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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's opening prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, a guest of Senator MARK WARNER, Rabbi Israel Zoberman, Founding Rabbi of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, VA.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Our one God of life's blessings, Who brings us together to be one family, gratefully united though gloriously diverse through the Divine commandments of loving-kindness. May the awesome Author of an enchanting yet endangered universe uplift our honored Senators with the essential twin gifts of freedom and responsibility, ever fulfilling the demanding American dream. At these crossroads of compelling challenge, may the Senators be reassured that each human life is a singular journey of promising purpose, that the Creator's divinity and human dignity are inseparably linked. May the Most High bless the Senators, the Nation, and humanity with Shalom's sacred healing, hope, and harmony.

Recalling my early childhood in a Displaced Persons Camp in Germany's American Zone, and on my 40th anniversary in the rabbinic ministry in the most ecumenical Nation under Heaven, I am grateful. Amen.

NOTICE

If the 113th Congress, 2nd Session, adjourns sine die on or before December 24, 2014, a final issue of the *Congressional Record* for the 113th Congress, 2nd Session, will be published on Wednesday, December 31, 2014, to permit Members to insert statements.

All material for insertion must be signed by the Member and delivered to the respective offices of the Official Reporters of Debates (Room HT–59 or S–123 of the Capitol), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. through Tuesday, December 30. The final issue will be dated Wednesday, December 31, 2014, and will be delivered on Monday, January 5, 2015.

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By order of the Joint Committee on Printing.

CHARLES E. SCHUMER, *Chairman.*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

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

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SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3979, the defense authorization bill.

At 10:30 a.m., there will be a cloture vote on the motion to concur on the defense authorization bill.

Mr. President, the work we are going to do on this defense authorization bill is extremely important for our country. I will have more to say about that in just a minute.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES FRANSEN

Mr. REID. Today's generation goes to Google for answers to questions they have about geography, about politics, famous people, or any subject. Any subject, you name it, and we all go to Google as quickly as we can. But long before Google, we had to use books, encyclopedias, volumes of books containing all sorts of facts on topics, and they were all in alphabetic order. For almost the last 40 years—39 to be exact—the Senate has had its own encyclopedia—legislative counsel Jim Fransen.

Jim began his Senate career in 1975, just after graduating from law school—from the University of Wisconsin—where he also studied as an undergraduate. That year he joined the Office of Legislative Counsel as assistant counsel. Over the years, Jim Fransen gradually moved up the ranks until he was named legislative counsel, a position he has held for 15 years.

He is a noted expert on a lot of things, but especially the United States Tax Code. We have heard speeches on this floor about the complexity of the Tax Code. That is a monumental assignment, to understand the Tax Code. Jim certainly does, perhaps better than anyone in Washington. Jim actually wrote the Tax Reform Act of 1986. That was the famous Bradley-Gephardt legislation.

For four decades, he has played a role in every important piece of tax legislation that has become law in our country. The Office of Legislative Counsel does the work for the Senate—not Democrats, not Republicans, but all of us, including our staffs. They write bills to create programs while also drafting amendments that will have some effect on these programs, sometimes wiping out these programs. This impartiality is the key to the success of the Senate and something we don't often consider—how we get to the point where we are.

This massive bill we are going to deal with today has legislative counsel's imprint on it. The same can be said of the bill they are going to work on today in the House, the omnibus; the tax extenders, the same thing. These are the must-do's we have to do before we leave here.

Another key to the success of Jim Fransen is the excellent team he has put together in the Office of Legislative Counsel. The staff, under his watchful eye, receives about 15,000 legislative inquiries every year—15,000—well more than 1,000 a month, and they are responsible for drafting 98 percent of all the legislation we do.

(Mr. WALSH assumed the Chair.)

It is rare to find someone like former Senator Jim Webb, who was a freshman Senator who came in and drafted his own bill that would give educational benefits to the military. Senator Webb came to me and said: I am going to write my own bill. Now that doesn't happen very often, but it was extremely important to him that he did that, and it had to be done because it was a significant piece to the new GI bill of rights, which the Presiding Officer—the General—would certainly understand. But 98 percent of the work we do here is not stamped by Jim Webb. We depend upon Jim Fransen's office to do this. So his job is not an easy job, but he has excelled because of his knowledge of the law, his experience of the legislative process, his patience, and his impeccable character.

Jim Fransen is a man of integrity and one who considers everyone's views, whether he personally agrees with them or not. It is no wonder Jim is the second longest serving legislative counsel in the history of the Senate. One of his admirers once told me: Jim always plays it way up here, while the rest of us are down here. His phone rings at all hours of the day and night with random requests, and Jim handles it all with class and dignity.

Jim is retiring from the Senate at the end of this month. He will be missed, and that is an understatement, but he leaves with us an Office of Legislative Counsel that has never performed better. I thank him for his service, and I do this on behalf of the entire Senate family. I thank his family for the untold hours he has spent away from home. I appreciate the work his wife Margaret Ann has done in supporting him, and, of course, he will spend more time with his three daughters and two grandsons. So thanks very much for sharing this good man with us.

I wish Jim the very best in his retirement, and I repeat, I thank him on behalf of the Senate family for all the work he has done.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as I indicated, we are going to move to the defense bill, but we are going to also, as part of that bill, do something that is at least 10 years overdue. For the last 10 years, we have been struggling to get bills out of the energy committee. We are fortunate enough to get them out once in a while, but they are stymied here on the floor. That has been going on for 10 years. There has been a permanent wrecking crew, led by one person, to do this.

Before Nevada was settled by pioneers, its mountains were home to thousands of bighorn sheep—we still have lots of them—and pronghorn antelope—we have the largest antelope herd in the entire world in northern Nevada—and Nevada's streams and lakes at one time were full of Lahontan and cutthroat trout. That is not the case anymore.

Because of the growth in the State of Nevada there has been a tremendous impact on the environment. We had in Nevada salmon in our rivers, but not anymore. We are trying to replenish fish so that we will have more of what we did have before, including salmon. Like every State across the Nation, Nevada's natural and cultural heritage has come under immense pressure as our cities and populations have swelled.

About 80 percent of the people now live in one of our 17 counties. Clark County is where Las Vegas is. The other 16 counties make up about 20 percent of the population. So the pressure, especially because of what has happened in southern Nevada, has been very difficult on the environment.

The other thing people have to understand is that 87 percent of the State of Nevada is owned by the Federal Government. That creates a lot of issues—some positive, some negative. But with the population having swelled, some of the issues we are now experiencing are certainly to be expected. As our society continues to expand, the stresses on our land, our wildlife, and water resources will continue.

That is why the package of land bills in this National Defense Authorization Act is vitally important to our country. The package is a compromise that protects our Nation's wild and scenic places, our Nation's unique history, and opens up other lands for development.

Are there provisions in this bill that I don't care a great deal about in a positive fashion? Yes. There are things in this bill I don't like. But there are things in here I do like. Are there things in this bill the majority of Republicans probably don't like? The answer is yes. So this is what legislation is all about. It is about compromise. It is about working together to have an end product, and that is what we have here.

This compromise is a chance for the Senate to get something done. Compromise has been wanting in this body, especially regarding matters of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Hundreds of bills for the last 10 years have been stopped.

I am only offering my opinion, but one of the finest public servants I have ever served with is Jeff Bingaman from New Mexico. Jeff is an absolutely brilliant man, a hard worker. I would bet—and I don't bet very often, and I am sure no one will take me up on this—but I think one reason Jeff Bingaman left the Senate was because of the work he was unable to get done in his committee. What a good chairman he was,

but he was stymied time and time again from getting anything out of that committee. So for the last 10 years that committee has worked really hard, very hard, but they haven't had much to show for that work.

This package protects more than 1 million acres of landscapes. I was waiting in my office and Senator BENNET from Colorado came to my office. He had a great big poster with him. I asked: What is that? It was upside down. You could see immediately what it was when it was right side up. He was looking for time on the floor to show America what was in this bill for the State of Colorado. This beautiful vista he was showing me—and he showed the whole world last night—is something that is in this bill. It will be protected—a stunningly beautiful forest area in Colorado.

One million acres of landscape will be protected. Watersheds will be protected. Historic treasures will be protected. This protects over 140 miles of wild and scenic rivers throughout our country. These bills will create nearly 250,000 acres of wilderness in five States: Colorado, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, and Washington.

Additionally, the packages convey more than 100,000 acres to local communities for economic development. My friend the Presiding Officer understands how important that is, being able to convey to the private sector the ability to develop Federal lands. It has to be done carefully. It can't be done on a massive scale. If we did that, the rich people would wind up owning all the nice places. These are places I think should be shared by the American people. But 100,000 acres go to local communities for economic development.

The legislation continues our country's rich history, establishing national parks. It designates a number of new areas—for example, the Harriet Tubman Historic Park.

I read in a period of a month two books on Harriet Tubman. They both came out at about the same time. I can't imagine why a movie hasn't been made about this dynamic little 5-foot woman who did such remarkable things. What a story of this woman—this slave. She was a slave—bringing people out of the South into freedom in the North. She took them as far as Canada. She did it alone. So I hope some day someone will make a movie of this stunningly powerful woman. We are recognizing an area that will be named on her behalf.

The bundle of lands bills is good for America. It stretches literally from the shores of Alaska to the coast of Maine. It is especially important to Nevada, my State. It protects over 75,000 acres of wilderness in Humboldt and Lyon Counties in northern Nevada, the first new wilderness protections in the State since 2006.

One of those areas is named after a famous Indian, Wovoka. There was a man who was a famous Indian. He established a dance that really brought Native Americans together. Even though it started in Nevada, it swept the country. This is going to be in Lyon County, it contains sage-grouse, bighorn sheep habitats, and some of the best fly fishing opportunities in Nevada and the Nation.

Now there is a pine forest wilderness in Humboldt County which has been championed by the local community. They have been working on this for years. We couldn't get it out of the House of Representatives. Over here, of course, it was a lost cause, and don't even think about getting it out of the energy committee.

Environmentalists, ranchers, hunters, anglers, and off-road vehicle enthusiasts came together to protect 20,000 acres of scenic lakes, amazing rock formations, and prime sage habitat.

But it also allows a mine there to have some more land from the Federal Government which they need from enlarging that land. It is a copper mine. It is extremely important that we develop copper and don't have to import it from South America and Russia.

Southern Nevada established the Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument on the edge of North Las Vegas. This area is the largest deposit of ice age mammals in the United States. Imagine that basically in the middle of thousands of homes. People couldn't understand what they were digging up out there, ice age mammals that are so unbelievably large and preserved over these thousands of years. When the resources are developed, catalogued, and better understood, it will likely be the largest deposit in the entire country.

The package sells 10,000 acres of land to the city of Yerington. Lyon County was a county that probably suffered more from the economic shutdown. They had huge problems of unemployment, and now we have that mine there that will help. This will allow them to make even more jobs there.

The agreement also provides lands to the cities of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Fernley, Carlin, allocates tracts for three universities and college campuses, and expands Nellis Air Force Base and the Fallon Naval Air Station.

This is good for Nevada. It is good for the country. This legislation promotes jobs, protects the environment, helps our Armed Forces, and gives Americans the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful landscapes this country has to offer.

It is not perfect legislation. No legislation is. But this is really good legislation. So I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting these critical lands bills which are part of the defense authorization bill.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Mr. REID. Mr. President, what is the business now?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the message to accompany H.R. 3979, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3979, a bill 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.

Pending:

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

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.

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

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.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, in 1986 the people of South Dakota elected me to serve them in the 100th Session of the Congress in the House of Representatives. In 1996 they gave me the honor and privilege of being their junior Senator.

When I ran for the House in 1986, I told the people of South Dakota that neither party has all the answers, and that both parties have good ideas, as well as men and women of good will. My job, as I understood it, would be to work in a bipartisan manner, listening to all parties and reaching a good fit—also known as a compromise. That is what I still believe.

However, in each year of my 28 years of service this has become more difficult to achieve. Each party, rather than working cooperatively for the American people, is more and more focused on winning the next election. Today, days after the 2014 election, you can walk into the call center for either party and find Members dialing for dollars for 2016. Tonight there will be fundraisers across DC where Members will discuss policy not with their constituents but with organizations that contribute to their campaigns. We have lost our way.

My thoughts are not original. My colleague and dear friend from South Dakota, Senator Tom Daschle, in his farewell called for finding common ground that ''will not be found on the

far right or on the far left. That is not where most Americans live. We will only find it in the firm middle ground based on common sense and shared values.''

Ohio's Senator Voinovich in his 2010 farewell speech said that his greatest frustration was the difficulty in finding common ground on significant issues, saying that ''it doesn't happen enough.''

In fact, the need for bipartisanship and the lack of it in the Senate is a hallmark of Senate farewell speeches. Rather than expounding on this topic, I would like to share the instances where I have experienced it.

I found it working with my colleague Senator JOHN THUNE, as we put aside our political differences and worked as our constituents expected two Norwegians to work. We worked side by side as we pushed for farm bills, highway funding, emergency relief from droughts and from floods. We successfully fought the proposed BRAC closing of Ellsworth Air Force Base. However, honoring our Norweigian heritage, we never hugged.

I found it on the banking committee, working closely with Ranking Member CRAPO. Together, we reached middle ground on reforms in which both parties gave up significant priorities, compromising, finding the middle ground to pass bills out of committee.

My best and most enduring memory of this magnificent body occurred during my 9-month absence following my AVM, a long and humbling journey. During this journey my committee assignments were respected and my friend from Rhode Island Senator JACK REED graciously accepted extra responsibilities until my return. Senator HARRY REID told me that during my long absence my colleagues on the other side of the aisle never once tried to take advantage of my absence. More importantly, in so many ways the kind words and prayers from you and your spouses, on both sides of the aisle, supported both Barbara and me and gave us strength during my long and continuing recovery.

I was grateful and humbled by your support on September 9, 2007, the day I returned to the Senate when almost every chair in this Chamber was filled. Senator REID and Senator MCCONNELL, I thank you for your welcome back to the Senate family.

In the years ahead, I will miss this family—not the bickering that I mentioned earlier, but the blessings that you have all been to Barbara and me.

I would also like to thank another family that has been critical to my work for South Dakota—a family that goes by the name ''Team Johnson.'' This team is composed of highly talented and caring individuals. They have worked tirelessly in the halls of Congress, in South Dakota, and on campaigns to make our State and our country a better place to live.

I wish I could thank each one of you for your service. Please know how much I appreciated the long hours and late nights that you put in. In the years ahead I hope we will continue to celebrate the friendships we have forged.

To my friend and chief of staff for 30 years, Drey Samuelson, thank you for joining my fledgling, uphill race for Congress in 1986 and for staying with me until we close the Senate office in a few days. Few Members of Congress have been as fortunate as I have been to have the loyalty, friendship, and thoughtful guidance that you have given me.

My legislative directors have all been remarkable, but time limits me to noting the services of two individuals who have served the longest. Dwight Fettig started with us in the House as a young man fresh from his internship with Senator Byron Dorgan of North Dakota. Dwight rose through the ranks to legislative director and then became my first director on the banking committee. Todd Stubbendieck is my current LD, and his legislative guidance for over 10 years has guided the staff in moving critical legislation through the Senate. Todd and Dwight have worked on legislation for projects that now deliver water to hundreds of thousands of people across South Dakota, country of origin labeling bills, farm bills, national historic sites for Lewis and Clark and the Minute Man Missile, numerous projects for Ellsworth Air Force Base and the South Dakota National Guard with efficiency and collegiality. To Todd and Dwight, thank you for your outstanding legislative teams.

Our No. 1 researcher, humorist, historian, and go-to person, Luci Weigel, has been with us since we opened the first offices. Thank you, Luci.

To my South Dakota State director, Sharon Boysen, thank you for leading the three State offices, for ensuring that we were responsive to South Dakotans, and for coordinating with the DC office.

Sharon Stroschein, who directed the Aberdeen office, and Darrell Shoemaker, who managed the Raid City office, have been outstanding leaders for 28 years. You and all the State staff have been great advocates for South Dakota. You made sure that I always knew what was on the minds of South Dakotans, that I visited crisis situations, nonprofits, local and tribal governments, promising businesses, schools, and much more. Thank you.

Linda Robison, thank you for your dedication, willingness to go the extra mile, and your outreach to and service for our State's veterans for 28 years.

The Senate office only needed one office manager for the last 18 years. Nancy Swenson is the most efficient, precise, and insightful person I know. The University of South Dakota will be forever grateful when they receive the archives Nancy assembled. Thank you.

To the Senate standing committees on banking and MILCON, you have served our Nation well, and I know you will continue to do so in the future. Thank you for your leadership on important issues.

I am looking forward to the years ahead and the time we will share.

To my wife Barbara and our three children—Brooks, Brendan, and Kelsey—thank you for your unwavering support, for putting up with late-night dinners, for accepting that my work demanded that I be away so many weekends, and for working side by side with me on challenging campaigns. Without your understanding, love, and support, I could not have done the work I love.

Finally, to the people of South Dakota, thank you for the honor and privilege of serving you in our State legislature, the House of Representatives, and the United States Senate. Thank you for working side by side with me to improve the lives of South Dakotans and our Nation.

Pilamayaye.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

TRIBUTE TO TIM JOHNSON

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I rise today to bid farewell to my colleague and friend Senator TIM JOHNSON.

TIM has deep roots in South Dakota and in the towns of Canton and Vermillion in particular. He has served our State for more than 35 years, first in the State legislature and then, after winning a highly competitive primary against two well-known Democratic opponents, in the Halls of Congress. In 1996, after a decade in the U.S. House of Representatives, TIM won his first of three terms in the U.S. Senate. I am well acquainted with his second election because I came out on the short end of that stick. But I have had the privilege of serving with TIM now in the South Dakota delegation for over 16 years, and the last 10 have been here in the Senate. Today I want to pay tribute to his many years of public service and all he has done for our home State.

I would also like to take a moment to thank Senator JOHNSON's staff for their dedicated work. They have worked closely with my staff for many years, and I am grateful for their efforts.

Like many South Dakotans, I will always remember TIM as a fighter. South Dakotans are tough, rugged folks, and TIM has exemplified that spirit every day in the Senate. A big part of his legacy as a public servant will be his tenacity, his work ethic, and his unwavering focus on the policies he believed to be in the best interest of South Dakota.

TIM and I haven't always seen eye to eye on every issue, but we have always been able to come together and work with South Dakotans in times of crisis. From drought relief, to flood and tornado responses, to protecting the Black Hills from wildfires, Senator JOHNSON and I have always been able to quickly

respond to the needs of our State regardless of party differences or past disagreements.

Mr. President, when you represent a State like South Dakota—what some people like to call a flyover State, a State some of our colleagues here in the Senate occasionally mix up with North Dakota—there are days when it can seem as though the concerns of rural Americans aren't given fair consideration and the needs of rural America are not being heard by the administration or the more densely populated areas of our country.

I have had the great pleasure of working with TIM to bring a voice to the concerns of rural America and those of us who hail from the middle of the country. To highlight just one of the many examples I could bring up, since his first term in Congress TIM has fought tirelessly for water infrastructure to deliver clean drinking water to families in South Dakota and throughout the Great Plains. Water is a vital resource in the rural expanses of South Dakota, and TIM's efforts have helped meet this basic need in underserved Indian reservations, small towns, and rural areas across the State. These investments will pay dividends well beyond his tenure in the Senate.

Throughout TIM's long career in public service—from his beginnings in the legislature to his ascension to the chairmanship of the Senate banking committee—he has had a hand in numerous efforts that will help South Dakotans and Americans alike for generations to come.

I know I speak for all South Dakotans when I say thank you, TIM, for your dedication and your service to our great State. It has been an honor to serve with you here in the United States Senate. Thank you for your example, your efforts on behalf of our beloved South Dakota, and most of all for your friendship. On behalf of my wife Kimberly and me, I wish you, Barbara, and your family the very best as you begin your retirement.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2992

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. The DOD just reported that in 2014 almost the same number of servicemembers—19,000—reported unwanted sexual contact as in 2010. Still, fewer than 3 out of 10 are willing to report. The overall percentage of those who are reporting openly and seeking justice is declining, and a striking 62 percent retaliation rate went unchanged from 2012. Despite retaliation having been made a crime in last year's NDAA, the Pentagon reports no indication of progress on that front. Despite the Pentagon's spin, these numbers do not show an increased trust in a system that simply isn't working for the men and women in uniform.

I wish to draw attention to comments made earlier this year by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, GEN Martin Dempsey. He said:

> We are currently on the clock, if you will . . . the President of the United States said to us in December, you know what, you've got about a year to review this thing and show me you can make a difference . . . we understand that just because Senator GILLIBRAND's vote was defeated yesterday doesn't mean that a year from now it may not be reintroduced, and if we haven't been able to demonstrate making a difference, you know, then we deserve to be held to the scrutiny and standard.

There is no other mission in the world for our military where this much failure would be allowed. Based on General Dempsey's own timeline, our men and women in uniform deserve a vote on this broadly bipartisan reform because the military has not been able to demonstrate that they have made a difference; therefore, they should be held to the scrutiny this year.

Throughout last year we continued to see the evidence of how much further we have to go to solve the problem of sexual assaults in our military. We saw BG Jeffrey Sinclair—one of the highest ranking officers ever charged with sexual assault—walk away with a slap on the wrist, reportedly over fears that the commanding officer had rejected a plea deal on lesser charges for political reasons despite stated concerns over evidence.

That case brings up the very important issue of undue command influence—another reason why an independent justice system is needed. We should all be able to agree that our brave men and women in uniform deserve blind justice. The scale should not be tipped in either direction—in favor of a victim or an accused. Why should our servicemembers enjoy a lesser standard of justice and fairness than you and I, whose freedoms they risk everything to protect?

According to a recent story in the New York Times, an attendee of a sexual assault prevention seminar was asked if things were improving. She said:

> We all laughed. Sinclair was happening then. He proved that it was a joke.

The Times also chronicled the story of a survivor they called Kris, from Ellsworth Air Force Base. On April 12, 2013, about two dozen male officers of the 37th Bomb Squadron gathered at a strip club at the beginning of a pub crawl—including her commander. She was assaulted later that night. According to the Times:

> What Kris encountered since reporting the assault was the same kind of cold-shouldered skepticism on the part of her commander that Christensen had seen in a vast majority of sexual assault cases—behavior that was supposed to have changed with the military's recent vows to support those who reported sex crimes.

Further, she was retaliated against, which is now supposed to be a crime, and was told by a commander, ''It's illogical for you to think that there won't be negative consequences to your reporting.''

She said: ''I was put on a shelf.''

Why in the world would we want this commander who takes his team to a strip club and retaliates against a sexual assault victim to have the authority to decide if a crime was committed? It is insane, and it is beneath our military members.

I could read many more troubling cases, but perhaps the most eye-opening instance showing the ongoing lack of accountability was revealed in testimony by a witness at a court-martial on September 24, 2014—just 2 months ago. In this case, former Fort Leonard Wood drill sergeant Angel Sanchez was found guilty on multiple accounts of sexually assaulting female trainees. According to the witness, the command sergeant major at Fort Leonard Woods said—and remember this was just 2 months ago—''If any more sexual assault cases come forward'' the whole company of soldiers won't graduate—not ''I don't want to see any more sexual assaults''; rather, ''I don't want to see any more reports.''

Here is how we really know the system is broken: When a cadet is instrumental in obtaining the first sexual assault convictions in over a decade at the Air Force Academy, he is expelled. When a chief prosecutor is too good at his job and briefs Members of Congress, he is retaliated against and forced out. When a survivor comes forward, she is put on a shelf.

Time is short, but there is more than enough left for this Congress to actually do its job. We should not have more calls for just a little more time. The DOD has failed on this issue for over 20 years now, and the scandals of the last 12 months and the latest data show they still don't get it.

As USA Today said:

> Over the decades, sexual scandals have spurred cycles of Pentagon apologies, congressional handwringing, half-baked attempts at action and nibble-around-the-edges changes. Isn't it time that women and men who serve their country so nobly have a justice system that will serve them when they are victims of crime?

I agree. Congress should vote to remove the chain of command from these crises before year's end. Our servicemembers deserve no less.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, after consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 644, S. 2992, the Military Justice Improvement Act, that there be up to 1 hour equally divided between the proponents and opponents of the bill prior to a vote on passage of the bill; that the vote on passage be subject to a 60-affirmative vote threshold; finally, that there be no amendments, points of order, or motions in order to the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. INHOFE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I think it might be appropriate for the ranking member of the appropriate personnel subcommittee to be heard on this. In

my opinion, he is the most knowledgeable person on this subject at this time, and that would be Senator GRAHAM.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. I join in the objection with Senator INHOFE. I appreciate what Senators INHOFE and LEVIN have done over the last couple of years, working in a bipartisan fashion, to make sure we deal with a problem in the military that is a problem in society, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and to set a zero-tolerance policy, but at the same time keep the military in a position to defend this country.

What can we say about our military? We heard Senator GILLIBRAND's view. My view is that this is the finest military in the world—great people. But within that construct, you have people doing things that are criminal, wrong. But is it any different in the military than it is anywhere else?

My argument is this is a societal problem, and in the military it is a problem that is being addressed in, I think, a very aggressive fashion. Contrary to what the Senator from New York offers the Senate, I like where we are headed.

In March, we rejected her approach. Her approach was to fire every commander and replace the commander with a bunch of military lawyers to make decisions not just about sexual assault but about aspects of military life far beyond that.

I know the Presiding Officer has been a military commander, and barracks theft is a very big deal in the military. When you are in the military and you find out someone has stolen from another member of the unit, and you are all living together on top of each other, side by side, that is a very big deal, and the commander responsible for that unit needs to make sure something happens fairly.

The last matter I will ever agree to is the following: Sir, or ma'am—this is the first sergeant going to the commander—last night we think there may have been a rape in the barracks, and the commander says, well, that is no longer my problem, send that over to the lawyers. What a terrible thing to do to a military unit. The commander needs more accountability, not less. The commander is the person whom we choose to send people to war.

It is odd, to me, that we will give the commanders of the American military the power of life-and-death decisions, but somehow they are so morally corrupt or incapable of rendering justice in a situation such as this.

All I can say is that I respect the passion of the people who are behind this to a point, but you are going too far. Members on the other side of the aisle have been threatened with money being cut off if they vote against this idea. This is no longer about reforming a system, this is a political cause going out of control.

In my view, the good thing about the Armed Services Committee is that we have always been able, for the most part, to work out problems that affect our military.

And I say to Senator LEVIN, through the Chair, above all others, I appreciate my colleague's maturity and leadership to make sure we get the right answer. The right answer is to purge the military of the heinous crime of sexual assault, sexual harassment, clean up this mess, but do not destroy the structure that makes it the finest military on the planet, and we are well on our way.

Senator GILLIBRAND's bill last year did not make it through the Senate, but another bill did. Senator AYOTTE, Senator MCCASKILL, Senator FISCHER, along with the chairman, and others, came up with a reform package that I think was passed unanimously last March.

What do we now know from the recent report? You would have to have such a bias about your view to believe that this report doesn't show progress. By any objective measurement, the reforms we have been working on in a bipartisan fashion are beginning to bear fruit.

I will give an example of some of those reforms. Every victim of a sexual assault or of sexual harassment allegations in the military is to be assigned an individual lawyer—a judge advocate—to represent their interests.

I don't know about other States, but in South Carolina, we are miles away from that. The goal of the Senators that I have just mentioned, and myself, is to make sure that the military is the most victim-friendly legal system in America, but a person can still get a fair trial. That should be the goal of all of us, to ensure that every victim has a lawyer.

I have been a judge advocate for 32 years now. I have thought long and hard of the times that I have known a lawyer in the legal community recommend to the commander: Go forward on a sexual assault case, and the commander says no. There is literally a handful, or less, that I can think of. However, I do know that there are a lot more cases where the lawyer says: Sir, or ma'am, we don't think we have enough here to prove this beyond a reasonable doubt, and the commander will say: Go for it anyway. I want to make sure we air this out. That is the most common use of a commander's discretion vis-à-vis their lawyer.

But to those who are worried about making sure the commanders and lawyers understand where we are coming from, we made a wholesale change of how they report and dispose of these cases. If a judge advocate recommends to the military commander in question to go forward and the commander says no, that commander's decision to say no is reviewed by the Secretary of the Service. In my case, it is the Secretary of the Air Force. If an Air Force commander is given legal advice by their JAG, informing us that we have a good case in the area of sexual assault, and the commander says no, it goes all the way up to the Secretary of the Air Force. As anybody who has ever been in the military knows, that is a very big deal. That is the ultimate sign that we expect people to treat these allegations seriously.

If the JAG and the commander say no to the prosecution, it goes to the next step in the chain of command. What did this report say—and I will let Senator LEVIN detail some of the results. The big takeaway is that more people are coming forward, which is a good thing. More people are telling us they feel better able to come forward because the system is more understanding. The lawyer who has been provided to the victim has been received very well.

The number of reports, restricted reports—where a victim says, I am going to tell you about what happened to me, but I don't want to go through the process of prosecuting somebody because I don't want to go through that process myself—that are now unrestricted has gone up fairly dramatically, meaning that the victim believes there will be somebody there helping them through the system.

Retaliation is a problem all over society. I don't know of any law in South Carolina that makes it a specific crime in the eyes of the victim to retaliate against bringing an allegation forward.

Under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, it is a crime to retaliate against someone making an assault complaint. The retaliation portion of the report—where 62 percent felt retaliation—mostly came from peer, lower level members of the unit, not the commander.

Here is what I would say: Once the commander goes forward and gives his blessing to the allegation, retaliation is going to be less likely because it was the commander who made the decision in that unit and not a far-off lawyer.

I will now turn this over to Senators INHOFE and LEVIN.

There are so many more reforms that are paying dividends. So many of them have not even started yet.

I have to say we are on the right track. Let's give this a chance. We are taking this seriously. The military is responding in a positive fashion and now is not the time to retreat from these reforms. I do believe what we have done today will help us tomorrow, and our goal is common—to eliminate the scourge of sexual assault and sexual harassment, but keep the military command structure the way it is because it is necessary to hold our commanders more accountable.

I will end with this thought. There is no problem in the military that can be solved without commander buy-in. That is the role of the commander. To everybody who wonders about what is going on in the military legal community, this colonel who feels put upon—if I am the head of the subcommittee—will get a chance to come to our committee with Senator GILLIBRAND and

myself, if I am there, to give an accounting of what they think went wrong with the system and how they were treated, and the Air Force will be required to respond.

Every judge advocate of every branch of the service opposes the Gillibrand approach. Every commander and every member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff oppose what Senator GILLIBRAND is proposing, for very good reason. Give these reforms a chance.

To all of those who worked on this, congratulations. We are moving in the right direction, but we have a long way to go.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. We are going to vote soon on cloture on—by the way, I understand there was an objection to the unanimous consent request by Senator GILLIBRAND.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. LEVIN. It is an objection which I join. I understand she wishes to respond for 1 minute. I have no objection, as long as we can really do it in 1 minute because I would like to close the debate prior to the vote on cloture. My friend from Oklahoma, the ranking member, also wants to make a comment.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. I ask for 1 minute.

Mr. LEVIN. I will yield for 1 minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. I wish to clarify a few things that are very misleading about this debate.

First of all, we are not making commanders less responsible. They are the only ones who can prevent retaliation from happening, whether it is by them or lower ranks, and they are failing in that right now. The only difference this bill makes is that 3 percent of commanders—the highest ranking commanders, generals—will no longer make this decision, but instead trained military prosecutors should make that decision. Ninety-seven percent of commanders' jobs do not change. They have to train their forces, bring them into battle, instill order and discipline, and make sure these victims are not retaliated against, and that is where they are failing. We are making commanders more responsible, not less responsible.

What I want is not the most victim-friendly place in the world. I want no victims, and that is where we are failing.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. We are going to vote on cloture on H.R. 3979 soon, which represents the agreement between the Armed Services Committees of the Senate and the House on the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

I urge my colleagues—I know my good friend from Oklahoma, the ranking member, joins in this urging—to support cloture so we can enact this important bill into law.

The Armed Services Committee approved the defense authorization bill by a 25-to-1 vote in May.

In June, Senator INHOFE and I came to the Senate floor to urge Senators to begin to file amendments to the bill so we could work on a package of cleared amendments and try to identify relevant amendments that would need votes. We made the same request in July.

When our efforts failed to bring about a unanimous consent to bring the committee-reported bill to the floor with an opportunity to offer relevant amendments, we began to meet with the House Armed Services Committee in an effort to reach a bipartisan agreement that could be presented to the two Houses for approval in the form of a new bill.

We also established an informal clearing process pursuant to which we were able to clear 44 Senate amendments—roughly an equal number of Democratic and Republican amendments—which are included in the bill that is now before us. The process is far from ideal, but it was the best we could do under the circumstances.

We now have before us a bill that is the product of a bipartisan, bicameral agreement between the Armed Services Committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The House has already passed this bill by a vote of 300 to 119.

This bill includes hundreds of important provisions to authorize the activities of the Department of Defense and provide for the well-being of our men and women in uniform and their families. The bill will enable the military services to continue paying special pays and bonuses needed for recruitment and retention of key personnel. It strengthens survivor benefits for disabled children of servicemembers and retirees. It includes provisions addressing the employment of military spouses, job placement for veterans, and military child custody disputes. It addresses military hazing, military suicides, post-traumatic stress disorder, and mental health problems in the military. It provides continued impact aid to support military families and local school districts.

The bill includes 20 provisions to continue to build on the progress we are starting to make in addressing the scourge of sexual assault in the military. It provides continued funding and authorities for ongoing operations in Afghanistan and for our forces conducting operations against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria—ISIS. It takes important steps to respond to Russian aggression in Ukraine. It adds hundreds of millions of dollars in funding to begin to restore the readiness of our Armed Forces. And it begins to make some of the structural changes that are needed to enable DOD to perform its essential missions in an era of tight budgets.

The process may have been flawed, but we have done everything we could to overcome those flaws and produce a defense bill that does the right thing for the national defense and for our troops.

I urge my colleagues to vote for cloture on the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

We have produced a defense bill that does the right thing for our national defense and for our troops. I hope our colleagues will vote for cloture. I hope I have a minute left to yield to the ranking member.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. I know we are out of time. The vote is going to take place in 1 minute and we all appreciate that.

I will repeat what I think is most significant: We have to pass this bill. The House is going to go home. There is no way of making any changes at this point. It has to pass. If it doesn't pass, when December 31 gets here, there will be 1.8 million enlisted personnel throughout the country at all of our establishments who are going to lose their benefits. I am talking about pilots' pay, flight pay. I am talking about the SEALS who have extraordinary duties and all the rest of them. These benefits will be taken away from our enlisted personnel if we don't pass this bill. In order to pass this bill, we have to pass this procedural vote that will take place right now.

So I encourage everyone to keep in mind, if my colleagues truly want to help our enlisted personnel, they have to have this bill and this bill has to pass now.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3979.

Harry Reid, Carl Levin, Brian Schatz, Martin Heinrich, John E. Walsh, Patty Murray, Jack Reed, Tom Udall, Sheldon Whitehouse, Amy Klobuchar, Christopher A. Coons, Debbie Stabenow, Robert Menendez, Tom Harkin, Richard J. Durbin, Charles E. Schumer, Robert P. Casey, Jr.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3979 shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 85, nays 14, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 322 Leg.]

YEAS—85

Alexander	Graham	Murphy
Ayotte	Grassley	Murray
Baldwin	Hagan	Nelson
Barrasso	Hatch	Portman
Begich	Heinrich	Pryor
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Heller	Reid
Blunt	Hirono	Roberts
Booker	Hoeven	Rockefeller
Boozman	Inhofe	Schatz
Boxer	Isakson	Schumer
Brown	Johanns	Scott
Burr	Johnson (SD)	Sessions
Cantwell	Johnson (WI)	Shaheen
Cardin	Kaine	Shelby
Carper	King	Stabenow
Casey	Kirk	Tester
Chambliss	Klobuchar	Thune
Coats	Landrieu	Toomey
Cochran	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Collins	Levin	Udall (NM)
Coons	Manchin	Vitter
Donnelly	Markey	Walsh
Durbin	McCain	Warner
Enzi	McCaskill	Warren
Feinstein	McConnell	Whitehouse
Fischer	Menendez	Wicker
Flake	Mikulski	
Franken	Murkowski	

NAYS—14

Coburn	Gillibrand	Risch
Corker	Lee	Rubio
Cornyn	Merkley	Sanders
Crapo	Moran	Wyden
Cruz	Paul	

NOT VOTING—1

Harkin

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 85, the nays are 14.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Cloture having been invoked, the motion to refer falls as being inconsistent with cloture.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, following in the traditions of the Senate, I come to the floor to speak about my experience in the Senate. Unfortunately, this will not be the last time I speak, much to the chagrin of many of you, as I have some adamant opposition to some of the things we are doing.

But I nevertheless will try to put in context some of my feelings and thoughts about the great privilege that has been granted to me by the people of Oklahoma. We hear a lot of speeches in this place. As Members who are elected, it gets reflected on us, but nothing could be further from the truth. Because the things that really make this place operate are the people who work with us, the people who support us, the people who help guide us, the people behind the scenes who are both brilliant and committed and dedicated to the founding principles of this country.

We all have them working for us. Yet they are rarely recognized. So whether our accomplishments are big or small, those accomplishments come through the work, efforts, and labors of those who join with us as we come here to try to make a difference. So I first wanted to say there are a lot of people I need to say thank you to; from our Parliamentarian Elizabeth to all of the staff who work in the Senate, to the people who work at GAO, wonderful people, CRS, the IGs, legislative counsel—they have written thousands, I mean literally thousands of amendments for me. They probably are going to have some real mixed feelings about my departure. Then I have personal staff, one of whom—all tremendous—but one of whom I found to be a phenomenal, brilliant person. His name is Roland Foster. There is not anything he has ever forgotten. You can ask him anything. He will find it. He knows it. So I mention him. I have hundreds of others whom I could equally speak about, from my former chief of staff Mike Schwartz, who passed away from Lou Gehrig's disease, to those in my office and staff who each knows what a difference they make—they did—the cloakroom staff and the help we get from Laura Dove and David Schiappa and Mr. Duncan on our side—same on the opposite side. We are only able to function because of all of the people who enable us to do that. So with those thank-yous, I actually wanted to move to a different topic. The topic is believing in our country. I tell people wherever I go: We do not have one problem we cannot solve. There is nothing too big for us. They are all solvable.

To prove that is my chairman, TOM CARPER, on homeland security. He has been a phenomenal chairman. He is not in my party. We do not agree on everything, but the one thing we agreed on was that we were going to work together to solve problems. We have. We did not solve them all, but I would suggest if we look at what has come through this place, even in this dysfunctional place at this time, we will see more coming out under his leadership than any other pieces of legislation. Why is that? It is because the focus was not about him, it was not about me, it was about solving the problems of our country.

To those of you through the years whom I have offended, I truly apologize. I think none of that was intended because I actually see things differently. You see, I believe our Founders were absolutely brilliant, far smarter than we are. I believe the enumerated powers meant something. They were meant to protect us against what history says always happens to a Republic. They have all died. They have all died.

So the question is, What will happen with us? Can we cheat history? Can we do something better than was done in the past? I honestly believe we can, but I do not believe we can if we continue to ignore the wisdom of our founding documents. So when I have offended, I believe it has been on the basis of my belief in article I, section 8. I think we can stuff that genie back into the bottle.

E pluribus unum. ''Out of many, one.'' But you do not have one unless you have guaranteed the liberty of the many. When we ignore what the Constitution gave us as a guideline, to protect the individual liberties, to limit the size and scope of the Federal Government so the benefits of freedom and liberty can be expressed all across this land, that is when we get back to solving our problems.

I think about my father—he had a fifth-grade education—a great believer in our country. He would not recognize it today. The loss of freedom we have imposed by the arrogance of an all-too-powerful Federal Government, ignoring the wisdom and writing of our Founders that said: Above all, we must protect the liberty of the individual and recognize that liberty is given as a God-given right.

So my criticism isn't directed personally, it is because I truly believe that freedom gains us more than anything we can plan here. I know not everybody agrees with me, but the one thing I do know is that our Founders agreed with me.

They had studied this process before. They know what happens when you dominate from a central government. This didn't mean intentions are bad; the intentions are great. The motivations of people in this body are wonderful, but the perspective on how we do it and what the long-term consequences are of how we do it really do matter.

We see ourselves today with a President whom we need to be supporting and praying for, with an economy that is not doing what it could be doing, and we need to be asking the question, Why? Is there a fundamental reason? And there is.

We are too much involved in the decisionmaking in the economy in this country that inhibits the flow of capital to the best return, which inhibits the growth of wealth, which leaves us at a standard of living the same as what we had in 1988. That is where we are, yet it doesn't have to be that way.

I am going to read some words we have all heard before, but they are worth rereading.

WE hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights . . .

All of us.

. . . that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness—

I look at legislation and say how does that have an impact on those two things, and too often it has a negative impact.

. . . That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving

their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the right of the People to alter or abolish it.

I don't know where we are on that continuum, but I know we are not where we were intended to be in the vision of our Founders, and we are suffering, no matter where you are in the country, as a consequence.

We established the Constitution to try to protect those rights and to delineate those rights. We put in the limitation of the government and outlined the rights of each individual citizen upon which the government shall not infringe. Yet what comes out of this body and this Congress every day, to my chagrin, infringes those guaranteed rights.

Every Member of the Senate takes the same oath and this is where I differ with a lot of colleagues. Let me read the oath, because I think it is part of the problem.

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God.

Your State isn't mentioned one time in that oath. Your whole goal is to protect the United States of America, its Constitution and its liberties. It is not to provide benefits for your State. That is where we differ. That is where my conflict with my colleagues has come. It is nice to be able to do things for your State, but that isn't our charge. Our charge is to protect the future of our country by upholding the Constitution and ensuring the liberty that is guaranteed there is protected and preserved.

The magic number in the Senate is not 60, the number of Senators needed to end debate, and it is not 51, a majority. The most important number in the Senate is one—one Senator. That is how it was set up. That is how our Founders designed it, and with that comes tremendous amounts of responsibility, because the Senate has a set of rules or at least that gives each individual Member the power needed to advance, change, or stop legislation. That is a tool that has to be mentored and refined and wise in its application.

Most of the bills that pass the Senate never receive a vote. We all know that. It is a vast majority of the bills. They are approved by unanimous consent. It only takes a single Senator to withhold consent to stop most legislation.

There are many other rules and procedures a Member can use. They are often referred to as arcane, but that is only because they are rarely used. They are not arcane. They were designed to protect liberty, to secure liberty, to make sure that we don't all follow history and fail.

Every Senator has the power to introduce legislation and, until recently, offer amendments.

No single Senator should be allowed to decide what the rights of another Senator should be. That is tyranny. It has nothing to do with the history and classics of the Senate.

To exercise the rights we have been entrusted with, we must respect the rights of others. That is the true power of our Constitution. That is also the true power of the Senate. It is what binds our Nation together, and it is what is needed to make the Senate work properly again.

The Senate was designed uniquely to force compromise, not to force gridlock—to force compromise. One Senator had the power to stop everything for the first 100 years, but it didn't because compromise was the goal.

Our Founders understood there were many differences between the States—in size, geography, economy, and opinions. They united the States as one country based upon the premise that the many are more powerful than the one. As Senators, we have to follow this example. I have not always done that; I admit that freely to you. I should have. As Senators, we must follow the example, stand for our principles, but working to find those areas of agreement where compromise can be found to unite and move our country forward. My colleague Senator CARPER has my admiration because he has worked tirelessly the past 2 years to try to accomplish that.

Not all of the powers of the Senators are exercised on the Senate floor. Each Member of the Senate has a unique role to participate and practice oversight, to hold the government accountable, and that is part of our duties, except most often that is the part of our duties that is most ignored.

To know how to reach a destination, you must first know where you are, and without oversight—effective, vigorous oversight—you will never solve anything. You cannot write a bill to fix an agency unless you have an understanding of the problem, and you can only know this by conducting oversight, asking the tough questions, holding the bureaucrats accountable, find out what works and what doesn't, and know what has already been done.

Effective oversight is an effective tool to expose government overreach and wasteful spending, but it also markedly exposes where we lose our liberty and our essential freedoms.

I have had some fun through the years, taken some criticism for the waste vote—and it is opinion, I agree. Everybody who has seen the waste book has a great defense of why it is there. But the real question is will we become efficient at how we spend the money of the American people? This is a big enterprise. There is no other enterprise anywhere close to it in size in the world. It is not manageable unless we all try to agree to manage it and have the knowledge of it.

I think there ought to be 535 Wastebooks every year, and then we ought to have the debate about where we are not spending money wisely and have the information at our fingertips so we make great decisions because, quite frankly, we don't make great decisions because we don't have the knowledge. Then what knowledge we do have we transfer to a bureaucracy to make decisions about it when we should have been guiding those things.

True debates about national priorities would come about if we did effective oversight. It is the Senate, once hailed as the world's greatest deliberative body, where these differences should be argued. Our differences should be resolved through civil discourse so they are not settled in the street.

Just as the Constitution provides for majority rule and our democracy while protecting the rights of the individual, the Senate must return to the principles to bring trust of the electorate, and it can. Our Founders believed that protecting the minority views and minority rights in the Senate was essential to having a bicameral legislature that would give us balance and not move too quickly against the very fundamental principles upon which this country was based—and not out of guessing, but out of thorough knowledge of what had happened in the past. We have to be very careful to guard both minority rights and the rule of law.

There is no one who works in the Senate who is insignificant, whether it is the people who serve us when we have lunch, to the highest of the high. They all deserve our ear. Each of us has value.

I would end with one final comment. The greatest power I have not used as a Senator, which I would encourage you to use in the future, is the power of convening. You have tremendous power to pull people together because of your position.

To convene the opposite opinions—CHUCK SCHUMER has been great at that for me. When we have a difference, he wants to get together, convene, and see how we work. That power is the power that causes us to compromise, to come together, to reach consensus. So my encouragement to you is to rethink the utilization of the power of convening. People will come to you if you ask them to come.

