBS
SARAH A. DACHOS
HIRAM S. JOHNSON
TIMOTHY N. KETTER
ROBERT H. PALM, JR.
RICHARD M. STACPOOLE
ERIK J. STOHLMANN
GREGORY P. STPIERRE
ELIZABETH A. THOMAS
PAULO B. VICENTE
BERNARD P. WANG
CLAY G. WILLIAMS
PHILIP W. YU

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

MARC C. ECKARDT
MICHAEL J. ROTH
FRANK M. SCHEINK, JR.
PETER J. SMITH
ROBERT W. WITZLEB

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

WILLIAM A. DODGE, JR.
NICHOLAS M. HOMAN
BRIAN L. LUKE
TIMOTHY M. MAY
ALBERT M. MUSSELWHITE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

ALLEN L. EDMISTON
JAMES B. GINDER
MARK A. GUZZO
JACQUELINE V. MCELHANNON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

JASON L. ANSLEY
MAUREEN FOX
HARUNA R. ISA
MARK C. KESTER
MICHAEL N. OLUVIC
CHARLES A. PRATT
DALE C. RIELAGE
JOSEPH R. ROBSON, JR.
MATTHEW A. ROSS
LOUIS T. UNREIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

GEORGE A. ALLMON
WILLIAM E. BINDEL
CHRISTOPHER J. CARTER
ALAN D. DEAN
BRIAN M. LEFINE
WILLIAM E. NOEL
JEFFREY L. SHEETS
TIMOTHY G. SPARKS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

ERIC J. SKALSKI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

TED J. STEELMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

DAVID A. MOORE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

JOHN P. AYRES
AARON G. BRESNAHAN
JOHN M. CARROLL
CARLOS B. DELEON
BRUCE E. FUCHS
DAVID S. HUBER
KEVIN W. KRICK
ROBERT D. LYNCH
MICHAEL S. MATTIS
MARK A. MURPHY
JAMES A. PERDU'OT
ANDREW S. TROY
CLAY L. WILD

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEBORAH RUTH MALAC, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA.

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY

FERNANDO TORRES-GIL, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 17, 2014. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

THOMAS SKERIK SOWERS II, OF MISSOURI, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (PUBLIC AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS), VICE LADDA TAMMY DUCKWORTH.