

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6467–S6581

Measures Introduced: Five bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2993–2997, and S. Res. 596–598.

Page S6540

Measures Reported:

S. 182, to provide for the unencumbering of title to non-Federal land owned by the city of Anchorage, Alaska, for purposes of economic development by conveyance of the Federal reversion interest to the City, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–289)

S. 398, to establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–290)

S. 776, to establish the Columbine-Hondo Wilderness in the State of New Mexico, to provide for the conveyance of certain parcels of National Forest System land in the State, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–291)

S. 841, to designate certain Federal land in the San Juan National Forest in the State of Colorado as wilderness, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–292)

S. 1328, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the archeological site and surrounding land of the New Philadelphia town site in the State of Illinois. (S. Rept. No. 113–293)

S. 1419, to promote research, development, and demonstration of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy technologies, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–294)

S. 1750, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into agreements with States and political subdivisions of States providing for the continued operation, in whole or in part, of public land, units of the National Park System, units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and units of the National Forest System in the State during any period in which the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture is unable to

maintain normal level of operations at the units due to a lapse in appropriations. (S. Rept. No. 113–295)

S. 1971, to establish an interagency coordination committee or subcommittee with the leadership of the Department of Energy and the Department of the Interior, focused on the nexus between energy and water production, use, and efficiency, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–296)

S. 2031, to amend the Act to provide for the establishment of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in the State of Wisconsin, to adjust the boundary of that National Lakeshore to include the lighthouse known as Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–297)

S. 2104, to require the Director of the National Park Service to refund to States all State funds that were used to reopen and temporarily operate a unit of the National Park System during the October 2013 shutdown. (S. Rept. No. 113–298)

S. 2379, to approve and implement the Klamath Basin agreements, to improve natural resource management, support economic development, and sustain agricultural production in the Klamath River Basin in the public interest and the interest of the United States, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–299)

S. 2602, to establish the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area in the State of Washington, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–300)

S. 2873, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acknowledge contributions at units of the National Park System, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–301)

H.R. 885, To expand the boundary of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, and for other purposes. (S. Rept. No. 113–302)

H.R. 1241, to facilitate a land exchange involving certain National Forest System lands in the Inyo National Forest. (S. Rept. No. 113–303)

Report to accompany S. 2094, to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel. (S. Rept. No. 113–304)

S. 1317, to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for fiscal years 2014 through 2016 and for other purposes, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

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Measures Passed:

Coast Guard Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2015 and 2016: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of S. 2444, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2015, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S6480–81**

Boxer (for Rockefeller/Thune) Amendment No. 3997, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6480**

Boxer (for Rockefeller) Amendment No. 3998, to amend the title. **Page S6480**

National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center Act: Senate passed S. 2519, to codify an existing operations center for cybersecurity, after withdrawing the committee amendment, and agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S6481**

Boxer (for Carper) Amendment No. 3999, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6481**

Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act: Senate passed H.R. 4007, to recodify and reauthorize the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S6481–86**

Boxer (for Carper) Amendment No. 4000, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6486**

Critical Infrastructure Research and Development Advancement Act: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2952, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to assess the cybersecurity workforce of the Department of Homeland Security and develop a comprehensive workforce strategy, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendments proposed thereto:

Pages S6486–87

Boxer (for Carper) Amendment No. 4001, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S6486–87**

Boxer (for Carper) Amendment No. 4002, to amend the title. **Page S6487**

FAA Modernization and Reform Act: Committee on Finance was discharged from further consideration of S. 2614, to amend certain provisions of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, and the bill was then passed.

Pages S6517–18

Death in Custody Reporting Act: Senate passed H.R. 1447, to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the deaths of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies.

Pages S6579–80

American Savings Promotion Act: Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3374, to provide for the use of savings promotion raffle products by financial institutions to encourage savings, and the bill was then passed.

Page S6580

Smart Savings Act: Senate passed H.R. 4193, to amend title 5, United States Code, to change the default investment fund under the Thrift Savings Plan.

Page S6580

James L. Oberstar Memorial Highway: Senate passed H.R. 4926, to designate a segment of Interstate Route 35 in the State of Minnesota as the “James L. Oberstar Memorial Highway”. **Page S6580**

Propane Education and Research Enhancement Act: Senate passed H.R. 5705, to modify certain provisions relating to the Propane Education and Research Council.