Again, I end by saying a great thank you to my family for their sacrifice, a great thank you to the wonderful staff I have, and a thank you to each of you for the privilege of having been able to work for a better country for us all.

I yield the floor.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

TRIBUTES TO TOM COBURN

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, we have all just heard a very moving, a very inspirational and what I considered a motivational speech from our dear friend TOM COBURN.

Twenty years ago, in 1994, there were a bunch of wild and crazy folks who got elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. The Republicans took the majority for the first time in 42 years. They ran on a Contract with America and were led by a group of firebrand leaders. TOM COBURN was in that group of folks who got elected in 1994 to the U.S. House. I was in that group. Senator GRAHAM was in that group. Senator BURR was in that group. Senator WICKER was in that group.

There were a few Members of that class who became known as real bomb throwers. TOM COBURN was a bomb thrower. TOM COBURN would object for the sake of objecting to anything that was going on. It didn't make any difference which side of the aisle it was coming from. But let me tell you, TOM COBURN matured into a class act, No. 1, which he always was; and No. 2, he matured into a legislator second to none.

TOM did not hesitate to object to any spending bill that came from either party if TOM COBURN believed that was not provided for in the Constitution and was something the U.S. taxpayer should not be paying for. There is nobody who has guarded the pocketbook of the taxpayers of the United States like TOM COBURN.

It is remarkable that those of us who were elected with TOM have had the opportunity to see him over the last 20 years take on major subjects that most veterans said, you know, in the end, we are going to prevail. But guess what. They never did. TOM COBURN, even though he may have lost a vote from time to time, in the end, TOM COBURN prevailed.

TOM is one tough guy too. He has been through a lot physically and, boy, what a survivor. I mean we think we have issues to deal with. None of us can imagine what TOM has gone through. When somebody comes up to me as I am walking through an airport—and they will have seen TOM COBURN on TV—and they say: What about this guy COBURN, there are two things that immediately come to mind when I think of TOM COBURN, family and faith.

First, family. TOM and Carolyn have had such a solid marriage. He tried to date her as an eighth grader and she wouldn't go out with him. But he kept pestering her long enough that she finally did and what a great marriage they have had. They have three beautiful daughters and a household of grandchildren whom he absolutely loves to death and likes to spend time with, as opposed to being here.

Secondly, TOM's faith. There is nobody I have ever met who has a stronger faith than TOM COBURN. He exhibits it on the floor, he exhibits it one-on-one, he exhibits it in the Prayer Breakfast every Wednesday morning. He is one person who has probably counseled more people in this body, on both sides of the aisle, than anybody other than the Chaplain.

On top of that, he is just a class act. He has been a dear friend. We have spent many hours on the road together, many hours on the golf course together and socializing together. There is no finer individual who ever served in the Senate than TOM COBURN. He is one of the things I am truly going to miss about leaving here. But actually, as we have already talked, we will probably now spend more time together than ever since both of us are retiring.

But, TOM, to you, I thank you for that great friendship but also thank you for what you have done for my children and my grandchildren. You are a great American and you have served this country well.

God bless you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, along with many of my other colleagues, I pay tribute to one of the most decent and principled men I have ever met, Senator TOM COBURN.

Washington is going to miss TOM, but the irony of that is TOM really can't stand Washington. When he first got here, the feeling appeared to be mutual. Some just didn't know what to make of this doctor from Oklahoma—so frequently on the losing end of lopsided votes, so often pressing ahead on his own and never giving up. That was apparent from his days in the House, when we hear he led the only ''filibuster'' in the House anybody can ever remember. He may have placed more holds than any equivalent Senator in history. He apparently held his own bill once.

Fast forward to today. The pundit class has declared TOM COBURN a card-carrying member of the establishment. The rebel who once described himself as a kamikaze pilot has now been branded, incredibly, with a scarlet ''E'' right on his forehead. It may seem contradictory, but TOM always fought smart battles—the kind you might lose today but win later—and he forged an amazing bond with the people he represents. For TOM that meant spending as much time away from Washington as possible and making himself available when he was home.

TOM published his address, and Oklahomans were never shy about coming over to share their opinions. TOM was never shy about sharing how he felt either. He believed his constituents deserved the truth. He gave it to them absolutely unvarnished, but he did it in a respectful way.

It reminds me of the two posters he has framed on either side of his desk. One says: ''NO,'' N–O. The other says ''KNOW,'' K-N-O-W. That is TOM in a nutshell. It is why TOM has made so many friends on both sides of the aisle. It is why you can't flip on MSNBC most mornings without seeing him.

I think TOM actually prefers these settings. It is a challenge he relishes. Not only is TOM confident enough to tangle with anyone, he usually wins, and he rarely—rarely—makes lasting enemies. It is a trait that has served him well, particularly at the beginning of his career.

TOM first came to Washington representing a district that was heavily Democratic. He won a close race that year. I am told he also gained a friend, and that friend was the Democrat he defeated. His opponent's grandson actually ended up joining TOM's staff, which obviously is a great honor.

But it is no picnic being on TOM's staff. TOM works his staff hard. It is difficult even to take a sick day over there. TOM has always got the stethoscope nearby. If the doctor is in, so are you. Yet the people on TOM's team seem to love him. ''Once a member of COBURN's family, always a member.'' That is their motto.

It doesn't mean they love everything about him. Take his handwriting; it is just what you would expect from a guy named Dr. COBURN. It is absolutely awful—a mix of chicken scratch, hieroglyphics, and vocab from the extra credit section of an MCAT.

Back in the 1990s one staffer made the mistake of letting TOM take a yellow highlighter back to Oklahoma. TOM spent the entire weekend marking up a massive bill. There were handwritten notes and questions in nearly every margin. It took literally days to decipher any of it. It was like something out of a Dan Brown novel. Needless to say, an office ban on yellow highlighters was quickly implemented.

So the legacy of TOM's former profession gets him in trouble sometimes, but it remains the job he enjoyed most: helping to deliver new lives into the world. It brings a unique perspective to TOM's work in the Senate. It instilled a lasting appreciation for life too.

Even though TOM has stopped delivering babies these days, he still travels back to Oklahoma a lot. There is nowhere he would rather be than his hometown of Muskogee, and there is almost nothing he would rather be doing there than mowing his lawn or eating a sandwich at his favorite barbecue joint or sipping a cold Coors with olives. He prefers these things over almost anything else, except spending time with his grandkids and of course his wife Carolyn.

TOM has known Carolyn since grade school. She has always been the one to keep him balanced and grounded. She doesn't care that he is a Senator. She frequently reminds him of that too.

Carolyn is also the reason TOM is such good friends with President Obama. Both men came to the Senate the same year. At freshman orientation, Carolyn spotted Michelle Obama from across the room. ''She looks like fun,'' Carolyn said. ''Let's sit next to her.'' The rest, as they say, is history, and it is also remarkable. Because when TOM announced his retirement, warm sentiments poured in from across the political spectrum. It was a day—listen to this—when Barack Obama and Jim DeMint found something to agree on. It must have brought some joy to TOM at such a difficult time.

As he departs the Senate, TOM will leave one battle behind to confront another. We are sending him every best

wish in that fight. We are keeping him in our prayers. We know he will prevail, but he is really going to be missed around here. He is just the type of citizen legislator our Founders envisioned.

TOM has poured over more oversight documents than anyone cares to imagine. His ''Wastebook'' has become an annual phenomenon. It helps drive the conversation on spending. He has led on issues like HIV and malaria.

The Senate will lose a critical leader on intelligence oversight when he leaves. TOM played an invaluable role on the Intelligence Committee, where he brought a unique blend of integrity, analytical rigor, and dogged determination. He served our Nation selflessly, toiling for hours every week in a secure hearing room, learning many sensitive matters he could not discuss with others.

He worked closely with another extraordinary departing colleague, Vice Chair SAXBY CHAMBLISS, to ensure that our Nation's intelligence community retains the tools necessary to defend our country.

If anyone thinks our Nation's classified programs aren't overseen rigorously, they certainly haven't met TOM COBURN. He brought a skeptic's eye and a professional determination to the task. His probing lines of questioning earned the respect of his colleagues and helped the intelligence community craft stronger programs, while also reminding us of the value of many other intelligence activities.

Now, TOM has obviously done a lot to earn his reputation as a hawk on the budget, too. His interest there was never about the baubles of office. It is about solutions. That is why TOM actually volunteered for Simpson-Bowles. That is why he lobbied me to actually take him off—believe it or not—of the Finance Committee.

You always know where TOM stands. I am told he was overseas with a couple of other Senators when a government minister launched into a finger-wagging harangue about our country. TOM couldn't take it after he listened for a few minutes. He cut him off, told the minister what he thought of him, and caught the next flight home. So TOM is literally one of a kind. We are not likely to see another one like this guy.

Here is what former Senator Kyl had to say about him:

> Tom's like your conscience. You can try to ignore him, but you know he's right even when you wish he weren't.

Some people may think TOM is a member of the establishment now, but the truth is TOM never changed. Washington changed. America changed.

People recognize the wisdom of his ideas—about leaving a better country to the next generation, about giving Americans the freedom and the opportunity to achieve real meaning and lasting happiness in their lives.

We are going to miss the Senator who actually likes to get his hands dirty, who actually likes to legislate. We are going to miss the Senator who is so devoted to procedure that he sleeps next to Marty Gold's book, and we are going to miss a friend who understands that honest compromise is necessary to achieve anything in a pluralistic society. We are all going to miss TOM a lot. But he can retire with pride, and he should know that we are sending him our best wishes for a speedy recovery and a joyful retirement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I was not at all surprised as I listened to the words of our colleague Senator TOM COBURN that he quoted extensively from the Declaration of Independence and he referred to our Constitution—the founding documents of our great country.

When America's Founders conceived of a nation of citizen legislators, they had leaders like Senator TOM COBURN in mind. Indeed, throughout his service in Congress, he has remained a compassionate physician, a devoted husband and father, a fierce defender of the rights enshrined in our Constitution, and an unwavering opponent of excessive spending.

Senator COBURN may be best known as our most diligent fiscal watchdog, relentlessly hounding wasteful spending. His annual ''Wastebook'' report is a call for transparency and accountability in the Federal Government that has guided oversight investigations and policy debates.

The aspect of his service in the Senate that deserves just as much acclaim is his work on the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and the Select Committee on Intelligence. Serving with Senator COBURN on both of those committees for many years, I have seen firsthand his brilliance, his tenacity, and his determination to strengthen our Nation and the safety of our people. He has a keen understanding of the grave and ever-evolving threats that our Nation faces.

As a citizen legislator, Senator COBURN leads by example and with compassion. With his expertise as a physician, he has been a leader in promoting wellness, disease prevention, combatting HIV/AIDS, and advancing biomedical research. When it comes to fiscal responsibility, he walks the walk, having returned more than $1 million from his Senate office budget to the American taxpayers.

We have heard many descriptions of TOM COBURN today, but the word I most associate with him is ''integrity.'' He is a man of the utmost integrity, who always stands tall for his principles and for what he believes in. He sets an example for all of us who seek to serve the public.

On a personal note, I want to thank Senator COBURN for hounding me into joining a women's prayer breakfast that meets each week and has introduced me to a number of wonderful women from the House of Representatives who have become my close friends as well as colleagues. And I use the word ''hound'' appropriately. He mentioned it to me so many times that eventually I gave in and went to one of those breakfasts, and, indeed, it has been a spiritually enriching experience that I never would have had but for TOM continuing to press me to attend.

This past January Senator COBURN announced his intention to leave the Senate, due in part to his deepening health problems—problems he has faced with extraordinary courage. This somber news was counterbalanced by his overarching concern, not for himself, but for his family and for the people of his State and our Nation.

As he now returns to the life of a private citizen, I wish him every success in combatting his illness, and I thank him for his truly extraordinary service to our country. To quote from Scripture, I think everyone would agree with these words when it comes to TOM COBURN: ''Well done, good and faithful servant.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I have no prepared remarks. I am trying to speak right from my heart, and my heart is full.

I want to start off by thanking TOM for the very kind comments he made about serving with me. We met 10 years ago. He was that bomb thrower—still is a little bit—that SAXBY talked about when they were elected 20 years ago. I was one of the people who came up, along with LAMAR ALEXANDER, George Voinovich, and MARK PRYOR, for an orientation for new Senators so that when they got here we could actually spend some time and teach the new guys and gals the ropes.

I remember the first day we convened and put them all in a big circle in Ted Stevens' office, a beautiful office here in the Capitol, and out of those 3 days TOM and Carolyn and Michelle and Barack began to bond and became friends. I didn't know how close friends they were until about 4 or 5 years ago. Barack Obama had given the State of the Union address. I was sitting on the Republican side. There was a time when we actually went back and forth to try to mix things up. The President finished his speech, and there is no rope line at those speeches. The President came along to shake hands with people. I was sitting next to TOM, and we walked down so we could say hi to the President.

I will never forget what the President said to him. In just the quiet between the two of them—they embraced, and the President said to him: Are you still praying for me? And very quietly, TOM COBURN said: Every night.

Just like that—they didn't agree on everything, but they were friends. They are friends, and they will always be friends. I hope TOM and I will be as well.

I remember sitting up there where CORY BOOKER, our new Senator from

New Jersey, is sitting now, listening to MIKE ENZI talking about how he worked so well with Ted Kennedy—Ted Kennedy, one of the most liberal Democrats in the Senate, and MIKE ENZI, one of the most conservative—and how they got extraordinary amounts of stuff done.

I just want to say that the legislation coming out of our committee—and Senator COLLINS has led that committee before—is moving through this body and the House—it is really pretty amazing—to strengthen our cyber defenses, to take the chemical facility antiterrorism law that SUSAN COLLINS authored and to make it better and make it real, to better protect our Nation's information from attacks from all over the world, to try to make our Postal Service not just relevant and not just hanging on but actually vibrant and real.

But that day, MIKE ENZI talked about the 80/20 rule with Ted Kennedy. He said: Ted Kennedy and I agree on about 80 percent of the stuff, and we disagree on 20 percent. He and I decided to focus on the 80 percent we agreed on and set aside the 20 percent we didn't agree on to another day.

I call that the ''Enzi Rule,'' and that has helped guide me here in the Senate, and it certainly has helped to guide me in the work I have been privileged to do with Dr. COBURN.

When I became chairman of the committee about 2 years ago and Dr. COBURN was going to be the ranking member of the committee, somebody asked me what it was going to be like. How are you going to work with this guy?

I said: It is going to be a little like a marriage. You have to work at it every day. Everybody has to give and meet somewhere in the middle.

I love to ask people who have been married a long time what the secret is for being married a long time. Some of you have maybe heard me talk about this. I get some really hilarious answers but also some really terrific and insightful answers.

I think the best one I have ever gotten when I asked what is the secret for being married 40, 50, 60, 70 years is the two c's. It is not COBURN and CARPER. It is the two c's: communicate and compromise. That is not only the secret for a vibrant, long marriage for two people; it is a secret for a vibrant democracy.

I believe the reason why TOM and I have had this partnership that I think has been productive is, one, we surround ourselves with people—certainly for me—smarter than us. The second thing is we believe in communicating, we believe in compromising, and we believe in collaborating. I think the American people are the beneficiaries of that.

We have a reception later today for TOM, and I hope he comes. We will have the opportunity to say some more things, as well. He is not the kind of person who likes to be praised, so this is probably punishment. There is a verse in the Scriptures talking about heaping with praise, pouring praise all over. This is probably a little like that. But I want to close with this. His words on the Bowles-Simpson Commission are for the ages, and I hope we will never walk away from the lessons he showed us with his courage in supporting that work and helping to craft that work.

There are words in the Scriptures, in Matthew 25, that talk about the least of these in our society. When I was sick, when I was hungry, when I was thirsty, when I was naked, when I was in prison—those are the questions. The answer: If you have done it to the least of these, you have done it also to Me.

Senator COBURN believes we have a moral responsibility, a moral obligation to the least of these in our society. He also believes we have a fiscal obligation, a fiscal imperative to meet that moral obligation in a fiscally responsible way. And I think those two ideas guide him in his work, and, frankly, it is an inspiration to me.

Last word. Leaders should be humble, not haughty. Leaders should lead by our example, not ''do as I say'' but ''do as I do.'' Leaders should have the heart of a servant. Leaders should have the courage to stay out of step when everyone else is marching to the wrong tune. Leaders ought to be committed to doing what is right, not what is easy. Leaders should treat other people the way they want to be treated. TOM has offended just about everybody in this body, but he always comes back and apologizes, and he has already done it here today. Leaders should focus on excellence in everything they do. If it isn't perfect, make it better. It is in the preamble of the Constitution—''in order to form a more perfect Union.'' That defines him. Finally, if you think you are right and you know you are right, never give up. That is what a leader should be about.

For the years he served here and for a long time before that and for a long time to come, he has been that leader, and I feel lucky to say he is my friend.

God bless you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I feel surrounded by friends and colleagues who are getting ready to leave, and being part of that original class 20 years ago, there is one thing that I have learned is extremely unique in Washington. I am next to two people who are voluntarily leaving. The toughest decision a Member of Congress ever makes is to leave this institution voluntarily. And I know that for my two friends and my third one, MIKE JOHANNS, this was not easy. It is not easy to stand here and know that in January they are not going to be here any longer, because they are truly friends, and that is tough.

To say that TOM COBURN can be intimidating I think is an understatement, and I think that comes because his breadth of knowledge based upon his experiences in life enable him to be an expert on a lot of issues.

With that in mind, I remember the day TOM sat down—we were leaving that week, and I said: What are you going to do this weekend? And he said: Well, Sarah's future fiance is coming to sit down with me to find out whether he can marry my daughter. And I looked at him and thought, I would hate to be that young man.

Well, the truth is that TOM is a very intimidating guy. He plays hard, and he plays to win.

There is not an individual I know who is more fair and more compassionate than TOM COBURN. I remember the day the Bush administration wanted to extend the PEPFAR Program—the AIDS in Africa program—and when TOM found out that they were going to relax the requirement on how many people were treated and that more money would go to education than to actually saving lives, he grabbed me and he said, ''We can't let this stand. We've got to fight it. We've got to change it.'' And it was TOM COBURN who blocked the reauthorization of President Bush's PEPFAR plan for 6 months—a Republican President, a Republican Senator. Why? On principle.

TOM COBURN, if you didn't know it before this speech today, has never done anything in this institution or in life that wasn't based upon principle. No Member of Congress should ever question whether he thinks he is right because if he didn't think he was right, he wouldn't fight so hard.

It is particularly difficult for me to say goodbye to TOM. We truly are legislative partners. We fought a lot of battles for a long time, and inherently we have a level of trust in each other that I would actually sign on to legislation that I had no idea what it did; I just knew that in that foxhole he needed somebody he could count on, and I knew when he signed on to something that I needed, that there was always somebody there to cover my back.

The institution is losing something significant when we no longer have that legislative expertise TOM COBURN represents.

There are a lot of descriptions that people have used today and that people will use in the future to describe TOM COBURN, but I would boil it down to two words that I think best describe him: TOM COBURN is a good man. In every sense of the word, he is a good man. This institution will lose a great leader when TOM COBURN retires.

Godspeed, TOM.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. I will be very brief. I know people are waiting to speak.

I guess it would surprise the world in general to know that TOM COBURN and I are true friends, but we are. He is a man of integrity above all.

You don't have to agree with someone—we probably disagree on 90 percent of all the issues—to trust someone's integrity, to trust someone's

handshake, to trust someone that if you make a good argument, understanding their values, they will come along. That is just what TOM COBURN has done time and time again with this Senator from New York and countless others on the other side of the aisle.

On so many issues where TOM was opposed, I said: Let's just sit down and let me give you the logic and then you will make your own judgment. And I knew that would be good enough. Sometimes it didn't work. Sometimes he disagreed. But he always sat and listened. He always asked perceptive questions, not ''gotcha'' questions. He was trying to figure it out.

Of course the most well known was when we negotiated on the Zadroga bill. Thousands of New Yorkers had rushed to the towers and gotten poison in their lungs and their gastrointestinal systems, and we wanted to help them. We thought they were just like our veterans. TOM knew it was a big expense. He sat with us, listened, made suggestions to make it leaner and trimmer, and then supported the bill. So right now there are people alive throughout the New York area, heroes, because of the integrity of that man from Oklahoma.

TOM, I will miss you. This body will miss you. Regardless of our ideological views and perceptions, we will miss you. You are a great American.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. First of all, there is not a whole lot that needs to be said that hasn't been said, but one thing I want to say to my dear friend TOM COBURN is that he made Washington happen for me, if you will. He made it more tolerable. I had a hard time in transitioning. TOM reached out. He saw that. We talked about this before, but TOM made this place more palatable.

TOM, you have expanded my area of friendships with more people than you know and the right type of people, and I appreciate it I think more than you even know.

I will end with this, and I don't mean to say a lot. I have been asked about TOM COBURN. How would I explain him? TOM COBURN's got soul. TOM COBURN's got soul. And I mean that from the bottom of my heart, brother. You have soul, and I thank you for what soul you brought to this place.

God bless.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. Fourteen years ago I entered the House of Representatives. I had been elected, but before I took office, I traveled to Washington, and MATT SALMON, the Congressman I was replacing, said: Is there anybody you want to meet? And I said: TOM COBURN. I had watched from afar what he had done on the Appropriations Committee and the stands he had taken, and I admired him. I went and visited with him in his office while he was packing up his stuff. I will never forget that. And I have to say that today I admire him even more than I did then, having watched him go back into the private sector and then enter the Senate.

Columnist George Will said TOM COBURN was the most dangerous creature that could come into the Senate. Why? Because he is simply uninterested in being popular. I think that is certainly true. But if he didn't care about it, it happened anyway. I have news for TOM. As you can see around, he has become popular. But one thing he never managed to achieve, if he sought it, was becoming partisan. When you hear those across the aisle lavish praise on this man, realize that was never one of his goals and never happened, much to his credit.

I thank you and your staff for your generosity over the years to me and my staff and for what you have done for this institution, for your colleagues, and for me personally.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I probably have known TOM for the least length of time of anybody in this Chamber, and I want to offer some comments from the perspective of only 2 years and really more like a year and a half since we became friends and colleagues.

I have seen Senator COBURN in two contexts—one is intelligence and the other is faith. He and I serve on the Intelligence Committee. We sit directly across from each other. That committee is generally a non partisan one, but it is also one where all the meetings generally are closed. There is no press. You can really take the measure of someone when they ask questions and participate in a debate in that forum.

His questions always struck me as the questions I wished I had asked, and they struck me as the questions I am sure the people of America would have wanted asked. They were penetrating, they cut through obfuscation, and they were always meaningful and helped us move toward the important work that committee has to accomplish.

I have also become acquainted with him through our faith and participation in the Wednesday Prayer Breakfasts, and more recently, for reasons that I am not entirely sure, he has invited me to join him on Tuesday evenings for dinners on the other side of the Capitol that have been very meaningful.

For the 9 years before I came here, I taught a course called ''Leaders and Leadership,'' and I taught it at a couple of colleges in Maine. I taught it really as much for myself as for my students because I wanted to try to understand what leadership was, and I thought if I signed on to teach it, I would have to learn something about it. Every year what we did was go through and discuss the stories of great leaders throughout history, some well known and some not so well known. We always started with Ernest Shackleton. We talked about Eleanor Roosevelt and Margaret Thatcher and Martin Luther King and Lincoln and Churchill. We always tried to define the qualities that make a leader, and there are lots of them—perseverance, communication, vision, team work, trust—but the last one on the list and the one that brings me back to TOM is always character. It is an indefinable quality. You cannot really put a specific definition to it, but people like Lincoln had it, Ernest Shackleton had it, Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain from Maine had it, Eleanor Roosevelt had it. It involves a combination of qualities that TOM embodies, and almost all of them have been mentioned here today—integrity, intelligence, honesty, faith, belief in principle, and daring to stand for principle. It is the hardest thing to teach, but it is the easiest thing to see. And the reason I felt so privileged to get to know this man for such a short period of time is that he has shown me what character is all about.

TOM, it is one of the great joys of my life to have had these 2 years to get to know you, if only slightly. It is one of the great sadnesses of my life that it has only been 2 years.

Godspeed, TOM. You have made a difference for this country that we all love and honor and respect. Thank you for your service and for sharing your great character with all of us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. I was elected in a special election 16 years ago. I was No. 435 in the House of Representatives, so I did what my father told me to do when I went into business. He said: Son, sit in the back of the room, listen to people who are smart, pay attention to them, and do what the smart people do.

After 2 weeks of listening to TOM COBURN, I said no human being could know as much about everything as this guy named COBURN. In 16 years, I have come to believe, yes, there is one who knows about everything he speaks of, and that is TOM COBURN.

Senator COBURN has been a great role model for me. The Senator from Oklahoma has taught me many great lessons, and I have learned a lot from him.

The greatest evangelists in life are those who witness their faith, and TOM COBURN is a true witness for his faith and has changed the lives of many people. I have enjoyed, as much as anything, our walk with faith at the Prayer Breakfasts, in private meetings, and what we have shared together.

Lastly, every Christmas I try to give my grandchildren who can read something to read as a little treasury to put in their book to save so that when they grow up, they can refer to great things and great historical statements that have been made. I doubt if there has ever been a better statement made on the floor of the Senate about our heritage, our country, our future, and our

hopes than TOM COBURN has said today. It will be required reading for my grandchildren this Christmas, and I can assure you that I am a better man for having served with TOM COBURN, the great Senator from the State of Oklahoma.

God bless you, TOM.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. The other Senator from Oklahoma.

I wish to make some unscripted comments, but sincere and from the heart. I hope I am accurate when I say this, that I think in some respect I discovered TOM COBURN. I suspect that TOM and I are the only two who have ever been to Adair, OK. I remember hearing that there was a conservative doctor from Muskogee. I remember calling him up at that time and asking him to run for the House of Representatives, which he did. He kept his commitments and did everything he was supposed to do. I always remember that day.

As Senator COBURN knows, we have a place my wife and I built on a big lake in Oklahoma back in 1962—a long time ago. When I drive up there, I go through Adair, and I go by that little sheltered area that is half torn down now. They tore down the biggest bank in town. Every time I go by there, I have to say I recall meeting for the first time with a young doctor named TOM COBURN.

I regret to say there are times in our service together when we have not been in agreement on specific issues, and I think we have a characteristic in common. I think we are both kind of bullheaded, which has created some temporary hard feelings, but there is one thing that overshadows that. Jesus has a family, and His family has a lot of people in it. Some are here in this room. TOM COBURN and I are brothers.

In the 20 years I have been here in the Senate, I don't believe I heard a speech that was as touching and sincere as the speech I heard from my junior Senator a few minutes ago.

I really believe that in spite of all the things that have happened—and there were some differences, but they were minor—that he never ceased to be my brother, and I want to ask the Senator right now to forgive me for the times I have perhaps said something unintentionally that was not always right and was not always from the heart. But I want my junior Senator to know that I sincerely love him and am going to be hurting with him with the troubles he has right now, or might have in the future, and will sorely miss him in this body.

I ask that the RECORD show that I sincerely love my brother, Senator COBURN.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. COATS. I have been sitting here listening to the respect and the emotion of people recognizing the service of TOM COBURN. I don't have a prepared speech, but I second everything that has been said about TOM.

My emotions well up in me when I think about TOM. TOM exhibits the conviction that I wish I had more of, TOM exhibits the commitment I wish I had more of, and he exhibits the courage I wish I had more of.

I remember my very dear friend Chuck Olson made this statement: Lord, show me the kind of person You would like me to be and give me the strength to be that person.

I feel like God has given a gift to the Senate, and certainly a gift to me, by simply saying, take a look at TOM COBURN. Look at the qualities he exhibits and his commitment to faith. He is a pretty good model to follow.

Thank you, TOM.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. BEGICH. I came down to give my farewell remarks, but before I do, I have to make a comment about Senator COBURN. Senator COBURN is absolutely what many people said about his word. Yesterday was an example of that when he resolved an issue.

There is always activity after the Senate, and I wish my friend from Oklahoma the best.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

I thank the Presiding Officer for allowing me to speak on my 6 years of serving in this body. It has been a true honor to serve with the Presiding Officer in the short time he has been here and to serve with all of my colleagues, but it has been an even bigger honor to serve my fellow Alaskans.

Alaska is a huge State—660,000 square miles. More than—to my friends from Texas and California, please don't take this personally—double and triple the size of States such as Texas and California.

But Alaska is a very small place in many ways. People make personal connections with their elected official. At the end of the day, we pretty much know everybody one way or another. Alaskans will more than likely will see me at a checkout stand at Andy's Hardware or Home Depot or hanging Christmas lights at my wife's store or doing errands with my son Jacob that at times he is not very anxious to do. It is a small State, and they will more likely see me doing that than on the floor making speeches or on C–SPAN.

When Alaskans contacted me with an idea or complaint or problem, we made sure we responded. After 6 years in the Senate, I am most proud of the work with helping Alaskans and their families. My office responded to more than 360,000 individual letters and emails and phone calls from Alaskans. To put it in perspective, 360,000 is roughly half the population of the State.

Much of my staff is here with me on the floor today. I thank them for their unwavering service to their fellow Alaskans. Truly I have the best of the best. Some of them worked with me when I was mayor and are now working for me as a Senator. Many will go on and continue to do incredible work not only for Alaskans but for this country. I thank them.

We took on 3,000 individual casework cases to help Alaskans navigate the Federal Government. We helped them get their Social Security checks, made sure the local post office actually delivers the mail, and in Alaska that is important. We fought for benefits for individual veterans.

I am also proud of the great policy work we did. When I say we, it is because sometimes ideas came from Alaskans, sometimes they came from this body, sometimes I would have a crazy idea I would write down on a sheet of paper, but at the end of the day it was my staff that did the work.

Opening Alaska's arctic lands and waters to responsible resource development—NPR–A, CD–5, Beaufort and Chukchi. We also helped to convince the EPA to free up permits for Kensington and Greens Creek mines.

The Arctic. When I first came to the office, I have to say that not everybody knew where the Arctic was. Some didn't even know it was an ocean, to be frank with you, but that is not the case today. Some of my colleagues probably got tired of hearing me always talk about Alaska no matter what they were discussing.

I see my friend AL FRANKEN is here, and I know he remembers this story. He draws incredible maps of the United States, and he does it all freehand. I remember him drawing a map one day, and I said: You missed two things, Alaska and Hawaii.

He said: Well, when I drove around the country with my parents, they were not States, they were just territories, and the maps they bought were maps of the lower 48. So I sent him a dot-to-dot of Alaska, and he sent me back a nice letter with a map of Alaska he had drawn.

No matter what conversation my colleagues might be having on an issue, I would manage to weave in Alaska.

The Arctic has unbelievable potential. We just touched the tip of the iceberg and there is more work to be done.

Working on defense is important to Alaska. It is important that we keep our military bases secure by saving F–16s at Eielson and getting F–35s next. We need to make sure that the benefits for those who are serving continue to be there for them.

It is incredible to hear stories from veterans when they talk about the new model of care we developed over 2½, 3 years ago. Our State has 77,000 veterans. When I was campaigning in 2008, I had an idea that I called the Hero's Health Card, and I remember when I got into office, people said it will never happen. People who know me know that when you say never or no, that means yes, they just didn't spell it properly, and I have to figure out what to do.

Today in Alaska, it doesn't matter if you are a veteran in the smallest rural communities or the biggest cities, you

will get health care and access to it through our tribal health care delivery system—the first in the Nation.

One time when I was in Bethel, this gentleman who was a veteran came up to me when I was in the VFW Hall. A lot of us have been in VFW halls, and you know that when someone comes at you at an aggressive pace, it is probably not a positive situation, but you have to engage them in a conversation. He held his hand out and showed me his scars, and he said that he had to go to Anchorage to get this taken care of, and you told me I could go down to my clinic and get it taken care of, but it didn't happen. I was about to say something, but before I could get a word out, he said: Do you know what I get to do because of what you did? Every single week now when I need therapy, I can go down the street in Bethel instead of flying to Anchorage to get it done. That is a model of how to do the right thing.

Alaska is well known for fisheries. I don't mean to pick on Senator FRANKEN, but I remember him coming up to me because we coined a phrase on modified engineered fish which we called the ''Frankenfish.'' It was not about the Senator, but it was about this fish that was chemically enhanced and would really destroy the fisheries in Alaska and would be bad for the market and bad for consumers. We fought over that issue because Alaskans brought it to our attention every single day.

I just mentioned some of the things we did for native rural health care, which was not just about Alaska. When we discussed an issue in our office, we asked: Can we do it for Alaska, and does it have an international impact? Will it impact the rest of the United States in a positive way?

I remember hearing and reading about the money the Federal Government owed to our tribes which had not been paid for two decades. It was money for clinical services they produced. We did some things, and the net result was Alaska received over $500 million in settlements over the last year. On top of that, many tribes across the country now have almost three-quarters of a billion dollars, money owed by the government for services delivered to individuals. And earlier this week we were able to pass another piece taking away the restriction on our tribes in Alaska so they can now, under the Violence Against Women Act—and we hope the House passes it—to be able to dispense and do tribal government in the sense of our justice system improving the situation on the ground when it comes to sexual assault, domestic violence, and substance abuse.

There are a lot of examples. It is hard when we talk about these because there are a lot of great things that have been done, not just individually but collectively. But in this place we spend a lot of time talking about doom and gloom and how the sky is falling and always the worst-case scenario.

We have come a long way in the last 6 years. The people who know me know I don't care how bad the situation is, I am positive about it because there is always another day to solve these problems and make things happen.

I think about where we were when I came to the Senate. I remember coming on this floor as a freshman in 2009, and the chaos of this economy was unbelievable. We were losing 600,000 jobs a month—equal to the whole population of my State—unemployed, boom, gone. Unemployment was around 10 percent. The stock market was at 6,500. Two of the largest automobile companies in this country were flat on their backs. No housing starts were happening. The market was crashing. The deficit was $1.4 trillion per year. As a new Member, I wasn't sure what I had gotten myself into, to be frank. Some of the Members who came with me were trying to figure out, What did we get? But we didn't sit around.

I know we always hear this doom and gloom out there. When we look back over 6 years, we remember we had some battles here, and most people think we don't do anything. But where are we today? We are 17,000-plus in the stock market today.

I can tell my colleagues that Alaskans saw this because every year—I know I hear from other Members who ask me this question all the time—we get a permanent fund check. It is based on investments we make, and it is based on revenues we receive from oil and gas. That permanent fund check doubled this year from $800 to over $1,900. Why did it double? Because it is based on the stock market average of the last 5 years. We dropped off 2009, so the market was doing better. Every Alaskan felt what this economy has done. So when the naysayers are out there speaking, it is just not accurate.

GM and Ford and Chrysler have added over half a million good-paying jobs. Unemployment is at 5.8 percent—almost a 50-percent drop. Over 10 million new jobs and the longest stretch of private sector growth on record—56 months. Just last week—I know we always hear it is not good enough. Of course, but it is a heck of a lot better.

I remember the chaos on this floor during those 3 or 4 months and as a new Member what we had to go through.

The deficit has dropped by $1 trillion a year. We are down to about $480 billion now. We have sliced off $1 trillion a year from the deficit.

In Alaska we have seen some incredible things. Anchorage unemployment is at 4.9 percent. There are more jobs in mining and timber than ever before. Tourism has risen to nearly 1 million visitors. There are 78,000 people in the fishery industry.

It is important to remember that this is just a moment in time of challenges we have as a body and as a country. It is important to remember that there is a lot of work ahead of us. But we have accomplished a lot. But we spend a lot of time on this floor debating what is bad about this country.

A lot of us are coming to the floor and giving our farewell speeches and talking about good things. There are a lot of good things we should be proud of as a country. I am proud of what we have done over the last 6 years. This country is back on track. We have more work to do to make sure people's incomes rise, but that is starting to happen now.

The challenge for my colleagues who are still here and for this country is—it has been an incredible honor to be in this body, but what do we do to make sure we move forward so we don't have this as a platform of negative attitudes and views but about opportunity and possibilities; not about things that we sit here and try to figure out how to kill but what we try to do to improve and give new ideas a chance.

I said it earlier: I am a very optimistic person. I believe what is possible today can be even better tomorrow. But it is incumbent on people to believe it, to want to do it, to put aside their differences where we can. I will tell my colleagues, that is why fewer Alaskans are party registered and more are nonparty registered in our State than in most States—because our view is that we don't care about the party; what we care about is getting things done. We are trying to find the answer to yes rather than trying to find the way to no.

My staff has always, and it is a struggle sometimes—and I have a great staff, as I said earlier, some from Alaska, some from here, and some from across the country, people who I don't understand why they continue to subject themselves to working for me after the mayor's office, and then they came here. I always told them that what mattered was not who sponsored the bill but whether it is a good idea. If it is a good idea, then let's move forward, try to find an answer, try to solve the problem.

The positive attitude we have to have is not only important for this body, but it is important for this country. In a weird way, they love us and they hate us. The poll numbers show they don't love us too much—13 percent. But on the flip side, they look to us. They look to us for certainty and guidance and where we might take them. The pundits are different, but the people look to us. I see it when I go to stores, when I am out and about. People may be angry with us, but they want to know what we are going to do to solve these incredible problems, and it will be incumbent upon the next Congress to sit down and work together. It is going to be tough because the politics of the day are about the moment in time, not about the long term. This is an incredible challenge that has to be dealt with in some way.

I have spent a lot of time trying to, as I said, do what I can; it didn't matter whose idea it was. I listened to Senator COBURN speak. I remember one

day we were working on an issue—essential air service. Some of us have that in our States. Senator COBURN was against it. I remember having a conversation with him and trying to explain that between one airport and the next is 1,200 miles. There is no road. There is no way to get to it. At the end of the day we were able to resolve that issue and move forward.

I think of all the things that have been accomplished in this body but how little people know about it. In an odd way, over these last few days more of the positive issues are out there. I hope the press covers them. We will see. But we live in a world where it is better to talk about the negative because that seems to be what thrives. I hope that changes.

Let me end by sharing a couple of other quick thoughts. There are a lot of great stories about being here in the Senate. Someone asked me one day: Do you write these down? And I said no.

I remember I was in Sitka, AK, and I was headed to the airport. I got to the airport, and the attendant there was checking my ticket, and he said: Oh, wait, Mr. BEGICH. We have something for you.

It was a wrapped gift at the airport. I said: Great.

Now, people who care about the TSA, please ignore what I am about to say. They just handed it to me. I took it. I opened it, and it was one of those empty books that say: Please write down your thoughts and your notes. They are incredible thoughts.

I remember I was coming through—people will remember when it snowed like crazy. Well, people from DC thought it snowed like crazy. I did not. I knew one thing, and that is about how the plows work, being a former mayor. I thought to myself, I can't leave my car on the street because they will plow me in, especially in this place, or they will attempt to. So I and my son Jacob—we got our snow shovels, did our shoveling, and then drove the car to another area. Then I realized—we were dressed in what I call Alaska good garb. And then I realized that I had to get back to the house because I had this snow shovel and he had a snow shovel. It was on the other side of the Capitol. So what did we do? People who know me know I don't really follow all the rules around this place. We started walking through the Capitol with our snow shovels over our shoulders. The place was empty. I realized what an incredible place this is. First, we were allowed to walk through with snow shovels. It was dead silent. If my colleagues have never done that, they should. You walk through the Capitol and you just see the history, and in a small way, we were a part of it.

I did break another rule. This is confession time. I am a Catholic, I can do that. We came into this Chamber. I had the corner desk over here. Why did I pick that desk? A lot of people don't know this story. Why did I do that? One, I was a junior Member, but No. 2, I wanted that desk because that is where the candy box was, and I knew every Member would have to go there sooner or later, and I thought I could spend some time talking to them. And maybe I would have a candy box, which I did. I had special candies from my wife's store.

One day I came in here late at night with my son, and we sat right there. I know the security guards probably didn't see us. We took a photo. Yes, I broke the rules. I took a photo of my son sitting there, and I will cherish that photo forever.

As my son once said—and I said it on this floor one time—about how important it is to get things done and the battle we were having—I remember I actually quoted my son on the floor, and I think I shocked somebody. I was talking to him about something, and he said: Dad, just suck it up. I thought, only from a young kid do you hear what you have to do sometimes.

Now, I didn't forget her; I just wanted to wait until the end. I know I am breaking the rules, but my wife is right up there. I am pointing to her. Yes, I am, Sergeant at Arms. Too bad. I am acknowledging her. She has been incredible. She has allowed me to do my public service, to fly those 20 hours every weekend to and from Alaska. She has taken care of Jacob when I couldn't. I love her dearly. Thank you.

To end, I will just say this: It has been a true honor to serve in the U.S. Senate, to serve the people of Alaska, and to know every day we—me, my staff, and my colleagues who work with me—contributed a little bit to making life better for Alaska, for Alaskans, and for this country. There is no experience like serving in this body and doing what I could to make a difference.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WALSH). The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I know a number of my colleagues are going to want to talk about our friend MARK BEGICH. When we came to the Senate—I see a number of folks here—we came in 2008. I see a lot of other Members who are newer Members as well. I think when you come in with a class, you get kind of confused about what is going on and you form a bond.

I remember my first—our first—Senator FRANKEN wasn't here yet, but Senator MERKLEY, Senator HAGAN, Senator BENNET, and a number of others. And we were in Senator DURBIN's office. There was still a question about what was going to happen in the election because there were thousands of votes out. So being giddy new Members, we got on the phone to call Senator BEGICH to say we wish him well and we are counting on him. He said: Hey, Jacob and I are leaving on vacation because I already know where the votes are coming from. I am going to be there.

He knew his State that well.

As someone who is a former chief executive and as some others here who are former chief executives, I remember him coming here, and many of us new Members were kind of scratching our heads about the notion of how this institution would work or didn't work sometimes. But, as Senator BEGICH mentioned and as Senator MURRAY mentioned at our dinner the other night, there are a lot of people in this body who are chronic optimists. I am blessed to have an optimist in my colleague Senator KAINE. I don't always fit in that category. But Senator BEGICH, week in and week out, would always try to remind us that it is not quite as bleak as it might seem at the moment, that there was good news and there was progress being made.

I think, looking back, I am not sure some of us fully realized, particularly that first year and a half or two when so many things happened—controversial things and things that are still being relitigated in many ways but that have allowed this country to make progress, and Senator BEGICH was an incredibly important part of that.

He was also, as one of the newer Members, liaison to management. So whenever anything didn't happen right with leadership, it was always the fault of Senator BEGICH.

But I just want to say—and I know Senator HAGAN was here a little bit earlier—I fear at times that our elections are almost becoming like parliamentary elections in the other countries where people are voting for or against a leader not based upon what a leader has done individually—such as Senator LANDRIEU and all the things she has done for Louisiana, Lord knows—but, as Senator BEGICH just mentioned, there was not a bill or an issue where he didn't find an Alaska connection and where he didn't make a difference for the people of his great State.

So I know I am just the first of many who want to say to my colleague, to my friend, to a great Senator, Godspeed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I was a part of that class. I was a little late getting here, my colleagues will recall. But I was part of that class and campaigned with the class, and I remember being with MARK UDALL and TOM UDALL and MARK BEGICH at a campaign event, and they kind of looked at me and said: So your dad wasn't like a public servant.

I said: No.

And they said: Well, that is unusual. No, no, that is fine.

What a lot of people don't know about MARK is his father died very famously in a plane crash.

MARK is the only Member of this body, I believe, who did not graduate from college, did not go to college.

There are a lot of things about MARK—and MARK WARNER just referred to it—he was a chief executive.

We need more mayors here. Sometimes we say we need more diversity. Sometimes we say we need more women. God knows we need more satirists—but mayors, wow. Having that mayor's perspective—CORY BOOKER looking a little smug—is very useful.

MIKE ENZI, a mayor—am I forgetting a mayor?

Mr. BEGICH. TIM KAINE, Richmond.

Mr. FRANKEN. BOB CORKER.

Whom are you pointing at? TIM, were you a mayor?

Mr. KAINE. Richmond.

Mr. FRANKEN. Oh, Richmond, you just kept saying Richmond. I don't know anybody named ''Richmond.''

Mr. WARNER. He was also a lieutenant governor.

Mr. FRANKEN. So he was a lieutenant governor too—OK. So he is the most qualified.

This is what it is like when we are together. Being a Senator, a lot of people ask: Is being a Senator as much fun as working on ''Saturday Night Live?'' The answer of course is no. It is not close, but it is the best job I have ever had.

It means so much to us what we can do for our State, and no one knows more about his State—and I know MARY LANDRIEU is sitting here, no one knows more than MARY and MARK—and that it is an incredibly long flight he took every weekend to go back to Alaska.

Minnesota had a happy warrior, one of the great, great Senators who has ever served this body, Hubert Humphrey. We may have noticed during MARK's speech he teared up a few times, the most when he was talking about his wife.

That is good for you. That works out well.

But Hubert Humphrey said: ''A man who has no tears has no heart.''

This man has a tremendous heart. Humphrey was a happy warrior, and this guy is a happy warrior—and you brought joy, humor, and optimism to this body, and I thank you, my friend, for that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I rise to say a word about my dear friend MARK BEGICH and to add some words on behalf of him.

We saw, when he presented himself in his final remarks to this body, his compassion, his heart, and his emotions were clear in relation to his family, his son, and to us—because he was truly an amazing friend to many. He is always in a good humor, always upbeat.

As the Senator from Virginia said, we could never quite understand it, but he was—and still is—an amazingly optimistic and positive person.

Having served as mayor, as a small business owner, as a passionate champion for Alaska, what he didn't mention—I thought I might because it might be too hard for him to remember today—but I want this body to remember that MARK comes from a distinguished line of public service.

A lot of us say that, but in MARK's case his father literally gave his life to Alaska. His plane went down on October 16, 1972. The plane has never been found.

