The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.

Contributions, amount, date, donee:
4. Parents: William J. Burns (both deceased); Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Nall (both deceased); Anthony Wilkins—none; Vicki Burns—none.
5. Grandparents: William H. Burns (deceased); Eleanor Burns (deceased); John Cassady (deceased); Mary Cassady (deceased); David and Beverly Merck—none; Dr. Margaret C. Burns—none.
6. Brothers and Spouses: John R. Burns—none; Jennifer Burns—none; Robert Burns—none; Tom Burns—none; Richard Burns—none; John A. Burns—none; David Burns—none; Mary Burns—none; Robert Burns—none; Robert A. Burns—none; Robert P. Burns—none; Victoria Burns—none.

Richard Henry Jones, of Nebraska, to be Ambassador to Israel.

Nominee: Richard Henry Jones.

Post: Ambassador to Israel.

The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.

Contributions, amount, date, donee:
2. Spouse: none.
3. Children and Spouses: Joseph A.W. Jones (both deceased); Vera E.W. Jones—none; R. Benjamin W. Jones—none; Hope W. Jones—none.
4. Parents: Daley M. Jones (deceased); Sara M. Jones (deceased).
5. Grandparents: Mr. and Mrs. B.O. Jones (both deceased); Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Nall (both deceased).

Francis Joseph Ricciardone, Jr., of New Hampshire, to be Ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Nominee: Francis Joseph Ricciardone, Jr.

Post: U.S. Embassy, Cairo.

The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.

Contributions, amount, date, donee:
1. Self: 0.
2. Spouse: 0.
4. Parents: Francis J. Ricciardone (mother, deceased)—0.
5. Grandparents: (deceased)—0.

The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.

Contributions, amount, date, donee:
1. Self: 0.
2. Spouse: 0.
4. Parents: Francis J. Ricciardone (mother, deceased)—0.
At the request of Mr. Grassley, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. Burr) was added as a cosponsor of S. 183, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for reimbursement of certified midwife services and to provide for more equitable reimbursement rates for certified nurse-midwife services.

S. 183

At the request of Mrs. Clinton, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. Johnson) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1367, a bill to provide for recruiting, selecting, training, and supporting a national teacher corps in underserved communities.

S. 1367

At the request of Mrs. Snowe, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. Murkowski) and the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. Sessions) were added as cosponsors of S. 1849, a bill to provide for recruiting, selecting, training, and supporting a national teacher corps in underserved communities.

S. 1849

At the request of Mr. Craig, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Warner) was added as a cosponsor of S. 654, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize expansion of medicare coverage of medical nutrition therapy services.

S. 654

At the request of Mr. Allard, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. Harkin) was added as a cosponsor of S. 649, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to make volunteer members of the Civil Air Patrol eligible for Public Safety Officer death benefits.

S. 649

At the request of Ms. Snowe, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. Bond) was added as a cosponsor of S. 769, a bill to enhance compliance assistance for small businesses.

S. 769

At the request of Mr. Kennedy, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. Pryor) was added as a cosponsor of S. 842, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to establish an efficient system to enable employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, to provide for mandatory injunctions for unfair labor practices during organizing efforts, and for other purposes.

S. 842

At the request of Mr. Conrad, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. Kohl) was added as a cosponsor of S. 863, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centenary of the birthday of President Theodore Roosevelt, and for other purposes.

S. 863

At the request of Mr. Conrad, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. Crapo) was added as a cosponsor of S. 911, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for reimbursement of certified midwife services and to provide for more equitable reimbursement rates for certified nurse-midwife services.

S. 911

At the request of Mr. Corzine, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. Boxer) was added as a cosponsor of S. 927, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand and improve coverage of mental health services under the medicare program.

S. 927

At the request of Mr. Lautenberg, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Corzine) was added as a cosponsor of S. 967, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure that prepackaged news stories contain announcements that inform viewers that the information within was provided by the United States Government, and for other purposes.