Page S6580

Dignified Interment of Our Veterans Act: Committee on Veterans’ Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 2822, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on matters relating to the burial of unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries, and the bill was then passed.

Pages S6580–81

Condolences to the Family of Abdul-Rahman Peter Kassig: Senate agreed to S. Res. 598, expressing condolences to the family of Abdul-Rahman Peter Kassig and condemning the terrorist acts of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. **Page S6581**

House Messages:

Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of the amendment of the House of Representatives to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, taking action on the following motions and amendments proposed thereto:

Pages S6470–80, S6487–S6517, S6518–28

Pending:

Reid motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill.

Page S6470

Reid motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with Reid Amendment No. 3984 (to the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill), to change the enactment date.

Page S6470

Reid Amendment No. 3985 (to Amendment No. 3984), of a perfecting nature.

Page S6470

Reid motion to refer the message of the House on the bill to the Committee on Armed Services, with instructions, Reid Amendment No. 3986, to change the enactment date.

Page S6470

Reid Amendment No. 3987 (to (the instructions) Amendment No. 3986), of a perfecting nature.

Page S6470

Reid Amendment No. 3988 (to Amendment No. 3987), of a perfecting nature.

Page S6470

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, December 11, 2014.

Page S6581

Retiring Senators Tributes—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the tributes to retiring Senators be printed as a Senate document and that Senators be permitted to submit tributes until December 23, 2014.

Page S6581

Bill Referral—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5471, to amend the Commodity Exchange Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to specify how clearing requirements apply to certain affiliate transactions, and the bill be referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Pages S6539, S6581

Messages from the House:

Page S6539

Measures Referred:

Page S6539

Measures Placed on the Calendar:

Pages S6540, S6581

Enrolled Bills Presented:

Page S6540

Additional Cosponsors:

Page S6541

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S6541–43

Additional Statements:

Pages S6538–39

Amendments Submitted:

Pages S6543–78

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Page S6578

Privileges of the Floor:

Page S6579

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 7:55 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 11, 2014. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6581.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, focusing on the effective enforcement and the future of derivatives regulation, after receiving testimony from Timothy Massad, Chairman, Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

CYBERSECURITY

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine cybersecurity, focusing on enhancing coordination to protect the financial sector, after receiving testimony from Brian Peretti, Director, Office of Critical Infrastructure Protection and Compliance Policy, and Valerie Abend, Senior Critical Infrastructure Officer, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, both of the Department of the Treasury; Phyllis Schneck, Deputy Undersecretary for Cybersecurity, National Protection and Programs Directorate, and William Noonan, Deputy Special Agent in Charge, Secret Service, Criminal Investigation Division, Cyber Operations Branch, both of the Department of Homeland Security; and Joseph M. Demarest, Jr., Assistant Director, Cyber Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.

PASSENGER RAIL

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security concluded a hearing to examine passenger rail, focusing on investing in our nation's future, after receiving testimony from Peter M. Rogoff, Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy; Anthony R. Coscia, Amtrak, New Brunswick, New Jersey; John Previsich, SMART—Transportation Division, North Olmsted, Ohio; and Ray B. Chambers, Association of Independent Passenger Rail Operators, Washington, DC.

EBOLA EPIDEMIC

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on African Affairs concluded a hearing to examine the Ebola

epidemic, focusing on the keys to success for the international response, after receiving testimony from Liberia President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Monrovia; Paul Farmer, Partners in Health, Boston, Massachusetts; E. Anne Peterson, World Vision, Washington, DC; Pape Gaye, IntraHealth International, Chapel Hill, North Carolina; and Javier Alvarez, Mercy Corps, Portland, Oregon.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Michelle K. Lee, of California, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and Daniel Henry Marti, of Virginia, to be Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, Executive Office

of the President, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE ACTION ON IMMIGRATION

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's executive action on immigration and the need to pass comprehensive reform, including S. 744, to provide for comprehensive immigration reform, after receiving testimony from Elizabeth H. Shuler, AFL-CIO, Washington, DC; Christopher H. Schroeder, Duke University Program in Public Law, Durham, North Carolina; John C. Eastman, Chapman University's Dale E. Fowler School of Law, Orange, California; Jan C. Ting, Temple University Beasley School of Law, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Astrid Silva, Las Vegas, Nevada.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 24 public bills, H.R. 1, 5825–5847; and 6 resolutions, H.J. Res. 130; H. Con. Res. 122–124; and H. Res. 777–778 were introduced.