So when MARK walked in the first day I met him, I don't know what I was expecting, but I was expecting someone to have a heavy burden on his shoulders because of that. As the eldest daughter of nine children, I take responsibility so much for my brothers and sisters, and I don't know how I could have gotten where I have gotten without both parents literally lifting me up every day.

So as I have sat across from MARK all these years in very close leadership meetings on Tuesday mornings—and he has walked in with such optimism, such extraordinary confidence in himself, in what he is doing, and in encouraging us—I was always just so struck by the fact that he grew up with a large family, six children. His mother was widowed at a young age. He took on so much responsibility, and yet he came to the Senate ready to serve.

I know his father is truly honored that he didn't get bitter, he wasn't angry. He grew up to be a man who accepted that as God's will, which is a hard thing to accept.

He did so much for the community that his father loved and the State that his father loved. I wanted to add that to the RECORD because a lot of people watching us think we are one-dimensional robots and that there are no other dimensions to our lives and our family.

But it always struck me, MARK, that you have been such a man of courage, such a great inspiration to your family, and truly an inspiration to all of us.

I know your parents are very proud, both of them.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. I wish to add a word to honor my good friend Senator MARK BEGICH. I think there is a special connection with those of us who were elected on the same day.

We share something else in common, which is on that election day in November 2008 neither one of us knew if we had won. We both had to wait some length of time—in my case 2 days and in Senator BEGICH's case a couple of weeks—but it kind of makes us ponder the future: Are you going to serve or are you not going to serve and how will you utilize that opportunity.

There is another connection that comes from being western Senators. When we talk about salmon—and MARK BEGICH mentioned a while ago ''Frankenfish.'' Well, we are very concerned. We have a collective concern about the health of our salmon runs.

It is not just a fishing economy, although that is very much a part of the economy of our States, it is about the soul of our States, the traditions of our State, the natural resources of our States.

When we talk about timber, we have a connection. Sitka was mentioned. Sitka spruce is a common tree in our State of Oregon.

When we get concerned about the rescues off the Oregon coast because the water is so cold one can't be in it for very long without dying—which makes it much more important to have advanced helicopters, and just last night we were able to keep a key helicopter on the coast due to Senator MARK BEGICH's considerable involvement and advocacy. Thank you so much for doing that.

Why is our water so cold off the coast of Oregon? Because it is coming down with the currents from Alaska. In so many ways our States are tied together.

As I have served this first 6 years, I have turned to my friend from Alaska for advice and counsel time after time. His seasoned policy judgment and his core political instincts are on a par with any other Senator in this Chamber and certainly far in advance of my own.

I say to the Senator, I appreciate your friendship. I appreciate you sharing your judgment, and I appreciate your buoyant spirit that reminds us, when we are discouraged, that so much can be accomplished. What an honor it is to have a seat in the Chamber of just 100 Senators, where we can add our voice to a conversation about truly how to make this a better world.

Thank you, my friend, for your service. We will miss you greatly.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I just want to add my words to what my other colleagues have said about someone I am going to miss dearly. Senator MARK BEGICH and I worked together on many things. When I passed the reins from the steering and outreach committee and suggested to our leader that he should seriously consider Senator BEGICH for that responsibility, he made us all proud as part of the leadership in presenting a very important perspective every single day.

I have frequently referenced an energy committee trip I took to Alaska with Senator BEGICH where—I thought Michigan was big. Michigan is big. But we not only had to travel a long way to get to Alaska, once we were in Alaska we had to travel a long way from one end to another.

I remember I ran into a number of people from Michigan because in our Upper Peninsula we also have a lot of snow, and we have a lot of people who were working there. But everywhere we went—and we traveled to Native American villages. We flew to Barrow. We were in every part of the State. Some areas you could only get into by helicopter.

We would get there—we went to a Native village that needed a new post office. Senator BEGICH took me out. We had boots on because there was water coming up. We looked at this little,

tiny post office that was maybe a little bigger than a closet, not much. We came out. The whole community was there to urge us to support this post office.

To see not only the information, the depth that Senator BEGICH had about that before we got there, but the way he interacted, his commitment to them—everywhere we went he knew about that community, the leaders in the community. He had a relationship with them.

This is somebody who loves Alaska. In his bones, in your DNA, MARK, is your State. I love seeing that. It was so inspirational to see that. I know the Senator has wonderful family support at home. It has been my pleasure to be at your home for dinner and to watch your son. He is growing up. I know we have a lot more that we will benefit from, from your leadership. I know you have a lot more to contribute to Alaska, to our country.

Just know you are leaving with incredible respect from colleagues and love and affection. We wish you every Godspeed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I rise to add my sense of gratitude and appreciation to someone who has become a dear friend. I am his newest colleague and have had the privilege of working with him for these past 13 months. I just want him to know and state very publicly that he was one of the anchors to me as I was getting to know a very different place from being a mayor of a big city.

Your sense of fierce pragmatism was a light to me, coming down into a place known for partisanship and gridlock, and demonstrated to me your ability to bring people together and get things done, but even more than that, being a model for me, a role model for me in the early stage of my career in the Senate.

I have to confess, and do it with pride, that I love this country with the depth and the core of my being. My parents taught me that sense of pride. But you expanded that, incredibly, by bringing me out to Alaska. Of all my experiences in these 13 months, that was one of the highlights. It taught me a lot when I saw that a Senator still had such a powerful touch and connection and knowledge and love of the people of that State. You have made me love Alaska even more and know Alaska in my heart.

What was extraordinary to me, in knowing you in your short career, was how much you got accomplished, how steadfast you were in pursuing the interests of your State and this Nation. One thing I have to say, I felt uncomfortable as I saw you—I will never forget being at Bartlett High School, with the Bears, and seeing your love and connection to those kids. It made me feel very uncomfortable, the negativity that was being hoisted upon you during a campaign.

It made me think of something as I was out there, and I thought about it again as you talked of history. There is a very famous poet named Maya Angelou, who said these words:

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I rise.

The truth is, you are one of those people who are at your ascendency. You have risen above it all. You have risen above the things in Washington that try the spirits, not just of those of us here but of the Nation. You have risen to a level of accomplishment in your life that is extraordinary and as awesome as some of the vistas I saw in the State of Alaska.

The beauty I have right now, the confidence and the joy I have right now, is the simple fact that I know that God ain't finished with you yet.

Thank you. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I just want to rise, similar to others in our class, and many other Senators have risen, to talk a little bit about MARK BEGICH and his service to Alaska and praise him for his service, because I think he has been—since I have been here, the 6 years I have served with him; he was in my class—I have seen a remarkable Senator who truly cares about his State and has been an incredible advocate for his State.

I was not here for his entire speech, but I turned it on. The good thing about our offices is you can tune it in. I caught the point where he got a little bit choked up about Deborah and Jacob. I got choked up, too, in the office. I can cry but not in public. In any event, the first thing I know about MARK is how much he cares about his family and how much the toll of serving in the Senate takes on that family.

His travel—I am a westerner, and I have to travel out 5 hours, 6 hours, 8 hours to get home. His flight is always—we heard the description the other day from Senator MURRAY. He flies all the way out to Seattle at the end of the day. It is 12:30 our time when he arrives there. Then he gets on another flight for another 4½ hours up to Anchorage, just to get home. It is not a very long weekend. Then he has to get on a flight and come back.

His family is so important. I have seen him with his son Jacob. We live just across the alley from each other. I can look out my back window and look down and see the light—just four houses down—and know whether MARK and Deborah and Jacob are in town. We have spent many good times in his house there. That is the first thing I would like to say.

The second is—I have seen this over and over again with Senators. You are one of the best at it—taking the issues that are involved with Alaska and that Alaskans care about and that you knew so well when you were a mayor and fitting them into this vast Federal landscape and making sure Alaskans are heard. I think you are one of the best at doing that. You stepped out on so many different issues. I remember the Native American corporations and how you would reach out in a number of areas with Senators throughout the Senate and try to reach some compromise there.

I have a large Native American community. We, too, have the same kinds of issues on that front that you do. We also share many Native American tribes. As the Senator knows well, it was my father and my uncle who stood up in the 1960s and 1970s to make sure the Natives got a fair shake in Alaska. MARK—that is the way he serves when it comes to Native Americans, caring about them, caring about their issues, going up to the North Slope where it is cold.

My understanding is that during this campaign he got frostbite on one occasion, being out in that terribly tough environment. Thank you for that and for working with me and working with everyone else who tries to make sure Native people get justice. They look to Washington for justice. They look for justice at the Supreme Court. They are not getting much of it over there at the Supreme Court any more. We are the last refuge. We served together on the Indian Affairs Committee.

One final thing to talk about. I have been working on an issue, it is the chemical substances act, for the last couple of years with Senator VITTER. We have tried to do everything we can to bring people—extraordinary piece of legislation—12 Republicans, 12 Democrats on this piece of legislation.

We have been working to make it better. We have had Senators start joining us on both sides of the aisle. MARK, you were one of the key people to work on that. As Senator WARNER said earlier, you were our liaison to the leadership. You were in all of those leadership meetings. Whenever I told you there was a problem, you would surface it, whether or not it was going to blow up the meeting. You stuck in there when it came to truly caring about issues and caring about getting things done.

I think if anything is your hallmark, it is wanting to put aside the partisanship and try to get things done. So that is something that you should be tremendously proud of.

Just as a final word, I love your State of Alaska. I have climbed your highest mountain. My cousin, MARK UDALL, has also done the same thing, climbed Mount McKinley, which has now returned to its Native name, called Denali. I remember going up to your State as a State attorney general. It was the only State in the Nation that put in money for our conference of attorneys general and put us on an 8-hour train across Alaska so we could see all of Alaska.

Alaska is a terrific State. You and I have some disagreements on what we

protect in Alaska, but the wonderful thing is we understand each other's position. We are still very good friends. It has been a real honor to serve with you. I wish you and Deborah and Jacob the very best. Wherever you land—I hope to see you in Alaska again because I know I am going to come up there. But wherever you land, our door will always be open to you.

Thank you and God bless you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, we have heard a lot of people honoring our wonderful colleague Senator BEGICH today. We are all going to miss him dearly. We are especially going to miss him in Minnesota. I have heard many positive statements about Alaska today, but no one can come from a State where they can say they have one of the main streets in Anchorage named after them; that is, Minnesota Street in Anchorage.

That is because there are many Minnesotans. Believe it or not, it was not cold enough in Minnesota so they moved to Alaska. One of those people who moved to Alaska was MARK's dad. MARK's dad actually grew up about 30 miles away from my dad. It is rough-and-tumble country up in the Iron Range of Minnesota. MARK still has relatives in northern Minnesota, and particularly he has an uncle named Uncle Joe—Joe Begich—who served in the legislature for many years and also is a Korean War vet and was truly the heart and soul of the Iron Range delegation in the Minnesota State legislature.

For any of our colleagues who think MARK BEGICH is a character, they should meet his Uncle Joe. I know Uncle Joe. I hope he is watching because nothing made him happier than the day MARK BEGICH got elected to the Senate. And when MARK once came up there with me and we were greeted by Uncle Joe, it was like a hero's welcome when MARK BEGICH appeared on the Iron Range of Minnesota. People came out, and we did an event with veterans. Then, of course, the problem was we went to a bar, and we could get no pictures that didn't have a Budweiser sign on them.

But MARK is a hero up there, and he is a hero across our State just for the work he has done for rural communities. When I say we have rural communities in Minnesota, he always says we have extreme rural communities in Alaska.

He has done work in conservation, which we care about so much. He has done work on tourism. We are cochairs of the tourism caucus, and I still remember the hearing we had right in the middle of the downturn, where every Senator came to talk about all of the things that were happening in their States with tourism. MARK was actually able to cite the price of cruises you could take in Alaska. It was written up in the Washington Post about all the Senators hawking their States, but no one was prouder to hawk Alaska.

The other thing about MARK, which I know was mentioned, is he doesn't believe politics is about standing in the opposite corner of the boxing ring. He believes politics is about working together in the middle and trying to find common ground.

The last thing I will say is how much we love Deborah and Jacob, and we know we will see them around and they are not going to go away.

One time Deborah, Jacob, and MARK came over to our house for brunch. My daughter is about 6 years older now. She was about 13. Jacob and my daughter were playing a game in the other room, and the adults were talking over breakfast. I will never forget Jacob Begich. From the other room, he heard his dad talking about him and, as any politician's kid would do, he said: Stop talking about me, dad. So that kid has inherited that MARK BEGICH sense of fierce independence. When he left, my daughter said: I love that kid, mom. He knows how hard it is to be a politician's kid.

So MARK has left here the legacy of Alaska, the legacy of good work, the legacy of a great staff, and the legacy of a great family. So we will see you around, and thank you for your service.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO MARK PRYOR

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I am honored to stand here and recognize my colleague and friend, Arkansas's senior Senator MARK PRYOR, for his service to our State, his contributions to our country, and his work across the aisle.

I have worked with Senator PRYOR during his entire service in the Senate, both as a Member of the House and as a colleague in the Senate. While we don't always agree on policy, we always agree that we need to do what is best for Arkansas and what is best for our Nation.

MARK is always ready to step forward, find a solution, and resolve an issue. He is always ready to extend a hand to the other side of the aisle to get support, and he always has Arkansas on his mind.

Over the last 4 years, we have introduced several pieces of legislation together, and you will find our names as cosponsors of several other pieces of legislation that all have one goal—helping the people of Arkansas and helping the people of our country.

There is a longstanding tradition of collaboration in the Arkansas delegation. When I was elected to the House in 2001, long-time Arkansas Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt gave me some advice I have tried to live by since coming to Washington. He said: JOHN, always remember that once the election is over, it is time to put away the political differences and focus on helping the people of Arkansas. That is how the delegation worked during John Paul's 26 years of congressional service, which included service with MARK's dad, Senator David Pryor, and that is how MARK and I operated as well.

I appreciate the welcome MARK gave to me and the help his office offered to my staff when I moved over here to the Senate in 2011. I value his friendship, thank him for his service, and appreciate all he has done for the people of Arkansas. I wish him well in the next chapter of his life.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator withhold his request?

Mr. BOOZMAN. I will.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

BAILOUT PROVISION IN OMNIBUS

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, yesterday I came to the floor to call on House Democrats to withhold their support from the omnibus spending bill until one provision is removed. The provision was slipped in at the last minute to benefit Wall Street. In fact, it was written by lobbyists for Citicorp. That provision means big money for a few big banks. It would let derivatives traders on Wall Street gamble with taxpayer money—and when it all blows up, require the government to bail them out.

Just to be clear, I want to read the title of the part of the law that will be repealed if this provision is not stripped out of the omnibus. The title is ''Prohibition Against Federal Government Bailouts of Swaps Entities.'' That is what is on the table to be taken out of the law.

Now, I am here today to ask my Republican colleagues who don't want to see another Wall Street bailout to join in our effort to strip this Wall Street giveaway from the bill. This is not about partisanship. This is about fairness. This is about accountability and responsibility. This is about preventing another financial collapse that could again wipe out millions of jobs and take down our whole economy.

If big Wall Street banks want to gamble with their own money, so be it. Let them take their risks with their own money, and let them live with the consequences of those risks. That is how markets are supposed to work. But they shouldn't get to gamble with government-insured money, and they shouldn't get to run to the government when the deal goes sour.

Opposition to government bailouts of Wall Street is not a liberal or a conservative issue. The current law, the one about to be repealed, was put in place years ago because after the 2008 financial collapse, people of all political persuasions were disgusted by the

prospect of ever having to use taxpayer dollars to rescue big banks from their own bad decisions.

This morning, Senators from both parties—SHERROD BROWN, a Democrat from Ohio, and DAVID VITTER, a Republican from Louisiana—called for this provision to be taken out of the spending bill. Here is what they said:

If Wall Street banks want to gamble, Congress should force them to pay for their losses, not put taxpayers on the hook for another bailout. Congress should not gamble on a possible government shutdown by attempting to tuck this controversial provision into a spending bill without having been considered by the committees of jurisdiction, where it can be subject to a transparent and rigorous debate.

Senators BROWN and VITTER are exactly right. This provision has no place in a must-pass spending bill.

Conservative activists have jumped in as well. They are raising their voices today to say that this provision has no place in a must-pass spending bill. Here is what one front-page contributor on the conservative blog RedState said this morning:

I have no way to refute the basic point that Democrats are making about the CRomnibus fight right now. In fact, I might even go so far as to say they are right. . . . what possible good faith reason can Republicans have for threatening to gum up the whole works over doing a favor to Wall Street? . . . generally speaking, if Nancy Pelosi is opposed to something then instinctively I know I should be for it. Beyond that I haven't the slightest clue why the proposed tweak to Dodd-Frank ought to be anything resembling a hill the Republicans should die for.

These conservative activists are right. If you believe in smaller government, how can you support a provision that would expand a government insurance program and put taxpayers on the hook for the riskiest private activities? If you thought the Ex-Im Bank exposed taxpayers to risk—even though it has never cost the taxpayers a dime—how can you support a provision to prevent another calamity such as the one that cost taxpayers billions of dollars just 6 years ago?

House Republican leaders are moving quickly to try to jam this bill through today before their own Members have had a chance to digest this Wall Street bailout provision. The fact sheet that Republican appropriators sent around to their Members explaining the provision doesn't even describe it accurately. According to the fact sheet, the provision in question would ''protect farmers and other commodity producers from having to put down excessive collateral to get a loan, expand their businesses, and hedge their production.'' Whatever you think about the bill, that description is flatly wrong. In fact, that description applies to yet another Wall Street reform rollback that the Republicans are pushing right now, which is attached to a completely different bill.

Now, I don't know if Republican leaders in the House are deliberately trying to confuse their Members into voting for a government bailout program or whether they just can't keep straight all their efforts to gut financial reform. Republican leaders are about to bring this bill up for a vote. So here is the bottom line. A vote for this bill is a vote for future taxpayer bailouts of Wall Street. When the next bailout comes, a lot of people will look back to this vote to see who was responsible for putting the government back on the hook to bail out Wall Street.

To Republican leaders in the House, I would ask this. You say you are against bailouts on Wall Street. I have heard you say it again and again for 5 years. So why in the world are you spending your time and your energy fighting for a provision written by Citigroup lobbyists that would increase the chance of future bailouts? Why, in the last minute as you head out the door and a spending bill must be passed, are you making it a priority to do Wall Street's bidding? Whom do you work for—Wall Street or the American people?

This fight isn't about conservatives or liberals. It is not about Democrats or Republicans. It is about money, and it is about power right here in Washington. This legal change could trigger more taxpayer bailouts and could ultimately threaten our entire economy, but it will also make a lot of money for Wall Street banks. According to Americans for Financial Reform, this change will be a huge boon to just a handful of our biggest banks: Citigroup, JPMorgan, Bank of America.

People are frustrated with Congress. Part of the reason, of course, is gridlock. But mostly it is because they see a Congress that works just fine for the big guys but won't lift a finger to help them. If big companies can deploy their armies of lobbyists and lawyers to get Congress to vote for special deals that benefit themselves, then we will simply confirm the view of the American people that the system is rigged.

This is a democracy. The American people sent us here—Republicans, Democrats and Independents. They sent us here to stand up for them, to stand up for taxpayers, to protect the economy. Nobody sent us here to stand up for Citigroup.

I urge my Republican colleagues in the House to withhold their support from this package until this risky giveaway is removed from the legislation. It is time for all of us to stand up and fight.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

UKRAINE FREEDOM SUPPORT ACT OF 2014

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 573, S. 2828.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2828) to impose sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation, to provide additional assistance to Ukraine, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with amendments, as follows:

(The parts of the bill intended to be stricken are shown in boldface brackets and the parts of the bill intended to be inserted are shown in italics.)

S. 2828

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.
Sec. 3. Statement of policy regarding Ukraine.
Sec. 4. Sanctions relating to the defense and energy sectors of the Russian Federation.
Sec. 5. Sanctions on Russian and other foreign financial institutions.
Sec. 6. Codification of executive orders addressing the crisis in Ukraine.
Sec. 7. Major non-NATO ally status for Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova.
Sec. 8. Increased military assistance for the Government of Ukraine.
Sec. 9. Expanded nonmilitary assistance for Ukraine.
Sec. 10. Expanded broadcasting in countries of the former Soviet Union.
Sec. 11. Support for Russian democracy and civil society organizations.
Sec. 12. Report on non-compliance by the Russian Federation of its obligations under the INF Treaty.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ACCOUNT; CORRESPONDENT ACCOUNT; PAYABLE-THROUGH ACCOUNT.—The terms ''account'', ''correspondent account'', and ''payable-through account'' have the meanings given those terms in section 5318A of title 31, United States Code.

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

(3) CONTROL.—The term ''control'' means—

(A) in the case of a corporation, to hold at least 50 percent (by vote or value) of the capital structure of the corporation; or

(B) in the case of any other entity, to hold interests representing at least 50 percent of the capital structure of the entity.

(4) DEFENSE ARTICLE; DEFENSE SERVICE; TRAINING.—The terms ''defense article'', ''defense service'', and ''training'' have the

meanings given those terms in section 47 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2794).

(5) FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—The term ''financial institution'' means a financial institution specified in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), (D), (E), (F), (G), (H), (I), (J), (M), or (Y) of section 5312(a)(2) of title 31, United States Code.

(6) FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—The term ''foreign financial institution'' has the meaning given that term in section 561.308 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations (or any corresponding similar regulation or ruling).

(7) KNOWINGLY.—The term ''knowingly'', with respect to conduct, a circumstance, or a result, means that a person has actual knowledge, or should have known, of the conduct, the circumstance, or the result.

(8) NATIONAL.—The term ''national'' has the meaning given that term in section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)).

(9) PERSON.—The term ''person'' means—

(A) an individual;

(B) a corporation, business association, partnership, society, trust, any other nongovernmental entity, organization, or group, or any governmental entity operating as a business enterprise; or

(C) any successor to any entity described in subparagraph (B).

(10) RUSSIAN PERSON.—The term ''Russian person'' means—

(A) an individual who is a citizen or national of the Russian Federation; or

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the Russian Federation.

(11) SPECIAL RUSSIAN CRUDE OIL PROJECT.—The term ''special Russian crude oil project'' means a project intended to extract crude oil from—

(A) the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation in waters more than 500 feet deep;

(B) Russian Arctic offshore locations; or

(C) shale formations located in the Russian Federation.

(12) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ''United States person'' means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States; or

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY REGARDING UKRAINE.

It is the policy of the United States to further assist the Government of Ukraine in restoring its sovereignty and territorial integrity to deter the Government of the Russian Federation from further destabilizing and invading Ukraine and other independent countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. That policy shall be carried into effect, among other things, through a comprehensive effort, in coordination with allies and partners of the United States where appropriate, that includes economic sanctions, diplomacy, assistance for the people of Ukraine, and the provision of military capabilities to the Government of Ukraine that will enhance the ability of that Government to defend itself and to restore its sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of unlawful actions by the Government of the Russian Federation.

SEC. 4. SANCTIONS RELATING TO THE DEFENSE AND ENERGY SECTORS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

(a) SANCTIONS RELATING TO THE DEFENSE SECTOR.—

(1) ROSOBORONEXPORT.—Except as provided in subsection (d), not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall impose 3 or more of the sanctions described in subsection (c) with respect to Rosoboronexport.

(2) RUSSIAN PRODUCERS, TRANSFERORS, OR BROKERS OF DEFENSE ARTICLES.—Except as provided in subsection (d), not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall impose 3 or more of the sanctions described in subsection (c) with respect to a person the President determines—

(A) is an entity—

(i) owned by the Government of the Russian Federation or controlled by nationals of the Russian Federation; and

(ii) that—

(I) manufactures or sells defense articles transferred into Syria or into the territory of a specified country without the consent of the internationally recognized government of that country;

(II) transfers defense articles into Syria or into the territory of a specified country without the consent of the internationally recognized government of that country; or

(III) brokers or otherwise assists in the transfer of defense articles into Syria or into the territory of a specified country without the consent of the internationally recognized government of that country; or

(B) knowingly, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, assists, sponsors, or provides financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services to or in support of, an entity described in subparagraph (A) with respect to an activity described in clause (ii) of that subparagraph.

(3) SPECIFIED COUNTRY DEFINED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In this subsection, the term ''specified country'' means—

(i) Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova; and

(ii) any other country designated by the President as a country of significant concern for purposes of this subsection, such as Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and the Central Asia republics.

(B) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—The President shall notify the appropriate congressional committees in writing not later than 15 days before—

(i) designating a country as a country of significant concern under subparagraph (A)(ii); or

(ii) terminating a designation under that subparagraph, including the termination of any such designation pursuant to ⟦subsection (g)⟧ *subsection (h)*.

(b) SANCTIONS RELATED TO THE ENERGY SECTOR.—

(1) DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIAL RUSSIAN CRUDE OIL PROJECTS.—Except as provided in subsection (d), not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall impose 3 or more of the sanctions described in subsection (c) with respect to a person if the President determines that the person knowingly makes a significant investment in a special Russian crude oil project.

(2) AUTHORIZATION FOR EXTENSION OF LICENSING LIMITATIONS ON CERTAIN EQUIPMENT.—The President, through the Bureau of Industry and Security of the Department of Commerce or the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury, as appropriate, may impose additional licensing requirements for or other restrictions on the export or reexport of items for use in the energy sector of the Russian Federation, including equipment used for tertiary oil recovery.

(3) CONTINGENT SANCTION RELATING TO GAZPROM.—If the President determines that Gazprom is withholding significant natural gas supplies from member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or further withholds significant natural gas supplies from countries such as Ukraine, Georgia, or Moldova, the President shall, not later than 45 days after making that determination, impose the sanction described in subsection (c)(7) and at least one additional sanction described in subsection (c) with respect to Gazprom.

(c) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions the President may impose with respect to a foreign person under subsection (a) or (b) are the following:

(1) EXPORT-IMPORT BANK ASSISTANCE.—The President may direct the Export-Import Bank of the United States not to approve the issuance of any guarantee, insurance, extension of credit, or participation in the extension of credit in connection with the export of any goods or services to the foreign person.

(2) PROCUREMENT SANCTION.—The President may prohibit the head of any executive agency (as defined in section 133 of title 41, United States Code) from entering into any contract for the procurement of any goods or services from the foreign person.

(3) ARMS EXPORT PROHIBITION.—The President may prohibit the exportation or provision by sale, lease or loan, grant, or other means, directly or indirectly, of any defense article or defense service to the foreign person and the issuance of any license or other approval to the foreign person under section 38 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778).

(4) DUAL-USE EXPORT PROHIBITION.—The President may prohibit the issuance of any license and suspend any license for the transfer to the foreign person of any item the export of which is controlled under the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2401 et seq.) (as in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.)) or the Export Administration Regulations under subchapter C of chapter VII of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations.

(5) PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS.—The President may, pursuant to such regulations as the President may prescribe, prohibit any person from—

(A) acquiring, holding, withholding, using, transferring, withdrawing, transporting, or exporting any property that is subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and with respect to which the foreign person has any interest;

(B) dealing in or exercising any right, power, or privilege with respect to such property; or

(C) conducting any transaction involving such property.

(6) BANKING TRANSACTIONS.—The President may, pursuant to such regulations as the President may prescribe, prohibit any transfers of credit or payments between financial institutions or by, through, or to any financial institution, to the extent that such transfers or payments are subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and involve any interest of the foreign person.

(7) PROHIBITION ON INVESTMENT IN EQUITY OR DEBT OF SANCTIONED PERSON.—The President may, pursuant to such regulations as the President may prescribe, prohibit any United States person from investing in or purchasing significant amounts of equity or debt instruments of the foreign person.

(8) EXCLUSION FROM THE UNITED STATES AND REVOCATION OF VISA OR OTHER DOCUMENTATION.—In the case of a foreign person who is an individual, the President may direct the Secretary of State to deny a visa to, and the Secretary of Homeland Security to exclude from the United States, the foreign person, subject to regulatory exceptions to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the

United States, or other applicable international obligations.

(9) SANCTIONS ON PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.—In the case of a foreign person that is an entity, the President may impose on the principal executive officer or officers of the foreign person, or on individuals performing similar functions and with similar authorities as such officer or officers, any of the sanctions described in this subsection applicable to individuals.

(d) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The authority to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property under subsection (c)(5) shall not include the authority to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(B) GOOD DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ''good'' has the meaning given that term in section 16 of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2415) (as continued in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.)).

(2) ADDITIONAL EXCEPTIONS.—The President shall not be required to apply or maintain the sanctions under subsection (a) or (b)—

(A) in the case of procurement of defense articles or defense services—

(i) under existing contracts or subcontracts, including the exercise of options for production quantities to satisfy requirements essential to the national security of the United States;

(ii) if the President determines in writing that—

(I) the person to which the sanctions would otherwise be applied is a sole source supplier of the defense articles or services;

(II) the defense articles or services are essential;

(III) alternative sources are not readily or reasonably available; and

(IV) the national interests of the United States would be adversely affected by the application or maintenance of such sanctions; or

(iii) if the President determines in writing that—

(I) such articles or services are essential to the national security under defense coproduction agreements; and

(II) the national interests of the United States would be adversely affected by the application or maintenance of such sanctions;

(B) in the case of procurement, to eligible products, as defined in section 308(4) of the Trade Agreements Act of 1979 (19 U.S.C. 2518(4)), of any foreign country or instrumentality designated under section 301(b)(1) of that Act (19 U.S.C. 2511(b)(1));

(C) to products, technology, or services provided under contracts entered into before the date on which the President publishes in the Federal Register the name of the person with respect to which the sanctions are to be imposed;

(D) to—

(i) spare parts that are essential to United States products or production;

(ii) component parts, but not finished products, essential to United States products or production; or

(iii) routine servicing and maintenance of United States products, to the extent that alternative sources are not readily or reasonably available;

(E) to information and technology essential to United States products or production; or

(F) to food, medicine, medical devices, or agricultural commodities (as those terms are defined in section 101 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8511)).

(e) NATIONAL SECURITY WAIVER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under subsection (a) or (b) with respect to a person if the President—

(A) determines that the waiver is in the national security interest of the United States; and

(B) submits to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the determination and the reasons for the determination.

(2) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required by paragraph (1)(B) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(f) TRANSACTION-SPECIFIC NATIONAL SECURITY WAIVER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under subsection (a) or (b) with respect to a specific transaction if the President—

(A) determines that the transaction is in the national security interest of the United States; and

(B) submits to the appropriate congressional committees a detailed report on the determination and the specific reasons for the determination that a waiver with respect to the transaction is necessary and appropriate.

(2) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required by paragraph (1)(B) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(g) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that violates, attempts to violate, or conspires to violate, or causes a violation of, subsection (a) or (b) of this section, or an order or regulation prescribed under either such subsection, to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person that commits an unlawful act described in section 206(a) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

[(h) TERMINATION.—This section, and sanctions imposed under this section, shall terminate on the date on which the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees a certification that the Government of the Russian Federation has ceased ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, supporting, or financing, significant acts intended to undermine the peace, security, stability, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova.**]**

(h) TERMINATION.—This section, and sanctions imposed under this section, shall terminate on the date on which the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees a certification that the Government of the Russian Federation has ceased ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, supporting, or financing, significant acts intended to undermine the peace, security, stability, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova, including through an agreement between the appropriate parties.

SEC. 5. SANCTIONS ON RUSSIAN AND OTHER FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

(a) FACILITATION OF CERTAIN DEFENSE- AND ENERGY-RELATED TRANSACTIONS.—The President may impose the sanction described in subsection (c) with respect to a foreign financial institution that the President determines engages, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, in significant transactions involving—

(1) persons with respect to which sanctions are imposed under section 4; and

(2) activities described in subsection (a) or (b) of that section.

(b) FACILITATION OF FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS ON BEHALF OF SPECIALLY DESIGNATED NATIONALS.—The President may impose the sanction described in subsection (c) with respect to a foreign financial institution if the President determines that the foreign financial institution has, on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, knowingly facilitated a significant financial transaction on behalf of any Russian person included on the list of specially designated nationals and blocked persons maintained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury, pursuant to—

(1) this Act;

(2) Executive Order 13660 (79 Fed. Reg. 13,493), 13661 (79 Fed. Reg. 15,535), or 13662 (79 Fed. Reg. 16,169); or

(3) any other executive order addressing the crisis in Ukraine.

(c) SANCTION DESCRIBED.—The sanction described in this subsection is, with respect to a foreign financial institution, a prohibition on the opening, and a prohibition or the imposition of strict conditions on the maintaining, in the United States of a correspondent account or a payable-through account by the foreign financial institution.

(d) NATIONAL SECURITY WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under this section with respect to a foreign financial institution if the President—

(1) determines that the waiver is in the national security interest of the United States; and

(2) submits to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the determination and the reasons for the determination.

(e) TERMINATION.—This section, and sanctions imposed under this section, shall terminate on the date on which the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees the certification described in section 4(h).

SEC. 6. CODIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE ORDERS ADDRESSING THE CRISIS IN UKRAINE.

*(a) IN GENERAL.—United States***[**United States**]** sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation provided for in Executive Orders 13660 (79 Fed. Reg. 13,493), 13661 (79 Fed. Reg. 15,535), and 13662 (79 Fed. Reg. 16,169), as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, shall remain in effect until the date on which the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees the certification described in section 4(h).

(b) EXCEPTIONS AND WAIVERS.—Sanctions referred to in subsection (a) shall, as appropriate, be subject to the exceptions and waivers provided for in subsections (d), (e), and (f) of section 4.

SEC. 7. MAJOR NON-NATO ALLY STATUS FOR UKRAINE, GEORGIA, AND MOLDOVA.

Section 517 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321k) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) ADDITIONAL DESIGNATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Effective on the date of the enactment of the Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014, Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova are each designated as a major non-NATO ally for purposes of this Act and the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.).

''(2) NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF DESIGNATION.—The President shall notify Congress in accordance with subsection (a)(2) before terminating the designation of a country specified in paragraph (1).''.

SEC. 8. INCREASED MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized to provide defense articles, defense services, and training to the Government of Ukraine for the purpose of countering offensive weapons and reestablishing the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine,

including anti-tank and anti-armor weapons, crew weapons and ammunition, counter-artillery radars to identify and target artillery batteries, fire control, range finder, and optical and guidance and control equipment, tactical troop-operated surveillance drones, and secure command and communications equipment, pursuant to the provisions of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.), the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.), and other relevant provisions of law.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit a report detailing the anticipated defense articles, defense services, and training to be provided pursuant to this section and a timeline for the provision of such defense articles, defense services, and training, to—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State $350,000,000 for fiscal year 2015 to carry out activities under this section.

(2) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall remain available for obligation and expenditure through the end of fiscal year 2017.

(d) AUTHORITY FOR THE USE OF FUNDS.—The funds made available pursuant to subsection (c) for provision of defense articles, defense services, and training may be used to procure such articles, services, and training from the United States Government or other appropriate sources.

SEC. 9. EXPANDED NONMILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR UKRAINE.

(a) ASSISTANCE TO INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE IN UKRAINE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a plan, including actions by the United States Government, other governments, and international organizations, to meet the need for protection of and assistance for internally displaced persons in Ukraine, to—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The plan required by paragraph (1) should include, as appropriate, activities in support of—

(A) helping to establish a functional and adequately resourced central registration system in Ukraine that can ensure coordination of efforts to provide assistance to internally displaced persons in different regions;

(B) encouraging adoption of legislation in Ukraine that protects internally displaced persons from discrimination based on their status and provides simplified procedures for obtaining the new residency registration or other official documentation that is a prerequisite to receiving appropriate social payments under the laws of Ukraine, such as pensions, and disability, child, and unemployment benefits; and

(C) helping to ensure that information is available to internally displaced persons about—

(i) government agencies and independent groups that can provide assistance to such persons in various regions; and

(ii) evacuation assistance available to persons seeking to flee armed conflict areas.

(3) ASSISTANCE THROUGH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.—The President shall instruct the United States permanent representative or executive director, as the case may be, to the relevant United Nations voluntary agencies, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and other appropriate international organizations, to use the voice and vote of the United States to support appropriate assistance for internally displaced persons in Ukraine.

(b) ASSISTANCE TO THE DEFENSE SECTOR OF UKRAINE.—The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense should assist entities in the defense sector of Ukraine to reorient exports away from customers in the Russian Federation and to find appropriate alternative markets for those entities in the defense sector of Ukraine that have already significantly reduced exports to and cooperation with entities in the defense sector of the Russian Federation.

(c) ASSISTANCE TO ADDRESS THE ENERGY CRISIS IN UKRAINE.—

(1) EMERGENCY ENERGY ASSISTANCE.—

(A) PLAN REQUIRED.—The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Energy, in collaboration with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall work with officials of the Government of Ukraine to develop a short-term emergency energy assistance plan designed to help Ukraine address the potentially severe short-term, heating fuel and electricity shortages facing Ukraine in 2014 and 2015.

(B) ELEMENTS.—The plan required by subparagraph (A) should include strategies to address heating fuel and electricity shortages in Ukraine, including, as appropriate—

(i) the acquisition of short-term, emergency fuel supplies;

(ii) the repair or replacement of infrastructure that could impede the transmission of electricity or transportation of fuel;

(iii) the prioritization of the transportation of fuel supplies to the areas where such supplies are needed most;

(iv) streamlining emergency communications throughout national, regional, and local governments to manage the potential energy crisis resulting from heating fuel and electricity shortages;

(v) forming a crisis management team within the Government of Ukraine to specifically address the potential crisis, including ensuring coordination of the team's efforts with the efforts of outside governmental and nongovernmental entities providing assistance to address the potential crisis; and

(vi) developing a public outreach strategy to facilitate preparation by the population and communication with the population in the event of a crisis.

(C) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of State, the Secretary of Energy, and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development are authorized to provide assistance in support of, and to invest in short-term solutions for, enabling Ukraine to secure the energy safety of the people of Ukraine during 2014 and 2015, including through—

(i) procurement and transport of emergency fuel supplies, including reverse pipeline flows from Europe;

(ii) provision of technical assistance for crisis planning, crisis response, and public outreach;

(iii) repair of infrastructure to enable the transport of fuel supplies;

(iv) repair of power generating or power transmission equipment or facilities;

(v) procurement and installation of compressors or other appropriate equipment to enhance short-term natural gas production;

(vi) procurement of mobile electricity generation units; [and]

(vii) conversion of natural gas heating facilities to run on other fuels, including alternative energy sources[.]*; and*

(viii) provision of emergency weatherization and winterization materials and supplies.

(D) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Energy, and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development $50,000,000 in the aggregate for fiscal year 2015 to carry out activities under this paragraph.

(2) REDUCTION OF UKRAINE'S RELIANCE ON ENERGY IMPORTS.—

(A) PLANS REQUIRED.—The Secretary of State, in collaboration with the Secretary of Energy and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall work with officials of the Government of Ukraine to develop medium- and long-term plans to increase energy production and efficiency to increase energy security by helping Ukraine reduce its dependence on natural gas imported from the Russian Federation.

(B) ELEMENTS.—The medium- and long-term plans required by subparagraph (A) should include strategies, as appropriate, to—

(i) improve corporate governance and unbundling of state-owned oil and gas sector firms;

(ii) increase production from natural gas fields and from other sources, including renewable energy;

(iii) license new oil and gas blocks transparently and competitively;

(iv) modernize oil and gas upstream infrastructure; and

(v) improve energy efficiency.

(C) PRIORITIZATION.—The Secretary of State, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and the Secretary of Energy should, during fiscal years 2015 through 2017, work with other donors, including multilateral agencies and nongovernmental organizations, to prioritize, to the extent practicable and as appropriate, the provision of assistance from such donors to help Ukraine to improve energy efficiency, increase energy supplies produced in Ukraine, and reduce reliance on energy imports from the Russian Federation, including natural gas.

(D) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated $50,000,000 in the aggregate for fiscal years 2015 through 2017 to carry out activities under this paragraph.

(3) SUPPORT FROM THE OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION.—The Overseas Private Investment Corporation shall—

(A) prioritize, to the extent practicable, support for investments to help increase energy efficiency, develop domestic oil and natural gas reserves, improve and repair electricity infrastructure, and develop renewable and other sources of energy in Ukraine; and

(B) implement procedures for expedited review and, as appropriate, approval, of applications by eligible investors (as defined in section 238 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2198)) for loans, loan guarantees, and insurance for such investments.

(4) SUPPORT BY THE WORLD BANK GROUP AND THE EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT.—The President shall, to the

extent practicable and as appropriate, direct the United States Executive Directors of the World Bank Group and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to encourage the World Bank Group and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and other international financial institutions—

(A) to invest in, and increase their efforts to promote investment in, projects to improve energy efficiency, improve and repair electricity infrastructure, develop domestic oil and natural gas reserves, and develop renewable and other sources of energy in Ukraine; and

(B) to stimulate private investment in such projects.

(d) ASSISTANCE TO CIVIL SOCIETY IN UKRAINE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall, directly or through nongovernmental or international [organizations] *organizations, such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the National Endowment for Democracy, and related organizations*—

(A) strengthen the organizational and operational capacity of democratic civil society in Ukraine;

(B) support the efforts of independent media outlets to broadcast, distribute, and share information in all regions of Ukraine;

(C) counter corruption and improve transparency and accountability of institutions that are part of the Government of Ukraine; and

(D) provide support for democratic organizing and election monitoring in Ukraine.

(2) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit a strategy to carry out the activities described in paragraph (1) [to the committees specified in subsection (a)(1).] *to*—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State $20,000,000 for fiscal year 2015 to carry out this subsection.

(4) TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENTS.—Any assistance provided pursuant to this subsection shall be conducted in as transparent of a manner as possible, consistent with the nature and goals of this subsection. The President shall provide a briefing on the activities funded by this subsection at the request of the committees specified in paragraph (2).

SEC. 10. EXPANDED BROADCASTING IN COUNTRIES OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chairman of the Broadcasting Board of Governors shall submit to Congress a plan, including a cost estimate, for immediately and substantially increasing, and maintaining through fiscal year 2017, the quantity of Russian-language broadcasting into the countries of the former Soviet Union funded by the United States in order to counter Russian Federation propaganda.

(b) PRIORITIZATION OF BROADCASTING INTO UKRAINE, GEORGIA, AND MOLDOVA.—The plan required by subsection (a) shall prioritize broadcasting into Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova by the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.

(c) ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES.—In developing the plan required by subsection (a), the Chairman shall consider—

(1) near-term increases in Russian-language broadcasting for countries of the former Soviet Union (other than the countries specified in subsection (b)), including Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia; and

(2) increases in broadcasting in other critical languages, including Ukrainian and Romanian languages.

(d) BROADCASTING DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''broadcasting'' means the distribution of media content via radio broadcasting, television broadcasting, and Internet-based platforms, among other platforms.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated *to the Broadcasting Board of Governors* $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2017 to carry out activities under this section.

(2) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall supplement and not supplant other amounts made available for activities described in this section.

SEC. 11. SUPPORT FOR RUSSIAN DEMOCRACY AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall, directly or through nongovernmental or international organizations, such as the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the National Endowment for Democracy, and related organizations—

(1) improve democratic governance, transparency, accountability, rule of law, and anti-corruption efforts in the Russian Federation;

(2) strengthen democratic institutions and political and civil society organizations in the Russian Federation;

(3) expand uncensored Internet access in the Russian Federation; and

(4) expand free and unfettered access to independent media of all kinds in the Russian Federation, including through increasing United States Government-supported broadcasting activities, and assist with the protection of journalists and civil society activists who have been targeted for free speech activities.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State $20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2017 to carry out the activities set forth in subsection (a).

(c) STRATEGY REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit a strategy to carry out the activities set forth in subsection (a) to—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(d) TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENTS.—Any assistance provided pursuant to this section shall be conducted in as transparent of a manner as possible, consistent with the nature and goals of this section. The President shall provide a briefing on the activities funded by this section at the request of the committees specified in subsection (c).

SEC. 12. REPORT ON NON-COMPLIANCE BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION OF ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE INF TREATY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Russian Federation is in violation of its obligations under the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, signed at Washington December 8, 1987, and entered into force June 1, 1988 (commonly referred to as the ''Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty'' or ''INF Treaty'').

(2) This behavior poses a threat to the United States, its deployed forces, and its allies.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the President should hold the Russian Federation accountable for being in violation of its obligations under the INF Treaty; and

(2) the President should demand the Russian Federation completely and verifiably eliminate the military systems that constitute the violation of its obligations under the INF Treaty.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter, the President shall submit to the committees specified in subsection (d) a report that includes the following elements:

(A) A description of the status of the President's efforts, in cooperation with United States allies, to hold the Russian Federation accountable for being in violation of its obligations under the INF Treaty and obtain the complete and verifiable elimination of its military systems that constitute the violation of its obligations under the INF Treaty.

(B) The President's assessment as to whether it remains in the national security interests of the United States to remain a party to the INF Treaty, and other related treaties and agreements, while the Russian Federation is in violation of its obligations under the INF Treaty.

(C) Notification of any deployment by the Russian Federation of a ground launched ballistic or cruise missile system with a range of between 500 and 5,500 kilometers.

(D) A plan developed by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), to verify that the Russian Federation has fully and completely dismantled any ground launched cruise missiles or ballistic missiles with a range of between 500 and 5,500 kilometers, including details on facilities that inspectors need access to, people inspectors need to talk with, how often inspectors need the accesses for, and how much the verification regime would cost.

(2) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

(d) COMMITTEES SPECIFIED.—The committees specified in this subsection are—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, the Banking Committee has jurisdiction over economic, trade, banking, and financial sanctions. During the last year, I have worked with my colleagues in Congress to authorize the President to impose tough sanctions targeting President Putin and his cronies, and he has enlisted our allies in that effort. We all agree that if Putin continues to intimidate the people of Ukraine he must face intensifying economic and political isolation.

