

By Mr. DEMINT (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 4003. A bill to authorize the International Trade Commission to develop and recommend legislation for temporarily suspending duties and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ENSIGN (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts):

S. 4004. A bill to amend section 798 of title 18, United States Code, to provide penalties for disclosure of classified information related to certain intelligence activities and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 4005. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to prevent the proceeds or instrumentalities of foreign crime located in the United States from being shielded from foreign forfeiture proceedings; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. Res. 692. A resolution congratulating the San Francisco Giants on winning the 2010 World Series Championship; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WEBB (for himself, Mr. McCAIN, Mr. BOND, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WICKER, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. INOUE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. KYL, Mr. GREGG, Mr. LEMIEUX, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 693. A resolution condemning the attack by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea against the Republic of Korea, and affirming support for the United States-Republic of Korea alliance; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 3237

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3237, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol.

S. 3255

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3255, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for custom fabricated breast prostheses following a mastectomy.

S. 3756

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3756, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide public safety providers an additional 10 megahertz of spectrum to support a na-

tional, interoperable wireless broadband network and authorize the Federal Communications Commission to hold incentive auctions to provide funding to support such a network, and for other purposes.

S. 3773

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. LEMIEUX) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3773, a bill to permanently extend the 2001 and 2003 tax relief provisions and to provide permanent AMT relief and estate tax relief, and for other purposes.

S. 3853

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3853, a bill to modernize and refine the requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, to require quarterly performance reviews of Federal policy and management priorities, to establish Chief Operating Officers, Performance Improvement Officers, and the Performance Improvement Council, and for other purposes.

S. 3925

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 3925, a bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to improve the energy efficiency of, and standards applicable to, certain appliances and equipment, and for other purposes.

S. 3950

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3950, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the application of a consistent Medicare part B premium for all Medicare beneficiaries for 2011.

S. 3984

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3984, a bill to amend and extend the Museum and Library Services Act, and for other purposes.

S. 3990

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. LEMIEUX), the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3990, a bill to extend emergency unemployment benefits without adding to the Federal budget deficit, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS:

S. 4000. A bill to provide for improvements to the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce The U.S. Postal Service Improvements Act of 2010. This bill would help the U.S. Postal Service regain its financial footing as it adapts to the era of increasingly digital communications.

The storied history of the Postal Service predates our Constitution. In 1775, the Second Continental Congress appointed Benjamin Franklin as the first Postmaster General and directed the creation of a line of posts from Falmouth in New England to Savannah in Georgia. The Constitution also gives Congress the power to establish post offices and post roads.

Today, the Postal Service is the linchpin of a \$1 trillion mailing industry that employs approximately 7.5 million Americans in fields as diverse as direct mail, printing, catalog companies, paper manufacturing, and financial services.

Postal Service employees deliver mail 6 days a week to hundreds of millions of households and businesses. From our largest cities to our smallest towns, from the Hawaiian Islands to Alaskan reservations, the Postal Service is a vital part of our national communications network and an icon of American culture.

But the financial state of the Postal Service is abysmal. The numbers are grim: the Postal Service recently announced that it lost \$8.5 billion in fiscal year 2010. The Great Recession, high operating costs, and the continuing diversion of mail to electronic alternatives have challenged the Postal Service's ability to remain financially viable.

Faced with this much red ink, the Postal Service must reinvent itself. It must increase revenues by increasing its value to its customers and by becoming more cost effective.

Unfortunately, many of the solutions the Postal Service has proposed would only aggravate its problems. Filing for enormous rate increases, pursuing significant service reductions including elimination of Saturday mail delivery and seeking relief from funding its liabilities are not viable long-term solutions to the challenges confronting the Postal Service. These changes will drive more customers to less expensive, digital alternatives. That downturn in customers will further erode mail volume and accelerate a death spiral for the Postal Service.

The Postal Service must chart a new course in this digital age. It must adopt a customer-focused culture. It must see the changing communications landscape as an opportunity.

The Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006, which I authored, provides the foundation for these long-term changes, but the Postal Service has been slow to take advantage of some of the flexibilities afforded by that law. And, to be fair, the Postal Service has encountered problems not of its making, such as a severe recession.

The legislation that I introduce today would help the Postal Service achieve financial stability and light the way to future cost savings without undermining customer service.

One area the legislation would help address is the more than \$50 billion that the Postal Regulatory Commission estimates the Postal Service has overpaid into the Civil Service Retirement System, CSRS, and the nearly \$3 billion it has overpaid into the Federal Employees Retirement System pension fund. It is simply unfair both to the Postal Service and its customers not to refund these overpayments.

To address these inequities, the bill would allow the Postal Service to access amounts that it has overpaid into these pension funds. The Postal Service must be permitted to use these funds to address other financial obligations, like its payments for future retiree health benefits and unfunded workers compensation liabilities and for repaying its existing debt.

I have pressed the Office of Personnel Management, OPM, to change its calculation method for Postal Service payments into the CSRS fund consistent with the 2006 Postal Reform law. OPM officials, however, stubbornly refuse to change this methodology or even to admit that the 2006 postal law permits them to do so. This has created a bureaucratic standoff that is unfair to the Postal Service. The OPM holds the life preserver it could help rescue the Postal Service, but it simply refuses to throw it.

This legislation would direct the OPM to exercise its existing authority under the 2006 postal reform law and to revise its methodology for calculating the Postal Services obligations to the CSRS pension fund. Once OPM exercises this authority, my legislation would allow the Postal Service to use any resulting overpayments to cover its annual payments into the Retiree Health Benefits Fund, rather than having to wait until after September 30, 2015, to access the CSRS overpayment.

Additionally, the legislation would allow the Postal Service to access the nearly \$3 billion it has overpaid into the Federal Employees Retirement System, FERS, pension fund. The legislation would grant OPM this authority by adopting language, similar to section 802(c) of the 2006 postal reform law, that allows OPM to recalculate the methodology governing Postal Service payments into the FERS pension fund.

As with the CSRS overpayment, the Postal Service would be permitted to use the FERS overpayment to meet its statutory obligations to the Retiree Health Benefits Fund. These fund transfers would greatly improve the Postal Services financial condition.

If the CSRS and FERS overpayment amounts are sufficient to fully fund the Postal Services obligations to the Retiree Health Benefits Fund, this legislation would allow the Postal Service to pay its workers compensation liabilities,

which top \$1 billion annually. The Postal Service may also choose to use these funds to pay down its existing debt, which currently is \$12 billion.

Second, the legislation would improve the Postal Services contracting practices and help prevent the kind of ethical violations recently uncovered by the Postal Service inspector general.

Several months ago, I asked the Postal Service inspector general to review the Postal Services contracting policies. The findings of these inspector general audits were shocking. The IG found stunning evidence of costly contract mismanagement, ethical lapses, and financial waste.

In its review of the Postal Services contracting policies, the IG discovered no-bid contracts and examples of apparent cronyism. The Postal Services contract management did not protect it from waste, fraud, and abuse. Indeed, it left the door wide open.

As a result, the Postal Service could not even identify how many contracts were awarded without competition. Of the no-bid contracts the IG reviewed, 35 percent lacked justification.

In one of the more egregious examples of waste and abuse, the IG discovered that more than 2,700 contracts had been awarded to former employees since 1991. Looking at the past 3 years, the IG found that 359 were awarded as no-bid contracts. And 17 of those non-competitive contracts went to career executives within 1 year of their separation from the Postal Service.

Additionally, some former executives were brought back at nearly twice their former pay to advise newly hired executives—an outrageous practice that the IG said raised serious ethical questions, hurt employee morale, and tarnished the Postal Services public image. In one example, an executive received a \$260,000 no-bid contract in July 2009, just 2 months after retiring. The purpose: to train his successor.

