

ENCOURAGING BANKS AND MORTGAGE SERVICERS TO WORK WITH FAMILIES AFFECTED BY CONTAMINATED DRYWALL

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 352.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 352) encouraging banks and mortgage servicers to work with families affected by contaminated drywall to allow temporary forbearance without penalty on payments on their home mortgages.

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

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related to the matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 352) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 352

Whereas since January 2009, over 1,300 cases of contaminated drywall have been reported in 26 States and the District of Columbia;

Whereas many individuals living in homes with contaminated drywall have reported problems with their health, including bloody noses, rashes, sore throats, burning eyes, and upper respiratory tract conditions;

Whereas some homeowners living with contaminated drywall have reported corrosion of metals inside their homes, such as air conditioning coils and electrical wiring;

Whereas as a result of these problems, many families that have contaminated drywall in their homes have moved out of their residences and into temporary living situations, with few such families being able to afford an additional financial burden;

Whereas because of cases of contaminated drywall, some Americans who pay their mortgages on time are now suffering from financial problems at no fault of their own; and

Whereas banks and mortgage servicers can help families affected by contaminated drywall by providing temporary forbearance with respect to their mortgage payments to help such families afford the costs of an additional residence while they are removed from their primary homes: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate encourages banks and mortgage servicers to work with families affected by contaminated drywall to allow temporary forbearance without penalty on payments on their home mortgages.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 3962

Mr. REID. It is my understanding that H.R. 3962 has been received from the House and is now at the desk. I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3962) to provide affordable, quality health care for all Americans and reduce the growth in health care spending, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask for its second reading, but I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 106-398, as amended by Public Law 108-7, in accordance with the qualifications specified under section 1238(b)(3)(E) of Public Law 106-398, and upon the recommendation of the Republican leader, in consultation with the ranking members of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, appoints the following individuals to the United States-China Economic Security Review Commission: Patrick A. Mulloy of Virginia, for a term beginning January 1, 2010 and expiring December 31, 2011, and William A. Reinsch of Maryland, for a term beginning January 1, 2010 and expiring December 31, 2011.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION DISCHARGED

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session and that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged of Presidential Nomination 933, the nomination of Jeffrey Bleich to be Ambassador to Australia; that the Senate then proceed to the nomination; that the nomination be confirmed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that no further motions be in order; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD, as if read; and that the Senate resume legislative session.

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

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

Jeffrey L. Bleich, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Australia.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a financial disclosure report be printed in the RECORD.

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

FEDERAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION REPORT

Nominee: Jeffrey L. Bleich.

Post: Australia.

Nominated: September 11, 2009.

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, date, amount, and donee:

Self: 9/2/2005, \$400.00, Dianne Feinstein for Senate; 9/14/2005, \$500.00, Evan Bayh Committee; 11/29/2005, \$500.00, Midwest Values PAC; 12/20/2005, \$1,000.00, One America Committee; 12/29/2005, \$250.00, Barbara Lee for Congress; 3/31/2006, \$500.00, Schiff for Congress; 5/18/2006, \$500.00, Steve Filson for Congress; 5/19/2006, \$255.00, Midwest Values PAC; 6/30/2006, \$500.00, Jill Derby for Congress; 6/30/2006, \$250.00, John Cranley for Congress; 6/30/2006, \$250.00, Ellsworth for Congress Committee; 7/5/2006, \$1,000.00, Jerry McNerney for Congress; 8/17/2006, \$500.00, Midwest Values PAC; 8/28/2006, \$250.00, California Victory 2006; 9/12/2006, \$500.00, Sheldon Whitehouse for Senate; 9/28/2006, \$500.00, Friends of Sherron Brown; 9/29/2006, \$1,000.00, McCaskill for Missouri; 9/30/2006, \$250.00, Dianne Feinstein for Senate; 10/30/2006, \$1,320.00, One America Committee; 11/3/2006, \$500.00, Nebraskans for Kleeb; 1/2/2007, \$1,000.00, John Edwards for President; 1/16/2007, \$2,100.00, Obama for America; 3/18/2007, \$1,000.00, Al Franken for Senate; 3/31/2007, \$1,300.00, John Edwards for President; 5/15/2007, \$1,000.00, Schiff for Congress; 6/30/2007, \$1,300.00, Al Franken for Senate; 10/3/2007, \$2,000.00, Iowa Democratic Party; 10/29/2007, \$1,000.00, Jeff Merkley for Oregon; 11/5/2007, \$250.00, Friends of Barbara Boxer; 11/10/2007, \$500.00, Brown for Congress; 11/30/2007, \$5,000.00, Vote Hope; 12/5/2007, \$1,000.00, Paul Hodes for Congress; 1/25/2008, \$500.00, Mark Pryor for US Senate; 3/19/2008, \$400.00, Montana Democratic Party; 5/19/2008, \$250.00, Jeff Merkley for Oregon; 5/20/2008, \$1,500.00, Barbara Lee for Congress; 5/23/2008, \$250.00, Nebraskans for Kleeb; 6/22/2008, \$1,000.00, Perriello for Congress; 6/26/2008, \$500.00, Strengthen our Senate Majority; 6/26/2008, \$250.00, Udall for Us All; 6/26/2008, \$250.00, Tom Allen for Senate; 6/30/2008, \$250.00, Nebraskans for Kleeb; 7/25/2008, \$2,300.00, Hillary Clinton for President; 8/31/2008, \$14,250.00, Obama Victory Fund; 8/31/2008, \$2,300.00, Obama for America; 8/31/2008, \$11,950.00, DNC Services Corporation/Democratic National Committee; 9/23/2008, \$500.00, Paul Hodes for Congress; 9/29/2008, \$250.00, Perriello for Congress; 10/12/2008, \$250.00, Obama Victory Fund; 10/12/2008, \$250.00 DNC Services Corporation/Democratic National Committee; 10/15/2008, \$250.00, Brown for Congress; 10/28/2008, \$250.00, Alaskans for Begich; 10/30/2008, \$250.00, Musgrove for U.S. Senate; 10/31/2008, \$250.00, Alaskans for Begich; 1/18/2009, \$1,000.00, Al Franken for Senate; 2/18/2009, \$1,000.00, Leahy for US Senator Committee.