But unlike with the sanctions bill enacted earlier this year, the Foreign Relations Committee did not consult the Banking Committee on this bill prior to its markup. Even so, my staff has worked cooperatively with Foreign Relations staff in recent weeks to fix many of the most significant textual problems which would have made its implementation unworkable. Those negotiations have now progressed to a point where I have been satisfied with the changes included in the substitute amendment. While it is still not perfect and contains some provisions

which in my view are unnecessary, we have made substantial progress.

The President has worked to impose punishing sanctions on Russia, maximizing their effect on Russia while minimizing their effect on the U.S. and Western allies. I heard personally from Secretary Lew the administration's concern that the mandatory global energy sanctions in a prior version of this bill could have driven a wedge between the U.S. and our allies. They could have ensnared potentially hundreds of our allies' businesses—including firms whose governments in Europe and elsewhere may otherwise be working with us to isolate Russia. That problem has now been resolved, and the substitute now gives the President discretion to target firms involved in these activities should he so choose. I am confident he will now be able to implement these measures in a way which is sensitive to the concerns of our allies, and which can protect innocent U.S. investors in pension funds, mutual funds, and emerging market funds which hold stock in European, Asian or other firms subject to potential sanction under the bill.

Sanctions should offer the President flexibility to continue to work with allies to maximize pressure on Russia as its economy reels under the stress of sanctions, falling world oil prices, and a falling ruble. I support the aid to Ukraine authorized in this bill, and I support further sanctions on Russia that will not drive a wedge between the U.S. and our allies, that will protect innocent U.S. investors, and that can be implemented with minimal confusion or delay. I am glad we were able finally to reach agreement on the bill and appreciate the cooperation of my colleagues in this effort.

Mr. DURBIN. I further ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendments be withdrawn; the Menendez-Corker substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time; and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendments were withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 4092) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under ''Text of Amendments.'')

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (S. 2828), as amended, was passed.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF YELLOW CREEK PORT PROPERTIES IN IUKA, MISSISSIPPI

SAFE AND SECURE DRINKING WATER PROTECTION ACT OF 2014

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3044 and S. 2785 and the Senate proceed to their immediate consideration en bloc.

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

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the bills be read a third time and passed and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc.

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

The bill (H.R. 3044) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

The bill (S. 2785) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2785

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 ''Safe and Secure Drinking Water Protection Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. MICROCYSTINS IN DRINKING WATER.

(a) HEALTH ADVISORY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (referred to in this Act as the ''Administrator'') shall develop and publish a health advisory including recommendations on—

(1)(A) the level of microcystins in drinking water below which the water is expected to be safe for human consumption; and

(B) feasible treatment techniques and other means for achieving that level; and

(2) standardized procedures for testing for microcystins in drinking water.

(b) REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and each year thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) a description of the status of the efforts of the Administrator to determine whether to regulate drinking water with respect to the level of microcystins;

(2) a description of the steps taken by the Administrator to promote testing of drinking water for microcystins in areas that have been affected by harmful algal blooms; and

(3) an analysis of available treatment techniques and other means for addressing microcystins in drinking water.

ENHANCING THE ABILITY OF COMMUNITY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO FOSTER ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3329 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3329) to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. DURBIN. I further ask unanimous consent that the King substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The amendment (No. 4093) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. CHANGES REQUIRED TO SMALL BANK HOLDING COMPANY POLICY STATEMENT ON ASSESSMENT OF FINANCIAL AND MANAGERIAL FACTORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Before the end of the 6-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (hereafter in this Act referred to as the ''Board'') shall publish in the Federal Register proposed revisions to the Small Bank Holding Company Policy Statement on Assessment of Financial and Managerial Factors (12 C.F.R. part 225 appendix C) that provide that the policy shall apply to bank holding companies and savings and loan holding companies which have pro forma consolidated assets of less than $1,000,000,000 and that—

(1) are not engaged in significant nonbanking activities either directly or through a nonbank subsidiary;

(2) do not conduct significant off-balance sheet activities (including securitization and asset management or administration) either directly or through a nonbank subsidiary; and

(3) do not have a material amount of debt or equity securities outstanding (other than trust preferred securities) that are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

(b) EXCLUSIONS.—The Board may exclude any bank holding company or savings and loan holding company, regardless of asset size, from the policy statement under subsection (a) if the Board determines that such action is warranted for supervisory purposes.

SEC. 2. CONFORMING AMENDMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (C) of section 171(b)(5) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (12 U.S.C. 5371(b)(5)) is amended to read as follows:

''(C) any bank holding company or savings and loan holding company having less than $1,000,000,000 in total consolidated assets that complies with the requirements of the Small Bank Holding Company Policy Statement on Assessment of Financial and Managerial Factors of the Board of Governors (12 C.F.R. part 225 appendix C), as the requirements of such Policy Statement are amended pursuant to section 1 of an Act entitled 'To enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and

serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes'.''.

(b) TRANSITION PERIOD.—Any small bank holding company that was excepted from the provisions of section 171 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act pursuant to subparagraph (C) of section 171(b)(5) (as such subparagraph was in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act), and any small savings and loan holding company that would have been excepted from the provisions of section 171 pursuant to subparagraph (C) (as such subparagraph was in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) if it had been a small bank holding company, shall be excepted from the provisions of section 171 until the effective date of the Small Bank Holding Company Policy Statement issued by the Board as required by section 1 of this Act.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this Act:

(a) BANK HOLDING COMPANY.—The term ''bank holding company'' has the same meaning as in section 2 of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841).

(b) SAVINGS AND LOAN HOLDING COMPANY.—The term ''savings and loan holding company'' has the same meaning as in section 10(a) of the Home Owners' Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1467a(a)).

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 3329), as amended, was passed.

CREDIT UNION SHARE INSURANCE FUND PARITY ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3468 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3468) to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to extend insurance coverage to amounts held in a member account on behalf of another person, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. DURBIN. I further ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The bill (H.R. 3468) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014—Continued

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON IMMIGRATION

Mr. LEE. As we all know, President Obama recently announced Executive action on immigration, what he refers to as deferred action, for millions of aliens who are here illegally but who have children who were born in the United States and by virtue of their birth in the United States are U.S. citizens.

Now the President has repeatedly assured the American people that he is not creating a pathway to citizenship for those individuals, but that isn't true. He and his administration have cleared the pathway to citizenship for millions of people who have crossed into our borders illegally. They know that is what they have done, and it is illegal. Immigration law is quite complicated, but here is the bottom line on this issue: If you are the parent of a U.S. citizen, when that child reaches the age of 21, assuming you haven't committed certain crimes or done other things that might exclude you from what the law generally allows, you can get a green card and eventually you can get citizenship. But there is a catch. If you are in an illegal status inside the United States because you crossed into our borders illegally and that is how you became an illegal alien—that is, you entered without inspection, as that term is known in immigration circles—then in order to get back on the path to citizenship you are first required under existing law to leave the country and then to come back across the border into the country legally. Because you broke immigration laws before you came into the country, the law says you have to wait either 3 years or 10 years to return, depending on how long you were inside the country illegally before you left.

When we talk about clearing the path to citizenship for this set of immigrants—that is those who are close relatives of U.S. citizens—that is what we are talking about: getting around the rule that those who cross our border in secret must leave the country, wait a period of years outside the country because they broke our laws, and then return.

So when the President says he isn't clearing such a path to citizenship, that is Washington shorthand for, don't worry, I am not circumventing the law.

What stands between these people and citizenship is the need to enter the country lawfully, which they cannot do until they leave, wait a period of time that Congress has set by law, and then and only then come back. The President claims he is not touching this rule, but that is exactly what he is doing and exactly what he has done, and he is doing it through a program called advance parole. Advance parole is essentially a form of permission for an undocumented immigrant to travel outside the country and then return. When he gets back to the country and approaches the border, he presents an advance travel document to border officials and they will parole him into the country.

What is more, the President has announced if you leave the country under a grant of advance parole, the administration will treat you as though you never left at all, waiving the 3-year to 10-year wait mandated by Congress for people who have come here unlawfully and then left the country.

When that is done, as it turns out, the illegal immigrant will become eligible to take advantage of a different way to become a citizen: getting what is known as adjustment of status. Adjustment of status, which gives you a green card without having to leave the country, is available to parents of U.S. citizens so long as they crossed our border lawfully, which advanced parole lets them do.

So how hard will it be to get advance parole, which leads to a green card, which in turn leads to citizenship? Well, it is supposed to be very hard. Parole is kind of a temporary emergency pass that lets someone into the country for an extremely urgent reason, even though the law says that an immigrant in that circumstance cannot be admitted for one reason or another.

In fact, there is a Federal statute passed by Congress that restricts the power of the executive branch of the Federal Government to use parole to a very narrow, very confined set of circumstances. That law, INA section 212(d)(5)(a), says that the executive branch may parole individuals into the United States ''only on a case-by-case basis for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit.''

That term ''urgent humanitarian reasons'' means conditions such as getting medical treatment or perhaps attending a funeral of a close family member. ''Significant public benefit'' usually means circumstances such as one being a witness in a crime and as such needing to come into the country to testify at trial.

To be clear, it is illegal—illegal—to parole people into the country who don't meet that standard. But for deferred action recipients, here is the standard the President is using: A person warranting advance parole, which again also eventually leads to citizenship, must file a form I–131 with USCIS. The instructions for this form explain that deferred action recipients can get parole for ''educational purposes, employment purposes or humanitarian purposes . . . ''

I continue:

Educational purposes include but are not limited to semester abroad programs or academic research;

Employment purposes include but are not limited to overseas assignments, interviews, conferences, training or meetings with clients. . . .

In no universe is a meeting with a client or a conference an urgent humanitarian reason. Nowhere in the universe are those circumstances for a significant benefit to the American public.

Imagine this scenario. Imagine that a foreign national approaches our border. The border officials ask the individual for a visa, and he says, oh, I don't have a visa, but I do have a business meeting in Denver. Can I come in, even though I don't have a visa? There is no doubt he would be turned away promptly. But for the new deferred action recipients under the President's Executive action plan, so long as you have a business meeting in Toronto or an overseas assignment in Buenos Aires, you can get permission to leave and be paroled back into the country immediately upon your return, along with the government's promise to ignore the 3-year or 10-year bar that is supposed to keep you out of the country. And once you do that, you can adjust your status and get a green card and eventually citizenship.

How do I know this? Well, in 2010 the American Spectator published a leaked Department of Homeland Security memo, a version of which purportedly reached the Secretary of Homeland Security—then-Secretary Janet Napolitano—exploring the administration's options on immigration. That memo explicitly contemplated using parole as a way to sidestep Congress and give citizenship to illegal immigrants who are relatives to U.S. citizens.

It says ''individuals could . . . be paroled into the U.S. for purposes of applying for adjustment of status to render immediate relatives of U.S. citizens eligible for parole, DHS could issue guidance establishing that family reunification constitutes a significant public benefit.''

So let me be clear. Advance parole leads to citizenship for parents of U.S. citizens. The administration knows that, and they are giving advance parole for reasons such as client meetings that clearly violate Federal law.

This is the danger of unilateral Executive action, drafted in secret and announced to the American people as a fait accompli. In our system, policies are debated in the legislature and their consequences need to be explored through debate. Here, the President's action has avoided that constitutional lawmaking process, but it has also broken existing laws passed by Congress.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

SERVING AS PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I have been in the Senate just a few weeks shy of 40 years. For the past 2 years I have had the distinct honor of serving this Chamber as the President pro tempore. Just four Senators from Vermont have held this title. I am the first in more than a century.

It has been among my greatest privileges to represent Vermont in the U.S. Senate, something I dreamed about as a child, and it has been day after day after day a privilege to represent my very special State of Vermont in this body.

It has also been an honor and privilege to serve as the President pro tempore in this institution, the U.S. Senate. This is an institution for which I will always have the greatest respect and affection.

When I assumed the position of President pro tempore, something I had not realized would happen, Marcelle and I welcomed into our family over time nearly 20 invaluable members of the U.S. Capitol Police. As President pro tempore and third in the line of succession, the office comes with a security detail. It is not something I had asked for. In fact, I said, well, I don't really need that, and they said: You don't get any choice in the matter.

I got to know them well. I had a background in law enforcement before I came to the Senate, but I have never served with such professionals as those who comprise this team. They sacrifice time at home. They sacrifice time with their families and weekends and holidays. I could not be more grateful for their dedication to public service and for their professionalism and good nature. They are an example of what the best in law enforcement should be.

The U.S. Capitol should be very proud of our U.S. Capitol Police and especially of those who are in this unique dignitary protection division. Those who serve on such details are trained to blend into the background. You might forget they are there, but they are, and they miss nothing. When I try to give them credit for the work they do, they say: Well, that is just our job. It is a lot more than their job. It is true professionalism and it is something that makes everybody in law enforcement and should make everybody in the U.S. Senate proud.

I want to recognize their commitment and acknowledge their service. The members of this detail include Sergeant David Ribb, Thomas Andriko, Henry Smith, Shane Powell, Eric Boggs, Robert Schultz, Antonio Carofano, Amy McDaniel, John Jastrzebski, Ryan Rayball, Ryan Andrews, Jay Schmid, Austin Reinshuttle, Sean Keating, Anthony Ravenel, Gideon Maran, John Brito, Luis Pimentel, Jose Ramirez, Jr., Robert Leh, James Melenson, Edward Wojciechowski, and Marc DesJames, who recently retired.

Next year when Congress reconvenes, we will elect a new President pro tempore, my friend Senator ORRIN HATCH. I will continue as dean of the Senate, and a future President pro tempore emeritus. I wish ORRIN HATCH the best, and I know he is going to be in safe hands with the dedicated members of the President pro tempore's security detail.

Again, having served in law enforcement, having considered that a very significant part of my career, I have never seen more professional police officers than these men and women. Every one of us as Senators should be glad they are there.

Madam President, on another matter, after 9 months of hearings and briefings, many long days and nights of negotiations, this past weekend the Appropriations Committee completed work on the fiscal year 2015 Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act.

Earlier this year many of us came to the floor and praised Chairwoman MIKULSKI for her heroic efforts to pass the fiscal year 2014 omnibus. While many in Washington thought that feat could not be repeated 2 years in a row, as the most senior Member of the Appropriations Committee I knew she would prove them wrong, and she did. Chairwoman MIKULSKI rallied her 12 subcommittees and reached across the aisle to negotiate this omnibus and avoid another shutdown. Without her, this would not have been possible.

Similar to Chairwoman MIKULSKI, my friend Senator SHELBY from Alabama, the committee's vice chairman, also deserves a great deal of praise for the role he played. Without Senator SHELBY's recognition of the importance of passing appropriations bills rather than continuing to fund the government on autopilot, we would not have reached this point.

As chairman of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee, I also wish to thank the ranking member, LINDSEY GRAHAM, chairwoman KAY GRANGER, and ranking member NITA LOWEY in the other body. They were always able partners, whose wealth of experience—I will emphasize that—wealth of experience is invaluable to the subcommittee's work, and it is reflected throughout the final agreement.

I look forward to working with the incoming subcommittee chairman LINDSEY GRAHAM next year to continue to fund the diplomacy and foreign aid programs that are essential to protecting U.S. interests around the world in a manner that reflects American values.

The State, Foreign Operations portion of this omnibus was negotiated with the full participation of representatives of both parties in both Houses of Congress as a balanced, bipartisan bill. Every word was discussed and agreed to by Republicans and Democrats, and our respective subcommittee bills have been publicly available since they were reported out of committee in June.

My Democratic clerk of the subcommittee, Tim Rieser, made sure everybody in both parties were kept apprised of everything we did. I want to thank him, Janet Stormes and Alex Carnes of the Democratic staff, as well as Paul Grove, the Republican clerk, and Adam Yezerski of the Republican staff. They all played an essential role.

Others who were indispensable and deserve our thanks are Valerie Hutton, Celina Inman, Elmer Barnes, and

Penny Myles of the editorial and printing office, who worked long hours to produce draft after draft of the bill. They do an outstanding job.

Division J of this omnibus for the Department of State and Foreign Operations provides a total of $51.8 billion in discretionary budget authority to protect U.S. security, humanitarian, and economic interests around the world.

Anybody who doubts that these funds are important should think about the devastation being wrought by ISIL in Syria and Iraq and its impact on neighboring Lebanon and Jordan, in addition to what is happening in the Central African Republic, South Sudan, and other areas where hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced by ethnic and tribal violence. Part of this funding will support aid for refugees and other victims of disasters, and we provide $1.5 billion above the budget request. The bill also includes additional funds to help Ukraine and other former Soviet republics counter Russian aggression.

It provides $2.5 billion in emergency funding to respond to the Ebola epidemic, which reminds us all that a deadly virus is often only one airplane trip away from our shores.

The bill includes full funding for diplomatic security, which unfortunately we need today.

As far as U.N. peacekeeping, the bill provides funding and authorities to fully meet our commitments.

It includes an increase above the budget request for PEPFAR and other global health programs, which I was very pleased about considering that those increases did not require cuts to other critical programs.

The bill includes additional funding for educational and cultural exchanges. It provides funding to address the gang violence and poverty that contribute to the migration of unaccompanied children from Central America. That problem ebbs and flows but cannot be ignored. We have seen the flood of young children across our southern border, risking their lives rather than staying and being attacked and raped in their own country, or forced into gangs and made to shoot and kill and rob.

I am very pleased we were able to include the amounts requested for programs to protect biodiversity and tropical forests, support clean energy and reduce global warming, combat wildlife poaching and trafficking. These are important national security issues.

I am also pleased that provisions relating to our commitments to the international financial institutions, particularly relating to evaluations, beneficial ownership, human rights, industrial-scale logging, and financing for large dams, were included. I look forward to discussing them with the Treasury Department, State, and USAID.

The provisions relating to a Small Grants Program to provide small, multi-year USAID grants to small entities, timely feedback from beneficiaries of humanitarian assistance, and reforms to provide incentives for Foreign Service Officers to support sustainable, locally-driven development, are also important.

There is a lot more in this bill to support friends and allies so they can combat disease, hunger, poverty, strengthen the rule of law, and protect human rights. These are all programs that are directly linked to our national security. They fulfill our moral obligation as Americans, as members of the wealthiest, most powerful Nation on Earth.

There are some things that I wish were not included, particularly a House provision carried from last year that would weaken limits on carbon emissions from projects financed by the Export-Import Bank and Overseas Private Investment Corporation. Our European partners are wisely ending public subsidies for coal in favor of cleaner, healthier, renewable energy, but the House continues to block such progress here.

I am very disappointed the Senate provision to bring the United States into compliance with the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations was rejected again this year by the House. The Bush administration spoke of the necessity of this, as has the Obama administration.

Mr. President, no bill is perfect, and this one is no exception. But the State, Foreign Operations portion of the omnibus is a whole lot better than a continuing resolution that ignores the changing global realities and challenges we face.

It was a collaborative effort from beginning to end with Republicans and Democrats alike, and it should be supported overwhelmingly.

I see my friend, the distinguished senior Senator from Texas on the floor seeking recognition, so I will yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

Mr. CORNYN. It is good to see the senior Senator from Vermont back and in good health. I know he has been struggling a little bit with this crazy weather we are having, and we are glad to see him back.

On November 5, 2009, a radical jihadist, by the name of Nidal Hasan, who happened to also be a major in the U.S. Army, opened fire at Fort Hood, TX, claiming the lives of 12 U.S. soldiers, one civilian, one unborn child, and wounded more than 30 other people. It was a shocking tragedy and event.

Shortly after the attack, it became clear that Hasan was motivated by the same poisonous ideology that spurred the attacks on September 11, 2001; in other words, this was an act of domestic terrorism. Yet due to the narrow and outdated definition of ''international terrorism,'' the Fort Hood victims have not been awarded the same medals and recognition as other military victims of terrorism.

Furthermore, the Obama administration took the position of claiming that the 2009 Fort Hood victims were not eligible for Purple Hearts because this was workplace violence—believe it or not. They further said they didn't think Hasan was acting under the explicit direction of a foreign terrorist group, so they were not qualified for these Purple Hearts and this recognition.

When our men and women in uniform come under hostile fire from a terrorist, they and their families should receive the full honors and full recognition and benefits that accompany such courageous service. That is why I have authored legislation in the Senate making these victims of the November 2009 attack at Fort Hood eligible to receive the Purple Heart or the civilian equivalent.

Last week I was pleased that the House of Representatives passed the Defense authorization bill, which includes the legislation I authored awarding Purple Hearts to victims of this terrorist attack.

I wish to thank my good friends Congressmen WILLIAMS and CARTER for their steadfast dedication to seeing this to conclusion and to fruition.

While long overdue, this is welcome news to the wounded, the families of the fallen, and the entire Fort Hood community, because even after 5 years, the wounds from this horrific attack are still there, especially for the families of people such as Michael Cahill, a civilian physician's assistant and retired soldier, and Army CPT John Gaffaney, both of whom charged the shooter and sacrificed their lives to save others around them.

The close-knit community at Fort Hood has endured great loss in recent years, and I am pleased we are now just one step closer to delivering this important piece of justice to the victims and their families. It is my hope that once the Defense authorization bill clears this Chamber, that the President will act quickly in signing this legislation into law because any further delay is a continuing injustice to all of the victims from that day and indeed all of the good people at Fort Hood.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mrs. HAGAN. Madam President, it is with great honor and gratitude that I rise to reflect on the last 6 years, which have been some of the most rewarding and transformative of my life, and to thank the people who have been by my side as we worked to make our great State and this great country even better.

First and foremost, I wish to thank the people of North Carolina for allowing me to serve them in the Senate. Six years ago you sent me to Washington to fight for the priorities that make our State great, and I have put North Carolina first every single day. I have

been honored to stand up for our teachers, our students, to fight for our seniors, to help create a business climate that promotes job growth, to build an economy that works for everyone, and to make sure we keep our promises to our servicemembers and to our veterans.

I am extremely proud of what we have been able to accomplish, and I am forever humbled and grateful for the opportunity to serve.

I also wish to thank my family; my husband Chip, who is my rock, and my three children, Jeanette, Tilden, and Carrie, and my two great sons-in-law, Will and Martin.

These past 6 years have been extremely full of exciting milestones for the Hagan family. Since my term began, my two daughters have both gotten married and they both had babies. I have a 1-year-old grandson Harrison and a 1-week-old granddaughter Christine. So when I said earlier that these past 6 years have been transformative, I wasn't kidding.

I also wish to thank my dad Joe Ruthven, who is one of my most trusted advisers and a constant source of inspiration for me, as is his wife Judy, my stepmom, for all of her love and support.

I wish to thank the Capitol Police here in Washington. I don't think we recognize these people enough for the incredible work they do to keep us safe.

And, of course, I wish to thank my unbelievably hard-working staff whom I consider to be a part of the official Hagan family. These folks are top-notch. Their commitment to our State and the people we serve is unmatched. They are passionate and compassionate, and I am so grateful to have had them by my side over these last 6 years. I ask unanimous consent that a list of their names be printed in the RECORD.

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

STAFF OF SENATOR KAY R. HAGAN

Michelle Adams, Ayo Adeyeye, Tyler Aiken, Natalia Aldana, Stephanie Allen, Patrick Ayers, Devan Barber, Micah Beasley, Caroline Brantley, Patrick Brennan, Nancy Brenner, Emorie Broemel, Christopher Cannon, Angelo Caravano, Bess Caughran, Marshall Cesena, Justin Clayton, Molly Conti, Carrie Cook, Perrin Cooke, Travis Cooke, Ashley Copeland, Kathryn Davidson, Curtis Davis, Andrew Devlin, Sage Dunston, Ashley Eden, Brittany Ellis, Karen Evans.

John Fain, Elizabeth Farrar, Sharon Fisher, Colleen Flanagan, Margaret Freshwater, Amanda Gabriel, Tiffany Germain, Jennifer Gradnigo, Mary Hanley, Simone Hardeman-Jones, Mike Harney, Freddie Harrill, Jenny Hartsock, David Hartzler, Christopher Hayden, Christina Henderson, David Hoffman, Julie Holzhueter, Cristina Jacome, Jennifer Johnson, Michael Jones, Rosemary Kennedy, Meenal Khajuria, Crystal King, Catherine Kuerbitz.

John Labban, Tasmaya Lagoo, Stephen Lassiter, Samuel Lau, Margaret Lawrynowicz, Caitlin Legacki, Jason Lindsay, Travis Manigan, Elizabeth Margolis, Shaniqua McClendon, Patrick McHugh, Will Medley, Kathryn Merrill, Forest Michaels, Melissa Midgett, John Minor, Joyce Mitchell, Amber Moon, Christopher Moyer, Sara Mursky-Fuller, Brian Nagle, Adeline Noger, Thomas O'Donnell, Emily Osterhus, Elizabeth Outten, Allison Parker, Tyler Patrick, Joseph Peele, Roger Pena, John Pfeiffer, Benjamin Piven, Stanley Purple.

Cierra Raleigh, Rikkia Ramsey, Hanna Raskin, Jean Reaves, Ryan Regan, Matthew Rumley, Leo Schmid, Tatyana Semyrog, Christopher Sgro, Lindsay Siler, Valarie Simpson, Leland Slade, Hannah Smith, Tremayne Smith, Aaron Suntag, Joshua Teitelbaum, Clayton Thomas, John Tillman, Karen Wade, Brittany Wakefield, Muthoni Wambu, Brandy Warwick, Timothy Webster, Alissa Sadie Weiner, Mesha White, Andrew Wilkins, Johnnie Williams, Sue Wink, Margaret Winslow, Abigail Youngken, Tracy Zvenyach.

Mrs. HAGAN. My staff knew how important it was to me that my office be as open and as accessible as possible to the people of North Carolina, and my team worked every single day to help us reach that goal. Over the last 6 years, we held a townhall in every 100 counties across North Carolina. In DC, we have held a Carolina Coffee every Wednesday and we welcomed thousands of North Carolinians to come visit us. We have also resolved more than 36,000 constituent cases for the people of North Carolina, from helping veterans access their benefits with the VA to helping families struggling with high mortgage rates to be able to stay in their homes, to helping small businesses cut through the bureaucratic redtape.

While my North Carolina staff was there for the folks in our State day in and day out, my DC team was helping me fight for North Carolinians in Washington.

North Carolina is proud to be the most military-friendly State in the Nation. As a member of a military family, it is important to me to work every single day to keep our State the most military-friendly State. My husband is a Vietnam veteran. My dad and my brother served in the Navy. My father-in-law was a major general in the Marine Corps. I have two nephews on active duty. One is an F–15 fighter pilot and the other one is a Navy Seal. So when I say one of my top priorities was ensuring Federal policies worked for our veterans in active-duty military, they are not just words, it is truly a personal obligation.

That is why nearly 6 years ago, when Jerry Ensminger, a retired marine, shared with me the story of his daughter Janey, my heart broke for him. Janey died of leukemia at the age of 9 because of contaminated water on the base at Camp Lejeune. He dedicated his life to seeking justice for his daughter and other Camp Lejeune victims. I found it absolutely unconscionable that the Federal Government had denied this man, who served our country, the answers he needed after all he had been through. I wanted to do whatever I could to help, and it was one of the greatest honors of my life to work alongside my North Carolina colleague Senator BURR to pass the Janey Ensminger Act, to help Jerry and the servicemembers and families affected by water contamination at Camp Lejeune and to give them the answers and the health care they deserved.

It was also important to me that all Americans remembered and understood the sacrifices made by our military and their families. During my time in the Senate, I had the opportunity to speak on this very floor about some of the brave servicemembers from North Carolina, many of whom made the ultimate sacrifice, and many of whom lost their lives while trying to make the world a better place and safer for the rest of us. I had the opportunity to speak with many of their families and their stories were both moving and heartbreaking.

I spoke with Terry Marquez, whose son Justin died from small-arms fire wounds he received while on foot patrol in the Wardak Province in Afghanistan just 1 month after he arrived in theater. He was only 25 years old when he died.

According to Justin's mom Terry, as Justin grew up in the Army, he was like a fine wine, he just kept getting better with age. He believed in protecting others. He believed in making the world a better place. He believed in standing up so that others might not have to. Justin embodied the selflessness and courage that defines the men and women of our armed services.

Shortly after sharing Justin's story on the Senate floor, I invited his mother to be my guest at the State of the Union Address. Her presence reminded not just me but so many of the Senators that she met that night—and she knew them all—how important it is that we uphold our promises to the men and women who put their lives on the line for each and every one of us. It has been an honor to help be one of those voices for our servicemembers, veterans, and their families in Washington.

As one of 20 women in the Senate, I have also enjoyed being a voice for women and children. As women Senators, we bring a unique perspective to the policymaking dialog. We understand the issues facing women and families because we have been there. Some of us are moms and some are grandmoms. We know what it is like to balance that family checkbook and simultaneously run the business and a carpool, and to want the best possible future not only for our children but for all the children throughout the United States.

More important than that, the women of the Senate know how to bridge the partisan divide to get the job done. Together we passed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, the first bill I cosponsored as a U.S. Senator. We kept student loan rates from doubling. We pushed for initiatives such as my newborn screening bill to ensure that every child has a healthy start in life. I am proud of the work we have done together to support our families and to

set this country on a path to a brighter future.

But the fact is we need a lot more of that in Washington. If we are going to address the biggest challenges facing our country, we have to break through the political gridlock and confront these issues together—head on, united; not as Republicans and Democrats, but working together on behalf of the American people. We need to work together to tackle the rising cost of college that is putting higher education out of reach for too many students and then burdening them with unsustainable debt. We need to reform our education system to ensure that every child has the tools and the technology we have to have today and that we have to understand and be an expert in that technology in order to be successful in this competitive environment.

The economy is improving, but wages are stagnant. We must find ways to ensure that Americans working full time are not living in poverty.

We need to help middle-class families get ahead and ensure that working women are receiving the support they need, whether it is fair pay, affordable childcare, or time to care for new babies or seriously ill family members. There is so much work to be done. It is my hope these issues can be addressed in the 114th Congress, but doing so is going to take cooperation from all 100 Members of this body.

The men and women I have worked with during my time are some of the most dedicated, passionate people I have ever met. And there are so many, I am only going to name a few.

BARBARA MIKULSKI was my first mentor, the dean of the women. She waltzed me down the aisle to get sworn in. She is one of the greatest advocates for women and for families. And I know that PATTY MURRAY, the mom in tennis shoes, is a dynamite negotiator. MARK WARNER, one of my 2008 classmates, is a leader in seeking bipartisan solutions. SUSAN COLLINS is a great friend and a proven consensus builder. CHUCK SCHUMER is a trusted adviser who embodies what it means to be a fighter.

There are so many to name, and I love them all. But I know the Members of the Senate can make progress on these issues that matter so long as we put politics aside and work together.

One of my guiding principles is ''to whom much is given, much is expected.'' Six years ago, North Carolinians gave me an opportunity to be a voice in Washington, and I have put North Carolinians first every single day. I urge my colleagues to do the same—to remember who they are fighting for, not who they are fighting against, to see past the deed, to see past the d or the r, to work together in a bipartisan fashion as I have tried to do to move this country forward.

Working with all of my colleagues and serving North Carolina in the U.S. Senate is a huge honor.

God bless you all, and God bless the U.S. Senate. Thank you.

I yield the floor.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

TRIBUTE TO KAY HAGAN

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, first let me commend my colleague from North Carolina, KAY HAGAN, who has been an extraordinary asset in the U.S. Senate. She has shown political bravery to the highest degree over and over again, taking what she knew were the right votes even when they were politically tough votes. I just listened to her farewell address and I couldn't agree with her more, that she put the people of North Carolina ahead of everything else in terms of her service in the U.S. Senate. It has been an honor to serve with her, to get to know her husband Chip and her family, and I wish her only the best for whatever her future undertakings may be.

DEATH IN CUSTODY REPORTING ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, on Tuesday I was pleased to chair an important hearing in the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights that took a look at the state of civil rights in America today.

We heard compelling testimony from our colleagues, including Senator CORY BOOKER of New Jersey, Congressman LUIS GUTIÉRREZ of Illinois, and Congressman KEITH ELLISON of Minnesota. We also heard from civil rights leaders Wade Henderson and Laura Murphy, and from Dr. Cedric Alexander of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives.

It was a powerful hearing. We talked about Michael Brown of Ferguson Missouri, Eric Garner of Staten Island, and the growing sentiment across our Nation that the criminal justice system needs to be improved.

In particular, we talked about challenges that our Nation faces when it comes to restoring the trust of the minority communities in our government. Every witness, every Senator at the hearing agreed. We need to do more—not just wring our hands but to hold hands together and find solutions.

One issue we discussed at the hearing was the need for law enforcement to be more transparent. We discussed important legislation—called the Death in Custody Reporting Act—that would mark a significant step forward when it comes to transparency. The Death in Custody Reporting Act would take the simple step of requiring States and Federal law enforcement agencies to report to the Department of Justice basic statistical information regarding deaths that occur in law enforcement custody. This would include information about the name of the deceased, when the death occurred, how it occurred, and which agency was involved. It would apply when a person is being arrested or detained by local, State, or Federal law enforcement and when a person is incarcerated. The bill also directs the Attorney General to study this information and provide recommendations on how these deaths can be reduced.

It seems like such a simple matter to require accurate information to be collected. In fact, Congress used to require that information, but it expired in 2006. As a result, we have not had accurate national statistics regarding deaths in incarceration and custody.

Last week the Wall Street Journal reported that it surveyed police departments about deaths that occurred in police custody between 2007 and 2012 and found that more than 550 deaths occurred during that time and were not included in national statistics.

As we engage in a national conversation about reforming police tactics, we need accurate data in order to make the right reforms. At our hearing, our witnesses from the civil rights and law enforcement community agreed it was time to start gathering this information.

I am pleased that last night at the end of the session, the Senate passed the Death in Custody Reporting Act by unanimous consent. It is an important step forward toward transparency, accountability, and restoring confidence.

Let me give credit where it is due. For years this legislation has been championed by my friend Congressman BOBBY SCOTT of Virginia. I commend him for his dedicated efforts. I also commend my colleague Senator RICHARD BLUMENTHAL of Connecticut, who has strongly advocated for this bill in the Senate, including in our hearing on Tuesday.

Let me also give thanks to PATRICK LEAHY, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and House Judiciary Committee ranking member JOHN CONYERS for their support of this legislation.

This is not a partisan bill. It passed the House last year by a voice vote. Now it has cleared the Senate and is on its way to the President. The passage of this legislation shows that we can work together across the aisle and make progress. Make no mistake—we have a lot of work to do to improve the state of civil rights in America. There are many more steps we must take to restore the confidence of all Americans in our criminal justice system. The passage of this legislation by Congress is an important step in the right direction.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRIBUTES TO MARK UDALL

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I wish to take a moment today to speak about my friend MARK UDALL, who is

soon going to be finishing his term. MARK's sister Doty describes him as an OK politician but an extraordinary public servant. I think it is fair to say that MARK could never reduce his role as a representative of the people of Colorado to just politics. It is not in his DNA.

It is with a very heavy heart that I see him leave the Senate, because he is my friend. But it is especially sad at a time when MARK's kind of leadership and constructive engagement is exactly what this place needs.

''UDALL'' is a name that is synonymous with the West, and MARK and the collective service of the Udall family have come to represent the very best of our western way of life. They have embodied that pioneering and entrepreneurial spirit dating back to the days when Americans were building entirely new lives on the frontier. They have a historic love for the beauty and majesty of the West. They have spent lifetimes protecting it.

Mo and Stu Udall, MARK's uncle and father, both served our country during World War II. Stu was elected to serve the Second District of Arizona. When President Kennedy asked Stu to serve as the Secretary of Interior, Mo won Stu's seat in Congress.

Unlike his son MARK, Mo never ran for the Senate. He explained why. He said:

> I told the Arizona Press Club with [Barry] Goldwater present that there were three reasons I was not running for the Senate: 1. I love the House. 2. My wife and family are against it. And 3, I have taken a poll and you are going to beat the hell out of me.

Although, he did run for President. The New Republic reported on that:

> The Arizona Congressman, Morris Udall liked to tell a story about a response he got at a barber shop in Maine: He looked in at the door and, meaning to introduce himself, said ''Mo Udall, running for president.'' ''Yeah,'' the barber said, ''we were just laughing about it this morning.''

It is not hard to know where MARK acquired his self-deprecating approach to the world, just as it not hard to know where he inherited his commitment to civil rights, to conservation, and to good government.

MARK has said it was during this time that his political views were formed. He himself went on to seek office.

In 2008, when MARK was elected to represent Colorado in the Senate, his cousin TOM—Stu's son—was elected to serve the State of New Mexico and is one of our colleagues today.

MARK UDALL's connection to the West and to public service comes from both sides of his family. Mo Udall, a man of many talents, met Patricia Emory, MARK's mother, while playing baseball in Colorado. Patricia or ''Sam'' Udall was a sharpshooter, pilot, Peace Corps volunteer at the age of 56. She was a native Coloradan and the person MARK credits most for his passion for the outdoors, for backpacking and climbing.

Today in the 21st century we face a profound set of challenges and a dramatic test of our democratic institution. Can what MARK UDALL often calls this glorious experiment in self-government continue to thrive into the next century and beyond?

MARK has carried the tradition of his family by serving as a moral forward-pointing compass. Throughout his career he has defended personal freedom and liberty, and he has built a legacy of conservation and preservation. As a member of the Colorado General Assembly representing Longmont and parts of Boulder County, MARK toughened the laws against poaching big game as trophy animals. As a Member of the House of Representatives, he worked across the aisle to establish the Rocky Flats Wildlife Refuge, cleaning up the former nuclear site and preserving 4,000 acres of wild land near Denver. He established the James Peak Wilderness Area, protecting 14,000 acres of some of our most scenic land in Gilpin and Grand Counties. He passed the Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness Act to designate nearly 250,000 acres within the park as wilderness, including Longs Peak, which is actually a 14er that I have climbed. MARK UDALL has climbed all of them in Colorado, every single 14er we have, because they are included in the tallest 100 mountains that we have, each one of which has been summited by MARK UDALL. These are lands that will be protected long after any of our political careers are over and long after they remember who it was who protected those lands to begin with. But if anybody cares to check, they are going to know that it was MARK UDALL.

MARK has been vocal, active, and effective in his fight against climate change and in his promotion of renewable energy. He was the statewide co-chair of the successful 2004 campaign to pass Colorado's amendment 37. This measure required Colorado's power companies to generate most of their electricity from renewable sources. Colorado was the first State in the Union to take the issue to the voters. Amendment 37 passed. MARK UDALL was the driving force behind that effort. After his victory in the State, MARK took this issue to the House of Representatives. The House has twice passed the national renewable electricity standard championed by MARK.

During his time in the Senate, he has continued to push for a national policy, and his doggedness in standing up for Colorado's wind energy production saved thousands of good-paying jobs across the State and ensured that we will continue to lead the Nation in developing our clean energy economy.

The same is true for our ski areas, which have expanded recreation activities and summertime job opportunities thanks to a law MARK passed in this Senate.

Colorado's aerospace industry is thriving in part thanks to MARK UDALL. His work on space policy also dates back to his time in the House of Representatives as ranking member on the Space Subcommittee. MARK helped revitalize aeronautics and aviation research and development at NASA and ensure that the Hubble space telescope received service and funding.

In the Senate, MARK helped lead the Colorado delegation opposition to a proposal that would have canceled the Orion Program, costing the State 1,000 jobs. The administration backed off. Last week, with a shuttle and rocket—both built by companies based in Colorado—NASA launched a successful test flight of the Orion vehicle. We will again carry astronauts into space, traveling deeper than ever before and eventually maybe even visit Mars.

As everybody in this Chamber knows, MARK has been a staunch defender of the rights and freedoms we cherish as westerners. As a member of the Senate Armed Services and Intelligence Committees, MARK fought every single day he was here to protect the security of the American people and the Bill of Rights. He has taken on NSA and CIA when they violated our constitutional values.

In 2011 he worked on a classified level to pressure intelligence officials to dismantle a massive email collection program that affected American privacy. Administration officials were unable to provide evidence that the program was effective. It was shut down. It only became public information when the New York Times reported on it in July of 2013.

Well before Edward Snowden made headlines in 2013, MARK warned of the NSA's overreach. In 2012, on this Senate floor, he warned the American people that they would be shocked to learn about what the NSA was doing in secret. He introduced landmark, bipartisan surveillance reform legislation with Senators RON WYDEN, RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, and RAND PAUL. It became the basis for the USA FREEDOM Act, which received 58 votes just a few weeks ago. There was a time, before the relentless use of the filibuster, when a majority of votes in the Senate would have been enough to ensure passage of that bill.

Earlier this week the Intelligence Committee released the executive summary of the Senate Intelligence Committee's study of the CIA's detention and interrogation program. Nobody in this place fought harder than MARK UDALL to shed light on these tactics. His goal from day one has been holding the CIA accountable, shedding light on this dark chapter of our history, and ensuring that the neither the CIA nor any other agency or future administration would make the grievous mistakes that were made here. He accomplished his goals with respect to the process without leaking classified information but by applying pressure both politically and privately until the report was finally released. He has been effective because he has stood on consistent principle on every issue we have faced.

He voted against the PATRIOT Act. He opposed the war in Iraq. He helped

lead the fight to end don't ask, don't tell.

MARK truly is the very best of what it means to be a public servant: independent, responsible, tough, focused on the future, and possessing an abiding can-do spirit. His calm presence, his unassuming nature, and his ability to see pure good in those around him are exactly what we so desperately need in our process today.

Simply put, MARK UDALL has fought for Colorado families in the most constructive way possible—by pushing thoughtful commonsense solutions—but has never ever fought to achieve a partisan political fleece.

When Colorado was struck with a series of natural disasters, from wildfires to floods, MARK was at his very best, standing up for our State and our families to lead the efforts to ensure that our communities had the support they needed to recover and better prepare for the threats we faced next. He has strengthened the way we respond to the growing threat of wildfire by emphasizing preservation efforts that will save lives, property, and tax dollars. We would expect nothing else from a man who has dedicated himself and his career to standing up for Colorado families, the middle class, and the values of the American West.

As a Senator, a Representative, a State legislator, director of the Colorado Outward Bound school, MARK has been a model public servant. He has lived up to and exceeded the high standards his family has set for more than a century. Throughout all of his work, MARK has always fought against the dysfunction that persists in Washington.

It is true, however, that MARK cannot take full credit for the work. His wife and partner Maggie Fox shares his commitment to leaving more opportunity for the next generation. She has worked as a teacher and community organizer on the Navajo and Hopi reservations of Arizona, New Mexico, and for the Colorado, North Carolina, and Northwest Outward Bound schools. She has become a leading voice in many efforts to protect our land, our air, and our water. Their partnership is a genuine one. It has made MARK's work possible.

MARK's staff has been among the finest, most professional, and most effective in the Senate. It has been a pleasure for me and for my staff to work alongside them on behalf of the people of Colorado.

Over the past few years I have learned that really there are two broad categories of people in Washington: There are those who embrace and add to the dysfunction because it serves their ideological convictions or gives them an opportunity to star on the cable news or both. Then there are the people who are actually trying to save the place. They are looking for areas of compromise to break the gridlock and to move us forward.

MARK is one of the good ones, and I have no doubt he will continue to make profound contributions to Colorado and to our Nation in a variety of ways, but we are diminished by his loss. Every one of us, for the sake of this institution, would do well to live up to the example MARK UDALL has set.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam President, I thank Senator GRASSLEY for allowing me this time to talk about my cousin, MARK UDALL. First, let me say to Senator BENNET, I know that MARK feels he could not have had a better partner, a better friend, and someone to work with on Colorado issues and the great national issues than Senator BENNET.

Senator BENNET spoke eloquently of MARK's incredible record in public service. Two years in the Colorado legislature, 10 years in the House of Representatives, and 6 years here in the U.S. Senate. I served with MARK in the House, and here in the Senate. He is not only my cousin. He is not only an extraordinary public servant. He has been a great ally, as we have worked on the issues together.

MARK has been—and will continue to be—a champion, for the environment, for civil liberties, and for a government that is as open and good as the people we are privileged to represent.

MARK has been a courageous and outspoken leader in the fight against climate change. He knows that global warming is not just a threat to our environment, but to our national security and our economy. He and I have worked on this issue throughout our time in public service, pushing to expand clean energy production and for common sense steps to reduce pollution. He and I introduced, and got passed, a renewable electricity standard when we were both in the House to increase the use of renewable energy and create jobs across the country. When the Senate passes a similar RES, which I believe it eventually will, MARK you will share in that victory, for all your determination and hard work to make it happen.

Our dads loved the land. They taught us to love it as well. MARK doesn't just climb mountains. He protects them, so that generations to come will enjoy this legacy of natural treasures. Together we have fought for full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and for wilderness preservation. He has accomplished so much that will live on, long after we all are gone.

MARK has also been a true leader on the Senate Intelligence Committee and the Armed Services Committee. He is absolutely fearless, and undaunted, in defense of our Nation, and in defense of our liberties. We both opposed the original Patriot Act, as well as its reauthorization. MARK has been eloquent and tenacious in warning of over-reaching surveillance, and secret interrogations. The Intelligence Committee released its study of the C.I.A.'s secret program this week. No one fought harder to hold our government to account, in insisting that we must not only be secure, but we must honor the values that define us. We can and must do both. History will remember his invaluable role in making it possible for the American people to have this great and necessary debate.

Madam President, my dad once said that, in the end, it is not the awards you receive, it is not the trophies in the garage, or the honors on the shelf, it is what the people who know you best really think of you. To those of us who know MARK—in our family, here in Washington, and in his beloved State of Colorado—he is the real deal.

I remember when MARK's dad, Mo, ran for President in 1976. Mo lost the nomination to Jimmy Carter. In his concession speech, he recalled the words of Will Rogers, ''Live your life so that whenever you lose, you are ahead.'' Mo went on to say:

> And I am ahead. I'm ahead in staff people who love me and believed in me. And I'm ahead because I have love, respect and admiration for all of you in this room.

That was true of Mo. It is equally true of MARK. In his years of public service, and in the years to come, that will always be said of MARK. Whatever the task, whatever the challenge, he meets it head on. In the Congress, and in his day to day life, he is practical, independent, and always generous of himself.