My legislation would help remedy many of the contracting issues the IG identified. Specifically, the bill would direct the Postmaster General to establish a competition advocate, responsible for reviewing and approving justifications for noncompetitive purchases and for tracking the level of agency competition. The competition advocate also would be required to submit an annual report on Postal Service procurement to the Postmaster General, the Board of Governors, the Postal Regulatory Commission, and the Congress.

To improve transparency and accountability, the bill also would require the Postal Service to publish justifications of noncompetitive contracts greater than \$150,000 on its Web Site. This transparency would improve the Postal Services contracting practices and promote competition.

To resolve the ethical issues documented by the IG, the bill would limit procurement officials from contracting with closely associated entities. It also

would require the Postal Services ethics official to review any ethics concerns that the contracting office identifies prior to awarding a contract.

Third, the legislation includes several provisions that would enhance efficiency and reduce costs. The Postal Service has made efforts to reduce costs over the past several years. But more must be done.

One area where improvements can be made is in the consolidation of area and district offices. The IG found that the Postal Services regional structure—eight area offices and 74 district offices costing approximately \$1.5 billion in fiscal year 2009—has significant room for consolidation. My bill would require the Postal Service to create a comprehensive strategic plan to guide consolidation efforts—a road map for future savings.

The bill would also require the Postal Service to develop a plan to increase its presence in retail facilities, or co-locate, to better serve customers. Before co-location decisions could be made, however, the bill would direct the Postal Service to weigh the impact of any decision on small communities and rural areas. Moreover, the Postal Service would be required to solicit community input before making decisions about co-location and to ensure that co-location does not diminish the quality of service.

Fourth, the bill includes a provision that would require the arbitrator to consider the Postal Services financial condition when rendering decisions about collective bargaining agreements. This logical provision would allow critical financial information to be weighed as a factor in contract negotiations.

Finally, the bill would reduce work-force-related costs government-wide by converting retirement eligible postal and federal employees on workers compensation to retirement when they reach retirement age. This is a commonsense change that would significantly reduce expenses that both the Postal Service and the Federal Government cannot afford to sustain.

In fiscal year 2010, the Department of Labor paid approximately \$2.7 billion to employees on workers compensation. This includes approximately \$1 billion in workers compensation benefits to postal employees. More than 8,600 of postal employees covered by workers compensation are over the age of 55. The Department of Labor indicates that Federal employees across the government are receiving workers compensation benefits into their 80s, 90s, and even 100s. At the Postal Service alone, more than 1,000 employees currently receiving workers compensation benefits are 80 years or older. Incredibly, 132 of these individuals are 90 years of age and older and there are three who are 98.

The Postal Service is at a crossroads; it must choose the correct path. It must take steps toward a bright future.

It must reject the path of severe service reductions and huge rate hikes, which will only alienate customers.

The Postal Service must reinvent itself. It must embrace changes to revitalize its business model, enabling it to attract and keep customers. The U.S. Postal Service Improvements Act of 2010 will help spark new life into this institution, helping it evolve and maintain its vital role in American society.

By Mr. ENSIGN (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts):

S. 4004. A bill to amend section 798 of title 18, United States Code, to provide penalties for disclosure of classified information related to certain intelligence activities and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I rise today to address a new and very serious threat to our national security.

In July of this year, the organization known as WikiLeaks, led by an Australian citizen named Julian Assange, published 90,000 classified intelligence documents related to our efforts in the ongoing war against the Taliban insurgents and al-Qaida in Afghanistan.

In October, WikiLeaks dumped 400,000 classified documents that revolved around the efforts of our Nation and our coalition partners to bring democracy, peace, and stability to the people of Iraq.

Now, just a few days ago, WikiLeaks has dumped another 250,000 documents that reveal private, often personal, communications between diplomats and heads of state—communication that is necessary for the critical discourse that occurs between governments on the many relevant and challenging international issues of our day.