S. 967

At the request of Mr. Grassley, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Santorum) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1014, a bill to provide additional relief for small businesses owned by members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 1014

At the request of Mr. Santorum, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1122, a bill to make permanent the enhanced educational savings provisions for qualified tuition programs enacted as part of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001.

S. 1122

At the request of Mr. Durbin, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. Schumer) and the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. Akaka) were added as cosponsors of S. 1120, a bill to reduce hunger in the United States by half by 2010, and for other purposes.

S. 1120

At the request of Mr. Durbin, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. Durbin) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1137, a bill to include dehydroepiandrosterone as an anabolic steroid.

S. 1137

At the request of Mr. Cornyn, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Warner) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1313, a bill to protect homes, small businesses, and other private property rights, by limiting the power of eminent domain.

S. 1313

At the request of Mr. Martinez, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1339, a bill to reauthorize the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act of 1994.

S. 1339

At the request of Mrs. Clinton, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. Johnson) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1367, a bill to provide for recruiting, selecting, training, and supporting a national teacher corps in underserved communities.

S. 1367

At the request of Mrs. Snowe, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. Murkowski) and the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. Sessions) were added as cosponsors of S. 1849, a bill to provide for recruiting, selecting, training, and supporting a national teacher corps in underserved communities.

S. 1849

At the request of Mr. Craig, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. Dorgan) and the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. Dayton) were added as cosponsors of S. 1440, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for cardiac rehabilitation and pulmonary rehabilitation services.

S. 1440

At the request of Mr. Vitter, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. Chambliss) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1488, a bill to withhold funding from the United Nations if the United Nations abridges the rights provided by the Second Amendment to the Constitution.

S. 1488

At the request of Mr. Craig, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. Murkowski) and the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. Shaheen) were added as cosponsors of S. 1496, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a pilot program under which up to 15 States may issue federal migratory bird hunting stamps.

S. 1496

At the request of Mr. Feingold, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. Allard) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1508, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 1508

At the request of Mr. Snowe, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. Collins) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1523, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent increased expensing for small businesses.

S. 1523

At the request of Mrs. Clinton, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. Stabenow), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Corzine) and the Senator from New York (Mr. Schumer) were added as cosponsors of S. 1622, a bill to establish a congressional commission to examine the Federal, State, and local response to the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina in the
Gulf Region of the United States especially in the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and other areas impacted in the aftermath and make immediate corrective measures to improve such responses in the future.

At the request of Mr. Martinez, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. Dole) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1628, a bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish the National Emergency Family Locator System.

At the request of Mr. Obama, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Lautenberg) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. Bayh) were added as cosponsors of S. 1630, a bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish the National Emergency Family Locator System.

At the request of Mr. Santorum, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. Nelson), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. Nunn), the Senator from Florida (Mr. Martinez) were added as cosponsors of S. 164, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding manifestations of anti-Semitism by United Nations member states and urging action against anti-Semitism by United Nations member states, and the Government of the United States, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Santorum, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 225, a resolution designating the month of November 2005 as the “Month of Global Health.”

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. Lautenberg (for himself, Mr. Martinez, and Mr. Lieberman):

S. 1635. A bill to establish ocean bottom trawl areas in which trawling is permitted, to protect deep sea corals and sponges, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. Lautenberg. President, I rise today to introduce, with my colleague Senator Martinez, a bill that will balance the needs of fishermen with the needs of some of our most precious and vulnerable ocean resources: deep sea corals and sponges. Fishing and fishing communities are an important part of our cultural heritage, and our economy. Deep sea corals and sponges are an important suite of species with wide economic potential and extreme valuable ecologically. It is imperative that we protect the needs of both.

Deep sea corals are similar to tropical shallow-water corals, but are found in the deep cold waters near sea mounts, ridges, undersea canyons, and the margins of the continental shelf. Like shallow-water corals, deep sea corals and sponges can form deepreefs and gardens that are essential to numerous marine species. For example, more than 1,300 species live among the Lophelia coral reefs in the northeastern Atlantic Ocean. These natural reefs provide critical and sponge habitats for spawning, food, and shelter from predation.

