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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BEN SASSE, a Senator from the State of Nebraska.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God most high, we know not what a day will bring forth—sorrow or joy—but our eyes are on You.

Sustain our Senators in their work. Give them the wisdom to repay Your Grace with the currency of their gratitude. Lead them to bear the burdens of the marginalized and so fulfill the law of love.

Lord, teach them anew the meaning of faith, hope, and love. Give them even tempers that can meet upsetting things with calm serenity.

Lord, keep them from being ashamed of that which they should be proud and proud of that which they should be ashamed.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, April 25, 2017.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable BEN SASSE, a Senator from the State of Nebraska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. SASSE thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### ISSUES BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday, the Senate confirmed former Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue to lead the Department of Agriculture.

We also took the next step in advancing Rod Rosenstein to serve as Deputy Attorney General. I look forward to confirming Mr. Rosenstein so he can get to work without further delay.

After we take that vote, we will be able to advance the Department of Labor nominee, Alexander Acosta. Mr. Acosta has an impressive background that will serve him well as he leads the Department on issues that can support America's employers and employees as well as the overall economy.

I am pleased Mr. Acosta has outlined his commitment to ensuring that the Department of Labor encourages, rather than hampers, job growth—a welcome change after 8 years of job-killing and opportunity-destroying rules and regulations under the Obama administration. I encourage my colleagues to support his nomination so he can begin this important work to help create jobs, enhance workforce development, and support middle-class workers.

As we advance these nominees, Senators are also continuing discussions on government funding legislation. These talks have been part of a bipartisan, bicameral process from the start, with appropriators having continued

negotiations over the State work period. I look forward to more productive conversations with Senators, our House colleagues, and the White House so we can get this important work done quite soon.

### DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, many decades ago, historic tragedy befell a continent, and unimaginable horror visited a people.

Behind cold steel gates and within huddled boxcars, man's capacity for cruelty reached grim new frontiers. An inhuman campaign of extermination by an inhuman regime not only took aim at the Jewish people but also tore deep at the collective bonds of our humanity. The scars of the Holocaust continue to run deep in the sinew of our history and of our humanity. It must never be repeated. It also must never be forgotten.

Today, the President of the strongest Nation in the world will again join with survivors in the Capitol Rotunda to help ensure it never is.

Today's Days of Remembrance ceremony serves as yet another reminder of the immeasurable suffering that was inflicted upon millions of innocent men, women, and children during the Holocaust, especially the Jewish people. It also serves as a reminder of our responsibility as free people to stand against evil and defend those who are persecuted.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

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



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## EXECUTIVE SESSION

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Rod J. Rosenstein, of Maryland, to be Deputy Attorney General.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 12:30 p.m. will be equally divided in the usual form.

The Democratic whip.

## DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I will yield the floor if the Democratic leader arrives, but until his arrival, I would like to do two things—first, join in the comments made by the majority leader, Senator McCONNELL, relative to the Holocaust remembrance.

This is the day on which we gather in the Rotunda each year to remember the atrocities of World War II, which includes remembering the Holocaust victims, so many who were Jewish people as well as Polish people—the list goes on and on—as well as those who were gay and gypsies. This was an ethnic cleansing—the worst ever seen in the history of this world. We remember it on this day, as we should.

Mr. President, on a separate issue, before us now is the nomination of Rod Rosenstein to be the Deputy Attorney General of the United States.

The Deputy Attorney General oversees the day-to-day operations of the Department of Justice. In any circumstance, this is an important position that requires a nominee with experience, independence, management skills, and good judgment, which is especially true today.

Many of us questioned whether Attorney General Sessions was the right person to be the chief law enforcement officer of the United States of America at this moment in history. Unfortunately, many of the actions of the new Attorney General, since he was confirmed, have not erased these concerns. The Attorney General has already begun making dramatic changes at the Justice Department, including on critical issues like criminal justice, civil rights, immigration, and funding for crime prevention.

Just last week, Attorney General Sessions disparaged a Federal judge from Hawaii who issued an order blocking the Trump administration's Muslim travel ban.

Attorney General Sessions said: "I really am amazed that a judge sitting on an island in the Pacific can issue an order that stops the President of the United States from what appears to be clearly his statutory and constitutional power."

Senator MAZIE HIRONO, my colleague on the Senate Judiciary Committee and the junior Senator from Hawaii,

pointed out that Hawaii was granted statehood in 1959 and called the Attorney General's comments "insulting and prejudiced."

Also, last week, Attorney General Sessions called into question the status of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, also known as DACA. When asked about DACA, Attorney General Sessions said: "We can't promise people who are here unlawfully that they're not going to be deported."