In light of the damage that has already been done and the continuing threat posed by WikiLeaks, I am here to introduce a bill that will help defend our national interests, protect our troops, and provide assurance to our friends and allies that what they say to us in private will stay with us, and that there will be consequences for the reckless actions taken by WikiLeaks, or others, who may attempt to do what they have done—consequences that are consistent with our values and with our first amendment.

Let me spend a few moments examining the nature of this threat and some of the serious implications.

After WikiLeaks dumped 400,000 classified documents concerning our efforts to promote democracy in Iraq, Pentagon spokesman Geoffrey Morrell stated the Department of Defense had to scramble to notify 300 Iraqis because we were immediately concerned about their safety. He went on to say that as many as 60,000 Iraqis could possibly be identified in these leaked documents.

Let us consider the plight of those Iraqis just for a moment. These individuals came forward to us with information that they felt would help their

government deal with the insurgency and terrorist presence that has been an impediment to peace and stability within their nation. Yet this despicable character, Julian Assange, has rewarded their bravery by naming them to their enemies. This puts their very lives and the lives of their families in jeopardy. This discourages other Iraqis from coming forward and standing up for freedom.

This, in turn, jeopardizes the lives of our American troops and harms our efforts to provide stability in Iraq to the point where we can withdraw our troops.

Unfortunately, if Iraqis become afraid to speak out against the terrorists in their midst for fear of being named by Julian Assange, succeeding becomes that much more difficult.

Let's turn to Afghanistan. Back in July, I read in the Times of London a very interesting assessment about the implication of Mr. Assange's actions. Let me quote:

Hundreds of Afghans' lives have been put at risk by the leaking of 90,000 intelligence documents because the files identify informants working with NATO forces.

Let me quote again from the Times:

In just two hours of searching the WikiLeaks archive, the Times found the names of dozens of Afghans credited with providing detailed intelligence to U.S. forces. Their villages are given for identification and also, in many cases, their fathers' names.

To the credit of the Times, they cited examples to back up their claims. But as any responsible media organization should, they at least, in their report, took the steps of hiding the names of the villagers who came forward with information to assist their government and NATO.

Madam President, just as WikiLeaks recklessly dumped the leaked intelligence on Afghanistan, a Taliban spokesperson gave an interview in which he said:

We are studying the report. . . . We will investigate through our own secret service whether the people mentioned are really spies working for the U.S. If they are U.S. spies, then we know how to punish them.

I don't think I need to elaborate on how the Taliban punishes their enemies.

Now we have this latest dump of classified State Department cables and information. I applaud our former colleague, Secretary Clinton, for the excellent remarks she has made on this issue. She pointed out that the leaks have put people's lives in danger, threatened our national security, and undermined our efforts to work with other countries to solve shared problems.

An essential dialog takes place between nations—a dialog that has existed since nations first began. With that dialog, diplomats need to be able to express their views candidly and, yes, privately. This is how a lot of problems are solved.

Our Nation is working toward international solutions to some very com-

plex problems. The Government of Yemen is fighting terrorists that reside within their own borders. The proliferation of nuclear weapons technology and the threat of long-range missiles in North Korea are problems that require multilateral international engagement.

Secretary Clinton made another point I will focus on for a moment. Assange didn't just leak classified details about meetings between diplomats. Our diplomats overseas meet with local human rights workers, journalists, religious leaders, and others—people with unique insight into a wider range of issues.

Unfortunately, we live in a dangerous world where revealing the identity of someone fighting for social issues, such as women's rights or children's rights or the identity of an advocate for religious freedom could have serious repercussions that include imprisonment, torture, or even death.

I wonder if WikiLeaks understands if Afghan villagers or activists fighting for human rights under oppressive regimes are killed as a result of being named in these leaks, the blood of these good people is on their hands.

Before I proceed with an examination of the bill that I have crafted to address this threat, let's be clear about some things. No one should do Julian Assange any credit by referring to him as a journalist or as part of the news media. He is a computer hacker and an anarchist.