MARK, wherever you go, wherever you are, win or lose, you are ahead—and we all are ahead whenever you are in the room. Or I might say whenever you are on the trail, or the mountainside. We find you out on the trail as likely as anywhere else.

But, then, that has always been the case with MARK, and with all our family. If you are a Udall, you spend a lot of time outdoors, and gladly so. And we never know when we will run into each other. A number of years ago, I was hiking up a mountain in Argentina. All of a sudden, there on the trail at 16,000 feet, was MARK, coming back from the summit. So, I never know when I'm going to run into him, but Madam President, let me say, I am always glad when I do.

MARK, for me, you have always set an example. You have always been true to the legacy of our family. I know that will never change, whatever your endeavors. So, to you, and Maggie, and Jed and Tess, Jill and I wish you all the best, in this new chapter in your lives.

I thank Senator GRASSLEY for allowing me this courtesy. It is always wonderful to work with CHUCK. He is a first-class Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

GREENHOUSE GASES

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I have said before on the Senate floor that the proposed Environmental Protection Agency regulations to limit carbon dioxide are an example among far too many of Executive overreach by this administration.

Anyone who knows the history of the Clean Air Act—and I was here for the last major revision in 1990—or who has read the text of that law knows it was never intended to address greenhouse gases or climate change.

The Clean Air Act is designed to address traditional pollutants that have a direct impact on human health and the environment. However, when Congress declined to pass legislation supported by President Obama that would have created a cap-and-trade system targeted at greenhouse gases, the President gave a speech saying he would act on his own. In trying to regulate greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act, which was not designed for that purpose, the EPA had to fit a square peg in a round hole.

As a result, when a number of key provisions in the Clean Air Act didn't say what the EPA would like them to say, the EPA simply reinterpreted those provisions to say something different or ignored them. In effect, the EPA was unconstitutionally rewriting a law passed by the Congress.

We all know what article I, section 1 of the U.S. Constitution says: ''All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States . . . ''

Regardless of where you stand on climate change, we ought to be able to agree that it is not appropriate for the EPA or, for that matter, any administrative agency to twist the law passed by Congress to mean something other than what it says. This isn't a partisan position, and you don't have to take my word for it. Just listen to what President Obama's Harvard professor, renowned liberal constitutional scholar Lawrence Tribe, has written:

The defects in the Proposed Rule transcend political affiliation and policy positions and cut across partisan lines . . .

Continuing:

The central principle at stake is a rule of law—the basic premise that EPA must comply with fundamental statutory and constitutional requirements in carrying out its mission.

The Proposed Rule should be withdrawn. It is a remarkable example of executive overreach and an administrative agency's assertion of power beyond its statutory authority.

Indeed, the Proposed Rule raises serious constitutional questions.

In addition to his reputation as one of the country's most prominent constitutional scholars, Professor Tribe is also a long-time Democratic Party activist. In fact, he served as a judicial adviser to President Obama's 2008 Presidential campaign, briefly worked in his administration, and has been a very vocal supporter of the President. When Professor Tribe says the Obama administration has exceeded its authority, you can take it to the bank.

I should also add, in response to concerns that the EPA regulations are not a legitimate or appropriate response to climate change, I often hear that at least EPA is doing something. Well, aside from the fact that regulatory approach is not legally justified, it is also ineffective.

As Professor Tribe points out on his treatise in this matter:

The Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA) for the Proposed Rule states that the impact of ''reduced climate effects'' has been ''monetized'' but not ''quantified.'' In other words, EPA does not claim that the Proposed Rule would affect the climate. The mismatch and lack of social benefit distinguish the Proposed Rule from other actions by EPA under the Clean Air Act.

This isn't news. President Obama's first EPA Administrator, Lisa Jackson, confirmed in testimony before a Senate committee that: ''U.S. action alone will not impact world CO_2 levels.''

So these regulations will have no measurable environmental benefit, but will have tremendous costs, particularly for the Midwest, given our energy mix.

The EPA rules are all pain and no gain.

This is not an argument about environmental policy. I am proud to be a leading advocate for renewable energy, and I believe there is room for some bipartisan agreement about diversifying our Nation's energy sources.

However, I want you all to know that I agree with Professor Tribe that regardless of the underlying policy goals, the rule of law must be respected and the proposed rule should be withdrawn. I hope President Obama will learn from his former Harvard professor and end with the President of the United States doing the right thing.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

PREWAR IRAQ INTELLIGENCE

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I wish to speak for a few moments about one of the most significant events in my 36 years as a U.S. Senator, the war in Iraq. I want to speak about important historical records crucial to our understanding of why we went to war against Iraq in 2003, I want to enter into the public record recent revelations not yet made public, and I make one more public call for a key document to be made fully public.

I will begin by renewing a request to the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, John Brennan. It is a request I have also made to his predecessors: I ask Director Brennan to declassify fully a March 13, 2003 CIA cable debunking the contention that 9/11 hijacker Mohammad Atta had met in Prague with an Iraqi intelligence official named Ahmad al-Ani.

Earlier this year, Director Brennan wrote to me, refusing, as did his predecessors, to fully declassify the CIA cable. But in his letter to me he makes public for the first time a few lines from that document. While this is a significant addition to the public record, and I will discuss that in a moment, it is still not the full cable, and I am calling on him to declassify and release the full cable.

In order to understand why I am making that request, we need to return to early 2003.

On March 6, 2003, just two weeks before U.S. troops would cross the Iraqi border, President Bush held a primetime televised press conference. In that press conference he mentioned the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks eight times, often in the same breath as Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. There was a concerted campaign on the part of the Bush administration to connect Iraq in the public mind with the horror of the Sept. 11 attacks. That campaign succeeded. According to public polls in the week before the Iraq war, half or more of Americans believed Saddam was directly involved in the attacks. One poll taken in September 2003, 6 months after we invaded Iraq, found that nearly 70 percent of Americans believed it likely that Saddam Hussein was personally involved in the Sept. 11 attacks. Americans who believed in a link between Iraq and 9/11 overwhelmingly supported the idea of invading Iraq. Of course, connections between Saddam and 9/11 or al Qaeda were fiction.

America's intelligence community was pressed to participate in the administration's media campaign. Just a week after the President's prime-time press conference, on March 13, 2003, CIA field staff sent a cable to CIA headquarters, responding to a request for information about a report that Mohammad Atta, the leader of the Sept. 11 hijackings, had met in 2001 with an Iraqi intelligence official in the Czech capital of Prague. In stark terms, this CIA cable from the field warned against U.S. government officials citing the report of the alleged Prague meeting.

Yet the notion of such a meeting was a centerpiece of the administration's campaign to create an impression in the public mind that Saddam was in league with the al Qaeda terrorists who attacked us on 9/11. On multiple occasions, including national television appearances, Vice President Dick Cheney cited reports of the meeting, at one point calling it ''pretty well confirmed.'' Officials from Donald Rumsfeld's Pentagon, who set up a sort of rogue intelligence analysis operation, briefed senior officials with a presentation citing the Prague meeting as a ''known contact'' between Iraq and al Qaida.

Why am I bringing up a CIA cable from more than a decade ago? Isn't this old, well-covered terrain? No, it isn't. This is about giving the American people a full account of the march to war as new information becomes available. It is about trying to hold leaders who misled the public accountable. It is about warning future leaders of this nation that they must not commit our sons and daughters to battle on the basis of false statements.

There is no more grave decision for a nation to make than the decision to go to war, and there is no more important issue for every member of Congress than the decision to authorize the use of military force—A decision to authorize force is a decision to unleash the

might of our Armed Forces, the strongest military on the planet. It commits the men and women of our Armed Forces to fight, and perhaps to die, on the battlefield. The decision to go to war must be careful, considered, and based on the facts.

Such careful consideration was tragically absent in the march to war in Iraq.

Here is what the Vice President said on December 9, 2001, in an interview on ''Meet the Press'': ''It's been pretty well confirmed that he [Atta] did go to Prague and he did meet with a senior official of the Iraqi intelligence service in Czechoslovakia last April, several months before the attack.''

Far from ''pretty well confirmed,'' there was almost no evidence that such a meeting took place. Just a single unsubstantiated report, from a single source, and a mountain of information indicating there was no such meeting, including the fact that travel and other records indicated that Atta was almost certainly in the United States at the time of the purported meeting in Prague.

It was highly irresponsible for the Vice President to make that claim. Calling a single, unconfirmed report from a single source ''pretty well confirmed,'' as he did on Dec. 9, 2001, was a reckless statement to make on such a grave topic as war, in the face of overwhelming doubt that such a meeting occurred.

Yet Vice President Cheney's reckless statements continued, even as evidence mounted that there was no Prague meeting. In September 2002, he said Atta ''did apparently travel to Prague on a number of occasions. And on at least one occasion, we have reporting that places him in Prague with a senior Iraqi intelligence official.''

The Vice President made those statements in the face of a then-classified June 2002 CIA assessment that said the alleged meeting was ''not verified,'' called the information about it ''contradictory,'' and described assessments of Iraqi cooperation with al Qaida terror plots as ''speculative.'' The Vice President made those statements in the face of a July 2002 Defense Intelligence Agency analysis, which reported that there was no evidence that Atta was in the Czech Republic at the time. He made those statements despite a Defense Intelligence Agency memorandum in August 2002 rejecting the claims by a rogue intelligence analysis shop at the Pentagon that the meeting was an example of a ''known contact'' between Iraq and al Qaida.

That brings us to the March 13, 2003 cable. It is unfortunate that I cannot fully lay out the contents of that cable, because much of it remains classified. But as the Senate Intelligence Committee's 2006 ''Phase II'' report indicates, it appears that the cable was sent in response to a request from headquarters at Langley for comment on the claim that Atta and al-Ani had met in Prague because the White House was considering a reference to a Prague meeting in a speech. At that time, according to then-CIA Director George Tenet's memoir, the CIA had been given a draft of a speech by Vice President Cheney containing assertions about connections between Iraq and al Qaida. Tenet writes in his memoir that he had to object to the President that the speech went ''way beyond what the intelligence shows. We cannot support the speech and it should not be given.''

The text of this cable and the information surrounding it was almost entirely redacted by the CIA from the Intelligence Committee's 2006 Phase II report. A number of us objected to that redaction at the time the report was made public; indeed, the Majority Leader introduced legislation which I cosponsored that would have declassified the cable, legislation Republicans blocked. At the time of the report's release, I joined several members of the Intelligence Committee, including Ranking Member ROCKEFELLER, Senators FEINSTEIN, WYDEN, Bayh, MIKULSKI and Feingold, in concluding that the administration's decision to keep the contents of the cable classified ''represents an improper use of classification authority by the intelligence community to shield the White House.''

In the years since I have sought declassification of the March 2003 CIA cable on numerous occasions. Twice, in 2011 and 2012, I wrote to then-CIA Director Petraeus asking him to declassify the cable. Then in February 2013, I asked Director Brennan during his confirmation hearing whether he would contact the Czech government to ask if they would object to declassification of the cable, and he responded, ''Absolutely, Senator, I will.''

Despite his commitment, I heard nothing from Director Brennan for some time. Finally, in March of this year, more than a year after his public commitment to me, I received a letter from Director Brennan.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Director Brennan's March 13, 2014, letter to me be printed in the RECORD.

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

THE DIRECTOR,
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY,
Washingon, DC, March 13, 2014.

Hon. CARL LEVIN,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: At my confirmation hearing you requested that I pursue declassification of a 2003 communication related to an alleged meeting between Mohammed Atta and an Iraqi intelligence officer, which was referenced in the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence's September 2006 report entitled Postwar Findings about Iraq's WMD Programs and Links to Terrorism and How They Compare with Prewar Assessments.

I understand that your principal concern is that the historical record be as complete as possible regarding this period in our history, and on this point we are in agreement. The American people deserve as full an understanding as possible of these historical events, consistent with the national security interests of the United States. Consequently, having worked with our declassification review experts, I can confirm the following information, which describes the substance of what the communication relayed with respect to the meeting at issue, without compromising national security:

On 13 March 2003, CIA headquarters received a communication from the field responding to a request that the field look into a single-source intelligence report indicating that Muhammed Atta met with former Iraqi intelligence officer al-Ani in Prague in April 2001. In that communication, the field expressed significant concern regarding the possibility of an official public statement by the United States Government indicating that such a meeting took place. The communication noted that information received after the single-source report raised serious doubts about that report's accuracy.

In particular, the field noted that while it remained possible that a meeting between Atta and al-Ani took place, investigative records subsequently placed Atta in the United States just before and just after the date on which the single-source report said the meeting was to have occurred, making it unlikely that Atta was in Prague at the time of the alleged meeting. The field also warned that both FBI and CIA had previously told foreign intelligence officials that they were skeptical that Atta was in Prague. Finally, the field observed that ''identifications'' like the one that was made by the source of the earlier report, during a period of high emotion four months after the September 11 attacks, could be faulty and would require further evidence. The field added that, to its knowledge, ''there is not one USG [counterterrorism] or FBI expert that . . . has said they have evidence or 'know' that [Atta] was indeed [in Prague]. In fact, the analysis has been quite the opposite.''

I hope this letter answers any outstanding questions about the correspondence in question and addresses our shared interest in creating an accurate and complete historical record.

Sincerely,

JOHN O. BRENNAN.

Mr. LEVIN. The letter contains no indication that he had asked the Czech government for its view, as he committed to do. But Director Brennan's letter includes, and therefore finally declassifies, this very clear statement from the cable: ''[T]here is not one USG [counterterrorism] or FBI expert that . . . has said they have evidence or 'know' that [Atta] was indeed [in Prague]. In fact, the analysis has been quite the opposite.''

Again, that cable was sent to CIA headquarters on March 13, 2003—a week before our invasion of Iraq. But the Vice President of the United States, Dick Cheney, continued to suggest the meeting may have taken place. He said the following about the meeting on ''Meet the Press'' on September 14, 2003—6 months after CIA received that cable: ''We've never been able to develop any more of that yet either in terms of confirming it or discrediting it. We just don't know.'' Here is what he told the Denver Post newspaper on January 9, 2004: ''We've never been able to collect any more information on that. That was the one that possibly tied the two together to 9/11.'' Here is what he told CNN on June 17, 2004: ''We

have never been able to confirm that, nor have we been able to knock it down. We just don't know.''

Mr. President, those statements were simply not true. We did know. We did know that there was no evidence that such a meeting had taken place. We did know there was ample evidence it did not take place. We did know that there was, as the CIA cable says, ''not one'' government expert who said there was evidence that Atta met with Iraqi intelligence in Prague. The Vice President recklessly disregarded the truth, and he did so in a way calculated to maintain support for the administration's decision to go to war in Iraq.

There is a second recent revelation about how the ''Prague meeting'' progressed from unsubstantiated report to justification for war. It comes from Jiri Ruzek, who headed the Czech counterintelligence service on and after 9/11. Mr. Ruzek published a memoir earlier this year, which we have had translated from Czech. It recounts the days after the terror attack, including how his nation's intelligence services first reported a single-source rumor of a Prague meeting between Atta and al-Ani, how CIA officials under pressure from CIA headquarters in turn pressured him to substantiate the rumor, and how U.S. officials pressured the Czech government when Czech intelligence officials failed to produce the confirmation that the Bush administration sought.

Mr. Ruzek writes:

> It was becoming more and more clear that we had not met expectations and did not provide the 'right' intelligence output.

Mr. Ruzek continues:

> The Americans showed me that anything can be violated, including the rules that they themselves taught us. Without any regard to us, they used our intelligence information for propaganda press leaks. They wanted to mine certainty from unconfirmed suspicion and use it as an excuse for military action. We were supposed to play the role of useful idiot thanks to whose initiative a war would be started.

That is chilling. We have a senior intelligence official of a friendly nation describing the pressure that he and other Czech officials were under to give the Bush administration material it could use to justify a war.

When it came to the most serious decision a government can make—the decision to commit our sons and daughters to battle—the Bush administration was playing games with intelligence. The full, still classified cable includes critically important, relevant information, and it has been redacted and denied to the public in order to protect those in the Bush White House who are responsible.

The March 13, 2003, cable is an invaluable record in helping the American people understand how their elected officials conducted themselves in going to war. Continuing to cloak this document with a veil of secrecy, revealing a few sentences at a time, allows those who misled the American people to continue escaping the full verdict of history. It deprives the American people of a complete understanding of how we came to invade Iraq. In his letter to me, Director Brennan writes, ''I understand that your principal concern is that the historical record be as complete as possible regarding this period in our history, and on this point we are in agreement.'' But Director Brennan's apparent refusal to do what he has committed to do—to ask the Czech government if it objects to release of the cable—now takes on the character of a continuing cover-up.

I believe decisionmakers should have to face the full, unadulterated, unredacted truth about their decisions. The American people should know the full story, not just so we can understand the decisions in 2002 and 2003 that took us to war, but as a warning to future leaders against the misuse of intelligence and the abuse of power.

Very briefly, what I am doing in this statement, which is now in the record, is I am asking CIA Director Brennan to fully declassify a March 13, 2003 cable from CIA field officers to headquarters. This cable provides information about the Bush administration's campaign to build public support for the Iraq invasion.

One part of that campaign was the repeated misleading suggestion that Mohammed Atta, leader of the 9/11 hijackers, had met with an Iraqi intelligence official in Prague.

I received a letter from Director Brennan making public for the first time some of the cable's contents. He quotes the cable as saying:

> There is not one USG [counterterrorism] or FBI expert that . . . has said they have evidence or ''know'' that [Atta] was indeed [in Prague]. In fact, the analysis has been quite the opposite.

In my statement just entered into the RECORD, I also discussed recent revelations by the former head of the Czech intelligence agency about U.S. pressure to confirm the report of that meeting.

The American people deserve to know the full truth about this episode and particularly in light of the new revelations from a top Czech official.

I have renewed my request to Director Brennan to declassify the entire cable.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, it is my pleasure to take a few minutes on the floor to give a farewell message, and I thank you for your courtesies. I begin with a Scripture, Philippians 4:7, New American Standard Bible, that reads: ''And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.''

Truly for the first time in my adult life I have felt that extraordinary peace about something that was unexpected, but is certainly something that I accept. It has really been amazing as a Christian, as an adult, and as a leader to find myself in this place in a time that should be a time of sadness, but all I can feel is actual joy. It is quite amazing.

It has never happened to me before, so I thought it would be wonderful to share—with so many of my friends, supporters, family, staff, and colleagues listening in—for a few minutes to say that it is absolutely true, and I am a testimony to this extraordinary peace since just a few days before the election and since then. I think it is because I feel and know that God has called me to another place.

Before being a Senator, a wife, and a daughter, I am a Christian, and my faith really is central to my life. My parents always taught me to put my faith where it belongs—in God himself. So it is really with that sense of gratitude and joy that I have been given an opportunity to serve my State, my region, and my country for now almost 34 years—which is quite amazing—having started at a very young age and still being relatively young.

So let me just share some remarks about that time, and particularly the time here in the Senate. I want to begin by thanking my family, and particularly my extraordinary husband Frank, who has been a partner and, as I said on election night, not only an encouraging and supportive partner but one who has literally egged me on. When I wanted to quit, he would say: No, you have to continue to serve. He is not only an accomplished lawyer and professional, but also an elected official in his own right, he came from a family that was dedicated to public service, having both of his parents being very active in party politics—first the Republican Party and then the Democratic Party. But that is a whole other story. They are both strong civil rights leaders—my husband as well—and always encouraging me and being willing to share the burdens of public life as well as sharing in the great joy.

Our son Connor is now 23 years old, and our daughter Mary Shannon is now 17. The reason I mention that is because Connor was 5 when we were elected to the Senate. Mary Shannon was adopted the first year we were here. On election night, she looked at me—and she is just so beautiful at 17—and she said: Mom, it is going to be a little strange. I have only known you as a Senator. So I warned her that now that I am going to be a full-time mom this is going to be a real problem for her. She is not looking forward to it.

To our new daughter-in-law Emily, and especially to our precious little Maddox Parker Snellings, who many people saw on election night—now, Maddox gets the distinction. He is 10 months old, but he gives me the most joy, and I used to keep a picture of him during all my debates. There were only three, as you all will remember, but I would keep a picture of him because

my staff kept telling me: You have to smile more. I kept saying: But I can't, because I am really aggravated. They said: No, you have to smile. So my solution was to put a picture of Maddox on my podium and, of course, I then smiled through the whole debate. That is a trick for those who will be continuing to debate.

To my mother and father, who are the light of not only our family but the light of our community, the light of the Nation in many ways—they had 9 children, 37 grandchildren, and now 6 great grandchildren. They are in wonderful health, they are watching right now, and I can only say they are two of the most extraordinary individuals I have ever known. Our family is truly blessed by their sacrificial leadership.

Let me also mention my eight siblings—eight brothers and sisters: Mark, Melanie, Michelle, Mitchell, Madeleine, Martin, Melinda, and Maurice, Jr.—all m's. That is another story. There are all of our spouses, my nieces and nephews, who campaigned with me up until the last day. My godchild Sasha literally knocked on doors with me. I was teaching her how to knock on doors before the campaign was over so the tradition could carry on in our own neighborhood where we have lived since I was 5 years old—Broadmoor in New Orleans.

When I first got here 18 years ago, I literally could not find the side door. I didn't know anything. I wasn't even expecting to be here. It was kind of like a dream that I got here, because I had run for Governor, wanted to be the Governor, and served 16 years in my State. I knew that was what I was being called to do—and I see LAMAR ALEXANDER—to change our education system, to do some coastal work, and then I landed here. But I literally knew nothing of how to be a Senator.

I stumbled a great deal in my first years. But I want to thank my chiefs of staff, Norma Jane Sabiston, Ron Faucheux, Jason Matthews, Jane Campbell, and Don Cravins. I had five of the most remarkable chiefs of staff, who, with me, learned how to do this job and to do it well. We never forget where we came from, and they are still—all of them—with me, and all of us are still working to make our State the very best that it can be and to make our country the very best that it can be.

To three staffers who have been with me for almost 20 years—Alicia Williams is the longest serving office manager, I think, in the Senate. She was here when I arrived and stayed with me. She was with Bennett Johnston. T. Bradley Keith has been with me for 22 years as a former staffer in a former life, before I was a Senator, and now as my long-time State director. And Shannon Langlois has been, I think, with the Senate for almost 30 years. She is a caseworker. She was, again, with Bennett Johnston and stayed with me. She has literally given her life to thousands, hundreds of thousands of cases in Louisiana and trained every caseworker that I had for 18 years, and they just did phenomenal work.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD my current staff, all of whom are here—my personal staff, my energy staff, and my homeland security staff.

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

PERSONAL STAFF OF MARY LANDRIEU

Alexander Damato, Alex Sewell, Alicia Williams, Alyson Azodeh, Andrew Holleman, Ashley Scott, Christina Jones, Christopher Etienne, DerKirra Wilkerson, Don Cravins, Eva Kemp-Melder, Jaren Hill, James ''Wes'' Kungel, Jim Simpson, Katie Lewallen, Lauren Spangler, Leslie Leavoy, Libby Whitbeck, Matthew Lehner, Marianna Knister, Megan Blanco.

Rob Sawicki, Ross Nodurft, Will Harris, Whitney Reitz, Zach Butterworth, Zephranie Buetow, Kelsey Teo, Meghann Morin, Shannon Langlois, T. Bradley Keith, Terrence Lockett, Sherae' Hunter, Laverne Saulny, Cathleen Berthelot, Zach Monroe, Tani Bradford, LeNelle Williford, Michael Jackson, Mark Herbert, Darlene Manuel.

ENERGY COMMITTEE STAFF

Elizabeth ''Liz'' Craddock, Afton Zaunbrecher, Aisha Johnson, Allen Paul Stayman, Bryan Petit, Caroline Bruckner, Clayton Allen, Dan Adamson, Darla Ripchensky, David Brooks, David Gillers, Dominic Taylor, Elizabeth Weiner, Fayenisha Matthews, Herman Bubba Gesser, III, Jan Brunner, Jonathon Burpee, Kristen Granier, Lindsay McDonough, Mark Tiner, Megan Brewster, Meghan Conklin, Paul Davis, Renae Black, Sallie Derr, Sam Edward Fowler, Sa'Rah Hamm, Will Dempster.

HOMELAND APPROPS STAFF

Stephanie Gupta, Drenan Dudley, Scott Nance, Chip Walgren, Colin MacDermott, Eric Bader.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I want to thank Don Cravins, again, as my chief of staff; Liz Craddock, Staff Director of my energy committee; and Stephanie Gupta, head of homeland security. I know I am leaving them in good hands with what they are going to be doing in the future and with the great leadership that remains here.

I only have a few minutes, so I will just run through a couple of the highlights of some of the accomplishments that I am most proud of and really take this opportunity to thank so many who helped, because the one thing I have learned that most certainly is true, is that if you want to accomplish really big things here—really great things, generational things—you most certainly cannot do that alone. So the first thing you need to do is look for a really good partner—and I mean a partner that will be with you through thick and thin. Sometimes you are lucky enough to find those kinds of partners, and I found them on both sides of the aisle.

The first major piece of legislation I introduced was something that was in my heart for so long, and that was the Conservation and Reinvestment Act. The cosponsors of that bill, amazingly, were Frank Murkowski from Alaska, Trent Lott from Mississippi, John Breaux from Louisiana, and Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN from California. Chris Dodd joined me a few days later after we introduced it—and RON WYDEN, Chris Bond, John Warner, and THAD COCHRAN, just to name a few.

At the end of this effort—although this particular bill didn't pass; we missed it literally by inches, and I will describe what that was in a minute—we had 4,500 organizations throughout the country, from the Sierra Club to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and everyone in between in a broad coalition to fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund—and LAMAR ALEXANDER knows more about this than I could ever know, and he will tell you one day the details about the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Udalls and the Udalls' fathers were very instrumental in the creation of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. It was a promise made but never kept—that this country would set aside about $900 million a year to purchase land, to build our parks, and to secure recreational opportunities. This country is so blessed—more than any on Earth—with the amount of natural resources we have, and we have not lived up to that promise.

So I introduced this bill as a young legislator. John Breaux said you don't even know what you are doing; how are you introducing a bill like this? I said: I don't know, but I am just going for it because I believe in it. So we never passed it, but it has been in part of almost every piece of energy legislation—in pieces and parts since that day we introduced that. I am very hopeful that war will go on under Senator MURKOWSKI, the daughter of Frank Murkowski, and MARIA CANTWELL, who in many ways got to the Senate because she defeated one of the gentlemen who opposed us on this bill and used it as a platform to get here. So I know she will be committed to finishing the work.

The bill did three things. It fully funded the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a trust fund that will go on for generations. It would fully fund coastal restoration, which is so important not just to Louisiana, because we are literally falling away into the Gulf of Mexico, but it will help SHELDON WHITEHOUSE in his work. It will help DICK DURBIN along the Great Lakes, and it will help CORY BOOKER in New Jersey. If you allocate the funding correctly, it will be grants that these coastal communities can use until we figure out how to clean our atmosphere and how to stop the tremendous pressures that are coming on our coast. Louisiana knows this. We have experienced the worst disasters literally in the history of our country, and they are only getting worse. I will talk about that more in a minute.

But it was because we had laid the groundwork for CARA, Pete Domenici literally felt so sorry for me—he knew how hard we had worked and the coalition was so disappointed when we

lost—that he directed, literally with the stroke of a pen, $1 billion to the gulf coast in the energy bill for 2005. That money was divided 50 percent to Louisiana and 50 percent to the other States.

Now, I can promise everyone here that for the $500 million that went to Louisiana, we can account for every penny of it. We know exactly where it went, and we put that down as a downpayment to restoring our coast, which doesn't just belong to us—it belongs to the whole Nation. This is the greatest, the seventh largest delta on the planet. It is what Thomas Jefferson leveraged the whole entire Treasury of the United States to purchase. It is something worth fighting for. We would not be a country without the Mississippi Delta, and we could never have found our way west if we couldn't have supplied the great center of this Nation with the commerce they needed.

Every State along this river—19 of them—use this river and understand what I am talking about. AMY KLOBUCHAR understands this. She is at the top of this river, and I am at the bottom, and we have talked a lot about how important that corridor is. That needs to continue.

Then there was the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, which I finally passed with Pete Domenici's help, who was my dear friend and one of the most wonderful leaders I have ever worked with. He came from a family with eight children. We had nine, and we are both Catholic and came from the same sort of background. He served with such passion. So he joined with me in passing the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, which finally secured a permanent stream of revenue for coastal restoration and protection.

But as LAMAR ALEXANDER knows, it left out the land and water, and it left out wildlife. We just couldn't lift it all, so that needs to be corrected.

Finally, there is the RESTORE Act, which I worked on with my colleagues when the BP oil spill killed 11 people in the gulf and spilled 5 million barrels of oil in the gulf. Thanks go to BARBARA BOXER, this extraordinary woman who has been a partner with me. We think very differently about the world. We see things very differently. California is very different from Louisiana. But I will say one thing about BARBARA BOXER. If I had to be in a foxhole with someone, I would want to be with her because she never stops fighting. She and I are very much alike in that regard. Once we set our minds to something there is no dividing us.

People asked why did I send her money for her reelection? Why did I raise so much money from Louisiana? I said that I would do it again because when no one would stand up—well, not no one, but if she hadn't stood up when that BP oil spill went down, and said, I am chair of this committee and I believe the gulf coast deserves this funding, we just wouldn't have had it. It is as simple as that. People do not know how powerful a chairman is here. When a chairman makes up their mind and they say this is what we are going to do, the rest of the committee, for the most part, goes along. And so BARBARA said that.

With Senator VITTER, of course, who is the ranking member on that committee put his shoulder to the wheel, and we were able to get—well, it is still in court, but we think—a serious downpayment to recover from one of the great ecological disasters of our State, of our country, which is the loss of the gulf coast. This just isn't in Louisiana. This is Texas and Mississippi, and it is going to affect parts of the whole country. But we are on the mend.

I came here to do that work. I came to find money. I found it, and we are going to continue that work. I am thrilled to work with so many of you to get that done.

On education—LAMAR has to leave, but I am glad he is here because I found a great soulmate in LAMAR ALEXANDER—former Secretary of Education, former Governor, a Presidential candidate, and absolutely extraordinarily committed to finding a better way for our children in America to be educated. As proud as we are of the public school system, at the turn of the century, when people in the world were wondering how to build the middle class in the world and lots of countries were struggling with how to do that, America knew. America knew that if you educated your citizens—women, boys, and girls; not just boys, which is what half the world still does, which is a tragedy—if we open up our schools for universal, free education, along with other things, it would lift your country to greatness unsurpassed in the history of the world.

What breaks my heart is to walk into schools today—and MARK WARNER knows this because he was Governor of Virginia—and see children's eyes just completely dulled, sitting there completely bored, teachers who are just sort of going through the motions. It breaks my heart because I know that not only does it limit their lives but it limits the potential of our Nation.

With LAMAR ALEXANDER and a handful of Democrats, I was proud to work with Presidents Bill Clinton and George Bush to pass a series of laws. Evan Bayh comes to mind, Joe Lieberman, John Breaux, and a group of us stood up and said: It is time to stop sending money to the States without accountability. If we need to send money, we need to hold States accountable, and we need to give opportunities for choice to parents and public charter schools.

I am reluctant to go too far on vouchers. You have heard my speech on that. You heard Senator FEINSTEIN's speech on that. But both of us have agreed to support some kinds of strategic vouchers that help poor kids get out of failing schools until we can fix them.

Most importantly, I support high-performing public charter schools, and I will continue to fight that for the rest of my days. I thank all of you who helped on that and particularly TOM CARPER on the Democratic side and LAMAR ALEXANDER. CORY BOOKER has been an amazing leader and will hopefully continue on that. I thank DICK DURBIN, who is on Appropriations. I had to twist his arm a little bit on some of it, but he ended up coming around and has been an amazing fighter for the right kinds of public schools that serve the children first and the bureaucracy and administration second. I respect teachers. I respect administrators. But our schools should work for the children and their families who so desperately want them to have a great education.

The third issue I wish to speak about, which is a legacy issue, is adoption. I hope I can get through this without tearing up. I don't know why I have always had such passion for this issue.

My mother had nine children without one single problem. As a young child, I remember my aunt adopted two children. I think it might have been that; I can't remember exactly. I started to think about all the children in the world who don't have parents. Maybe I was just always so proud when I filled out those forms in Catholic school. I can remember sitting there filling them out: Are your parents divorced or married? I loved checking ''married.'' How many siblings do you have? I loved putting ''eight.'' I was always so proud of my family.

I thought, what do children without parents do? I just could not imagine. So I got very passionate about it. I ended up, of all things, marrying an orphan. My husband was adopted out of an orphanage. So I thought, yes, this is going in the right direction. I thought I would adopt children. I thought he could not say no since he himself was adopted, and so this would work out. Sure enough, we ended up adopting two children.

But this was my passion before I met my husband and before I even thought about adopting. It was as if God put this in my heart, so I have taken it and carried it.

I thank DAVE CAMP; Jim Oberstar, who is deceased; Tom Bliley from Virginia, who is a great leader among us; Larry Craig, who is no longer here, who served as my cochair; and Senator Jesse Helms. Amazingly, I didn't know to be afraid of Jesse Helms; I thought he was a really nice guy. Later, everybody had to tell me how hard he was to get along with. But I went up to him, and I thought he would surely want to help because he had adopted a child. I don't think a lot of people realize that. Sure enough he did, and we passed a great treaty together that serves as the model for international adoption today. JOE BIDEN was the ranking member on the committee. With Jesse Helms's and JOE BIDEN's support, we passed a great treaty years ago, and we are still in the process of making that possible and working it through.

The accomplishments are really quite long, so I am going to submit them for the RECORD. I will only say that the adoption tax credit which BOB CASEY worked on and took up that cause when he got here—I am thrilled and hope we can keep it. I would like to say to AMY KLOBUCHAR how much I appreciate her agreeing to step in and take over the leadership of the adoption caucus on this side and ROY BLUNT, who I think will take it up on the Republican side and continue this great work.

There are over 100,000 children who are waiting for families in the United States. There are over 500,000 children in foster care. These children think it is their fault they are there, and it is not. It is not their fault that their family disintegrated around them. It is not their fault that they got pregnant at 11 and were kicked out of their house. Instead of the family wrapping that child in their arms and helping them to grow, they just kicked them out on the street. It is not their fault.

We need to realize that God does not make trash. He never has, and he never will. Everybody he has made has a purpose and dignity, and we need to honor that and do better work. I have spent a lot of time here on it. I am going to continue to do so. I will never stop working on it. I am very proud of the work we have done.

I will put the rest into the RECORD.

On energy very quickly and then finally disaster recovery, I couldn't have been prouder when I became the chair of this committee. It was quite a miracle. I didn't expect it. I never thought I would last long enough to become the chair because there were so many people ahead of me. It kind of worked out when Max Baucus left to go to China and TIM JOHNSON was retiring that it fell to me. It has been my great joy for 9 months to serve as chair, with LISA MURKOWSKI as my ranking member. Of course, I worked with her father. I didn't sit next to him because I was a junior member, but I worked with him closely, and it has been wonderful working with her. I am so proud that MARIA CANTWELL will step up and take that leadership. I know the two of them work beautifully together. They do see the world differently, but they are two women who know how to compromise and who will be respectful of each other and find a way for our country to move forward.

I can tell you all that in my whole life—which isn't that long, but it has been a pretty good run in public office—there has never been a time when America has been closer to energy independence. What that means to our country is beyond description. We don't have to listen to parts of the world that don't hold our values. We can lift up our country. We can move forward. And it has to be with a combination of fossil fuels, weaning our way to a greener, cleaner environment, and manufacturing right here in America.

I hope you all will put down the swords and pick up the plow and really plow together because this is an amazing opportunity for our country. I sure hope we don't miss it. It is going to benefit and make the whole country, not just our part of the country, more prosperous.

People desperately want to move up into the middle class and stay there and not feel so fragile and feel as if they can have the manufacturing jobs and good energy jobs and really eliminate some of the geopolitical nightmares we have been in, fighting wars for oil. It has to come to an end.

Finally, I will say a word about disaster recovery. When I got to the Senate, my husband and I were looking at each other saying: How did we even end up here? We had no idea. When Katrina hit, it became very clear that this is why I needed to be here.

I had been an appropriator since I was 23 years old. I knew a little bit about budgets. I knew a little bit about how the system worked. I knew how the State and local governments depended on the Federal Government so much funding. I understood the power of HUD and the power of housing and the power of building schools and levees and the Corps of Engineers. So I was perfectly positioned to be able to lead the effort for my State, and they desperately needed a leader. I wasn't perfect. I made lots of mistakes. But I wasn't afraid to try because that is all you can do.

The devastation was so great and it was so unbelievable. Eighty percent of the east bank of the city and much of Jefferson Parish—not quite as bad as New Orleans—and all of St. Bernard—67,000 people in St. Bernard lost everything. Everyone in the Lower Ninth Ward lost everything, which is like a small city unto itself. In New Orleans east, which is like a small city unto itself, 60,000 people lost every school, every house. It was unbelievable.

I say to my colleagues: Thank you for being there for us. I know I aggravated you to death. I know I never stopped asking. But you were the only hope because there was just no way these communities could recover. New Orleans has been there for 300 years. You have heard me say this: We didn't move down there recently to go sunbathing or to build condos; we have been down there for 300 years. The city is going to stay there. The region is going to stay there. And had this government just invested a little bit of the money back that we have given it over time—from our energy resources, from our manufacturing, from the wealth we have created along that great mouth of the river—if the country had just given us a little bit of money—$500 million here, $500 million there—and built levees that wouldn't have broken in 52 places, we wouldn't have had $140 billion in damage.

So when I came to Robert Byrd because President Bush was not that forward-leaning—I will just leave it at that. There will be a lot more in my book about it, but I will just leave it at that, not very forward-leaning. The person I went to was Robert Byrd. In his old age, he was so wise. He just looked at me. He didn't say much at that time, but he just took my hand and he said: I will be there with you.

He was the chair of the Appropriations Committee, so that meant something. Boy, he was. He helped me write things in a bill that could probably never be possible today. That was when chairmen understood the power to help people to heal wounds and to bring hope and to be compassionate. That is what government is there to do. If government is not there when you have lost everything, then what in the heck is the use of having it?

So we hope we will be able to repay this country for the investments that have been made, and we will. We will do our best. With all of the people who come to New Orleans and all the conventions that come—and we hope we bring joy and happiness when people come—we hope to pay our way and to pay this back over time for what you have done to help us. We are doing a good job of helping ourselves by planning better, doing more smart-growth, sustainable development, building our levees to the point where they won't break again, and we will continue to do that.

So those are some of the legacy pieces I have worked on. It is kind of amazing that these were the things that were in my heart when I was a little girl. I didn't learn this when I was a Senator. I can remember taking a bus when I was in the eighth grade down to the coast and looking at LaFourche Parish for the first time, and for a girl from the poor part of uptown, I kept looking at the nuns who took me, and I said: What world is this? I had no idea about Bayou LaFourche.

When I got to be a Senator, I remembered LaFourche, the bayou, and I remembered how fragile it looked to me even as a child, and I thought, if I can do anything to save this place, I will. I have spent a lot of my time saving it, and it is stronger now. It is still not completely safe, but it is much stronger now.

I tutored in public school. My passion started when the nuns of Ursuline sent me to tutor in a public school, and the little girl whom I tutored, who was my age, couldn't read. I can remember going home to my mother and saying: This is the strangest thing. I just met a little girl. She is my age, and she can't read. Mama, is that possible, that children don't know how to read?

I can remember her sitting me down and explaining to me why some children couldn't read, and I said: That doesn't seem right to me. I made up my mind then that I would work.

The reason I say this is because there are a lot of young people listening to this, and I just want you to know, just listen to your heart because God puts these things in your heart at very

young ages. If you don't block it out, if you are not cynical and if you hope and live openly, those dreams can come true. Then you can make a profound difference in rebuilding a school system, which I am continuing to work on, or make sure every orphan in the world knows that they are loved and that we are going to work hard to find them a family; to build this great gulf coast, where I spent my life growing up as a child and knowing that it is worth saving. It may not be as sexy as the west coast or as prosperous as the east coast, but the gulf coast is really worth fighting for. It is a very special place in our country. I learned to love it as a child, and I will fight for it as an adult.

Finally, let me just say a few thank-yous in closing. A thank-you to my mentor Lindy Boggs, who coached me every step of the way; to my mentor John Breaux, who got me into this gig in the first place.

I thank Bennett Johnston, who taught me about being a proud member of the Energy Committee; Senator Tom Daschle, who saved my skin more times than I can tell you; Kent Conrad, who taught me about the budget; Chris John and Jim McCrery and Richard Baker in my delegation, who were Democrats and Republicans—we worked together to do amazing things. I also thank CEDRIC RICHMOND, who still works closely with me, and CHARLES BOUSTANY, whom I admire a lot. I thank other Members who are no longer here: Olympia Snowe—we were the first two women to chair a major committee—well, actually a minor committee, the small business committee; and Lisa and I were the first to chair and be a ranking member of a major committee. I couldn't have worked with two more remarkable women. I thank Senator Joe Lieberman, who was a leader of the DLC and a great mentor of mine on foreign policy issues; Senator Ted Stevens, who was as grumpy as could be but really did take me under his wing and teach me a lot; Senator Danny Inouye; Senator Robert Byrd. And I am going to put others into the RECORD: Senators MIKULSKI, CARPER, HEITKAMP, MANCHIN, CANTWELL, BEGICH, PRYOR, and HAGAN.

I want to say a special word to the Black Caucus. I represent 30 percent African Americans in my State. You know, all groups of people are hard to represent, and my State is so diverse, and I have tried so hard to be respectful of all the different groups in my State.

I thank the Black Caucus—both the local elected officials and the National Black Caucus—for being such a great partner with me and helping me to understand about compassion, forgiveness, faithfulness, and for trust. Their spiritual strength is so amazing. I thank them very much for coming down to help me.

I thank labor, who brought me here. They encouraged me to run when I was 23 years old, and I tried to never leave them. Only 8 percent of my State is now organized. I have never left them. I think you should leave with the people who brought you to the dance, and they most certainly did.

I thank HARRY REID, who has been an amazing friend to me and who, most importantly, has been a great friend to my family. He has honored us in so many small ways, and I just love him for his tenacity and his leadership.

I thank you all. I hope I didn't leave anyone out. It has been a joy, but I know God is calling me to a different place. I am not the least bit sad and I am not the least bit afraid because it has been a remarkable opportunity to serve with all of you, and I thank you very much.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WALSH). The Senator from Louisiana.

TRIBUTE TO MARY LANDRIEU

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I rise to thank Senator LANDRIEU for her tireless service in the U.S. Senate to our State and to the country. I have had the pleasure of knowing MARY for a long time. She was in her second year of service in the Senate when I first came to Washington to the U.S. House, but it is far longer than that, probably longer than anyone in this Chamber realizes. Both sets of my grandparents live all of 3 blocks from where MARY grew up, and I grew up all of 10 blocks from there. MARY and my brother Jeff were grammar school classmates starting at kindergarten.

Of course, here in the Senate I had the honor of working with MARY on so many important issues and challenges. From the moment we worked together on key Louisiana issues, we determined on those issues to put aside any partisan concerns when those crucial priorities were at stake.

As she alluded to, the most challenging and trying time in all of that experience was just a few months after I first came to the Senate when Hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck. Neither of us could have ever imagined facing the challenges our State and Mississippi and others faced and facing the challenges we faced in the Senate trying to respond in a robust and full and responsible way. I am sure it was the most trying work for both of us in our careers.

Louisiana faced unprecedented disaster and desperation, and that brought us together all the more to work for those crucial Louisiana needs and priorities. We traveled together, of course, to see the damage and meet with our neighbors and local leaders all around the State. Her staff and mine worked directly together around-the-clock, really, for months, sometimes in my office, sometimes in hers, always with the same goal of doing everything possible to help our neighbors and Louisiana citizens get through that disaster and get through to a full recovery.

Those trials, of course, didn't end with Katrina and Rita. There were other similar challenges which brought us together and on which MARY was a distinguished leader. She was always a champion for domestic energy production, and Louisiana will enjoy a far fairer share of oil and gas revenue under the legislation commonly referred to as Domenici-Landrieu.

After the infamous BP oilspill in 2010, MARY pushed for the RESTORE Act legislation to dedicate revenue from the fines to oilspill recovery in the affected areas.

As Louisiana fights continually against the loss of coastal wetlands, major restoration work is moving forward because of MARY's years of hard work directly related to that.

Due to MARY's strong support of our Nation's military, our fighting men and women are better off. The bases in Louisiana, which are important to our communities and to the Nation's defense, continue to have what they need for their vital mission. Our veterans face challenges and most recently faced the crying need for new health care clinics in Louisiana, and MARY helped make those finally happen, finally move forward, including pushing the case fervently and directly to administration officials.

In a very personal and dramatic way, MARY is enthusiastic in promoting children's welfare and supporting adoption. Her dedication internationally was recognized when Russia banned her travel after her direct and well-founded criticism of Russia's action to curb adoption by Americans.

In all of this work, one thing is always crystal clear—certainly crystal clear to me—with Senator LANDRIEU: Louisiana has always been first in her heart and her top motivation, and she has had a distinguished career of service in the Senate on all of those issues I mentioned and many more. All of us in Louisiana gives her our sincere thanks for that.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Thank you, Mr. President.

With Senator MARY LANDRIEU's permission, I want to do a quick interlude to send a bill over to the House.

CENTRAL OREGON JOBS AND WATER SECURITY ACT

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the energy committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2640 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2640) to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to adjust the Crooked River boundary, to provide water certainty for the City of Prineville, Oregon, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The amendment (No. 4094) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under ''Text of Amendments.'')