Pages H9043–45

Additional Cosponsors:

Page H9045

Reports Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 776, providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 83) to require the Secretary of the Interior to assemble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States through the development of energy action plans aimed at promoting access to affordable, reliable energy, including increasing use of indigenous clean-energy resources, and for other purposes; waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules; and for other purposes (H. Rept. 113–655).

Page H9043

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Jolly to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H8933

Recess: The House recessed at 11:19 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

Page H8942

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Reverend Aaron McEmrys, Uni-

tarian Universalist Church of Arlington, Arlington, Virginia.

Page H8942

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by a yea-and-nay vote of 261 yeas to 155 nays with 1 voting "present", Roll No. 556.

Page H8968

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014: S. 1691, to amend title 5, United States Code, to improve the security of the United States border and to provide for reforms and rates of pay for border patrol agents;

Pages H8945–51

Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015: Concurred in the Senate amendment to H.R. 4681, to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 325 yeas to 100 nays, Roll No. 558; **Pages H8951–62, H8991–92**

Transportation Security Acquisition Reform Act: Concurred in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2719, to require the Transportation Security Administration to implement best practices and improve transparency with regard to technology acquisition programs, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 425 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 559;

Pages H8968–73, H8992–93

Aviation Security Stakeholder Participation Act: Concurred in the Senate amendment to H.R. 1204, to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to establish an Aviation Security Advisory Committee, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 416 yeas to 5 nays, Roll No. 560;

Pages H8973–75, H8993–94

DHS OIG Mandates Revision Act of 2014: S. 2651, to repeal certain mandates of the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General;

Pages H9014–15

United States Cotton Futures Act: H.R. 5810, to amend the United States Cotton Futures Act to exclude certain cotton futures contracts from coverage under such Act;

Pages H9015–16

Naval Vessel Transfer Act: S. 1683, to provide for the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign recipients;

Pages H9017–19

Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014: S. 2142, to impose targeted sanctions on persons responsible for violations of human rights of antigovernment protesters in Venezuela and to strengthen civil society in Venezuela; and

Pages H9020–23

Feed the Future Global Food Security Act of 2014: H.R. 5656, amended, to authorize the Feed the Future Initiative to reduce global poverty and hunger in developing countries on a sustainable basis.

Pages H9023–28

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To authorize a comprehensive strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to reduce global poverty and hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, promote sustainable agricultural-led economic growth, improve nutritional outcomes, especially for women and children, build resilience among vulnerable populations, and for other purposes.”.

Page H9028

Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2014: The House passed S. 2244, to extend the termination date of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program established under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, by a yea-and-nay vote of 417 yeas to 7 nays, Roll No. 557.

Pages H8962–67, H8975–91

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in H. Rept. 113–654 shall be considered as adopted.

Page H8962

H. Res. 775, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (S. 2244), was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 231 yeas to 189 nays, Roll No. 554, after the previous question was ordered.

Pages H8966–67

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following

measure which was debated on Tuesday, December 9th:

Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act of 2014: S. 1000, to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to prepare a crosscut budget for restoration activities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 416 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 555.

Pages H8967–68

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in honor of our brave men and women in uniform who have given their lives in the service of our country in Iraq and Afghanistan, their families, and all who serve in our armed forces and their families.

Page H8968

Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act of 2014: The House agreed to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 1281, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act, and concur in the Senate amendment.

Page H8994

Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014: The House agreed to take from the Speaker’s table and pass S. 2521, to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, to provide for reform to Federal information security.

Pages H8994–98

Providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 3979: The House agreed by unanimous consent to H. Con. Res. 123, to provide for a correction in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 3979.

Page H8998

Providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 5771: The House agreed by unanimous consent to H. Con. Res. 124, to provide for a correction in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 5771.

Page H8998

Coast Guard Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2015 and 2016: The House agreed to take from the Speaker’s table and pass S. 2444, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2015 through 2016.

Pages H9002–14

United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Authorization: The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass H.R. 5816, to extend the authorization for the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom.

Page H9016

Denouncing the use of civilians as human shields by Hamas and other terrorist organizations: The House agreed to take from the Speaker’s table and agree to the amendments of the Senate to H. Con. Res. 107, denouncing the use of civilians as human shields by Hamas and other terrorist organizations.

Pages H9016–17

Insurance Capital Standards Clarification Act of 2014: The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass S. 2270, to clarify the application of certain leverage and risk-based requirements under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

Pages H9019–20

Suspension—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Supporting America's Charities Act: H.R. 5806, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and make permanent certain expiring provisions related to charitable contributions.