True to his hacker roots, he has devised a portal through which he hopes members of our government will anonymously and surreptitiously provide him unfettered access to our closest secrets.

Make no mistake, these actions have harmed our friends and helped our enemies in a manner prejudicial to the safety and national interest of the United States.

So with this threat in mind, a threat that the Founders could have never seen coming, we have crafted a bill that amends the Espionage Act, specifically Title 18, Section 798.

Under current law, it is a criminal act for someone who knowingly and willfully communicates, furnishes, transmits, publishes, or otherwise makes available to any unauthorized person any classified information concerning the communication intelligence activities of our United States of America.

My bill, which we are introducing today, extends this protection currently afforded to the communications intelligence to human intelligence, known as HUMINT. This bill protects human intelligence sources and methods. I want to be very clear. It is my opinion that we can go after Julian Assange under the current statute. But what our legislation does is updates this decades-old statute to address this evolving threat prospectively.

I have no doubt that Assange is going to put out another document dump on

his Web site and another one after that. Once he does, this bill would give the administration increased flexibility to deal with him and potentially other copycat organizations that aspire to his likeness.

There are a couple of concerns I want to address. First, one might wonder how this bill stands with our first amendment. While I hope we can all agree that Julian Assange is no journalist, some might wonder if the amended law that would result from this bill could be applied to the news media. It is pretty frustrating for the intelligence community when communications intelligence sources and methods are blown.

When this happens, sources of vital intelligence dry up or become inaccessible, and potentially millions of defense dollars go down the drain. However, despite the serious consequences associated with losing a communications intelligence source or method, and the damage that does to our national security, no Presidential administration has ever prosecuted a member of the news media under the existing statute, which has been on the books since 1951.

Let's face it, leaks do happen. As Secretary Gates stated just a few days ago, regrettably, our government leaks classified information like a sieve. This bill does not stop anybody from publishing leaks, but it does provide legal incentive to Julian Assange to do what Amnesty International has repeatedly asked him to do: be more responsible about how classified leaks are handled by not revealing the identity of these classified human intelligence sources.

Let me be clear. This bill doesn't target journalists. Instead, it provides flexibility for the Attorney General with a targeted solution and increased flexibility to deal with WikiLeaks.

Some might be wondering whether Julian Assange, who is a foreign citizen, can be prosecuted under the Espionage Act. In fact, the courts long ago established that he can be prosecuted under these statutes.

I am not a lawyer, but if you study the *United States v. Zehe* from 1986, it becomes immediately clear that Assange can be prosecuted under the Espionage Act.

That said, my concern is that our existing laws may have some loopholes through which he can escape. In fact, just a few days ago in the *Washington Post*, I read where Attorney General Holder said:

To the extent that there are gaps in our laws . . . we will move to close those gaps.

Well, I submit that the bill I am introducing today, with a couple of others, will do just that. It closes a gap in our laws and it moves to protect vital human intelligence sources and methods consistent with the manner in which current law communications intelligence is already protected.

I thank Senators LIEBERMAN and BROWN of Massachusetts for joining me in this important legislation and for

the input Senators LIEBERMAN and BROWN of Massachusetts have given me on this important legislation.

I hope we can take up this bill, consider it, work with the administration, work with the House, and pass this important legislation so the next time, and we know there will be a next time, that Julian Assange and his associates leak classified intelligence that puts people's lives in danger, we can actually have another tool in the arsenal so our Department of Justice can go after these despicable people.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 692—CONGRATULATING THE SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS ON WINNING THE 2010 WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP

Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

S. RES. 692

Whereas on November 1, 2010, the San Francisco Giants defeated the Texas Rangers by a score of 3-1 in game 5 to win the 2010 World Series and become champions of Major League Baseball;

Whereas this is the first championship the San Francisco Giants have won since the Giants came to San Francisco from New York in 1958;