That is exactly what DACA is. It is a commitment to young people who were brought to the United States as children and grew up in our country that they will be protected from deportation on a temporary renewable basis. Attorney General Sessions' statement is contrary to his own administration's policy as established by President Trump and Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly, who have primary responsibility for immigration enforcement.

The last confirmed nominee for Deputy Attorney General was Sally Yates, a veteran prosecutor and U.S. attorney from Georgia. Ms. Yates displayed sound judgment as Deputy Attorney General, and she was unafraid to speak truth to power.

Ms. Yates became the Acting Attorney General at the end of the Obama administration, and when President Trump signed his unconstitutional Muslim ban Executive order on January 27, Sally Yates told the White House she could not defend the order in court because she was not convinced it was lawful. Ms. Yates was then fired by President Trump for disagreeing with him. However, multiple Federal courts agreed with Ms. Yates' position and blocked this unconstitutional Executive order. Time and history have proven Ms. Yates correct.

We need a Deputy Attorney General like Sally Yates, who is highly competent and has the independence to say no to the President and to the Attorney General when necessary.

Rod Rosenstein has served as the U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland since 2005 under both Democratic and Republican Presidents. I do not question his experience or his competence. As a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I looked closely at his nomination. I asked him many questions in the hearing. I sent some followup letters, and I appreciate that he has been forthcoming in his responses.

Mr. Rosenstein has pledged to be an independent voice and has committed that he will not recommend any changes in Justice Department policies until he evaluates them, discusses them with appropriate officials, and determines that changes are warranted.

I expect he will be confirmed. Upon confirmation, Mr. Rosenstein will immediately be tasked with responsibility over critically important issues over which he will need to display both

sound judgment and independence. Four come to mind.

First is the ongoing investigation into Russia's efforts to interfere with the 2016 Presidential election to help the Trump campaign. What Russia did in our election last year was a cyber act of war against our democracy. It is imperative that we get to the bottom of what happened and make sure it never happens again. I have called for an independent, bipartisan investigation into Russia's election interference. The Republican majority of the House and Senate have resisted this call.

Instead, Republicans in Congress have referred this matter to the Intelligence Committees of both Houses, perhaps hoping it will fade away behind closed doors. I hope the Intelligence Committees will step up and conduct an investigation that is worthy of the importance of this issue, but when it comes to potential criminal acts involving Russia's election interference, the responsibility to investigate falls solely on the Justice Department.

Attorney General Sessions has had to recuse himself from the investigation because of his work for the Trump campaign and his failure to disclose his contacts with Russian officials last year. That means the Deputy Attorney General now has the responsibility over this investigation.

It will be incumbent on Mr. Rosenstein to ensure this investigation is conducted with independence, diligence, and integrity. I believe that appointing a special counsel is the best way to ensure this. I hope he will make that appointment. If Mr. Rosenstein does not appoint a special counsel, the spotlight will be on him personally to make sure the investigation is conducted properly, no matter where it leads. I hope he exercises good judgment. This investigation is too important to get wrong.

The second issue that will require independence and good judgment from the Deputy Attorney General is the Justice Department's threat to withhold Federal funding to prevent violence across America, including in the city of Chicago.

The Trump administration's message has been confusing, to say the least, when it comes to Federal efforts to prevent violence. On the one hand, President Trump, in the middle of the night, tweets "Chicago needs help," and "Send in the Feds," but then the administration threatens to cut off critical funding for violence prevention under programs like Byrne JAG unless cities agree to turn their local police departments into deportation forces.

It is pretty obvious that cutting off Federal violence prevention funding will hurt the cause of violence prevention. Do not take my word for it. Ask any law enforcement leader.

Listen to what the International Association of Chiefs of Police said: "Penalizing communities by withholding assistance funding to law enforcement

agencies and other critical programs is counterproductive to our shared mission of reducing violent crime and keeping communities safe.”

It is no secret that the Attorney General is fixated on immigration, but we need the Deputy Attorney General to ensure that this fixation does not undermine the important ways that the Justice Department and local law enforcement cooperate to reduce violent crime.

This administration cannot call itself a law-and-order administration and then do something like cut the funds for violence prevention when police chiefs across America say that is just wrong.

The third area of critical importance is criminal justice policy. Today, our Federal prisons are 30 percent over capacity, and runaway prison expenditures are undermining important public safety priorities like crime prevention, drug courts, and addiction treatment.