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 2640), as amended, was passed.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:32 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 2244. An act to extend the termination date of the Terrorism Insurance Program established under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (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, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2719) to require the Transportation Security Administration to implement best practices and improve transparency with regard to technology acquisition programs, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (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, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the preamble of the resolution (H. Con. Res. 107) denouncing the use of civilians as human shields by Hamas and other terrorist organizations in violation of international humanitarian law, also, that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the text of the concurrent resolution, further, that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the title of the concurrent resolution.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 1000. An act to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to prepare a crosscut budget for restoration activities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and for other purposes.

S. 1683. An act to provide for the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign recipients, and for other purposes.

S. 1691. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to improve the security of the United States border and to provide for reforms and rate of pay for border patrol agents.

S. 2142. An act to impose targeted sanctions on persons responsible for violations of human rights of antigovernment protesters in Venezuela, to strengthen civil society in Venezuela, and for other purposes.

S. 2270. An act to clarify the application of certain leverage and risk-based requirements under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

S. 2444. An act to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.

S. 2521. An act to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, to provide for reform to Federal information security.

S. 2651. An act to repeal certain mandates of the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5656. An act 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.

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

H.R. 5816. An act to extend the authorization for the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 123. Concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 3979.

H. Con. Res. 124. Concurrent resolution providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 5771.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 306(k) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 242k), and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Speaker reappoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics for a term of 4 years: Dr. Vickie M. Mays of Los Angeles, California.

At 2:30 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 2519. An act to codify an existing operations center for cybersecurity.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5742. An act to provide to the Secretary of the Interior a mechanism to cancel contracts for the sale of materials CA–20139 and CA–22901, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1281) to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act.

At 10:21 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Chiappardi, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.J. Res. 130. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 122. Concurrent resolution providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 83.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate 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, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 10:46 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1000. An act to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to prepare a crosscut budget for restoration activities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and for other purposes.

S. 1683. An act to provide for the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign recipients, and for other purposes.

S. 1691. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to improve the security of the United States border and to provide for reforms and rate of pay for border patrol agents.

S. 2142. An act to impose targeted sanctions on persons responsible for violations of human rights of antigovernment protesters in Venezuela, to strengthen civil society in Venezuela, and for other purposes.

S. 2270. An act to clarify the application of certain leverage and risk-based requirements under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

S. 2444. An act to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.

S. 2519. An act to codify an existing operations center for cybersecurity.

S. 2521. An act to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, to provide for reform to Federal information security.

S. 2651. An act to repeal certain mandates of the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General.

S. 2759. An act to release the City of St. Clair, Missouri, from all restrictions, conditions, and limitations on the use, encumbrance, conveyance, and closure of the St. Clair Regional Airport.

H.R. 1067. An act to make revisions in title 36, United States Code, as necessary to keep the title current and make technical corrections and improvements.

H.R. 1204. An act 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, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1281. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act.

H.R. 1447. An act to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the deaths of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2719. An act to require the Transportation Security Administration to implement best practices and improve transparency with regard to technology acquisition programs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2952. An act 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 for other purposes.

H.R. 3044. An act to approve the transfer of Yellow Creek Port properties in luka, Mississippi.

H.R. 3374. An act to provide for the use of savings promotion raffle products by financial institutions to encourage savings, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3468. An act to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to extend insurance coverage to amounts held in a member account on behalf of another person, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4007. An act to recodify and reauthorize the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program.

H.R. 4193. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to change the default investment fund under the Thrift Savings Plan, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4199. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Waco, Texas, as the ''Doris Miller Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center''.

H.R. 4681. An act 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, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4926. An act to designate a segment of Interstate Route 35 in the State of Minnesota as the ''James L. Oberstar Memorial Highway''.

H.R. 5705. An act to modify certain provisions relating to the Propane Education and Research Council.

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

At 11:26 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

H.J. Res. 130. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.

The enrolled joint resolution was subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. PRYOR).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 4573. An act 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, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–8083. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Defense Response to the Government Accountability Office B–321387 relative to Antideficiency Act violations; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–8084. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Poultry Improvement Plan and Auxiliary Provisions; Technical Amendment'' ((RIN0579–AD83) (Docket No. APHIS–2011–0101)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–8085. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs), Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–8086. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management), Department of the Army, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–8087. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–8088. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Updated Statements of Legal Authority for the Export Administration Regulations'' (RIN0694–AG39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8089. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendments to Existing Validated End-User Authorization in the People's Republic of China: Lam Research Service Co., Ltd.'' (RIN0694–AG36) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8090. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Unfair or Deceptive Acts or Practices; Technical Amendments'' (RIN3133–AE42) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8091. A communication from the Director, Office of Financial Research, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Financial Research's 2014 Annual Report to Congress; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8092. A communication from the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report to Congress on the Recovery of Threatened and Endangered Species Fiscal Years 2011–2012''; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8093. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Commercial Clothes Washers'' ((RIN1904–AC93) (Docket No. EERE–2013–BT–TP–0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 3, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–8094. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safe Harbor Explanations—Eligible Rollover Distributions'' (Notice 2014–74) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–8095. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Rulings and Determination Letters'' (Rev. Proc. 2015–7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–8096. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Notice: Tier 2 Tax Rates 2015'' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–8097. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Realignment of Technical Work between the Tax Exempt and the Government Entities Division of Associate Chief Counsel (Tax Exempt and Government Entities)'' (Announcement 2014–34) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–8098. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2015 Section 1274A CPI Adjustments'' (Rev. Rul. 2014–30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–8099. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2014–0162—2014–0176); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8100. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Content and Format of Labeling for Human Prescription Drug and Biological Products; Requirements for Pregnancy and Lactation Labeling'' ((RIN0910–AF11) (Docket No. FDA–2006–N–0515; formerly Docket No. 2006N–0467)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–8101. A communication from the Acting District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Certification of Fiscal Year 2015 Total Local Source General Fund Revenue Estimate (Net of Dedicated Taxes) in Support of the District's Issuance of General Obligation Bonds (Series 2014C and 2014D)''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8102. A communication from the Chairman of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8103. A communication from the Chief Financial Officer, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Performance and Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2014''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8104. A communication from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Railroad Retirement Board's Performance and Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2014, including the Office of Inspector General's Auditor's Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8105. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report to Congress on Audit Follow-up for the period of April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8106. A communication from the Chairman of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the period of April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8107. A communication from the Chief Executive Officer, Corporation for National and Community Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Corporation for National and Community Service's Response and Report on Final Action for the period from April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8108. A joint communication from the Chairman and the General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report for the period of April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8109. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8110. A communication from the Special Counsel, United States Office of the Special Counsel, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Special Counsel's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8111. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Rough Rock, Arizona)'' ((MB Docket No. 14–46) (DA 14–1334)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8112. A communication from the Departmental Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Public Information, Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Regulations; Correction'' (RIN0605–AA33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8113. A communication from the Departmental Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Public Information, Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Regulations'' (RIN0605–AA33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8114. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Elizabeth River; Portsmouth, VA'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0693)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8115. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; University of Cincinnati Bearcats Football Fireworks; Ohio River, Mile 470.4–470.8; Cincinnati, OH'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0419)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8116. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Natchez Specialties New Year's Eve Firework Display, Lower Mississippi River, Mile Marker, (MM) 363.5 to 364.5'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0242)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8117. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Carquinez Strait Cable Repair Operation, Martinez, CA'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0950)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8118. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulated Navigation Area, Lake Michigan; Chicago Harbor Lock, Chicago, IL to Calumet Harbor, Chicago, IL'' ((RIN1625–AA11) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0592)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8119. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Darby Creek, Essington, PA'' ((RIN1625–AA09) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0367)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8120. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Changes to the Inland Navigation Rules, Technical, Organizational, and Conforming Amendments'' ((RIN1625–AB88) (Docket No. USCG–2012–0102)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8121. A communication from the Senior Counsel, Wireless Telecommunications Commission, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2004 and 2006 Biennial Regulatory Reviews—Streamlining and Other Revisions of Parts 1 and 17 of the Commission's Rules Governing Construction, Marking and Lighting of Antenna Structures; Amendments to Modernize and Clarify Part 17 of the Commission's Rules Concerning Construction, Marking and Lighting of Antenna Structures'' ((WT Docket No. 10–88; RM 11349) (FCC 14–117)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8122. A communication from the Administrator, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's decision to enter into a contract with a private security screening company to provide screening services at Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport (SRQ); to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8123. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Pier Removal, WI Central Railroad Bridge, Fox River, Green Bay, WI'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0902)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8124. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Salvage Operations, Lake Michigan, Navy Pier, Chicago, IL'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0980)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8125. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Upper Mississippi River between mile 44 and 46; Thebes, IL'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0878)) received

in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8126. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Upper Mississippi River between mile 38.0 and 46.0, Thebes IL; and between mile 78.0 and 81.0, Grand Tower, IL'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0907)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8127. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Salvage Operations, Chicago River, Chicago, IL'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0951)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8128. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Security Zone; USCGC Hamilton Commissioning Ceremony, Charleston Harbor, Charleston, SC'' ((RIN1625–AA87) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0698)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8129. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region; Framework Amendment 1'' (RIN0648–BE31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8130. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region; Framework Action'' (RIN0648–BD58) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8131. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''International Fisheries; Western and Central Pacific Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species; Fishing Effort Limits in Purse Seine Fisheries for 2014'' (RIN0648–BD94) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8132. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) Benefits Program'' (RIN2900–AO17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 3, 2014; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–8133. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Hexythiazox; Pesticide Tolerance for Emergency Exemptions'' (FRL No. 9919–69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 9, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–8134. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''C.I. Pigment Yellow 1; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance'' (FRL No. 9919–40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 9, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–8135. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Diisopropanolamine; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance'' (FRL No. 9919–34) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 9, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–8136. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Alpha-cypermethrin; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 9919–88) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 9, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–8137. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Deletion of Certification Requirement Regarding Separation of Duties of Senior Leaders'' ((RIN0750–AI48) (DFARS Case 2015–D003)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 10, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–8138. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Foreign Commercial Satellite Services'' ((RIN0750–AI32) (DFARS Case 2014–D010)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 10, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–8139. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: State Sponsors of Terrorism'' ((RIN0750–AI34) (DFARS Case 2015–D014)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 10, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–8140. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Update Contractor and Government Entity (CAGE) Code Information'' ((RIN0750–AI44) (DFARS Case 2014–D013)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 10, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–8141. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Elimination of Quarterly Reporting of Actual Performance Outside the United States'' ((RIN0750–AI47) (DFARS Case 2015–D001)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 10, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–8142. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Animal Welfare'' ((RIN0750–AI22) (DFARS Case 2015–D038)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 10, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–8143. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Use of Military Construction Funds in Countries Bordering the Arabian Sea'' ((RIN0750–AI33) (DFARS Case 2015–D016)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 10, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–8144. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Forward Pricing Rate Proposal Adequacy Checklist'' ((RIN0750–AH86) (DFARS Case 2015–D035)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 10, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–8145. A communication from the Under Secretary for Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a Foreign Policy Report entitled ''Report to the Congress: Expansion of the Microprocessor Military End Use and End User Control''; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8146. A communication from the Senior Counsel, Bureau of the Fiscal Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulations Governing Retirement Savings Bonds'' (31 CFR Part 347) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 10, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8147. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8148. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 9, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8149. A communication from the Federal Register Officer, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Consumer Price Index Adjustments of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 Limit of Liability for Offshore Facilities'' (RIN1010–AD87) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 9, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8150. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''North Dakota Regulatory Program'' ((SATS No. ND–052–FOR) (Docket No. OSM–2012–0021)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 10, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–8151. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Wisconsin; Nitrogen Oxide Combustion Turbine Alternative Control Requirements for the Milwaukee-Racine Former Nonattainment Area'' (FRL No. 9920–20–Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 9, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8152. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District and South Coast Air Quality Management District'' (FRL No. 9919–76–Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 9, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8153. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; Open Burning Rule'' (FRL No. 9920–15–Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 9, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8154. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Indiana; Redesignation of Lake and Porter Counties to Attainment of the 2008 Eight-Hour Ozone Standard'' (FRL No. 9920–14–Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 9, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8155. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Labor's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. NELSON, from the Special Committee on Aging:

Special Report entitled ''Fighting Fraud: Lessons Learned from the Senate Aging Committee's Consumer Hotline'' (Rept. No. 113–305).

By Mr. NELSON, from the Special Committee on Aging:

Special Report entitled ''Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Benefit: Increasing Use and Access of Affordable Prescription Drugs'' (Rept. No. 113–306).

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1784. A bill to improve timber management on Oregon and California Railroad and Coos Bay Wagon Road grant land, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–307).

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 1463. A bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit importation, exportation, transportation, sale, receipt, acquisition, and purchase in interstate or foreign commerce, or in a manner substantially affecting interstate or foreign commerce, of any live animal of any prohibited wildlife species (Rept. No. 113–308).

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

H.R. 4573. A bill 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, and for other purposes.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 595. A resolution 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.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 597. A resolution commemorating and supporting the goals of World AIDS day.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment:

S. 2922. A bill to reinstate reporting requirements related to United States-Hong Kong relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. Con. Res. 38. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Warren Weinstein should be returned home to his family.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Ms. LANDRIEU for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

*Colette Dodson Honorable, of Arkansas, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2017.

By Mr. MENENDEZ for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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.

Antony Blinken, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of State.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, for the Committee on Foreign Relations I report favorably the following nomination list which was printed in the RECORD on the date indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that this nomination lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Melinda Masonis and ending with Jeffrey R. Zihlman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 10, 2014.

By Mr. LEAHY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Joan Marie Azrack, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Elizabeth K. Dillon, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia.

Loretta Copeland Biggs, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina.

Michael P. Botticelli, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 2998. A bill to allow for the portability of funds under title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 2999. A bill to reauthorize and improve the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 3000. A bill to establish the Hurricane Sand Dunes National Recreation Area in the State of Utah, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 3001. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide leave to any new Federal employee who is a veteran with a service-connected disability rated at 30 percent or more for purposes of undergoing medical treatment for such disability, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 3002. A bill to control the spread of aquatic invasive species between the Great Lakes basin and the Mississippi River basin, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. COBURN:

S. 3003. A bill to protect the Social Security Disability Insurance program and provide other support for working disabled Americans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 3004. A bill to promote the development of meaningful treatments for patients; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 3005. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a progressive consumption tax and to reform the income tax, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MORAN:

S. 3006. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use existing authorities to furnish health care at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities to veterans who live more than 40 miles driving distance

from the closest medical facility of the Department that furnishes the care sought by the veteran; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 3007. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security act to extend the application of the Medicare payment rate floor to primary care services furnished under Medicaid and to apply the rate floor to additional providers of primary services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S. 3008. A bill to extend temporarily the extended period of protection for members of uniformed services relating to mortgages, mortgage foreclosure, and eviction, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. Res. 599. A resolution recognizing the 100-year anniversary of Big Brothers Big Sisters Southeastern Pennsylvania; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 313

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 313, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1445

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1445, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of optometrists in the National Health Service Corps scholarship and loan repayment programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1695

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1695, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 2301

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2301, a bill to amend section 2259 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 2828

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2828, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation, to provide additional assistance to Ukraine, and for other purposes.

S. 2930

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2930, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the conduct of an evaluation of mental health care and suicide prevention programs of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2941

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2941, a bill to combat human trafficking.

S. 2990

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2990, a bill to establish a State Trade and Export Promotion Grant Program.

S. RES. 595

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 595, a resolution 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.

S. RES. 597

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 597, a resolution commemorating and supporting the goals of World AIDS day.

AMENDMENT NO. 4091

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4091 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3979, a bill 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.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. COBURN:

S. 3003. A bill to protect the Social Security Disability Insurance program and provide other support for working disabled Americans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, as a father, grandfather, and doctor, there are few issues that are more important to me than making sure Social Security benefits are protected for both current and future generations. While both the Social Security Disability Insurance program and the Social Security Insurance program will be exhausted during my kids' lifetime, the disability program's finances are particularly dire.

Since 2005, the disability trust fund has paid out more in benefits each year than taxpayers pay back in. Last year alone the shortfall was $32 billion. As a result, the trust fund will run out of money by 2016, after which the Social Security Administration, the ''Agency,'' will only be able to pay 81 percent of disability benefits to the 11 million Americans currently dependent on them. This outcome is unacceptable.

Faced with the impending insolvency of the disability program, politicians have debated the principal causes of the trust fund's rapidly expanding shortfall. Some argue the program does not need reform, believing that the increase in the disability rolls is due to factors beyond our control. Citing aging baby-boomers and the rise of women in the workplace, opponents of reform argue that dramatically rising disability spending was and is unavoidable.

That is simply wrong. Since 1989, the percentage of working-age Americans receiving disability benefits has more than doubled, while the percentage of Americans reporting a work limitation has remained fairly stable. A paper published by the Center for American Progress and the Brookings Institution noted that even among middle-aged men, the fraction receiving disability benefits has risen by 45 percent since 1988.

A significant driver of the program's increased cost is fraud, waste, and abuse. Over the past 4 years, the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the ''committee'', and the U.S. Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, the ''subcommittee'' have conducted several bipartisan investigations into aspects of the Agency's disability programs and uncovered significant problems with the program that Congress and the Agency need to correct.

In 2012, the subcommittee looked at a random sample of 300 disability cases and found that one-quarter of the decisions made by the Agency were not supported by the medical record. Much of this was the result of the Agency's poor supervision of its 1,500 Administrative Law Judges ''ALJs''. This was not just the subcommittee's judgment; the Agency agreed. After conducting its own study, SSA similarly found that 23 percent of ALJ decisions nationally were not supported by the record.

In 2013, the Committee issued a report showing how the disability programs could be gamed by attorneys, doctors, and ALJs. The report detailed how attorney Eric C. Conn, ALJ David

Daugherty, and several doctors conspired to manufacture fraudulent medical evidence to award benefits. Mr. Conn got rich and also paid a few doctors millions of dollars to sign fraudulent medical evidence, which Judge Daugherty then used to approve claims without a hearing. The result of their plan was millions in potentially fraudulent disability awards. Mr. Conn became the third highest-paid disability attorney in the country, and we found a number of large, unexplained cash deposits in Judge Daugherty's bank accounts that were not reported on his taxes or his public disclosures.

Both reports highlighted how the Agency's push to reduce the hearings backlog came with significant costs: the Agency paid little regard to the quality of decisions being made by ALJs, and focused only on encouraging ALJs to decide as many cases as possible.

The Agency's Office of Inspector General recently issued a report estimating that a group of high-approving judges granted at least $2 billion in improper benefits. As a result, the Agency will pay out another $273 million in improper benefits each year.

This is only a sample of the work the Committee and Subcommittee have done in the last few years, and it does not crack the surface of the excellent work done by the Agency's Office of Inspector General, including uncovering huge fraud schemes in New York and Puerto Rico.

The program's antiquated, subjective, and ambiguous rules make it easier for lawyers, doctors and claimants to game the system.

Changes in program criteria used to determine eligibility for benefits has made determinations less objective. Researchers at the National Bureau of Economic Research attributed 53 percent of growth for men and 38 percent of growth for women not to age, workforce participation, or economic factors, but to weakened eligibility criteria.

Since changes by Congress in 1984, the Social Security Administration no longer makes benefit decisions based strictly on medical evidence, but instead determines whether vocational factors such as age, education, and skills prevent an individual from working ''any job in the national economy,'' a standard that should be hard to meet. But the number of applicants approved based on this standard has more than doubled.

Eligibility criteria are not the only rules that can be gamed. Most recently, I examined how some claimant representatives systematically withhold medical evidence from the Agency to help their clients win benefits and engage in other misconduct to pad their pockets and clog the disability program.

What I found is a program that offers backward incentives for everyone from the applicant and representatives to the beneficiaries. Because the program accepts applicants only after they quit their job, and provides them with rehabilitation services only after they start receiving benefits, applicants must leave their job and often go years before they receive services they need. Because beneficiaries will lose their benefits if they make too much money, there are discouraged from working to their abilities. Because the program rewards representatives only if they win, and awards greater fees the longer the case sits, representatives hide bad evidence, delay decisions, and provide poor representation to disabled Americans.

For most Americans, disability benefits should not continue indefinitely for their lifetime. Yet only one-half of 1 percent of individuals on disability rolls leave because they have returned to work and earned over the amount allowable by the Agency.

Additionally, scholars believe 23 percent of applicants are on the margin of program entry—that is, whether they are awarded benefits depends on who reviews their case. Accordingly, there is a relatively high percentage of beneficiaries that can work, but choose not to, either because they do not want to lose their benefits, both monetary and Medicare, or because they need supports that are not currently offered to them.

Our Federal laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act and dozens of Federal work programs, are designed to assist disabled Americans in leading integrated, self-sufficient lives. Yet we have failed to target and coordinate the resources they need before they have to leave their jobs. The Social Security Advisory Board, SSAB attributes Ticket to Work's low success rate to the fact that intervention ''comes too late in the process—after the individual's connection to employment has been severed and frequently after the individual has undergone a lengthy process of proving inability to work.''

According to the SSAB, ''focusing all of the return-to-work efforts inside the structure of the disability program seems to be too late for many individuals. In order for the intervention to be effective, it needs to occur before the individual comes to SSA, before he applies for SSDI or SSI, and before the attachment to the workforce is lost.'' The SSAB has advocated for comprehensive front-end services, arguing they are ''a real chance to access tailored services that can enhance return to work efforts.''

When the trust fund is exhausted in 2016, many Members of Congress will say we just need to move funds from the Social Security retirement program

Let me be clear: this is not a solution; it is a Band-Aid, a temporary fix that takes money away from seniors and will eventually hurt taxpayers when both funds go broke in 2033.

I hope there will be a rigorous debate in the next year about how we can better serve disabled Americans with a program that gives them the resources they need to work to the extent they are able and protects benefits for those who are forced to rely on them. The disability program is an important safety net, but it does not serve the disabled or the taxpayers to treat it like an early retirement program or long-term unemployment.

This is a conversation that will take place after I have left the Senate. Accordingly, after 4 years of research, investigations, and thoughtful meetings with other interested, engaged parties, today I am offering a bill I believe can be used as a blueprint to shore up the fund before its exhaustion in 2016, fix systemic problems with the program, and provide targeted resources for the millions of disabled Americans who want to work to the best of their abilities.

The Protecting Social Security Disability Act of 2014 was drafted with three goals in mind: first, to make systemic changes to the program that preserve it for future generations; second, to ensure benefits are adequate and quickly available for those who need them by adding program integrity measures that root out fraud, waste and abuse; and third, to provide resources and incentives to those disabled Americans who want to work and have the ability to do so.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the section-by-section summary of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

II. SECTION-BY-SECTION SUMMARY OF THE BILL

Title: To protect the Social Security Disability Insurance program and provide other support for working disabled Americans, and for other purposes.

Short Title: Protecting Social Security Disability Act of 2014

TITLE I—ENSURING THE LONG-TERM SOLVENCY OF THE DISABILITY INSURANCE TRUST FUND

Sec. 101. Application of actuarial reduction for disabled beneficiaries who attain early retirement age.

Requires that disabled worker beneficiaries be converted to retired worker status at the Earliest Eligibility Age.

Any individuals who are categorized as Medical Improvement Not Expected (see below) are exempt.

Sec. 102. Reviews and time-limiting of disability benefits.

Disability Classifications. Mandates that all beneficiaries be classified as follows when they are admitted on to the rolls:

Medical Improvement Expected (MIE, improvement within 1–2 years);

Medical Improvement Likely (MIL, improvement within 3–5 years);

Medical Improvement Possible (MIP, improvement not likely to be within 5 years, but improvement is possible); and

Medical Improvement Not Expected (MINE, there is no known effective treatment). Age may not be used as a factor to categorize someone in the MINE category who otherwise would not be.

Continuing Disability Reviews.

MILs and MIPs will have mandatory full medical continuing disability reviews during

the 5th year and 7th year of benefits, respectively.

Any individual may be subject to an earlier review if the Commissioner of Social Security has reason to believe the individual is not under a disability, but such a review cannot be initiated on the basis of income earned under Section 301 (below).

Reviews under this paragraph are in addition to, and do not substitute for, other reviews required by the Social Security Act.

The standard of review will be the same as conducted for an initial determination, rather than the medical improvement standard, except that any income the individual is now earning under Section 301 (below) will not be considered.

Time-limiting Disability Benefits for MIE Individuals.

Benefits will be time-limited to 3 years for MIEs.

MIEs may file a timely reapplication for benefits during the last twelve to fourteen months of their benefit period.

Notwithstanding the above, a reapplication may be deemed timely if the individual can show good cause for failure to submit during the period described above and it is submitted no later than 6 months before the end of the termination month applicable.

There will be no waiting period for benefits/Medicare if an individual's timely reapplication is approved.

If an initial decision has not been made on a timely reapplication when the individual's benefit term ends, the individual's benefits will continue until an initial determination is made.

If an final decision has not been made on a timely reapplication when the individual's benefit term ends, and the individual requests a hearing to review an unfavorable initial decision, the individual may request to have benefits extended until a hearing decision is made. If the individual is determined not to be disabled, any benefits paid after benefit term has ceased will be considered overpayments.

A previous award of benefits shall have no bearing on the reapplication, and the continuing disability review rules do not apply.

Sec. 103. Adjustment of age criteria for social security disability insurance medical-vocational guidelines.

Age cannot be considered as a factor using the grids for any individual aged less than the Normal Retirement Age minus 12 years. This means every time the Normal Retirement Age is increased, so too will the age for disability purposes.

SSA must consider the share and ages of individuals currently participating in the labor force and the number and types of jobs available in the current economy when considering vocational factors.

Starting in two years, and every year thereafter, SSA must keep a current jobs list so examiners are considering the current economy when determining whether an individual can work any job in the national economy.

Sec. 104. Mandatory collection of negotiated civil monetary penalties.

Mandates SSA collect the penalties negotiated by the Inspector General in cases of fraud by beneficiaries.

Sec. 105. Required electronic filing of wage withholding returns.

Requires that all W–2s be submitted electronically but provides a hardship exemption for small businesses with 25 employees or less for the first five years, and then moving to 5 employees or less after that.

TITLE II—PROGRAM INTEGRITY: REFORMING STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES FOR DISABILITY HEARINGS, MEDICAL EVIDENCE, AND CLAIMANT REPRESENTATIVES

Sec. 201. Elimination of reconsideration review level for an initial adverse determination of an application for disability insurance benefits.

Removes the reconsideration review in the remaining states that still have it so cases can move quickly to a hearing before an ALJ.

Sec. 202. Deadline for submission of medical evidence; exclusion of certain medical evidence.

Closing the Record. Prevents SSA from considering evidence submitted less than 5 days before a hearing with an ALJ and provides a ''good cause'' standard for failing to meet that deadline that is the same as used in federal court. In no case can evidence be submitted if it was obtained after the ALJ's decision or submitted 1 year after an ALJ's decision.

Applicants, their representative, or a disability hearing attorney (defined in section 203 below) may request that a hearing be postponed to complete the record for no more than 30 days if it is made at least 7 days prior to the hearing date and if the party shows good cause.

Exclusion of Medical Evidence. Makes it clear that claimants and their representatives must submit all known, relevant medical evidence to SSA, whether the evidence is favorable or unfavorable, and requires that claimants certify to the ALJ at a hearing that they have done so. Evidence may not be considered otherwise. There is an exception for attorney-client privileged communications. It also provides clear civil and criminal penalties for the failure to follow these rules.

Prohibits SSA from considering evidence furnished by a physician who is not licensed, has been sanctioned, or is under investigation for ethical misconduct.

Sec. 203. Non-adversarial disability hearing attorneys.

Creates a disability hearing attorney position to develop the record, represent the government in hearings where the claimant has representation, recommend on the record decisions where clearly warranted, and to refer cases to the Appeals Council if they disagree with the ALJ's grant of benefits.

Requires the Agency to properly vet and train the staff.

Sec. 204. Procedural rules for hearings.

Requires SSA to create and publish procedural rules for hearings.

Allows ALJs to impose certain fines and other sanctions for failure to follow these rules.

Sec. 205. Prohibits attorneys who have relinquished a license to practice in the face of an ethics investigation from serving as a claimant representative.

Any representative seeking payment for their services has an affirmative burden of certifying to SSA they meet the rules.

Attorneys must certify to SSA they have never been disbarred or suspended from any court or relinquished a license to practice in the face of a misconduct investigation.

Sec. 206. Applying judicial code of conduct to administrative law judges.

This makes ALJs subject to the Judicial Code of Conduct.

Sec. 207. Evaluating medical evidence.

Removes the controlling weight standard given to opinion evidence provided by treating physicians.

For any healthcare providers filling out a Residual Functional Capacity form, the claimant has to provide them with a Medical Consultant Acknowledgement Form (created by SSA) that discloses how medical evidence will be used by SSA, instructions on filling out RFC forms, and information on the legal and ethical obligations of a practitioner providing such an assessment. The practitioner must sign and certify they read and understand the contents of the form and include it with the RFC or the evidence cannot be considered by SSA. This also provides penalties for forging the certification.

Allows ALJs to request and use Symptom Validity Tests and social media and requires SSA provide training on how to weigh such evidence.

Sec. 208. Reforming fees paid to attorneys and other claimant representatives.

Representatives must account for work performed on a case even if there is a valid fee agreement.

SSA can no longer reimburse representatives for travel expenses.

The IG must perform annual reviews of the highest-earning claimant representatives that look for repetitive language in their evidence, any licensing problems, and whether there is a disproportionate number of the representatives' cases being determined by a particular ALJ.

Representatives cannot receive fees from the Equal Access to Justice Act for: (1) hearings before an ALJ; and (2) if they submitted new evidence after the hearing.

Sec. 209. Strengthening the administrative law judge quality review process.

The Division of Quality shall conduct an annual review on a sample of cases by ''outlier'' ALJs (those with 85% or higher approvals and 700 or more cases that year) and report to SSA on its findings.

Any cases determined to be granted in error must have a continuing disability review within six months.

Sec. 210. Permitting data matching by the Inspector General of the Social Security Administration.

Exempts Inspectors General from the applicable Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988 restrictions, which mandate cumbersome rules to approve agreements with other agencies to share records for investigations.

Sec. 211. Accounting for Social Security Program Integrity Spending.

Amounts made available for program integrity spending shall be in a separate account within the federal budget and funded in a separate account in the appropriations bill.

Sec. 212. Use of the National Directory of New Hires.

Mandates that SSA consult the National Directory of New Hires when determining whether an individual is making above the substantial gainful activity limits.

TITLE III—PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR WORKING, DISABLED AMERICANS

Sec. 301. Encouraging work through the Work Incentive Benefit System

Removes Ticket to Work.

Implements the Work Incentive Benefit Program created by Dr. Jagadeesh Gokhale, member of the Social Security Advisory Board. The program incentivizes disability beneficiaries to go back to work to the extent they are able by allowing them to keep more of what they earn while receiving diminished benefits. The program is different from the Benefit Offset National Demonstration (BOND) in that it uses a sliding scale (similar to the Earned Income Tax Credit) to encourage beneficiaries to maximize their earnings.

Puts in place a reimbursement structure for state vocational rehabilitation agencies that shares the savings accrued when a beneficiary returns to work under the Work Incentive Benefit Program and thus receives a lower benefit. The share of these savings state VR agencies are entitled to will increase based on the severity of the disability, to ensure VR agencies are targeting those who need the most help.

Sec. 302. Early-intervention demonstration project and study. Requires SSA to implement two projects to:

Identify disability applicants who have not yet entered the program but who are highly likely to be approved, yet who would have some work capacity if given the appropriate supports. Directs the Commissioner to provide targeted vocational rehabilitation, as well as the possibility of health benefits and cash stipends, to selected individuals who voluntarily suspend their disability application in exchange for these supports; and

Study the feasibility of incentives for employers to provide private disability insurance and other support services by reimbursing a portion of payroll taxes when employers can reduce their disability rates (voluntary experience rating).

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 3005. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a progressive consumption tax and to reform the income tax, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce the Progressive Consumption Tax Act of 2014.

We need a tax code that is fair for American employers and fair for American families. We need a tax code that makes our U.S.-based businesses more competitive. Finally, we need a tax code that allows us to responsibly and reliably collect reasonable revenues.

I applaud the contributions of my colleagues in both the Senate and the House for their efforts in also trying to achieve these goals in tax reform. However, I am adding this bill to the tax reform debate, because I think we need to seriously reconsider the framework for that debate.

Today, we seem to be stuck on 1986-style tax reform—lower the income tax rate, and broaden the base by eliminating tax preferences.

The 1986 reform was a tremendous effort. But, I would argue that that reform lasted less than one year before Congress began tinkering with our income taxes once again. Since then, innumerable changes have made our tax code more and more complicated and, for many taxpayers, less and less fair.

Another issue with reform efforts focusing on our current tax system is this—the extent to which we rely on income taxes is very out of step with the rest of the world.

Compared to other countries that are in the OECD—developed countries with advanced economies, countries that we want to be competitive with—all taxes as a percentage of GDP in the United States are low.

But, the U.S. is not a low income tax country. Our income tax revenues as a percentage of GDP are higher than the OECD countries. As many of my colleagues have pointed out, we have some of the highest statutory income tax rates in the world.

What accounts for the difference is that all OECD countries except the U.S. have a consumption tax. In fact, about 150 countries now have a consumption tax, many of which were enacted decades ago.

Unlike the U.S., these countries can tax imports and subsidize exports by rebating their consumption taxes for exports—without violating current World Trade Organization, WTO, rules. As important, these countries can sustain reductions in their corporate income tax rates, because they have an alternative and more pro-growth revenue source—a consumption tax.

The Progressive Consumption Tax Act puts this country on a level playing field by providing for a broad-based progressive consumption tax, or PCT, at a rate of 10 percent. The PCT would generate revenue by taxing goods and services, rather than income.

This is not simply an add-on tax. The revenues generated by the Act would be used to eliminate an income tax liability for a significant number of households. Those who do still have an income tax liability would see a much simplified income tax with their marginal rates reduced—the top marginal individual income tax rate, applying to taxable income over $500,000 for joint filers, would be 28 percent. The current top marginal rate, applying to taxable income over approximately $450,000 for joint filers, is 39.6 percent.

The act would also slice our corporate rate by more than half, to 17 percent.

Finally, the act would provide rebates to lower- and moderate-income families to counteract heir consumption tax burden and to replace essential support programs like the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. Like the EITC and CTC, Individuals and families who do not have an income tax liability would still be able to receive these rebates.

A key part of the act is progressivity. By eliminating an income tax liability for a significant number of households and providing rebates, the Act is meant to be at least as progressive as the current system.

The act is also meant to responsibly produce reasonable revenues. I know that some have concerns that the act would just provide a new lever for the government to raise funds. That is why the act contains a revenue ''circuit breaker'' mechanism that returns excess PCT revenues to taxpayers if a certain threshold is met.

Overall, the Progressive Consumption Tax Act has many advantages compared to our current reform efforts.

First, it encourages saving. Under current law, families and individuals are taxed on income, which includes savings. Under the act, most households would be exempt from the income tax, and thus would be able to save tax free.

The act enhances U.S. economic competitiveness. The U.S. corporate income tax rate would be lowered to 17 percent, encouraging multinational corporations to locate here, not abroad. OECD countries currently attracting U.S. multinationals often impose higher consumption or corporate tax rates than those envisioned by the act.

For instance, this year, we heard of many companies that were considering relocating to the U.K. That country's corporate income tax rate is 21 percent and its general consumption tax rate is 20 percent. Under the Act, the U.S. corporate tax rate would become 17 percent and the consumption tax rate would be only 10 percent.

In fact, if the Progressive Consumption Tax Act became law, every top statutory rate in the United States—our individual income tax rate, our corporate tax rate, our consumption tax rate—would be at least five percentage points lower than the OECD average.

The act encourages economic growth. In study that examined 35 years of data on 21 OECD countries, consumption taxes were found to be more growth-friendly than both personal income taxes and corporate income taxes. Corporate income taxes, especially, appear to have the most negative effect on GDP per capita. Growth-oriented tax reform should move away from income tax revenues and towards consumption tax revenues, as the act does.

The act also enhances U.S. trade competitiveness. Countries with consumption taxes can adjust their taxes at the border by rebating exports. That means that these countries can agree to reduced tariffs under trade agreements, can still tax imports with their consumption taxes, and can export their own goods without a full tax load. Because the PCT is border-adjusted, the U.S. would be able to maintain export and import tax parity in the same way as these other countries.

The act reduces income tax compliance costs. Most households would not have an income tax liability under the act—although they would need to provide key pieces of information to the IRS in order to obtain their rebates.

Finally, the act protects low- and middle-income families from an unfair tax burden. Through the income tax exemption and rebate feature, the Progressive Consumption Tax Act aims to ensure that this new tax system is at least as progressive as the current income tax system.

When my colleagues and others talk to me about comprehensive, responsible, pro-growth tax reform, this to me is what we need to do.

That's why I am pleased to introduce Progressive Consumption Tax Act in this Congress. The Act is meant as an opening for serious discussion on this type of reform. We can't just stand by, fight the same tax reform fights we did

nearly 30 years ago, and in the meantime watch American jobs move overseas and our income tax system become further riddled with loopholes. I hope we will stand for what is right in our tax code, and enact the type of reform that allows our country to have among the lowest tax rates in the industrialized world, and the fairest system for all Americans.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 599—RECOGNIZING THE 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 599

Whereas Big Brothers Big Sisters Southeastern Pennsylvania is a nonprofit organization that provides children facing adversity with strong, enduring, and professionally supported one-to-one mentor relationships;

Whereas Big Brothers Big Sisters Southeastern Pennsylvania serves children who are—

(1) living in areas with a high poverty rate, areas with a high incidence of juvenile arrests, or single-parent households;

(2) impacted by homelessness or familial incarceration; or

(3) attending a struggling school;

Whereas mentors serving as advisors, role models, or friends can diminish risk factors, enhance protective factors, and make a lasting impact on the lives of children;

Whereas Big Brothers Big Sisters Southeastern Pennsylvania supports and enriches the lives of children and promotes and reinforces positive activities, behaviors, and attitudes by working with donors, partners, family members, volunteers, and advocates;

Whereas the Big Brothers Big Sisters Southeastern Pennsylvania mentor program is proven to help at-risk children reach their potential;

Whereas the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at the University of Colorado classifies the Big Brothers Big Sisters Southeastern Pennsylvania mentor program as a ''blueprint'' model intervention program for effectively reducing adolescent violent crime, aggression, delinquency, and substance abuse;

Whereas ''blueprint'' programs have the highest standards and meet the most rigorous tests of effectiveness and replicability in the field of helping at-risk children;

Whereas children who participate in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Southeastern Pennsylvania mentor program perform better in school and develop better relationships with their families and peers;

Whereas Big Brothers Big Sisters Southeastern Pennsylvania makes meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers, known as ''Bigs'', and at-risk children, known as ''Littles'', throughout Chester County, Delaware County, Montgomery County, and Philadelphia County;

Whereas Big Brothers Big Sisters Southeastern Pennsylvania supports nearly 3,000 mentor matches each year;

Whereas an estimated 250,000 underserved children in southeastern Pennsylvania remain at risk for academic failure; and

Whereas Big Brothers Big Sisters Southeastern Pennsylvania is committed to bringing life-changing work to the children in the region who need it the most: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes the 100-year anniversary of Big Brothers Big Sisters Southeastern Pennsylvania.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4092. Mr. DURBIN (for Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. CORKER)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2828, to impose sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation, to provide additional assistance to Ukraine, and for other purposes.

SA 4093. Mr. DURBIN (for Mr. KING (for himself, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. WARNER)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3329, to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.

SA 4094. Mr. MERKLEY proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2640, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to adjust the Crooked River boundary, to provide water certainty for the City of Prineville, Oregon, and for other purposes.

SA 4095. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4096. Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1535, to deter terrorism, provide justice for victims, and for other purposes.

SA 4097. Mr. KING (for Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. THUNE)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1353, to provide for an ongoing, voluntary public-private partnership to improve cybersecurity, and to strengthen cybersecurity research and development, workforce development and education, and public awareness and preparedness, and for other purposes.

SA 4098. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4099. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4092. Mr. DURBIN (for Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. CORKER)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2828, to impose sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation, to provide additional assistance to Ukraine, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.
Sec. 3. Statement of policy regarding Ukraine.
Sec. 4. Sanctions relating to the defense and energy sectors of the Russian Federation.
Sec. 5. Sanctions on Russian and other foreign financial institutions.
Sec. 6. Major non-NATO ally status for Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova.
Sec. 7. Increased military assistance for the Government of Ukraine.
Sec. 8. Expanded nonmilitary assistance for Ukraine.
Sec. 9. Expanded broadcasting in countries of the former Soviet Union.
Sec. 10. Support for Russian democracy and civil society organizations.
Sec. 11. Report on non-compliance by the Russian Federation of its obligations under the INF Treaty.
Sec. 12. Rule of construction.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ACCOUNT; CORRESPONDENT ACCOUNT; PAYABLE-THROUGH ACCOUNT.—The terms ''account'', ''correspondent account'', and ''payable-through account'' have the meanings given those terms in section 5318A of title 31, United States Code.

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

(3) DEFENSE ARTICLE; DEFENSE SERVICE; TRAINING.—The terms ''defense article'', ''defense service'', and ''training'' have the meanings given those terms in section 47 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2794).

(4) FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—The term ''financial institution'' means a financial institution specified in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), (D), (E), (F), (G), (H), (I), (J), (M), or (Y) of section 5312(a)(2) of title 31, United States Code.

(5) FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—The term ''foreign financial institution'' has the meaning given that term in section 561.308 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations (or any corresponding similar regulation or ruling).

(6) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term ''foreign person'' means any individual or entity that is not a United States citizen, a permanent resident alien, or an entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States.

(7) KNOWINGLY.—The term ''knowingly'', with respect to conduct, a circumstance, or a result, means that a person has actual knowledge, or should have known, of the conduct, the circumstance, or the result.

(8) RUSSIAN PERSON.—The term ''Russian person'' means—

(A) an individual who is a citizen or national of the Russian Federation; or

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the Russian Federation.

(9) SPECIAL RUSSIAN CRUDE OIL PROJECT.—The term ''special Russian crude oil project'' means a project intended to extract crude oil from—

(A) the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation in waters more than 500 feet deep;

(B) Russian Arctic offshore locations; or

(C) shale formations located in the Russian Federation.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY REGARDING UKRAINE.

It is the policy of the United States to further assist the Government of Ukraine in restoring its sovereignty and territorial integrity to deter the Government of the Russian Federation from further destabilizing and invading Ukraine and other independent countries in Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. That policy shall be carried into effect, among other things, through a comprehensive effort, in coordination with allies and partners of the United States where appropriate, that includes economic sanctions, diplomacy, assistance for the people of Ukraine, and the provision of military capabilities to the Government of Ukraine that will enhance the ability of that Government to defend itself and to restore its sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of unlawful actions by the Government of the Russian Federation.

SEC. 4. SANCTIONS RELATING TO THE DEFENSE AND ENERGY SECTORS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

(a) SANCTIONS RELATING TO THE DEFENSE SECTOR.—

(1) ROSOBORONEXPORT.—Except as provided in subsection (d), not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall impose 3 or more of the sanctions described in subsection (c) with respect to Rosoboronexport.

(2) RUSSIAN PRODUCERS, TRANSFERORS, OR BROKERS OF DEFENSE ARTICLES.—Except as provided in subsection (d), on and after the date that is 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall impose 3 or more of the sanctions described in subsection (c) with respect to a foreign person the President determines—

(A) is an entity—

(i) owned or controlled by the Government of the Russian Federation or owned or controlled by nationals of the Russian Federation; and

(ii) that—

(I) knowingly manufactures or sells defense articles transferred into Syria or into the territory of a specified country without the consent of the internationally recognized government of that country;

(II) transfers defense articles into Syria or into the territory of a specified country without the consent of the internationally recognized government of that country; or

(III) brokers or otherwise assists in the transfer of defense articles into Syria or into the territory of a specified country without the consent of the internationally recognized government of that country; or

(B) knowingly, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, assists, sponsors, or provides financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services to or in support of, an entity described in subparagraph (A) with respect to an activity described in clause (ii) of that subparagraph.

(3) SPECIFIED COUNTRY DEFINED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In this subsection, the term ''specified country'' means—

(i) Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova; and

(ii) any other country designated by the President as a country of significant concern for purposes of this subsection, such as Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and the Central Asia republics.

(B) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—The President shall notify the appropriate congressional committees in writing not later than 15 days before—

(i) designating a country as a country of significant concern under subparagraph (A)(ii); or

(ii) terminating a designation under that subparagraph, including the termination of any such designation pursuant to subsection (h).

(b) SANCTIONS RELATED TO THE ENERGY SECTOR.—

(1) DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIAL RUSSIAN CRUDE OIL PROJECTS.—Except as provided in subsection (d), on and after the date that is 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President may impose 3 or more of the sanctions described in subsection (c) with respect to a foreign person if the President determines that the foreign person knowingly makes a significant investment in a special Russian crude oil project.

(2) AUTHORIZATION FOR EXTENSION OF LICENSING LIMITATIONS ON CERTAIN EQUIPMENT.—The President, through the Bureau of Industry and Security of the Department of Commerce or the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury, as appropriate, may impose additional licensing requirements for or other restrictions on the export or reexport of items for use in the energy sector of the Russian Federation, including equipment used for tertiary oil recovery.

(3) CONTINGENT SANCTION RELATING TO GAZPROM.—If the President determines that Gazprom is withholding significant natural gas supplies from member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or further withholds significant natural gas supplies from countries such as Ukraine, Georgia, or Moldova, the President shall, not later than 45 days after making that determination, impose the sanction described in subsection (c)(7) and at least one additional sanction described in subsection (c) with respect to Gazprom.

(c) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions the President may impose with respect to a foreign person under subsection (a) or (b) are the following:

(1) EXPORT-IMPORT BANK ASSISTANCE.—The President may direct the Export-Import Bank of the United States not to approve the issuance of any guarantee, insurance, extension of credit, or participation in the extension of credit in connection with the export of any goods or services to the foreign person.