Pages H8998–H9002

National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics—Reappointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's reappointment of the following individual on the part of the House to the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics for a term of four years: Dr. Vickie M. Mays, Los Angeles, California.

Pages H9039–40

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today and messages received from the Senate today appear on pages H8942, H8968 and H9028.

Senate Referrals: S. 1474, S. 2614, S. 2519, and S. 2444 were held at the desk. Pages H8942, H8968, H9028

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, December 11. Page H9017

Quorum Calls—Votes: Seven yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H8966–67, H8967, H8968, H8991, H8991–92, H8992–93 and H8993. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Committee Meetings

EXAMINING FDA'S ROLE IN THE REGULATION OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD INGREDIENTS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled "Examining FDA's Role in the Regulation of Genetically Modified Food Ingredients". Testimony was heard from Michael M. Landa, Director, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Food and Drug Administration; and public witnesses.

COUNTERING ISIS: ARE WE MAKING PROGRESS?

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Countering ISIS: Are We Making Progress?". Testimony was heard from Brett McGurk, Deputy Special Presidential Envoy for the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL, Department of State.

RUSSIAN ARMS CONTROL CHEATING AND THE ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade; and Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services, held a joint hearing entitled "Russian Arms Control Cheating and the Administration's Responses". Testimony was heard from Rose Gottemoeller, Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security, Department of State; and Brian McKeon, Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Policy, Department of Defense.

THE UNITED STATES AS AN ARCTIC NATION: OPPORTUNITIES IN THE HIGH NORTH

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats held a hearing entitled "The United States as an Arctic Nation: Opportunities in the High North". Testimony was heard from Admiral Robert Papp, Jr., USCG, Retired, Special Representative for the Arctic, Department of State; and public witnesses.

AFTER THE WITHDRAWAL: THE WAY FORWARD IN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN (PART III)

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa; and the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, held a joint hearing entitled "After the Withdrawal: The Way Forward in Afghanistan and Pakistan (Part III)". Testimony was heard from Jarret Blanc, Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Department of State; Donald L. Sampler, Assistant to the Administrator, Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan Affairs, U.S. Agency for International Development; and Mr. James Soiles, Deputy Chief of Operations, Office of Global Enforcement, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice.

THE IMPACT ON LOCAL COMMUNITIES OF THE RELEASE OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN MINORS AND THE NEED FOR CONSULTATION AND NOTIFICATION

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security held a hearing entitled "The Impact on Local Communities of the Release

of Unaccompanied Alien Minors and the Need for Consultation and Notification". Testimony was heard from the following Representatives: Barletta, Olson, Smith of Nebraska, and Crowley; Leonard Scarella, Mayor of Stafford, Texas; Thomas M. Hodgson, Sheriff of Bristol County, Massachusetts; and public witnesses.

EXAMINING EPA'S MANAGEMENT OF THE RENEWABLE FUEL STANDARD PROGRAM

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Health Care and Entitlements held a hearing entitled "Examining EPA's Management of the Renewable Fuel Standard Program". Testimony was heard from Janet G. McCabe, Acting Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation, Environmental Protection Agency.

ADDRESSING THE BACKLOG IN THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PROCESS

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, U.S. Postal Service, and the Census held a hearing entitled "Addressing the Backlog in the Federal Employee Retirement Process". Testimony was heard from Kenneth J. Zawodny, Jr., Associate Director of Retirement Services, Office of Personnel Management; Donna Seymour, Chief Information Officer, Office of Personnel Management; Valerie C. Melvin, Director, Information Management and Technology Resource Issues, Government Accountability Office; and a public witness.

SENATE AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL, TO REQUIRE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO ASSEMBLE A TEAM OF TECHNICAL, POLICY, AND FINANCIAL EXPERTS TO ADDRESS THE ENERGY NEEDS OF THE INSULAR AREAS OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY ACTION PLANS AIMED AT PROMOTING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE ENERGY, INCLUDING INCREASING USE OF INDIGENOUS CLEAN-ENERGY RESOURCES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on the Senate amendment to H.R. 83, to require the Secretary of the Interior to assemble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States through the development of energy action plans aimed at promoting access to affordable, reliable energy, including increasing use of indigenous clean-energy resources, and for other purposes [Consolidated and Further

Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015]. The committee granted, by record vote of 9–4, a rule that provides for the consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 83. The rule makes in order a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 83 with an amendment consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113–59 modified by the amendment printed in the Rules Committee report. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the motion. The rule provides that the Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. The rule provides 80 minutes of debate on the motion, with 60 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations and 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. In section 2, the rule provides that upon adoption of the motion specified in section 1, H. Con. Res. 122 (enrollment correction to the title) shall be considered as adopted. In section 3, the rule provides that the chair of the Committee on Appropriations may insert in the Congressional Record at any time during the remainder of the second session of the 113th Congress such material as he may deem explanatory of the Senate amendment and the motion specified in the first section of the resolution. In section 4, the rule waives clause 6(a) of rule XIII (requiring a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Rules Committee) against any resolution reported from the Rules Committee through the legislative day of December 12, 2014. Testimony was heard from Chairman Rogers of Kentucky, Chairman Kline, and Representatives Lowey, Price of North Carolina, George Miller of California, Salmon, Polis, King of Iowa, Deutch, Gohmert, Norton, Bachmann, McClintock, Duncan of South Carolina, Gosar, Huelskamp, Mulvaney, Ribble, and Clawson.

AN UPDATE ON THE SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM AND ORION: MONITORING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION'S DEEP SPACE EXPLORATION CAPABILITIES

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Space held a hearing entitled "An Update on the Space Launch System and Orion: Monitoring the Development of the Nation's Deep Space Exploration Capabilities". Testimony was heard from Bill Gerstenmaier, Associate Administrator for Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and Cristina Chaplain, Director, Acquisition

and Sourcing Management, Government Accountability Office.

U.S. UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS: INTEGRATION, OVERSIGHT, AND COMPETITIVENESS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Aviation held a hearing entitled “U.S. Unmanned Aircraft Systems: Integration, Oversight, and Competitiveness”. Testimony was heard from Peggy Gilligan, Associate Administrator for Aviation Safety, Federal Aviation Administration; Matthew Hampton, Assistant Inspector General for Aviation Audits, Department of Transportation; Gerald Dillingham, Director of Civil Aviation Issues, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

HEARING 2

Select Committee on Benghazi: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Hearing 2”, relating to reviewing efforts to secure U.S. diplomatic facilities and personnel. Testimony was heard from Greg Starr, Assistant Secretary for Diplomatic Security, Department of State; and Steve Linick, Inspector General, Department of State.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 11, 2014**

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Environment and Public Works: with the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, to hold a joint oversight hearing to examine the implementation of the President’s executive order on Improving Chemical Facility Safety and Security, 9:30 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: business meeting to consider an original resolution to authorize the limited use of the United States Armed Forces against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, S. Con. Res. 38, expressing the sense of Congress that Warren Weinstein should be returned home to his family, S. Res. 595, recognizing

Nobel Laureates Kailash Satyarthi and Malala Yousafzai for their efforts to end the financial exploitation of children and to ensure the right of all children to an education, an original resolution commemorating and supporting the goals of World AIDS Day, H.R. 4573, to protect children from exploitation, especially sex trafficking in tourism, by providing advance notice of intended travel by registered child-sex offenders outside the United States to the government of the country of destination, requesting foreign governments to notify the United States when a known child-sex offender is seeking to enter the United States, S. 2922, to reinstate reporting requirements related to United States-Hong Kong relations, the nominations of Antony Blinken, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of State, Leslie Berger Kiernan, of Maryland, as an Alternate Representative of the United States of America, to the Sixty-ninth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and lists in the Foreign Service, 10 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: with the Committee on Environment and Public Works, to hold a joint oversight hearing to examine the implementation of the President’s executive order on Improving Chemical Facility Safety and Security, 9:30 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider the nominations of Joan Marie Azrack, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, Loretta Copeland Biggs, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina, Elizabeth K. Dillon, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia, and Michael P. Botticelli, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy, 10 a.m., SD-226.

House

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy and Power: hearing entitled “The Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975: Are We Positioning America for Success in an Era of Energy Abundance?”, 9:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Energy: hearing entitled “The Future of Nuclear Energy”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Full Committee, business meeting to approve the second annual activities report for the 113th Congress; hearing entitled “Evaluating Federal and Community Efforts to Eliminate Veteran Homelessness”, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Thursday, December 11

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of the motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 3979, Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act. At 10:30 a.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Thursday, December 11

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 83—Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Subject to a Rule).

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