Deep sea corals and sponges are also important to humans. They provide habitat to commercially and recreationally important fish that can use, and many are under study as sources of new biomedical compounds to fight various diseases.

Scientists around the world believe that these newly discovered deep sea corals and sponges are as important as, if not more important than, their tropical cousins. The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy suggested that the biodiversity of deep sea coral communities may rival that of shallow-water coral reefs. Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration stated in 2002 that deep sea coral ecosystems are “much more extensive and of more widespread economic importance than tropical coral reefs.”

Unfortunately, some types of fishing gear are detrimental to deep sea coral and sponge habitat. Today there is a serious risk that these precious deep sea corals, sponges, and their complex habitats will be inadvertently destroyed before they can be properly assessed by the scientific community. A single pass with a bottom trawl can wipe out a swatch of this habitat that, because these species are extremely slow-growing, can remain bare for decades if not centuries. The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy’s 2004 report emphasizes that deep sea corals need protection. Five of the eight Regional Fisheries Management Councils agree, and have recently set aside many of these deep sea coral and sponge areas as no-bottom-trawling zones.

The Bottom Trawl and Deep Sea Coral Habitat Act builds on actions of these Councils, providing protection for deep sea corals and sponges while also preserving fishermen’s access to areas that have traditionally been trawled. The bill establishes three types of zones. Areas that are known to contain deep sea corals and sponges are set aside as Coral Habitat Zones, granting protection. Areas that have been trawled at any time in the past seven years are established as Bottom Trawling Zones, where bottom trawling is permitted. Areas that fit neither category are defined as Undesignated Zones, available at any time to be assigned as either Coral Habitat or Bottom Trawling Zones with results of research activities. Fishermen play a large role, through the Regional Councils, in defining how large these zones will be, and other types of fishing that do not use bottom gear are not impacted.

The process of zone designation is designed not to shrink the area of existing bottom trawling but to limit the opening of new grounds to bottom trawling until after scientists discover the extent of deep sea corals and sponges. The intent is to preserve access to all areas that do not contain deep sea coral and sponge and that harbor a part of the fishing community’s traditional grounds. These are not small areas. Traditional bottom trawl grounds include a large proportion of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone: 10 percent according to National Research Council, 5 percent in some regions, 75 percent of the shelf within 50 miles of shore is trawled with bottom gear.

We must act quickly, and our legislation provides a balanced approach to protection of fishing and protection of the environment. I call on my colleagues on the Commerce Committee, and the Senate leadership to take up, consider, and pass this bill as soon as possible.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1635

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 “Bottom Trawl and Deep Sea Coral Habitat Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Ocean resources are a vital component of the United States economy, as noted by the United States Commission on Ocean Policy.

(2) A proper balance of use and protection of ocean resources is necessary to ensure the sustainability of such resources.

(3) Deep ocean habitats provide fishery resources and sites for deep sea corals and deep sea sponges.

(4) Many fishermen of the United States derive their livelihoods from fishing in deep ocean areas.

(5) It is important that fishermen continue to be permitted to use areas that have traditionally been fished, as long as conservation considerations allow.

(6) According to the National Research Council, approximately 10 percent of the United States Exclusive Economic Zone, an area of a total of 3,400,000 square nautical miles, is used each year by fishermen who employ bottom trawls and, in the area that is 50 miles or less from shore, this percentage is greater than 75 percent in some areas.

(7) Vessel monitoring systems are increasingly used in the fishing industry. For example, coverage of such systems for bottom trawling vessels in the Pacific and North Pacific is 100 percent.

(8) Deep sea corals and deep sea sponges host biological diversity that, according to the United States Commission on Ocean Policy, “may rival that of coral communities in warmer, shallower waters”. For example, more than 1,300 species live among Lophelia coral reefs in the northeastern Atlantic Ocean.

(9) Complex seafloor habitats created by structure-forming organisms, such as deep sea corals and deep sea sponges, provide spawning habitat, food, and shelter to numerous fishes and other associated species.