(2) PROCUREMENT SANCTION.—The President may prohibit the head of any executive agency (as defined in section 133 of title 41, United States Code) from entering into any contract for the procurement of any goods or services from the foreign person.

(3) ARMS EXPORT PROHIBITION.—The President may prohibit the exportation or provision by sale, lease or loan, grant, or other means, directly or indirectly, of any defense article or defense service to the foreign person and the issuance of any license or other approval to the foreign person under section 38 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778).

(4) DUAL-USE EXPORT PROHIBITION.—The President may prohibit the issuance of any license and suspend any license for the transfer to the foreign person of any item the export of which is controlled under the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2401 et seq.) (as in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.)) or the Export Administration Regulations under subchapter C of chapter VII of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations.

(5) PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS.—The President may, pursuant to such regulations as the President may prescribe, prohibit any person from—

(A) acquiring, holding, withholding, using, transferring, withdrawing, transporting, or exporting any property that is subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and with respect to which the foreign person has any interest;

(B) dealing in or exercising any right, power, or privilege with respect to such property; or

(C) conducting any transaction involving such property.

(6) BANKING TRANSACTIONS.—The President may, pursuant to such regulations as the President may prescribe, prohibit any transfers of credit or payments between financial institutions or by, through, or to any financial institution, to the extent that such transfers or payments are subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and involve any interest of the foreign person.

(7) PROHIBITION ON INVESTMENT IN EQUITY OR DEBT OF SANCTIONED PERSON.—The President may, pursuant to such regulations as the President may prescribe, prohibit any United States person from transacting in, providing financing for, or otherwise dealing in—

(A) debt—

(i) of longer than 30 days' maturity of a foreign person with respect to which sanctions are imposed under subsection (a) or of longer than 90 days' maturity of a foreign person with respect to which sanctions are imposed under subsection (b); and

(ii) issued on or after the date on which such sanctions are imposed with respect to the foreign person; or

(B) equity of the foreign person issued on or after that date.

(8) EXCLUSION FROM THE UNITED STATES AND REVOCATION OF VISA OR OTHER DOCUMENTATION.—In the case of a foreign person who is an individual, the President may direct the Secretary of State to deny a visa to, and the Secretary of Homeland Security to exclude from the United States, the foreign person, subject to regulatory exceptions to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations.

(9) SANCTIONS ON PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.—In the case of a foreign person that is an entity, the President may impose on the principal executive officer or officers of the foreign person, or on individuals performing similar functions and with similar authorities as such officer or officers, any of the sanctions described in this subsection applicable to individuals.

(d) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The authority to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property under subsection (c)(5) shall not include the authority to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(B) GOOD DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ''good'' has the meaning given that term in section 16 of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2415) (as continued in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.)).

(2) ADDITIONAL EXCEPTIONS.—The President shall not be required to apply or maintain the sanctions under subsection (a) or (b)—

(A) in the case of procurement of defense articles or defense services under existing contracts, subcontracts, or other business agreements, including ancillary or incidental contracts for goods, or for services or

funding (including necessary financial services) associated with such goods, as necessary to give effect to such contracts, subcontracts, or other business agreements, and the exercise of options for production quantities to satisfy requirements essential to the national security of the United States—

(i) if the President determines in writing that—

(I) the foreign person to which the sanctions would otherwise be applied is a sole source supplier of the defense articles or services;

(II) the defense articles or services are essential;

(III) alternative sources are not readily or reasonably available; and

(IV) the national interests of the United States would be adversely affected by the application or maintenance of such sanctions; or

(ii) if the President determines in writing that—

(I) such articles or services are essential to the national security under defense coproduction agreements; and

(II) the national interests of the United States would be adversely affected by the application or maintenance of such sanctions;

(B) in the case of procurement, to eligible products, as defined in section 308(4) of the Trade Agreements Act of 1979 (19 U.S.C. 2518(4)), of any foreign country or instrumentality designated under section 301(b)(1) of that Act (19 U.S.C. 2511(b)(1));

(C) to products, technology, or services provided under contracts, subcontracts, or other business agreements (including ancillary or incidental contracts for goods, or for services or funding (including necessary financial services) associated with such goods, as necessary to give effect to such contracts, subcontracts, or other business agreements) entered into before the date on which the President publishes in the Federal Register the name of the foreign person with respect to which the sanctions are to be imposed;

(D) to—

(i) spare parts that are essential to United States products or production;

(ii) component parts, but not finished products, essential to United States products or production; or

(iii) routine servicing and maintenance of United States products, to the extent that alternative sources are not readily or reasonably available;

(E) to information and technology essential to United States products or production; or

(F) to food, medicine, medical devices, or agricultural commodities (as those terms are defined in section 101 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8511)).

(e) NATIONAL SECURITY WAIVER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under subsection (a) or (b) with respect to a foreign person if the President—

(A) determines that the waiver is in the national security interest of the United States; and

(B) submits to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the determination and the reasons for the determination.

(2) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required by paragraph (1)(B) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(f) TRANSACTION-SPECIFIC NATIONAL SECURITY WAIVER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under subsection (a) or (b) with respect to a specific transaction if the President—

(A) determines that the transaction is in the national security interest of the United States; and

(B) submits to the appropriate congressional committees a detailed report on the determination and the specific reasons for the determination that a waiver with respect to the transaction is necessary and appropriate.

(2) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required by paragraph (1)(B) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(g) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

(1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out the purposes of this section.

(2) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that violates, attempts to violate, or conspires to violate, or causes a violation of, subsection (a) or (b) of this section, or an order or regulation prescribed under either such subsection, to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person that commits an unlawful act described in section 206(a) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

(h) TERMINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), this section, and sanctions imposed under this section, shall terminate on the date on which the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees a certification that the Government of the Russian Federation has ceased ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, supporting, or financing, significant acts intended to undermine the peace, security, stability, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of Ukraine, including through an agreement between the appropriate parties.

(2) APPLICABILITY WITH RESPECT TO SYRIA.—The termination date under paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to the provisions of subsection (a) relating to the transfer of defense articles into Syria or sanctions imposed pursuant to such provisions.

SEC. 5. SANCTIONS ON RUSSIAN AND OTHER FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

(a) FACILITATION OF CERTAIN DEFENSE- AND ENERGY-RELATED TRANSACTIONS.—The President may impose the sanction described in subsection (c) with respect to a foreign financial institution that the President determines knowingly engages, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, in significant transactions involving activities described in subparagraph (A)(ii) or (B) of section 4(a)(2) or paragraph (1) or (3) of section 4(b) for persons with respect to which sanctions are imposed under section 4.

(b) FACILITATION OF FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS ON BEHALF OF SPECIALLY DESIGNATED NATIONALS.—The President may impose the sanction described in subsection (c) with respect to a foreign financial institution if the President determines that the foreign financial institution has, on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, knowingly facilitated a significant financial transaction on behalf of any Russian person included on the list of specially designated nationals and blocked persons maintained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury, pursuant to—

(1) this Act;

(2) Executive Order 13660 (79 Fed. Reg. 13,493), 13661 (79 Fed. Reg. 15,535), or 13662 (79 Fed. Reg. 16,169); or

(3) any other executive order addressing the crisis in Ukraine.

(c) SANCTION DESCRIBED.—The sanction described in this subsection is, with respect to a foreign financial institution, a prohibition on the opening, and a prohibition or the imposition of strict conditions on the maintaining, in the United States of a correspondent account or a payable-through account by the foreign financial institution.

(d) NATIONAL SECURITY WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under this section with respect to a foreign financial institution if the President—

(1) determines that the waiver is in the national security interest of the United States; and

(2) submits to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the determination and the reasons for the determination.

(e) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

(1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out the purposes of this section.

(2) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that violates, attempts to violate, or conspires to violate, or causes a violation of, subsection (a) or (b) of this section, or an order or regulation prescribed under either such subsection, to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person that commits an unlawful act described in section 206(a) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

(f) TERMINATION.—This section, and sanctions imposed under this section, shall terminate on the date on which the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees the certification described in section 4(h).

SEC. 7. INCREASED MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized to provide defense articles, defense services, and training to the Government of Ukraine for the purpose of countering offensive weapons and reestablishing the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, including anti-tank and anti-armor weapons, crew weapons and ammunition, counter-artillery radars to identify and target artillery batteries, fire control, range finder, and optical and guidance and control equipment, tactical troop-operated surveillance drones, and secure command and communications equipment, pursuant to the provisions of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.), the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.), and other relevant provisions of law.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit a report detailing the anticipated defense articles, defense services, and training to be provided pursuant to this section and a timeline for the provision of such defense articles, defense services, and training, to—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State $100,000,000 for fiscal year 2015, $125,000,000 for fiscal year 2016, and $125,000,000 for fiscal year 2017 to carry out activities under this section.

(2) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall remain available for obligation and expenditure through the end of fiscal year 2018.

(d) AUTHORITY FOR THE USE OF FUNDS.—The funds made available pursuant to subsection (c) for provision of defense articles, defense services, and training may be used to procure such articles, services, and training from the United States Government or other appropriate sources.

(e) PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Government of Ukraine should take all appropriate steps to protect civilians.

SEC. 8. EXPANDED NONMILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR UKRAINE.

(a) ASSISTANCE TO INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE IN UKRAINE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a plan, including actions by the United States Government, other governments, and international organizations, to meet the need for protection of and assistance for internally displaced persons in Ukraine, to—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The plan required by paragraph (1) should include, as appropriate, activities in support of—

(A) helping to establish a functional and adequately resourced central registration system in Ukraine that can ensure coordination of efforts to provide assistance to internally displaced persons in different regions;

(B) encouraging adoption of legislation in Ukraine that protects internally displaced persons from discrimination based on their status and provides simplified procedures for obtaining the new residency registration or other official documentation that is a prerequisite to receiving appropriate social payments under the laws of Ukraine, such as pensions and disability, child, and unemployment benefits; and

(C) helping to ensure that information is available to internally displaced persons about—

(i) government agencies and independent groups that can provide assistance to such persons in various regions; and

(ii) evacuation assistance available to persons seeking to flee armed conflict areas.

(3) ASSISTANCE THROUGH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.—The President shall instruct the United States permanent representative or executive director, as the case may be, to the relevant United Nations voluntary agencies, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and other appropriate international organizations, to use the voice and vote of the United States to support appropriate assistance for internally displaced persons in Ukraine.

(b) ASSISTANCE TO THE DEFENSE SECTOR OF UKRAINE.—The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense should assist entities in the defense sector of Ukraine to reorient exports away from customers in the Russian Federation and to find appropriate alternative markets for those entities in the defense sector of Ukraine that have already significantly reduced exports to and cooperation with entities in the defense sector of the Russian Federation.

(c) ASSISTANCE TO ADDRESS THE ENERGY CRISIS IN UKRAINE.—

(1) EMERGENCY ENERGY ASSISTANCE.—

(A) PLAN REQUIRED.—The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Energy, in collaboration with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall work with officials of the Government of Ukraine to develop a short-term emergency energy assistance plan designed to help Ukraine address the potentially severe short-term heating fuel and electricity shortages facing Ukraine in 2014 and 2015.

(B) ELEMENTS.—The plan required by subparagraph (A) should include strategies to address heating fuel and electricity shortages in Ukraine, including, as appropriate—

(i) the acquisition of short-term, emergency fuel supplies;

(ii) the repair or replacement of infrastructure that could impede the transmission of electricity or transportation of fuel;

(iii) the prioritization of the transportation of fuel supplies to the areas where such supplies are needed most;

(iv) streamlining emergency communications throughout national, regional, and local governments to manage the potential energy crisis resulting from heating fuel and electricity shortages;

(v) forming a crisis management team within the Government of Ukraine to specifically address the potential crisis, including ensuring coordination of the team's efforts with the efforts of outside governmental and nongovernmental entities providing assistance to address the potential crisis; and

(vi) developing a public outreach strategy to facilitate preparation by the population and communication with the population in the event of a crisis.

(C) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of State, the Secretary of Energy, and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development are authorized to provide assistance in support of, and to invest in short-term solutions for, enabling Ukraine to secure the energy safety of the people of Ukraine during 2014 and 2015, including through—

(i) procurement and transport of emergency fuel supplies, including reverse pipeline flows from Europe;

(ii) provision of technical assistance for crisis planning, crisis response, and public outreach;

(iii) repair of infrastructure to enable the transport of fuel supplies;

(iv) repair of power generating or power transmission equipment or facilities;

(v) procurement and installation of compressors or other appropriate equipment to enhance short-term natural gas production;

(vi) procurement of mobile electricity generation units;

(vii) conversion of natural gas heating facilities to run on other fuels, including alternative energy sources; and

(viii) provision of emergency weatherization and winterization materials and supplies.

(2) REDUCTION OF UKRAINE'S RELIANCE ON ENERGY IMPORTS.—

(A) PLANS REQUIRED.—The Secretary of State, in collaboration with the Secretary of Energy and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall work with officials of the Government of Ukraine to develop medium- and long-term plans to increase energy production and efficiency to increase energy security by helping Ukraine reduce its dependence on natural gas imported from the Russian Federation.

(B) ELEMENTS.—The medium- and long-term plans required by subparagraph (A) should include strategies, as appropriate, to—

(i) improve corporate governance and unbundling of state-owned oil and gas sector firms;

(ii) increase production from natural gas fields and from other sources, including renewable energy;

(iii) license new oil and gas blocks transparently and competitively;

(iv) modernize oil and gas upstream infrastructure; and

(v) improve energy efficiency.

(C) PRIORITIZATION.—The Secretary of State, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and the Secretary of Energy should, during fiscal years 2015 through 2018, work with other donors, including multilateral agencies and nongovernmental organizations, to prioritize, to the extent practicable and as appropriate, the provision of assistance from such donors to help Ukraine to improve energy efficiency, increase energy supplies produced in Ukraine, and reduce reliance on energy imports from the Russian Federation, including natural gas.

(D) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated $50,000,000 in the aggregate for fiscal years 2016 through 2018 to carry out activities under this paragraph.

(3) SUPPORT FROM THE OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION.—The Overseas Private Investment Corporation shall—

(A) prioritize, to the extent practicable, support for investments to help increase energy efficiency, develop domestic oil and natural gas reserves, improve and repair electricity infrastructure, and develop renewable and other sources of energy in Ukraine; and

(B) implement procedures for expedited review and, as appropriate, approval, of applications by eligible investors (as defined in section 238 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2198)) for loans, loan guarantees, and insurance for such investments.

(4) SUPPORT BY THE WORLD BANK GROUP AND THE EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT.—The President shall, to the extent practicable and as appropriate, direct the United States Executive Directors of the World Bank Group and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to encourage the World Bank Group and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and other international financial institutions—

(A) to invest in, and increase their efforts to promote investment in, projects to improve energy efficiency, improve and repair electricity infrastructure, develop domestic oil and natural gas reserves, and develop renewable and other sources of energy in Ukraine; and

(B) to stimulate private investment in such projects.

(d) ASSISTANCE TO CIVIL SOCIETY IN UKRAINE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall, directly or through nongovernmental or international organizations, such as the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the National Endowment for Democracy, and related organizations—

(A) strengthen the organizational and operational capacity of democratic civil society in Ukraine;

(B) support the efforts of independent media outlets to broadcast, distribute, and share information in all regions of Ukraine;

(C) counter corruption and improve transparency and accountability of institutions that are part of the Government of Ukraine; and

(D) provide support for democratic organizing and election monitoring in Ukraine.

(2) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit a strategy to carry out the activities described in paragraph (1) to—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State $20,000,000 for fiscal year 2016 to carry out this subsection.

(4) TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENTS.—Any assistance provided pursuant to this subsection shall be conducted in as transparent of a manner as possible, consistent with the nature and goals of this subsection. The President shall provide a briefing on the activities funded by this subsection at the request of the committees specified in paragraph (2).

SEC. 9. EXPANDED BROADCASTING IN COUNTRIES OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chairman of the Broadcasting Board of Governors shall submit to Congress a plan, including a cost estimate, for immediately and substantially increasing, and maintaining through fiscal year 2017, the quantity of Russian-language broadcasting into the countries of the former Soviet Union funded by the United States in order to counter Russian Federation propaganda.

(b) PRIORITIZATION OF BROADCASTING INTO UKRAINE, GEORGIA, AND MOLDOVA.—The plan required by subsection (a) shall prioritize broadcasting into Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova by the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.

(c) ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES.—In developing the plan required by subsection (a), the Chairman shall consider—

(1) near-term increases in Russian-language broadcasting for countries of the former Soviet Union (other than the countries specified in subsection (b)), including Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia; and

(2) increases in broadcasting in other critical languages, including Ukrainian and Romanian languages.

(d) BROADCASTING DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''broadcasting'' means the distribution of media content via radio broadcasting, television broadcasting, and Internet-based platforms, among other platforms.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Broadcasting Board of Governors $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2018 to carry out activities under this section.

(2) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall supplement and not supplant other amounts made available for activities described in this section.

SEC. 10. SUPPORT FOR RUSSIAN DEMOCRACY AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall, directly or through nongovernmental or international organizations, such as the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the National Endowment for Democracy, and related organizations—

(1) improve democratic governance, transparency, accountability, rule of law, and anti-corruption efforts in the Russian Federation;

(2) strengthen democratic institutions and political and civil society organizations in the Russian Federation;

(3) expand uncensored Internet access in the Russian Federation; and

(4) expand free and unfettered access to independent media of all kinds in the Russian Federation, including through increasing United States Government-supported broadcasting activities, and assist with the protection of journalists and civil society activists who have been targeted for free speech activities.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State $20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2018 to carry out the activities set forth in subsection (a).

(c) STRATEGY REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit a strategy to carry out the activities set forth in subsection (a) to—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(d) TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENTS.—Any assistance provided pursuant to this section shall be conducted in as transparent of a manner as possible, consistent with the nature and goals of this section. The President shall provide a briefing on the activities funded by this section at the request of the committees specified in subsection (c).

SEC. 11. REPORT ON NON-COMPLIANCE BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION OF ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE INF TREATY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Russian Federation is in violation of its obligations under the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, signed at Washington December 8, 1987, and entered into force June 1, 1988 (commonly referred to as the ''Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty'' or ''INF Treaty'').

(2) This behavior poses a threat to the United States, its deployed forces, and its allies.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the President should hold the Russian Federation accountable for being in violation of its obligations under the INF Treaty; and

(2) the President should demand the Russian Federation completely and verifiably eliminate the military systems that constitute the violation of its obligations under the INF Treaty.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter, the President shall submit to the committees specified in subsection (d) a report that includes the following elements:

(A) A description of the status of the President's efforts, in cooperation with United States allies, to hold the Russian Federation accountable for being in violation of its obligations under the INF Treaty and obtain the complete and verifiable elimination of its military systems that constitute the violation of its obligations under the INF Treaty.

(B) The President's assessment as to whether it remains in the national security interests of the United States to remain a party to the INF Treaty, and other related treaties and agreements, while the Russian Federation is in violation of its obligations under the INF Treaty.

(C) Notification of any deployment by the Russian Federation of a ground launched ballistic or cruise missile system with a range of between 500 and 5,500 kilometers.

(D) A plan developed by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), to verify that the Russian Federation has fully and completely dismantled any ground launched cruise missiles or ballistic missiles with a range of between 500 and 5,500 kilometers, including details on facilities that inspectors need access to, people inspectors need to talk with, how often inspectors need the accesses for, and how much the verification regime would cost.

(2) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

(d) COMMITTEES SPECIFIED.—The committees specified in this subsection are—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 12. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act or an amendment made by this Act shall be construed as an authorization for the use of military force.

SA 4093. Mr. DURBIN (for Mr. KING (for himself, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. WARNER)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3329, to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. CHANGES REQUIRED TO SMALL BANK HOLDING COMPANY POLICY STATEMENT ON ASSESSMENT OF FINANCIAL AND MANAGERIAL FACTORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Before the end of the 6-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (hereafter in this Act referred to as the ''Board'') shall publish in the Federal Register proposed revisions to the Small Bank Holding Company Policy Statement on Assessment of Financial and Managerial Factors (12 C.F.R. part 225 appendix C) that provide that the policy shall apply to bank holding companies and savings and loan holding companies which have pro forma consolidated assets of less than $1,000,000,000 and that—

(1) are not engaged in significant nonbanking activities either directly or through a nonbank subsidiary;

(2) do not conduct significant off-balance sheet activities (including securitization and asset management or administration) either directly or through a nonbank subsidiary; and

(3) do not have a material amount of debt or equity securities outstanding (other than trust preferred securities) that are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

(b) EXCLUSIONS.—The Board may exclude any bank holding company or savings and loan holding company, regardless of asset size, from the policy statement under subsection (a) if the Board determines that such action is warranted for supervisory purposes.

SEC. 2. CONFORMING AMENDMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (C) of section 171(b)(5) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (12 U.S.C. 5371(b)(5)) is amended to read as follows:

''(C) any bank holding company or savings and loan holding company having less than $1,000,000,000 in total consolidated assets that complies with the requirements of the Small Bank Holding Company Policy Statement on Assessment of Financial and Managerial Factors of the Board of Governors (12 C.F.R. part 225 appendix C), as the requirements of such Policy Statement are amended pursuant to section 1 of an Act entitled 'To enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes'.''.

(b) TRANSITION PERIOD.—Any small bank holding company that was excepted from the provisions of section 171 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act pursuant to subparagraph (C) of section 171(b)(5) (as such subparagraph was in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act), and any small savings and loan holding company that would have been excepted from the provisions of section 171 pursuant to subparagraph (C) (as such subparagraph was in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) if it had been a small bank holding company, shall be excepted from the provisions of section 171 until the effective date of the Small Bank Holding Company Policy Statement issued by the Board as required by section 1 of this Act.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this Act:

(a) BANK HOLDING COMPANY.—The term ''bank holding company'' has the same meaning as in section 2 of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841).

(b) SAVINGS AND LOAN HOLDING COMPANY.—The term ''savings and loan holding company'' has the same meaning as in section 10(a) of the Home Owners' Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1467a(a)).

SA 4094. Mr. MERKLEY proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2640, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to adjust the Crooked River boundary, to provide water certainty for the City of Prineville, Oregon, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Crooked River Collaborative Water Security and Jobs Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. WILD AND SCENIC RIVER; CROOKED, OREGON.

Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended by striking paragraph (72) and inserting the following:

''(72) CROOKED, OREGON.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The 14.75-mile segment from the National Grassland boundary to Dry Creek, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in the following classes:

''(i) The 7-mile segment from the National Grassland boundary to River Mile 8 south of Opal Spring, as a recreational river.

''(ii) The 7.75-mile segment from a point ¼-mile downstream from the center crest of Bowman Dam, as a recreational river.

''(B) HYDROPOWER.—In any license or lease of power privilege application relating to non-Federal hydropower development (including turbines and appurtenant facilities) at Bowman Dam, the applicant, in consultation with the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, shall—

''(i) analyze any impacts to the scenic, recreational, and fishery resource values of the Crooked River from the center crest of Bowman Dam to a point ¼-mile downstream that may be caused by the proposed hydropower development, including the future need to undertake routine and emergency repairs;

''(ii) propose measures to minimize and mitigate any impacts analyzed under clause (i); and

''(iii) propose designs and measures to ensure that any access facilities associated with hydropower development at Bowman Dam shall not impede the free-flowing nature of the Crooked River below Bowman Dam.''.

SEC. 3. CITY OF PRINEVILLE WATER SUPPLY.

Section 4 of the Act of August 6, 1956 (70 Stat. 1058; 73 Stat. 554; 78 Stat. 954) is amended—

(1) by striking ''**SEC. 4.** In order'' and inserting the following:

''SEC. 4. CITY OF PRINEVILLE WATER SUPPLY.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In order'';

(2) in subsection (a) (as so designated), by striking ''during those months'' and all that follows through ''purpose of the project''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) ANNUAL RELEASE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Without further action by the Secretary of the Interior, beginning on the date of enactment of the Crooked River Collaborative Water Security and Jobs Act of 2014, 5,100 acre-feet of water shall be annually released from the project to serve as mitigation for City of Prineville groundwater pumping, pursuant to and in a manner consistent with Oregon State law, including any shaping of the release of the water.

''(2) PAYMENTS.—The City of Prineville shall make payments to the Secretary of the Interior for the water released under paragraph (1), in accordance with applicable Bureau of Reclamation policies, directives, and standards.

''(c) ADDITIONAL QUANTITIES.—Consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), and other applicable Federal laws, the Secretary of the Interior may contract exclusively with the City of Prineville for additional quantities of water, at the request of the City of Prineville.''.

SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.

The Act of August 6, 1956 (70 Stat. 1058; 73 Stat. 554; 78 Stat. 954), is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 6. FIRST FILL STORAGE AND RELEASE.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Other than the 10 cubic feet per second release provided for in section 4, and subject to compliance with the flood curve requirements of the Corps of Engineers, the Secretary shall, on a 'first fill' priority basis, store in and when called for in any year release from Prineville Reservoir, whether from carryover, infill, or a combination of both, the following:

''(1) Not more than 68,273 acre-feet of water annually to fulfill all 16 Bureau of Reclamation contracts existing as of January 1, 2011.

''(2) Not more than 2,740 acre-feet of water annually to supply the McKay Creek land, in accordance with section 5 of the Crooked River Collaborative Water Security and Jobs Act of 2014.

''(3) Not more than 10,000 acre-feet of water annually, to be made available first to the North Unit Irrigation District, and subsequently to any other holders of Reclamation contracts existing as of January 1, 2011 (in that order) pursuant to Temporary Water Service Contracts, on the request of the North Unit Irrigation District or the contract holders, consistent with the same terms and conditions as prior such contracts between the Bureau of Reclamation and District or contract holders, as applicable.

''(4) Not more than 5,100 acre-feet of water annually to mitigate the City of Prineville groundwater pumping under section 4, with the release of this water to occur not based on an annual call, but instead pursuant to section 4 and the release schedule developed pursuant to section 7(b).

''(b) CARRYOVER.—Except for water that may be called for and released after the end of the irrigation season (either as City of Prineville groundwater pumping mitigation or as a voluntary release, in accordance with section 4 of this Act and section 6(c) of the Crooked River Collaborative Water Security and Jobs Act of 2014, respectively), any water stored under this section that is not called for and released by the end of the irrigation season in a given year shall be—

''(1) carried over to the subsequent water year, which, for accounting purposes, shall be considered to be the 1-year period beginning October 1 and ending September 30, consistent with Oregon State law; and

''(2) accounted for as part of the 'first fill' storage quantities of the subsequent water year, but not to exceed the maximum 'first fill' storage quantities described in subsection (a).

''SEC. 7. STORAGE AND RELEASE OF REMAINING STORED WATER QUANTITIES.

''(a) AUTHORIZATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall store in and release from Prineville Reservoir sufficient quantities of remaining stored quantities to be released pursuant to the annual release schedule under subsection (b) and to provide instream flows consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the recommendations for in-channel strategies in the plan prepared by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council entitled 'Deschutes Subbasin Plan' and dated March 24, 2005, for flow between Bowman Dam and Lake Billy Chinook.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In calculating the quantity of released water under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

''(A) comply with the flood curve requirements of the Corps of Engineers; and

''(B) credit toward the requirements of paragraph (1) the instream flow benefits provided by—

''(i) the quantities released under section 4;

''(ii) the 'first fill' quantities released under section 6; and

''(iii) any quantities released to comply with the flood curve requirements of the Corps of Engineers.

''(3) USE OF UNCONTRACTED WATER.—If a consultation conducted under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) or an order of a court in a proceeding under that Act requires releases of stored water from Prineville Reservoir for fish and wildlife downstream of Bowman Dam, the Secretary shall use uncontracted water under paragraph (1).

''(4) STATE WATER LAW.—All releases and downstream uses authorized under paragraph (1) shall be in accordance with Oregon State water law.

''(b) ANNUAL RELEASE SCHEDULE.—The Commissioner of Reclamation, in consultation with the Assistant Administrator of Fisheries of the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, shall develop annual release schedules for the remaining stored water quantities (including the quantities described in subsection (a) and the water serving as mitigation for City of Prineville groundwater pumping pursuant to section 4) that maximizes, to the maximum extent practicable, benefits to downstream fish and wildlife.

''(c) CARRYOVER.—Any water stored under subsection (a) in 1 water year that is not released during the water year—

''(1) shall be carried over to the subsequent water year; and

''(2)(A) may be released for downstream fish and wildlife resources, consistent with subsection (b), until the reservoir reaches maximum capacity in the subsequent water year; and

''(B) once the reservoir reaches maximum capacity under subparagraph (A), shall be credited to the 'first fill' storage quantities, but not to exceed the maximum 'first fill' storage quantities described in section 6(a).

''(d) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section affects the authority of the Commissioner of Reclamation to perform all other traditional and routine activities associated with the Crooked River Project.

''SEC. 8. RESERVOIR LEVELS.

''The Commissioner of Reclamation shall—

''(1) project reservoir water levels over the course of the year; and

''(2) make the projections under paragraph (1) available to—

''(A) the public (including fisheries groups, recreation interests, and municipal and irrigation stakeholders);

''(B) the Assistant Administrator of Fisheries of the National Marine Fisheries Service; and

''(C) the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

''SEC. 9. EFFECT.

''Except as otherwise provided in this Act, nothing in this Act—

''(1) modifies contractual rights that may exist between contractors and the United States under Reclamation contracts;

''(2) amends or reopens contracts referred to in paragraph (1); or

''(3) modifies any rights, obligations, or requirements that may be provided or governed by Federal or Oregon State law.''.

SEC. 5. OCHOCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT.

(a) EARLY REPAYMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 213 of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (43 U.S.C. 390mm), any landowner within Ochoco Irrigation District, Oregon (referred to in this section as the ''district''), may repay, at any time, the construction costs of the project facilities allocated to the land of the landowner within the district.

(2) EXEMPTION FROM LIMITATIONS.—Upon discharge, in full, of the obligation for repayment of the construction costs allocated to all land of the landowner in the district, the land shall not be subject to the ownership and full-cost pricing limitations of Federal reclamation law (the Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388, chapter 1093), and Acts supplemental to and amendatory of that Act (43 U.S.C. 371 et seq.)).

(b) CERTIFICATION.—Upon the request of a landowner who has repaid, in full, the construction costs of the project facilities allocated to the land of the landowner within the district, the Secretary of the Interior shall provide the certification described in section 213(b)(1) of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (43 U.S.C. 390mm(b)(1)).

(c) CONTRACT AMENDMENT.—On approval of the district directors and notwithstanding project authorizing authority to the contrary, the Reclamation contracts of the district are modified, without further action by the Secretary of the Interior—

(1) to authorize the use of water for instream purposes, including fish or wildlife purposes, in order for the district to engage in, or take advantage of, conserved water projects and temporary instream leasing as authorized by Oregon State law;

(2) to include within the district boundary approximately 2,742 acres in the vicinity of McKay Creek, resulting in a total of approximately 44,937 acres within the district boundary;

(3) to classify as irrigable approximately 685 acres within the approximately 2,742 acres of included land in the vicinity of McKay Creek, with those approximately 685 acres authorized to receive irrigation water pursuant to water rights issued by the State of Oregon if the acres have in the past received water pursuant to State water rights; and

(4) to provide the district with stored water from Prineville Reservoir for purposes of supplying up to the approximately 685 acres of land added within the district boundary and classified as irrigable under paragraphs (2) and (3), with the stored water to be supplied on an acre-per-acre basis contingent on the transfer of existing appurtenant McKay Creek water rights to instream use and the issuance of water rights by the State of Oregon for the use of stored water.

(d) LIMITATION.—Except as otherwise provided in subsections (a) and (c), nothing in this section—

(1) modifies contractual rights that may exist between the district and the United States under the Reclamation contracts of the district;

(2) amends or reopens the contracts referred to in paragraph (1); or

(3) modifies any rights, obligations, or relationships that may exist between the district and any owner of land within the district, as may be provided or governed by Federal or Oregon State law.

SEC. 6. DRY-YEAR MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND VOLUNTARY RELEASES.

(a) PARTICIPATION IN DRY-YEAR MANAGEMENT PLANNING MEETINGS.—The Bureau of Reclamation shall participate in dry-year management planning meetings with the State of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, municipal, agricultural, conservation, recreation, and other interested stakeholders to plan for dry-year conditions.

(b) DRY-YEAR MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Bureau of Reclamation shall develop a dry-year management plan in coordination with the participants referred to in subsection (a).

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The plan developed under paragraph (1) shall only recommend strategies, measures, and actions that the irrigation districts and other Bureau of Reclamation contract holders voluntarily agree to implement.

(3) LIMITATIONS.—Nothing in the plan developed under paragraph (1) shall be mandatory or self-implementing.

(c) VOLUNTARY RELEASE.—In any year, if North Unit Irrigation District or other eligible Bureau of Reclamation contract holders have not initiated contracting with the Bureau of Reclamation for any quantity of the 10,000 acre feet of water described in subsection (a)(3) of section 6 of the Act of August 6, 1956 (70 Stat. 1058) (as added by section 4), by June 1 of any calendar year, with the voluntary agreement of North Unit Irrigation District and other Bureau of Reclamation contract holders referred to in that paragraph, the Secretary may release that quantity of water for the benefit of downstream fish and wildlife as described in section 7 of that Act.

SEC. 7. HYDROPOWER DECISION.

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commissioner of Reclamation shall determine the applicability of the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Reclamation to non-Federal hydropower development pursuant to—

(1) the Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior, entitled ''Establishment of Processes for the Early Resolution of Issues Related to the Timely Development of Non-Federal Hydroelectric power at the Bureau of Reclamation Facilities'' and signed November 6, 1992 (58 Fed. Reg. 3269); or

(2) any memorandum of understanding that is subsequent or related to the memorandum of understanding described in paragraph (1).

SEC. 8. RELATION TO EXISTING LAWS AND STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS.

Nothing in this Act (or an amendment made by this Act)—

(1) provides to the Secretary the authority to store and release the ''first fill'' quantities provided for in section 6 of the Act of August 6, 1956 (70 Stat. 1058) (as added by section 4) for any purposes other than the purposes provided for in that section, except for—

(A) the potential instream use resulting from conserved water projects and temporary instream leasing as provided for in section 5(c)(1);

(B) the potential release of additional amounts that may result from voluntary actions agreed to through the dry-year management plan developed under section 6(b); and

(C) the potential release of the 10,000 acre feet for downstream fish and wildlife as provided for in section 6(c); or

(2) alters any responsibilities under Oregon State law or Federal law, including section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1536).

SA 4095. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1080. PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF PROBLEM GAMBLING BEHAVIOR.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Gambling addiction is a public health disorder characterized by increasing preoccupation with gambling, loss of control, restlessness, or irritability when attempting to stop gambling, and continuation of the gambling behavior in spite of mounting serious, negative consequences.

(2) Over 6,000,000 adults met criteria for a gambling problem in 2013.

(3) According to the National Council on Problem Gambling, it is estimated that between 36,000 and 48,000 active duty military members meet criteria for a gambling problem.

(4) The Department of Defense operates an estimated 3,000 slot machines at military installations overseas that are available to members of the Armed Forces and their families.

(5) It is estimated that these slot machines generate over $100,000,000 in revenue for the Department of Defense, which is used for further recreational activities for service members.

(6) The United States Army operates bingo games on military installations in the United States, which generate millions of dollars per year.

(7) The Department of Defense does not currently have treatment programs for service members with problem gambling behaviors, while it does operate treatment programs for alcohol abuse, illegal substance abuse, and tobacco addiction.

(8) Individuals with problem gambling behavior have higher incidences of bankruptcy, domestic abuse, and suicide.

(9) People who engage in problem gambling have high rates of co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disorders.

(10) The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (Fifth Edition, published in May 2013) includes gambling addiction as a behavioral addiction. This reflects research findings that gambling disorders are similar to substance-related disorders in clinical expression, brain origin, comorbidity, physiology, and treatment.

(b) POLICY AND PROGRAMS TO PREVENT AND TREAT GAMBLING PROBLEMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall develop a policy and programs on prevention, education, and treatment of problem gambling, including the following elements:

(A) Prevention programs for members of the Armed Forces and their dependents.

(B) Responsible gaming education for all members of the Armed Forces and their dependents.

(C) Establishment of a center of excellence for the residential treatment of the most severe cases of gambling addiction among members of the Armed Forces.

(D) Policy and programs to integrate gambling addiction into existing mental health and substance abuse programs in order to—

(i) prevent problem gambling behavior among members of the Armed Forces and their families;

(ii) provide responsible gaming educational materials to members of the Armed Forces and their family members who gamble; and

(iii) train existing substance abuse and mental health counselors to provide gambling addiction treatment within current mental health and substance abuse treatment programs for members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

(E) Assessment of gambling problems and factors related to the development of such problems (including co-occurring disorders such as substance use, post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, stress, and sensation seeking), and the social, health, and financial impacts of gambling on members of the Armed Forces by incorporating questions on problem gambling behavior into ongoing research efforts as appropriate, including restoring them into the Health Related Behaviors Survey of Active Duty Military Personnel.

(2) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of Defense shall develop the policies described in paragraph (1) in coordination with the Interagency Task Force on Military and Veterans Mental Health.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on efforts undertaken pursuant to paragraph (1).

(c) COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY ON GAMBLING AND PROBLEM GAMBLING IN THE ARMED FORCES.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct and submit to the congressional defense committees a study on the number, type, and location of gambling installations (including bingo) operated by each branch of the Armed Forces, the total amount of cash flow through the gambling installations, the amount of revenue generated, and how the revenue is spent. In addition, the study shall include an assessment of the prevalence of problem gambling in the Armed Forces, including recommendations for military policy and programs to address it.

SA 4096. Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1535, to deter terrorism, provide justice for victims, and for other purposes; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) International terrorism is a serious and deadly problem that threatens the vital interests of the United States.

(2) The Constitution confers upon Congress the power to punish crimes against the law of nations and therefore Congress may by law impose penalties on those who provide material support to foreign organizations engaged in terrorist activity, and allow for victims of international terrorism to recover damages from those who have harmed them.

(3) International terrorism affects the interstate and foreign commerce of the United States by harming international trade and market stability, and limiting international travel by United States citizens as well as foreign visitors to the United States.

(4) Some foreign terrorist organizations, acting through affiliated groups or individuals, raise significant funds outside of the United States for conduct directed and targeted at the United States.

(5) It is necessary to recognize the substantive causes of action for aiding and abetting and conspiracy liability under the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987 (22 U.S.C. 5201 et seq.).

(6) The decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in Halberstam v. Welch, 705 F.2d 472 (D.C. Cir. 1983), which has been widely recognized as the leading case regarding Federal civil aiding and abetting and conspiracy liability, including by the Supreme Court of the United States, provides the proper legal framework for how such liability should function in the context of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987 (22 U.S.C. 5201 et seq.).

(7) The United Nations Security Council declared in Resolution 1373, adopted on September 28, 2001, that all countries have an affirmative obligation to ''[r]efrain from providing any form of support, active or passive, to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts,'' and to ''[e]nsure that any person who participates in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or in supporting terrorist acts is brought to justice''.

(8) Consistent with these declarations, no country has the discretion to engage knowingly in the financing or sponsorship of terrorism, whether directly or indirectly.

(9) Persons, entities, or countries that knowingly or recklessly contribute material support or resources, directly or indirectly, to persons or organizations that pose a significant risk of committing acts of terrorism that threaten the security of nationals of the United States or the national security, foreign policy, or economy of the United States, necessarily direct their conduct at the United States, and should reasonably anticipate being brought to court in the United States to answer for such activities.

(10) The United States has a vital interest in providing persons and entities injured as a result of terrorist attacks committed within the United States with full access to the court system in order to pursue civil claims against persons, entities, or countries that have knowingly or recklessly provided material support or resources, directly or indirectly, to the persons or organizations responsible for their injuries.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to provide civil litigants with the broadest possible basis, consistent with the Constitution of the United States, to seek relief against persons, entities, and foreign countries, wherever acting and wherever they may be found, that have provided material support, directly or indirectly, to foreign organizations or persons that engage in terrorist activities against the United States.

SEC. 3. FOREIGN SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY.

Section 1605(a) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (5) to read as follows:

''(5) not otherwise encompassed in paragraph (2), in which money damages are sought against a foreign state arising out of physical injury or death, or damage to or loss of property, occurring in the United States and caused by the tortious act or omission of that foreign state or of any official or employee of that foreign state while acting within the scope of the office or employment of the official or employee (regardless of where the underlying tortious act or omission occurs), including any statutory or common law tort claim arising out of an act of extrajudicial killing, aircraft sabotage, hostage taking, terrorism, or the provision of material support or resources for such an act, or any claim for contribution or indemnity relating to a claim arising out of such an act, except this paragraph shall not apply to—

''(A) any claim based upon the exercise or performance of, or the failure to exercise or perform, a discretionary function, regardless of whether the discretion is abused; or

''(B) any claim arising out of malicious prosecution, abuse of process, libel, slander, misrepresentation, deceit, interference with contract rights, or any claim for emotional distress or derivative injury suffered as a result of an event or injury to another person that occurs outside of the United States; or''; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of subsection (a)(5)—

''(1) the terms 'aircraft sabotage', 'extrajudicial killing', 'hostage taking', and 'material support or resources' have the meanings given those terms in section 1605A(h); and

''(2) the term 'terrorism' means international terrorism and domestic terrorism, as those terms are defined in section 2331 of title 18.''.

SEC. 4. AIDING AND ABETTING LIABILITY FOR CIVIL ACTIONS REGARDING TERRORIST ACTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2333 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) LIABILITY.—In an action under subsection (a) for an injury arising from an act of international terrorism committed, planned, or authorized by an organization that had been designated as a foreign terrorist organization under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189), as of the date on which such act of international terrorism was committed, planned, or authorized, or that was so designated as a result of such act of international terrorism, liability may be asserted as to any person who aided, abetted, or conspired with the person who committed such an act of international terrorism.''.

(b) EFFECT ON FOREIGN SOVEREIGN IMMUNITIES ACT.—Nothing in the amendments made by this section affects immunity of a foreign state, as that term is defined in section 1603 of title 28, United States Code, from jurisdiction under other law.

SEC. 5. PERSONAL JURISDICTION FOR CIVIL ACTIONS REGARDING TERRORIST ACTS.

Section 2334 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following:

''(e) PERSONAL JURISDICTION.—The district courts shall have personal jurisdiction, to the maximum extent permissible under the 5th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, over any person who commits or aids and abets an act of international terrorism or otherwise sponsors such act or the person who committed such act, for acts of international terrorism in which any national of the United States suffers injury in his or her person, property, or business by reason of such an act in violation of section 2333.''.

SEC. 6. LIABILITY FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN CIVIL ACTIONS REGARDING TERRORIST ACTS.

Section 2337 of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 2337. Suits against Government officials

''No action may be maintained under section 2333 against—

''(1) the United States;

''(2) an agency of the United States; or

''(3) an officer or employee of the United States or any agency of the United States acting within the official capacity of the officer or employee or under color of legal authority.''.

SEC. 7. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Act or any amendment made by this Act, or the application of a provision or amendment to any person or circumstance, is held to be invalid, the remainder of this Act and the amendments made by this Act, and the application of the provisions and amendments to any other person not similarly situated or to other circumstances, shall not be affected by the holding.

SEC. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this Act shall apply to any civil action—

(1) pending on, or commenced on or after, the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) arising out of an injury to a person, property, or business on or after September 11, 2001.

SA 4097. Mr. KING (for Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. THUNE)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1353, to provide for an ongoing, voluntary public-private partnership to improve cybersecurity, and to strengthen cybersecurity research and development, workforce development and education, and public awareness and preparedness, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2014''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.
Sec. 3. No regulatory authority.
Sec. 4. No additional funds authorized.
TITLE I—PUBLIC-PRIVATE COLLABORATION ON CYBERSECURITY
Sec. 101. Public-private collaboration on cybersecurity.
TITLE II—CYBERSECURITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
Sec. 201. Federal cybersecurity research and development.
Sec. 202. Computer and network security research centers.
Sec. 203. Cybersecurity automation and checklists for government systems.
Sec. 204. National Institute of Standards and Technology cybersecurity research and development.
TITLE III—EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Sec. 301. Cybersecurity competitions and challenges.
Sec. 302. Federal cyber scholarship-for-service program.
TITLE IV—CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS AND PREPAREDNESS
Sec. 401. National cybersecurity awareness and education program.
TITLE V—ADVANCEMENT OF CYBERSECURITY TECHNICAL STANDARDS
Sec. 501. Definitions.
Sec. 502. International cybersecurity technical standards.
Sec. 503. Cloud computing strategy.
Sec. 504. Identity management research and development.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CYBERSECURITY MISSION.—The term ''cybersecurity mission'' means activities that encompass the full range of threat reduction, vulnerability reduction, deterrence, international engagement, incident response, resiliency, and recovery policies and activities, including computer network operations, information assurance, law enforcement, diplomacy, military, and intelligence missions as such activities relate to the security and stability of cyberspace.

(2) INFORMATION SYSTEM.—The term ''information system'' has the meaning given that term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.

SEC. 3. NO REGULATORY AUTHORITY.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to confer any regulatory authority on any Federal, State, tribal, or local department or agency.

SEC. 4. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

No additional funds are authorized to carry out this Act, and the amendments made by this Act. This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized or appropriated.

TITLE I—PUBLIC-PRIVATE COLLABORATION ON CYBERSECURITY

SEC. 101. PUBLIC-PRIVATE COLLABORATION ON CYBERSECURITY.

(a) CYBERSECURITY.—Section 2(c) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272(c)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (15) through (22) as paragraphs (16) through (23), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (14) the following:

''(15) on an ongoing basis, facilitate and support the development of a voluntary, consensus-based, industry-led set of standards, guidelines, best practices, methodologies, procedures, and processes to cost-effectively reduce cyber risks to critical infrastructure (as defined under subsection (e));''.