Whereas this is the sixth World Series title in the history of the Giants franchise;

Whereas the 2010 Giants acted with determination and teamwork as they emerged victorious from the fiercely contested National League Western Division;

Whereas during the National League playoffs, the Giants unleashed their arsenal of overpowering starting pitching, unflappable relief pitching, steady defense, and timely hitting to defeat the Atlanta Braves and the two-time defending National League champions, the Philadelphia Phillies, en route to capturing their first pennant since 2002;

Whereas, although there is no one superstar on the roster, the Giants are a group of self-described "castoffs and misfits" that truly exemplify what it means to be a team;

Whereas all 25 players on the playoff roster should be congratulated, including World Series Most Valuable Player Edgar Renteria, as well as, Jeremy Affeldt, Madison Bumgarner, Matt Cain, Santiago Casilla, Tim Lincecum, Javier Lopez, Guillermo Mota, Ramon Ramirez, Sergio Romo, Jonathan Sanchez, Brian Wilson, Buster Posey, Eli Whiteside, Mike Fontenot, Aubrey Huff, Travis Ishikawa, Freddy Sanchez, Pablo Sandoval, Juan Uribe, Pat Burrell, Cody Ross, Aaron Rowand, Nate Schierholtz, and Andres Torres;

Whereas Managing General Partner Bill Neukom, General Manager Brian Sabean and Manager Bruce Bochy did a tremendous job putting together the 2010 San Francisco Giants team and guiding them to the 2010 World Series;

Whereas San Francisco is a city with a rich baseball tradition where players such as Willie Mays, Willie McCovey, Orlando Cepeda, Juan Marichal, Gaylord Perry, and Joe DiMaggio have displayed the prodigious skills that would eventually take them to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York; and

Whereas Giants fans who have been ever loyal, supporting the team from China Basin to Coogan's Bluff, can once again call their baseball team world champions: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the San Francisco Giants on winning the 2010 World Series Championship; and

(2) commends the fans in California, across the country, and around the world for their unremitting support of the Giants.

SENATE RESOLUTION 693—CONDEMNING THE ATTACK BY THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA AGAINST THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, AND AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED STATES-REPUBLIC OF KOREA ALLIANCE

Mr. WEBB (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. BOND, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WICKER, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. INOUE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. KYL, Mr. GREGG, Mr. LEMIEUX, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. McCASKILL, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 693

Whereas Yeonpyeong Island is located in the Yellow Sea (West Sea) about 50 miles west of the city of Incheon and is inhabited by more than 1,000 citizens and military personnel from the Republic of Korea;

Whereas the United Nations Command established the Northern Limit Line in 1953, marking the line of military control between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea;

Whereas, on November 23, 2010, the Republic of Korea military conducted military exercises in the Yellow Sea (West Sea) on the southern side of the Northern Limit Line;

Whereas, on that day, North Korea military forces fired approximately 170 artillery shells at Yeonpyeong Island, resulting in military and civilian casualties, including the death of 2 marines and 2 civilians from the Republic of Korea;

Whereas North Korea's shelling caused widespread damage to military installations and civilian property;

Whereas North Korea's attack against South Korea infringes upon the commitments made in the Korean War Armistice Agreement of 1953 that oblige military commanders to "order and enforce a complete cessation of all hostilities in Korea by all armed forces under their control";

Whereas this attack also violates United Nations Security Council Resolution 1695 (2006), which emphasizes the need for North Korea "to show restraint and refrain from any action that might aggravate tension, and to continue to work on the resolution of non-proliferation concerns through political and diplomatic efforts";

Whereas this brazen attack is one in a series of actions by the Government of North Korea that undermine regional peace and security, especially on the Korean peninsula;

Whereas this attack follows the March 26, 2010, torpedo attack by the Government of North Korea against the Republic of Korea ship CHEONAN, which resulted in the death of 46 sailors from the Republic of Korea Navy;