2. Spouse: Rebecca Bleich: 3/19/2007, \$2,300.00, Obama for America.

3. Father: Charles Bleich: 8/8/2007, \$250.00, Obama for America; 11/13/2007, \$200.00, Obama for America.

4. Mother: Linda Bleich: 8/8/2007, \$250.00, Obama for America.

5. Sister: Deborah Cogan: 7/10/2006, \$1,500.00, Evan Bayh Committee; 1/10/2008, \$2,300.00, Obama for America; 7/1/2008, \$1,000.00, Obama Victory Fund; 7/31/2008, \$1,000.00, Obama for America; 11/2/2008, \$1,000.00, Obama Victory Fund; 11/3/2008, \$1,000.00, Obama for America.

6. Brother-in-law: Michael Cogan: 3/21/2007, \$500.00, Friends of Dick Durbin Committee; 8/23/2007, \$500.00, Friends of Gordon Smith; 9/21/2007, \$500.00, DNC Services Corporation/Democratic National Committee; 10/19/2007, \$500.00, Mike Pence Committee; 11/28/2007, \$1,500.00, Friends of Jay Rockefeller; 12/26/2007, \$500.00, Roskam for Congress Committee; 3/29/2008, \$750.00, Hoyer for Congress; 8/4/2008, \$1,000.00, Judy Biggert for Congress.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2009

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn under the provisions of H. Con. Res. 210 until 2 p.m., Monday, November 16; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each; that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 3082, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill, as provided for under the previous order.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Madam President, we have worked hard today. We have had a number of Senators go to Fort Hood. We have had a number of speeches today that were extremely good relating to Veterans Day, which is tomorrow. We had a moment of silence for the fallen at Fort Hood. And we arrived

at an agreement on a very important bill, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bill. I am glad we were able to do that. I wish we didn't have as many amendments as we do, but we have had a number of intervening problems. Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, who represents the State of Texas, was necessarily detained in Texas. She had to be there, and we understand that. I think a number of amendments listed will be worked out with the two managers. I feel fairly confident we will not have to have all those votes. Senators should expect the next vote, as I indicated, at 5:30 p.m. on Monday.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2009, AT 2 P.M.

Mr. REID. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate adjourn under the provisions of H. Con. Res. 210.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:09 p.m., adjourned until Monday, November 16, 2009, at 2 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJIV J. SHAH, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, VICE HENRIETTA HOLSMAN FORE, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ERIN C. CONATON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE, VICE RONALD M. SEGA, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

DOUGLAS A. CRISCITELLO, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, VICE JOHN W. COX, RESIGNED.

AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ANTHONY R. COSCIA, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS. (NEW POSITION)

ALBERT DICLEMENTE, OF DELAWARE, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING JULY 26, 2011, VICE R. HUNTER BIDEN.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION

CYNTHIA L. ATTWOOD, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 27, 2013, VICE W. SCOTT RAILTON, TERM EXPIRED.

NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION

SANDFORD BLITZ, OF MAINE, TO BE FEDERAL CO-CHAIRPERSON OF THE NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION. (NEW POSITION)

DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination by unanimous consent and the nomination was confirmed:

JEFFREY L. BLEICH, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO AUSTRALIA.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate, Tuesday, November 10, 2009:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JEFFREY L. BLEICH, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO AUSTRALIA.