(b) SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS.—Section 2 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) CYBER RISKS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the activities under subsection (c)(15), the Director—

''(A) shall—

''(i) coordinate closely and regularly with relevant private sector personnel and entities, critical infrastructure owners and operators, and other relevant industry organizations, including Sector Coordinating Councils and Information Sharing and Analysis Centers, and incorporate industry expertise;

''(ii) consult with the heads of agencies with national security responsibilities, sector-specific agencies and other appropriate agencies, State and local governments, the governments of other nations, and international organizations;

''(iii) identify a prioritized, flexible, repeatable, performance-based, and cost-effective approach, including information security measures and controls, that may be voluntarily adopted by owners and operators of critical infrastructure to help them identify, assess, and manage cyber risks;

''(iv) include methodologies—

''(I) to identify and mitigate impacts of the cybersecurity measures or controls on business confidentiality; and

''(II) to protect individual privacy and civil liberties;

''(v) incorporate voluntary consensus standards and industry best practices;

''(vi) align with voluntary international standards to the fullest extent possible;

''(vii) prevent duplication of regulatory processes and prevent conflict with or superseding of regulatory requirements, mandatory standards, and related processes; and

''(viii) include such other similar and consistent elements as the Director considers necessary; and

''(B) shall not prescribe or otherwise require—

''(i) the use of specific solutions;

''(ii) the use of specific information or communications technology products or services; or

''(iii) that information or communications technology products or services be designed, developed, or manufactured in a particular manner.

''(2) LIMITATION.—Information shared with or provided to the Institute for the purpose of the activities described under subsection (c)(15) shall not be used by any Federal, State, tribal, or local department or agency to regulate the activity of any entity. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to modify any regulatory requirement to report or submit information to a Federal, State, tribal, or local department or agency.

''(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term 'critical infrastructure' has the meaning given the term in section 1016(e) of the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001 (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e)).

''(B) SECTOR-SPECIFIC AGENCY.—The term 'sector-specific agency' means the Federal department or agency responsible for providing institutional knowledge and specialized expertise as well as leading, facilitating, or supporting the security and resilience programs and associated activities of its designated critical infrastructure sector in the all-hazards environment.''.

(c) STUDY AND REPORTS.—

(1) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study that assesses—

(A) the progress made by the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology in facilitating the development of standards and procedures to reduce cyber risks to critical infrastructure in accordance with section 2(c)(15) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act, as added by this section;

(B) the extent to which the Director's facilitation efforts are consistent with the directive in such section that the development of such standards and procedures be voluntary and led by industry representatives;

(C) the extent to which other Federal agencies have promoted and sectors of critical infrastructure (as defined in section 1016(e) of the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001 (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e))) have adopted a voluntary, industry-led set of standards, guidelines, best practices, methodologies, procedures, and processes to reduce cyber risks to critical infrastructure in accordance with such section 2(c)(15);

(D) the reasons behind the decisions of sectors of critical infrastructure (as defined in subparagraph (C)) to adopt or to not adopt the voluntary standards described in subparagraph (C); and

(E) the extent to which such voluntary standards have proved successful in protecting critical infrastructure from cyber threats.

(2) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter for the following 6 years, the Comptroller General shall submit a report, which summarizes the findings of the study conducted under paragraph (1), to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

TITLE II—CYBERSECURITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 201. FEDERAL CYBERSECURITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) FUNDAMENTAL CYBERSECURITY RESEARCH.—

(1) FEDERAL CYBERSECURITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN.—The heads of the applicable agencies and departments, working through the National Science and Technology Council and the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Program, shall develop and update every 4 years a Federal cybersecurity research and development strategic plan (referred to in this subsection as the ''strategic plan'') based on an assessment of cybersecurity risk to guide the overall direction of Federal cybersecurity and information assurance research and development for information technology and networking systems. The heads of the applicable agencies and departments shall build upon existing programs and plans to develop the strategic plan to meet objectives in cybersecurity, such as—

(A) how to design and build complex software-intensive systems that are secure and reliable when first deployed;

(B) how to test and verify that software and hardware, whether developed locally or obtained from a third party, is free of significant known security flaws;

(C) how to test and verify that software and hardware obtained from a third party correctly implements stated functionality, and only that functionality;

(D) how to guarantee the privacy of an individual, including that individual's identity, information, and lawful transactions when stored in distributed systems or transmitted over networks;

(E) how to build new protocols to enable the Internet to have robust security as one of the key capabilities of the Internet;

(F) how to determine the origin of a message transmitted over the Internet;

(G) how to support privacy in conjunction with improved security;

(H) how to address the problem of insider threats;

(I) how improved consumer education and digital literacy initiatives can address human factors that contribute to cybersecurity;

(J) how to protect information processed, transmitted, or stored using cloud computing or transmitted through wireless services; and

(K) any additional objectives the heads of the applicable agencies and departments, in coordination with the head of any relevant Federal agency and with input from stakeholders, including appropriate national laboratories, industry, and academia, determine appropriate.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—The strategic plan shall—

(i) specify and prioritize near-term, mid-term, and long-term research objectives, including objectives associated with the research identified in section 4(a)(1) of the Cyber Security Research and Development Act (15 U.S.C. 7403(a)(1));

(ii) specify how the near-term objectives described in clause (i) complement research and development areas in which the private sector is actively engaged;

(iii) describe how the heads of the applicable agencies and departments will focus on innovative, transformational technologies with the potential to enhance the security, reliability, resilience, and trustworthiness of the digital infrastructure, and to protect consumer privacy;

(iv) describe how the heads of the applicable agencies and departments will foster the rapid transfer of research and development results into new cybersecurity technologies and applications for the timely benefit of society and the national interest, including through the dissemination of best practices and other outreach activities;

(v) describe how the heads of the applicable agencies and departments will establish and maintain a national research infrastructure for creating, testing, and evaluating the next generation of secure networking and information technology systems; and

(vi) describe how the heads of the applicable agencies and departments will facilitate access by academic researchers to the infrastructure described in clause (v), as well as to relevant data, including event data.

(B) PRIVATE SECTOR EFFORTS.—In developing, implementing, and updating the strategic plan, the heads of the applicable agencies and departments, working through the National Science and Technology Council and Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Program, shall work in close cooperation with industry, academia, and other interested stakeholders to ensure, to the extent possible, that Federal cybersecurity research and development is not duplicative of private sector efforts.

(C) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In developing and updating the strategic plan the heads of the applicable agencies and departments shall solicit recommendations and advice from—

(i) the advisory committee established under section 101(b)(1) of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5511(b)(1)); and

(ii) a wide range of stakeholders, including industry, academia, including representatives of minority serving institutions and community colleges, National Laboratories, and other relevant organizations and institutions.

(D) IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP.—The heads of the applicable agencies and departments, working through the National Science and Technology Council and Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Program, shall develop and annually update an implementation roadmap for the strategic plan. The implementation roadmap shall—

(i) specify the role of each Federal agency in carrying out or sponsoring research and development to meet the research objectives of the strategic plan, including a description of how progress toward the research objectives will be evaluated;

(ii) specify the funding allocated to each major research objective of the strategic plan and the source of funding by agency for the current fiscal year;

(iii) estimate the funding required for each major research objective of the strategic plan for the following 3 fiscal years; and

(iv) track ongoing and completed Federal cybersecurity research and development projects.

(3) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The heads of the applicable agencies and departments, working through the National Science and Technology Council and Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Program, shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives—

(A) the strategic plan not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act;

(B) each quadrennial update to the strategic plan; and

(C) the implementation roadmap under subparagraph (D), and its annual updates, which shall be appended to the annual report required under section 101(a)(2)(D) of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5511(a)(2)(D)).

(4) DEFINITION OF APPLICABLE AGENCIES AND DEPARTMENTS.—In this subsection, the term ''applicable agencies and departments'' means the agencies and departments identified in clauses (i) through (x) of section 101(a)(3)(B) of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5511(a)(3)(B)) or designated under clause (xi) of that section.

(b) CYBERSECURITY PRACTICES RESEARCH.—The Director of the National Science Foundation shall support research that—

(1) develops, evaluates, disseminates, and integrates new cybersecurity practices and concepts into the core curriculum of computer science programs and of other programs where graduates of such programs have a substantial probability of developing software after graduation, including new practices and concepts relating to secure coding education and improvement programs; and

(2) develops new models for professional development of faculty in cybersecurity education, including secure coding development.

(c) CYBERSECURITY MODELING AND TEST BEDS.—

(1) REVIEW.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director the National Science Foundation, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, shall conduct a review of cybersecurity test beds in existence on the date of enactment of this Act to inform the grants under paragraph (2). The review shall include an assessment of whether a sufficient number of cybersecurity test beds are available to meet the research needs under the Federal cybersecurity research and development strategic plan. Upon completion, the Director shall submit the review to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

(2) ADDITIONAL CYBERSECURITY MODELING AND TEST BEDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Director of the National Science Foundation, after the review under paragraph (1), determines that the research needs under the Federal cybersecurity research and development strategic plan require the establishment of additional cybersecurity test beds, the Director of the National Science Foundation, in coordination with the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Homeland Security, may award grants to institutions of higher education or

research and development non-profit institutions to establish cybersecurity test beds.

(B) REQUIREMENT.—The cybersecurity test beds under subparagraph (A) shall be sufficiently robust in order to model the scale and complexity of real-time cyber attacks and defenses on real world networks and environments.

(C) ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—The Director of the National Science Foundation, in coordination with the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall evaluate the effectiveness of any grants awarded under this subsection in meeting the objectives of the Federal cybersecurity research and development strategic plan not later than 2 years after the review under paragraph (1) of this subsection, and periodically thereafter.

(d) COORDINATION WITH OTHER RESEARCH INITIATIVES.—In accordance with the responsibilities under section 101 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5511), the Director the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall coordinate, to the extent practicable, Federal research and development activities under this section with other ongoing research and development security-related initiatives, including research being conducted by—

(1) the National Science Foundation;

(2) the National Institute of Standards and Technology;

(3) the Department of Homeland Security;

(4) other Federal agencies;

(5) other Federal and private research laboratories, research entities, and universities;

(6) institutions of higher education;

(7) relevant nonprofit organizations; and

(8) international partners of the United States.

(e) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION COMPUTER AND NETWORK SECURITY RESEARCH GRANT AREAS.—Section 4(a)(1) of the Cyber Security Research and Development Act (15 U.S.C. 7403(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (H), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (I), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(J) secure fundamental protocols that are integral to inter-network communications and data exchange;

''(K) secure software engineering and software assurance, including—

''(i) programming languages and systems that include fundamental security features;

''(ii) portable or reusable code that remains secure when deployed in various environments;

''(iii) verification and validation technologies to ensure that requirements and specifications have been implemented; and

''(iv) models for comparison and metrics to assure that required standards have been met;

''(L) holistic system security that—

''(i) addresses the building of secure systems from trusted and untrusted components;

''(ii) proactively reduces vulnerabilities;

''(iii) addresses insider threats; and

''(iv) supports privacy in conjunction with improved security;

''(M) monitoring and detection;

''(N) mitigation and rapid recovery methods;

''(O) security of wireless networks and mobile devices; and

''(P) security of cloud infrastructure and services.''.

(f) RESEARCH ON THE SCIENCE OF CYBERSECURITY.—The head of each agency and department identified under section 101(a)(3)(B) of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5511(a)(3)(B)), through existing programs and activities, shall support research that will lead to the development of a scientific foundation for the field of cybersecurity, including research that increases understanding of the underlying principles of securing complex networked systems, enables repeatable experimentation, and creates quantifiable security metrics.

SEC. 202. COMPUTER AND NETWORK SECURITY RESEARCH CENTERS.

Section 4(b) of the Cyber Security Research and Development Act (15 U.S.C. 7403(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking ''the research areas'' and inserting the following: ''improving the security and resiliency of information technology, reducing cyber vulnerabilities, and anticipating and mitigating consequences of cyber attacks on critical infrastructure, by conducting research in the areas'';

(2) by striking ''the center'' in paragraph (4)(D) and inserting ''the Center''; and

(3) in paragraph (5)—

(A) by striking ''and'' at the end of subparagraph (C);

(B) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (D) and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(E) the demonstrated capability of the applicant to conduct high performance computation integral to complex computer and network security research, through on-site or off-site computing;

''(F) the applicant's affiliation with private sector entities involved with industrial research described in subsection (a)(1);

''(G) the capability of the applicant to conduct research in a secure environment;

''(H) the applicant's affiliation with existing research programs of the Federal Government;

''(I) the applicant's experience managing public-private partnerships to transition new technologies into a commercial setting or the government user community;

''(J) the capability of the applicant to conduct interdisciplinary cybersecurity research, basic and applied, such as in law, economics, or behavioral sciences; and

''(K) the capability of the applicant to conduct research in areas such as systems security, wireless security, networking and protocols, formal methods and high-performance computing, nanotechnology, or industrial control systems.''.

SEC. 203. CYBERSECURITY AUTOMATION AND CHECKLISTS FOR GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS.

Section 8(c) of the Cyber Security Research and Development Act (15 U.S.C. 7406(c)) is amended to read as follows:

''(c) SECURITY AUTOMATION AND CHECKLISTS FOR GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall, as necessary, develop and revise security automation standards, associated reference materials (including protocols), and checklists providing settings and option selections that minimize the security risks associated with each information technology hardware or software system and security tool that is, or is likely to become, widely used within the Federal Government, thereby enabling standardized and interoperable technologies, architectures, and frameworks for continuous monitoring of information security within the Federal Government.

''(2) PRIORITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT.—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall establish priorities for the development of standards, reference materials, and checklists under this subsection on the basis of—

''(A) the security risks associated with the use of the system;

''(B) the number of agencies that use a particular system or security tool;

''(C) the usefulness of the standards, reference materials, or checklists to Federal agencies that are users or potential users of the system;

''(D) the effectiveness of the associated standard, reference material, or checklist in creating or enabling continuous monitoring of information security; or

''(E) such other factors as the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology determines to be appropriate.

''(3) EXCLUDED SYSTEMS.—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology may exclude from the application of paragraph (1) any information technology hardware or software system or security tool for which such Director determines that the development of a standard, reference material, or checklist is inappropriate because of the infrequency of use of the system, the obsolescence of the system, or the lack of utility or impracticability of developing a standard, reference material, or checklist for the system.

''(4) DISSEMINATION OF STANDARDS AND RELATED MATERIALS.—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall ensure that Federal agencies are informed of the availability of any standard, reference material, checklist, or other item developed under this subsection.

''(5) AGENCY USE REQUIREMENTS.—The development of standards, reference materials, and checklists under paragraph (1) for an information technology hardware or software system or tool does not—

''(A) require any Federal agency to select the specific settings or options recommended by the standard, reference material, or checklist for the system;

''(B) establish conditions or prerequisites for Federal agency procurement or deployment of any such system;

''(C) imply an endorsement of any such system by the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology; or

''(D) preclude any Federal agency from procuring or deploying other information technology hardware or software systems for which no such standard, reference material, or checklist has been developed or identified under paragraph (1).''.

SEC. 204. NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY CYBERSECURITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

Section 20 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g-3) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) INTRAMURAL SECURITY RESEARCH.—As part of the research activities conducted in accordance with subsection (d)(3), the Institute shall, to the extent practicable and appropriate—

''(1) conduct a research program to develop a unifying and standardized identity, privilege, and access control management framework for the execution of a wide variety of resource protection policies and that is amenable to implementation within a wide variety of existing and emerging computing environments;

''(2) carry out research associated with improving the security of information systems and networks;

''(3) carry out research associated with improving the testing, measurement, usability, and assurance of information systems and networks;

''(4) carry out research associated with improving security of industrial control systems;

''(5) carry out research associated with improving the security and integrity of the information technology supply chain; and

''(6) carry out any additional research the Institute determines appropriate.''.

TITLE III—EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 301. CYBERSECURITY COMPETITIONS AND CHALLENGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce, Director of the National Science Foundation, and Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, shall—

(1) support competitions and challenges under section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719) (as amended by section 105 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (124 Stat. 3989)) or any other provision of law, as appropriate—

(A) to identify, develop, and recruit talented individuals to perform duties relating to the security of information technology in Federal, State, local, and tribal government agencies, and the private sector; or

(B) to stimulate innovation in basic and applied cybersecurity research, technology development, and prototype demonstration that has the potential for application to the information technology activities of the Federal Government; and

(2) ensure the effective operation of the competitions and challenges under this section.

(b) PARTICIPATION.—Participants in the competitions and challenges under subsection (a)(1) may include—

(1) students enrolled in grades 9 through 12;

(2) students enrolled in a postsecondary program of study leading to a baccalaureate degree at an institution of higher education;

(3) students enrolled in a postbaccalaureate program of study at an institution of higher education;

(4) institutions of higher education and research institutions;

(5) veterans; and

(6) other groups or individuals that the Secretary of Commerce, Director of the National Science Foundation, and Secretary of Homeland Security determine appropriate.

(c) AFFILIATION AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—Competitions and challenges under this section may be carried out through affiliation and cooperative agreements with—

(1) Federal agencies;

(2) regional, State, or school programs supporting the development of cyber professionals;

(3) State, local, and tribal governments; or

(4) other private sector organizations.

(d) AREAS OF SKILL.—Competitions and challenges under subsection (a)(1)(A) shall be designed to identify, develop, and recruit exceptional talent relating to—

(1) ethical hacking;

(2) penetration testing;

(3) vulnerability assessment;

(4) continuity of system operations;

(5) security in design;

(6) cyber forensics;

(7) offensive and defensive cyber operations; and

(8) other areas the Secretary of Commerce, Director of the National Science Foundation, and Secretary of Homeland Security consider necessary to fulfill the cybersecurity mission.

(e) TOPICS.—In selecting topics for competitions and challenges under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary of Commerce, Director of the National Science Foundation, and Secretary of Homeland Security—

(1) shall consult widely both within and outside the Federal Government; and

(2) may empanel advisory committees.

(f) INTERNSHIPS.—The Director of the Office of Personnel Management may support, as appropriate, internships or other work experience in the Federal Government to the winners of the competitions and challenges under this section.

SEC. 302. FEDERAL CYBER SCHOLARSHIP-FOR-SERVICE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Science Foundation, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management and Secretary of Homeland Security, shall continue a Federal cyber scholarship-for-service program to recruit and train the next generation of information technology professionals, industrial control system security professionals, and security managers to meet the needs of the cybersecurity mission for Federal, State, local, and tribal governments.

(b) PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND COMPONENTS.—The Federal Cyber Scholarship-for-Service Program shall—

(1) provide scholarships through qualified institutions of higher education, including community colleges, to students who are enrolled in programs of study at institutions of higher education leading to degrees or specialized program certifications in the cybersecurity field;

(2) provide the scholarship recipients with summer internship opportunities or other meaningful temporary appointments in the Federal information technology workforce; and

(3) prioritize the employment placement of scholarship recipients in the Federal Government.

(c) SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNTS.—Each scholarship under subsection (b) shall be in an amount that covers the student's tuition and fees at the institution under subsection (b)(1) for not more than 3 years and provides the student with an additional stipend.

(d) POST-AWARD EMPLOYMENT OBLIGATIONS.—Each scholarship recipient, as a condition of receiving a scholarship under the program, shall enter into an agreement under which the recipient agrees to work in the cybersecurity mission of a Federal, State, local, or tribal agency for a period equal to the length of the scholarship following receipt of the student's degree.

(e) HIRING AUTHORITY.—

(1) APPOINTMENT IN EXCEPTED SERVICE.—Notwithstanding any provision of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, an agency shall appoint in the excepted service an individual who has completed the eligible degree program for which a scholarship was awarded.

(2) NONCOMPETITIVE CONVERSION.—Except as provided in paragraph (4), upon fulfillment of the service term, an employee appointed under paragraph (1) may be converted noncompetitively to term, career-conditional or career appointment.

(3) TIMING OF CONVERSION.—An agency may noncompetitively convert a term employee appointed under paragraph (2) to a career-conditional or career appointment before the term appointment expires.

(4) AUTHORITY TO DECLINE CONVERSION.—An agency may decline to make the noncompetitive conversion or appointment under paragraph (2) for cause.

(f) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a scholarship under this section, an individual shall—

(1) be a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States;

(2) demonstrate a commitment to a career in improving the security of information technology;

(3) have demonstrated a high level of proficiency in mathematics, engineering, or computer sciences;

(4) be a full-time student in an eligible degree program at a qualified institution of higher education, as determined by the Director of the National Science Foundation; and

(5) accept the terms of a scholarship under this section.

(g) CONDITIONS OF SUPPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of receiving a scholarship under this section, a recipient shall agree to provide the qualified institution of higher education with annual verifiable documentation of post-award employment and up-to-date contact information.

(2) TERMS.—A scholarship recipient under this section shall be liable to the United States as provided in subsection (i) if the individual—

(A) fails to maintain an acceptable level of academic standing at the applicable institution of higher education, as determined by the Director of the National Science Foundation;

(B) is dismissed from the applicable institution of higher education for disciplinary reasons;

(C) withdraws from the eligible degree program before completing the program;

(D) declares that the individual does not intend to fulfill the post-award employment obligation under this section; or

(E) fails to fulfill the post-award employment obligation of the individual under this section.

(h) MONITORING COMPLIANCE.—As a condition of participating in the program, a qualified institution of higher education shall—

(1) enter into an agreement with the Director of the National Science Foundation, to monitor the compliance of scholarship recipients with respect to their post-award employment obligations; and

(2) provide to the Director of the National Science Foundation, on an annual basis, the post-award employment documentation required under subsection (g)(1) for scholarship recipients through the completion of their post-award employment obligations.

(i) AMOUNT OF REPAYMENT.—

(1) LESS THAN 1 YEAR OF SERVICE.—If a circumstance described in subsection (g)(2) occurs before the completion of 1 year of a post-award employment obligation under this section, the total amount of scholarship awards received by the individual under this section shall—

(A) be repaid; or

(B) be treated as a loan to be repaid in accordance with subsection (j).

(2) 1 OR MORE YEARS OF SERVICE.—If a circumstance described in subparagraph (D) or (E) of subsection (g)(2) occurs after the completion of 1 or more years of a post-award employment obligation under this section, the total amount of scholarship awards received by the individual under this section, reduced by the ratio of the number of years of service completed divided by the number of years of service required, shall—

(A) be repaid; or

(B) be treated as a loan to be repaid in accordance with subsection (j).

(j) REPAYMENTS.—A loan described subsection (i) shall—

(1) be treated as a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan under part D of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087a et seq.); and

(2) be subject to repayment, together with interest thereon accruing from the date of the scholarship award, in accordance with terms and conditions specified by the Director of the National Science Foundation (in consultation with the Secretary of Education) in regulations promulgated to carry out this subsection.

(k) COLLECTION OF REPAYMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the event that a scholarship recipient is required to repay the scholarship award under this section, the qualified institution of higher education providing the scholarship shall—

(A) determine the repayment amounts and notify the recipient and the Director of the National Science Foundation of the amounts owed; and

(B) collect the repayment amounts within a period of time as determined by the Director of the National Science Foundation, or the repayment amounts shall be treated as a loan in accordance with subsection (j).

(2) RETURNED TO TREASURY.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), any repayment under this subsection shall be returned to the Treasury of the United States.

(3) RETAIN PERCENTAGE.—A qualified institution of higher education may retain a percentage of any repayment the institution collects under this subsection to defray administrative costs associated with the collection. The Director of the National Science Foundation shall establish a single, fixed percentage that will apply to all eligible entities.

(l) EXCEPTIONS.—The Director of the National Science Foundation may provide for the partial or total waiver or suspension of any service or payment obligation by an individual under this section whenever compliance by the individual with the obligation is impossible or would involve extreme hardship to the individual, or if enforcement of such obligation with respect to the individual would be unconscionable.

(m) EVALUATION AND REPORT.—The Director of the National Science Foundation shall evaluate and report periodically to Congress on the success of recruiting individuals for scholarships under this section and on hiring and retaining those individuals in the public sector workforce.

TITLE IV—CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS AND PREPAREDNESS

SEC. 401. NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS AND EDUCATION PROGRAM.

(a) NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS AND EDUCATION PROGRAM.—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (referred to in this section as the ''Director''), in consultation with appropriate Federal agencies, industry, educational institutions, National Laboratories, the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development program, and other organizations shall continue to coordinate a national cybersecurity awareness and education program, that includes activities such as—

(1) the widespread dissemination of cybersecurity technical standards and best practices identified by the Director;

(2) efforts to make cybersecurity best practices usable by individuals, small to medium-sized businesses, educational institutions, and State, local, and tribal governments;

(3) increasing public awareness of cybersecurity, cyber safety, and cyber ethics;

(4) increasing the understanding of State, local, and tribal governments, institutions of higher education, and private sector entities of—

(A) the benefits of ensuring effective risk management of information technology versus the costs of failure to do so; and

(B) the methods to mitigate and remediate vulnerabilities;

(5) supporting formal cybersecurity education programs at all education levels to prepare and improve a skilled cybersecurity and computer science workforce for the private sector and Federal, State, local, and tribal government; and

(6) promoting initiatives to evaluate and forecast future cybersecurity workforce needs of the Federal Government and develop strategies for recruitment, training, and retention.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out the authority described in subsection (a), the Director, in consultation with appropriate Federal agencies, shall leverage existing programs designed to inform the public of safety and security of products or services, including self-certifications and independently verified assessments regarding the quantification and valuation of information security risk.

(c) STRATEGIC PLAN.—The Director, in cooperation with relevant Federal agencies and other stakeholders, shall build upon programs and plans in effect as of the date of enactment of this Act to develop and implement a strategic plan to guide Federal programs and activities in support of the national cybersecurity awareness and education program under subsection (a).

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 5 years thereafter, the Director shall transmit the strategic plan under subsection (c) to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

TITLE V—ADVANCEMENT OF CYBERSECURITY TECHNICAL STANDARDS

SEC. 501. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

(2) INSTITUTE.—The term ''Institute'' means the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

SEC. 502. INTERNATIONAL CYBERSECURITY TECHNICAL STANDARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director, in coordination with appropriate Federal authorities, shall—

(1) as appropriate, ensure coordination of Federal agencies engaged in the development of international technical standards related to information system security; and

(2) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, develop and transmit to Congress a plan for ensuring such Federal agency coordination.

(b) CONSULTATION WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR.—In carrying out the activities specified in subsection (a)(1), the Director shall ensure consultation with appropriate private sector stakeholders.

SEC. 503. CLOUD COMPUTING STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director, in coordination with the Office of Management and Budget, in collaboration with the Federal Chief Information Officers Council, and in consultation with other relevant Federal agencies and stakeholders from the private sector, shall continue to develop and encourage the implementation of a comprehensive strategy for the use and adoption of cloud computing services by the Federal Government.

(b) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out the strategy described under subsection (a), the Director shall give consideration to activities that—

(1) accelerate the development, in collaboration with the private sector, of standards that address interoperability and portability of cloud computing services;

(2) advance the development of conformance testing performed by the private sector in support of cloud computing standardization; and

(3) support, in coordination with the Office of Management and Budget, and in consultation with the private sector, the development of appropriate security frameworks and reference materials, and the identification of best practices, for use by Federal agencies to address security and privacy requirements to enable the use and adoption of cloud computing services, including activities—

(A) to ensure the physical security of cloud computing data centers and the data stored in such centers;

(B) to ensure secure access to the data stored in cloud computing data centers;

(C) to develop security standards as required under section 20 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g-3); and

(D) to support the development of the automation of continuous monitoring systems.

SEC. 504. IDENTITY MANAGEMENT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

The Director shall continue a program to support the development of voluntary and cost-effective technical standards, metrology, testbeds, and conformance criteria, taking into account appropriate user concerns—

(1) to improve interoperability among identity management technologies;

(2) to strengthen authentication methods of identity management systems;

(3) to improve privacy protection in identity management systems, including health information technology systems, through authentication and security protocols; and

(4) to improve the usability of identity management systems.

SA 4098. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

DIVISION E—EFFECT OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS

SEC. 5001. SEALASKA LAND ENTITLEMENT FINALIZATION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3002 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5002. BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3031 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5003. COLTSVILLE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3032 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5004. FIRST STATE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3033 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5005. HINCHLIFFE STADIUM ADDITION TO PATERSON GREAT FALLS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3037 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5006. MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3039 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5007. VALLES CALDERA NATIONAL PRESERVE, NEW MEXICO.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3043 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5008. VICKSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3044 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5009. REVOLUTIONARY WAR AND WAR OF 1812 AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3050 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5010. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDIES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3051 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5011. NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS AND CORRIDORS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3052 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5012. COMMISSION TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL CREATION OF A NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3056 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5013. ALPINE LAKES WILDERNESS ADDITIONS AND PRATT AND MIDDLE FORK SNOQUALMIE RIVERS PROTECTION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3060 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5014. COLUMBINE-HONDO WILDERNESS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3061 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5015. HERMOSA CREEK WATERSHED PROTECTION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3062 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5016. NORTH FORK FEDERAL LANDS WITHDRAWAL AREA.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3063 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5017. PINE FOREST RANGE WILDERNESS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3064 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5018. ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT AREA AND WILDERNESS ADDITIONS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3065 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5019. WOVOKA WILDERNESS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3066 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5020. WITHDRAWAL AREA RELATED TO WOVOKA WILDERNESS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3067 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5021. ILLABOT CREEK, WASHINGTON, WILD AND SCENIC RIVER.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3071 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5022. MISSISQUOI AND TROUT WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS, VERMONT.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3072 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5023. WHITE CLAY CREEK WILD AND SCENIC RIVER EXPANSION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3073 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5024. STUDIES OF WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3074 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5025. MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES RELATED TO LAS VEGAS VALLEY PUBLIC LAND AND TULE SPRINGS FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3092 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5026. REFINANCING OF PACIFIC COAST GROUNDFISH FISHING CAPACITY REDUCTION LOAN.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3095 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5027. PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3096 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4099. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. LOCAL CONTROL OF EDUCATION.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Local Control of Education Act''.

(b) GENERAL ESEA PROHIBITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 9527 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7907) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) PROHIBITION OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MANDATING COMMON STANDARDS, PROGRAMS OF INSTRUCTION, CURRICULA, ASSESSMENTS, OR ACADEMIC STANDARDS.—An officer or employee of the Federal Government shall not directly or indirectly, through grants, contracts, or other cooperative agreements under this Act (including waivers under section 9401)—

''(1) mandate, direct, or control a State, local educational agency, or school's specific instructional content or any specific academic standard, assessment, curriculum, or program of instruction, including through any requirement, direction, condition, or mandate to adopt—

''(A) the Common Core State Standards developed under the Common Core State Standards Initiative, any other academic standards common to a number of States, or any specific statewide or nationally recognized content standards; or

''(B) any assessment, instructional content, or curriculum aligned to, or based on, specific academic standards, including any of the standards described in subparagraph (A);

''(2) incentivize a State, local educational agency, or school to adopt any specific instructional content, academic standard, assessment, curriculum, commonality of standards or assessments, or program of instruction described in paragraph (1), which shall include providing any priority, preference, or special consideration during the application process based on any specific content, standard, assessment, curriculum, commonality, or program; or

''(3) make financial support available in a manner that is conditioned upon a State, local educational agency, or school's adoption of any specific instructional content, academic standard, assessment, curriculum, commonality of standards or assessments, or program of instruction described in paragraph (1), even if such requirements are specified in section 14006 or 14007 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–5; 123 Stat. 281) or any other Act.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 9527(a) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7907(a)) is amended by striking ''curriculum, program of instruction, or''.

(c) PROHIBITION ON REQUIRING ADOPTION OF COMMON STANDARDS WITH RESPECT TO WAIVERS.—Section 9401 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7861) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(h) PROHIBITION ON REQUIRING CERTAIN STANDARDS FOR WAIVERS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall not require that a State, local educational agency, Indian tribe, or school adopt, as a prerequisite or condition for any waiver under this section, any specific instructional content, academic standard, assessment, curriculum, or program of instruction, including—

''(A) the Common Core State Standards developed under the Common Core State Standards Initiative, any other academic standards common to a number of States, or any specific statewide or nationally recognized content standards; or

''(B) any assessment, instructional content, or curriculum aligned to, or based on, any specific academic standards, including any of the standards described in subparagraph (A).

''(2) EFFECT ON PREVIOUSLY ISSUED WAIVERS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Any requirement described in paragraph (1) that was required for a waiver provided to a State, local educational agency, Indian tribe, or school under this section before the date of enactment of the Local Control of Education Act shall be void and have no force of law.

''(B) PROHIBITED ACTIONS.—The Secretary shall not—

''(i) enforce any requirement that is void pursuant to subparagraph (A); and

''(ii) require the State, local educational agency, Indian tribe, or school to reapply for a waiver, or to agree to any other conditions to replace any requirements that is void pursuant to subparagraph (A), until the end of the period of time specified under the waiver.

''(C) NO EFFECT ON OTHER PROVISIONS.—Any other provisions or requirements of a waiver provided under this section before the date of enactment of the Local Control of Education Act that are not affected by subparagraph (A) shall remain in effect for the period of time specified under the waiver.''.

(d) PROHIBITION IN RACE TO THE TOP FUNDING.—Title XIV of division A of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–5) is amended by inserting after section 14007 the following:

''SEC. 14007A. PROHIBITION ON REQUIRING OR PREFERRING COMMON STANDARDS.

''The prohibitions of section 9527(e) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 shall apply to each grant awarded under section 14006 or 14007 in the same manner as such prohibitions apply to a grant awarded under such Act.''.

NOTICES OF INTENT TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I submit the following notice in writing: In accordance with Rule V of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby give

notice in writing that it is my intention to move to suspend Rule XXII, for the purpose of proposing and considering the following amendment No. 4003 to bill H.R. 3979, as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 30___. DEFERRED MAINTENANCE BACKLOG ON FEDERAL LAND.

Section 7(a) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 460*l*–9(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) To address the maintenance backlog on Federal land.''.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I submit the following notice in writing: In accordance with Rule V of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby give notice in writing that it is my intention to move to suspend Rule XXII, for the purpose of proposing and considering the following amendment No. 4098 to bill H.R. 3979, as follows:

At the end, add the following:

DIVISION E—EFFECT OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS

SEC. 5001. SEALASKA LAND ENTITLEMENT FINALIZATION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3002 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5002. BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3031 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5003. COLTSVILLE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3032 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5004. FIRST STATE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3033 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5005. HINCHLIFFE STADIUM ADDITION TO PATERSON GREAT FALLS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3037 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5006. MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3039 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5007. VALLES CALDERA NATIONAL PRESERVE, NEW MEXICO.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3043 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5008. VICKSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3044 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5009. REVOLUTIONARY WAR AND WAR OF 1812 AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3050 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5010. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDIES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3051 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5011. NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS AND CORRIDORS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3052 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5012. COMMISSION TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL CREATION OF A NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3056 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5013. ALPINE LAKES WILDERNESS ADDITIONS AND PRATT AND MIDDLE FORK SNOQUALMIE RIVERS PROTECTION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3060 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5014. COLUMBINE-HONDO WILDERNESS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3061 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5015. HERMOSA CREEK WATERSHED PROTECTION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3062 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5016. NORTH FORK FEDERAL LANDS WITHDRAWAL AREA.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3063 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5017. PINE FOREST RANGE WILDERNESS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3064 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5018. ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT AREA AND WILDERNESS ADDITIONS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3065 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5019. WOVOKA WILDERNESS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3066 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5020. WITHDRAWAL AREA RELATED TO WOVOKA WILDERNESS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3067 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5021. ILLABOT CREEK, WASHINGTON, WILD AND SCENIC RIVER.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3071 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5022. MISSISQUOI AND TROUT WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS, VERMONT.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3072 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5023. WHITE CLAY CREEK WILD AND SCENIC RIVER EXPANSION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3073 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5024. STUDIES OF WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3074 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5025. MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES RELATED TO LAS VEGAS VALLEY PUBLIC LAND AND TULE SPRINGS FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3092 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5026. REFINANCING OF PACIFIC COAST GROUNDFISH FISHING CAPACITY REDUCTION LOAN.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3095 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5027. PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3096 shall have no force or effect.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 11, 2014, in room S–219 of the Capitol Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 11, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD–406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to hold a joint hearing entitled, ''Oversight of the Implementation of the President's Executive Order on Improving Chemical Facility Safety and Security.''

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 11, 2014, at 10 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on December 11, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD–226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Lewis Sorvillo, my defense legislative fellow, be granted floor privileges for the duration of the consideration of the NDAA and/or the 113th Congress.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that floor privileges be granted to Kelly McKellogg Swaine, the Deputy Director of the Office of Public Affairs at the State Department's Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, who is currently serving on my staff as a Brookings LEGIS fellow, for the duration of today's session of the Senate.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that from Thursday December 11 through Friday December 12, Senator PRYOR be authorized to sign duly-enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

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

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2014

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Friday, December 12, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to accompany H.R. 3979 postcloture.

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

N O T I C E

Incomplete record of Senate proceedings. Except for concluding business which follows, today's Senate proceedings will be continued in Book II.

PROGRAM

Mr. PRYOR. For the information of all Senators, if all debate time is used, there will be up to four rollcall votes in relation to the Defense authorization bill and the Saperstein nomination at 3 p.m. We hope to yield back some of the debate time.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 11:30 p.m., adjourned until Friday, December 12, 2014, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 11, 2014:

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. MARGARET C. WILMOTH

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JAMES B. LASTER

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. JAMES G. FOGGO III

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DEREK P. RYDHOLM

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. LARRY D. WYCHE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. LAWRENCE F. THOMS

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be admiral

ADM. HARRY B. HARRIS, JR.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. SHELLEY R. CAMPBELL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. MARK C. NOWLAND

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY IN THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COLONEL MICHAEL G. AMUNDSON
COLONEL CHARLES K. ARIS
COLONEL TOMMY H. BAKER
COLONEL JOE G. BARNARD, JR.
COLONEL BRIAN B. BARRONTINE
COLONEL BARRY K. BEACH
COLONEL MICHAEL R. BERRY
COLONEL THOMAS H. BLACKSTOCK, JR.
COLONEL WILLIAM B. BLAYLOCK II
COLONEL DANIEL J. BOCHICCHIO
COLONEL CHRISTOPHER P. CALLAHAN
COLONEL LLOYD P. CAVINESS, JR.
COLONEL FRED M. CHESBRO
COLONEL DAVID L.G. COLLINS
COLONEL JAMES D. CRAIG
COLONEL THOMAS G. CROYMANS
COLONEL ZACHARY F. DOSER
COLONEL GORDON L. ELLIS
COLONEL WILLIAM J. FREIDEL
COLONEL DANIEL J. FUHR
COLONEL TROY D. GALLOWAY
COLONEL JEFFREY L. GAYLORD
COLONEL DAVID E. GRAETZ
COLONEL MATTHEW J. HEARON
COLONEL WILLIAM J. HERSH
COLONEL THOMAS F. HESLIN, JR.
COLONEL MICHAEL T. HESTON
COLONEL MARK C. JACKSON
COLONEL BERT S. KOZEN
COLONEL CHRISTOPHER F. LAWSON
COLONEL TIM C. LAWSON
COLONEL COLLIER H. LIPPLE
COLONEL JOANE K. MATHEWS
COLONEL KENNETH L. MCCREARY
COLONEL ANTHONY V. MOHATT
COLONEL ADRIAN B. NETTLES
COLONEL TRACY R. NORRIS
COLONEL STEPHEN B. OWENS
COLONEL LAWRENCE R. POWELL
COLONEL JOHN M. PRINE
COLONEL HELEN E. ROGERS
COLONEL PAUL D. ROGERS
COLONEL ROBERT A. SPARING
COLONEL MARK C. STRONG
COLONEL BRIAN R. TRENDA
COLONEL BRYAN A. TUTKO
COLONEL WILLIAM J. WALKER
COLONEL STEVEN H. WARNSTADT
COLONEL RONALD A. WESTFALL
COLONEL CLIFFORD W. WILKINS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DARSIE D. ROGERS, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. FREDERICK S. RUDESHEIM

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. STEPHEN J. HAGER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. EUGENE J. LEBOEUF

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JOHN C. HARRIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. LEWIS G. IRWIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. DAVID E. QUANTOCK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. ANTHONY R. IERARDI

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. VINCENT R. STEWART

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. ANDREW E. BUSCH

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. RICHARD D. CLARKE, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. JOHN F. MULHOLLAND, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. AARON T. WALTER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. DAVID W. LING

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. TROY M. SHOEMAKER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be admiral

VICE ADM. SCOTT H. SWIFT

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TAFT OWEN AUJERO AND ENDING WITH JEFFERY LYNN RICHARD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 15, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH PETER BRIAN ABERCROMBIE II AND ENDING WITH JASON C. ZUMWALT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 31, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GEORGE W. CLIFFORD III AND ENDING WITH YOUNG J. JUN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TRAVIS K. ACHESON AND ENDING WITH PAUL C. ZURKOWSKI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 13, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF JENNIFER C. ALEXANDER, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF JOYCE P. FIEDLER, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROBERT B. O. ALLEN AND ENDING WITH KEITH M. VOLLENWEIDER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 3, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RICHARD Y. BAIRD AND ENDING WITH JEROME L. VINLUAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 3, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RICHARD M. BURGON AND ENDING WITH JOSHUA N. SCOTT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 3, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF ALLYSON M. YAMAKI, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH AARON J. AGIRRE AND ENDING WITH GREGORY S. ZILINSKI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 3, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ERIKA S. ABRAHAM AND ENDING WITH FEI ZHANG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 3, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RHETT B. CASPER AND ENDING WITH STACEY ELIZABETH ZAIKOSKI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 3, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSE C. AGUIRRE AND ENDING WITH SANDY K. YIP, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 3, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JASON D. EITUTIS AND ENDING WITH BRIAN K. WYRICK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 3, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SARAHANN BEAL AND ENDING WITH CAROL C. WALTERS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 3, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID P. ABBOTT AND ENDING WITH KEVIN D. UNDERWOOD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 3, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MOHAMMED H. ALJALLAD AND ENDING WITH ANITA M. YATES, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 3, 2014.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF KIMBERELY DEROUENSLAVEN, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BARRY C. BUSBY, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LAMAR D. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH G001317, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ERIC C. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH D011466, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RANDY L. BRANDT AND ENDING WITH KENNETH R. WILLIAMS, JR., WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL D. ACORD AND ENDING WITH D006516, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DARRELL R. V. TRAN, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GEORGE W. MASON III AND ENDING WITH ALVIN D. WILSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHN W. BOZICEVIC AND ENDING WITH JAMES E. SCALF, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATION OF PATRICK M. MCGRATH, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH PEGGY E. D. MCGILL AND ENDING WITH ELENA M. SCARBROUGH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DELROY A. BROWN AND ENDING WITH RICHARD G. SCHMID, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRIAN R. COLEMAN AND ENDING WITH ROBERT W. THOMPSON, JR., WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH VANCE J. ARGO AND ENDING WITH GREGORY W. TEISAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SCOTT A. ARCAND AND ENDING WITH WILLIAM D. WEAVER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAWN M. FLYNN AND ENDING WITH SANDRA J. HETZEL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SCOTT B. BYERS AND ENDING WITH CHARLENE A. WEINGARTEN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DONNA K. AYERS AND ENDING WITH MARY E. WOODARD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH FELIX J. E. ANDUJAR AND ENDING WITH TERENCE R. WOODS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRYAN D. BROWN AND ENDING WITH NICHOLAS D. YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANTHONY J. LABADIA AND ENDING WITH JOSEPH F. TOMMASINO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARTA E. ACHA AND ENDING WITH RICORD W. TORGERSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ZENAIDA M. COFIE AND ENDING WITH TODD L. STEWART, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOSEPH T. MORRIS, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF RICHARD T. KNOWLTON, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROBERT A. BORCHERDING AND ENDING WITH DEAN L. WHITFORD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 13, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATION OF STEVEN E. BAKER, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ARUN SHARMA, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JAMES M. BRUMIT, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SAMUEL AGOSTOSANTIAGO AND ENDING WITH JOHN R. WILT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 13, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH EDWIN B. BALES AND ENDING WITH RYAN M. ZIPF, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 13, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH PAUL P. MCBRIDE AND ENDING WITH PAUL E. REYNOLDS, JR., WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 13, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOHN E. ATWOOD, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DANIEL H. ALDANA AND ENDING WITH DAVID R. NAVORSKA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 13, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ERIC GRAHAM, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SUSAN DAVIS AND ENDING WITH MATTHEW G. STLAURENT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 13, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SHELLEY P. HONNOLD AND ENDING WITH NEAL E. WOOLLEN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 13, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SUSAN J. ARGUETA AND ENDING WITH JASON S. WINDSOR, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 13, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHN R. BAILEY AND ENDING WITH D004653, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 13, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GARY L. GROSS AND ENDING WITH CRAIG D. SHRIVER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 13, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MELISSA R. BEAUMAN AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL W. STEPHENS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 13, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATION OF RICHARD M. HESTER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JAY E. CLASING, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SCOTT J. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH STEFANIA V. WILCOX, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 3, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RACHEL R. ANTHONY AND ENDING WITH D011532, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 3, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH NADINE M. ALONZO AND ENDING WITH D012299, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 3, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARK ACOPAN AND ENDING WITH TIMOTHY R. YOURK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 3, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KATHARINE M. E. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH HANS P. ZELLER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 3, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROBERT J. ABBOTT AND ENDING WITH D011857, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 3, 2014.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF TIMOTHY E. ROBERTSON, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER E. HALL, TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF ANGELA M. ROWELL, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF GREGORY L. KOONTZ, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF TIMOTHY S. ROUSH, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF KIMBERLY M. FREITAS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF ADAM B. YOST, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF CHARLES S. EISENBERG, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER .

NAVY NOMINATION OF JACK W.L. TSAO, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JAMES M. ROSS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF LAKEEVA B. GUNDERSON, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER .

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TRAVIS S. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH JULIAN G. WILSON III, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 17, 2014.