The largest increase in the Federal prison population has been nonviolent drug offenders who are then separated from their families for years on end as a result of inflexible mandatory minimum sentences. This has a destructive effect on communities and erodes faith in America in our criminal justice system.

Congress needs to pass legislation to reform our Federal drug sentencing laws, but the Justice Department's policies for nonviolent drug offenses also can help.

Under the Obama administration, the Smart on Crime Initiative directed Federal prosecutors to reserve stiff mandatory minimum sentences for individuals convicted of serious offenses. This initiative has been very effective in focusing the Department's limited resources on the worst offenders and ensuring that people convicted of low-level, nonviolent offenses are not subjected to these same mandatory minimum penalties.

Attorney General Sessions has signaled that he wants to eliminate the Smart on Crime Initiative, and certainly those of us who listened to his opposition to criminal sentencing reform are not surprised. But, as Deputy Attorney General, Mr. Rosenstein will chair the Task Force on Crime Reduction and Public Safety that has been established by the President. This gives him an important voice. I hope he will work to ensure that the Department's charging policy reserves stiff mandatory sentences for only serious violent offenders.

Mr. Rosenstein would also be responsible for determining the fate of the Justice Department's efforts to work constructively with State and local law enforcement to protect civil rights and improve community and police relations. In particular, Mr. Rosenstein should continue negotiations to pursue police reform in Chicago, backed up by an enforceable consent decree. The former U.S. attorney in Chicago, Zach

Fardon, felt strongly that a consent decree was needed to correct the systemic problems we face. Mr. Rosenstein has shown more openness to using consent decrees than Attorney General Sessions, who has an ideological personal hostility toward them. I hope Mr. Rosenstein will look carefully at this issue in Chicago and respect the judgment of Mr. Fardon and the career DOJ professionals who spent over a year investigating this matter.

Mr. Rosenstein also will be responsible for reining in the Attorney General's worst instincts on immigration. It is no surprise to any Member of this Chamber that when the issue of immigration came to the floor, the leading opponent on immigration reform was Senator Sessions of Alabama. I believe he offered 100 amendments to the immigration reform bill that passed the U.S. Senate. He has spoken out over and over again about his opposition to immigration reform.

The Attorney General has already directed Federal prosecutors across the country to make immigration cases a higher priority and look for opportunities to bring serious felony charges against those who cross the border without authorization. Federal prosecutors understand this is not the right approach. Listen to Paul Charlton, the U.S. attorney for Arizona under the Bush administration. According to him, this new directive will overburden the Federal courts already struggling to handle the volume of immigration cases. He said: “Prosecution and incarceration do not adequately address the real need, which is a reform of the immigration laws.”

Let me conclude. I see the Democratic leader on the floor.

There are a number of critical issues that will require sound judgment and leadership from the next Deputy Attorney General. I hope Mr. Rosenstein will approach these issues with the professionalism and integrity that have earned him bipartisan praise as U.S. Attorney in Maryland. I hope he will be willing to speak truth to power and to stand up to the President and the Attorney General if necessary.

I will support Mr. Rosenstein's nomination. I hope we can work together constructively on the important matters facing the Department of Justice.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

THE ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

MR. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first let me thank my friend from Illinois for his always thoughtful and good words. I agree with his sentiments on Mr. Rosenstein, whom I will support as well.

#### GOVERNMENT SPENDING BILL

Mr. President, first I want to say that it is very good news that the President seems to be taking the wall off the table in the negotiations we are having on an appropriations bill this week. It would remove the prospect of

a needless fight over a poison pill proposal that Members of both parties don't support. On a bill as important as one to keep the government open, it is a dangerous prospect for the administration to push so hard for such a flawed, incomplete, and unthought-out proposal on a must-pass spending bill. It could tank what would have been productive, bipartisan, bicameral negotiations between the leaders in both Houses. If the threat of the wall is removed, as I hope is the case, our negotiations can continue and we can hopefully continue to resolve all of the outstanding issues by Friday.

Make no mistake about it, there are other important issues to resolve—no poison pill riders, above all, and the ratio of defense and nondefense spending in terms of increases above the baseline. On the nondefense side, miners are very important on our side, getting permanent healthcare for these miners who have struggled their whole lives; the issue of cost-sharing, where 6 million people could lose their healthcare because it would become unaffordable; and the issue of Puerto Rico, which is struggling so, are among those that we feel are important as well. There are other issues to resolve as well, but I am hopeful we can address them as the week moves forward. Poison pill riders are something that could really hurt the bill, and we don't want that to happen.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S FIRST ONE HUNDRED DAYS

Mr. President, on another matter, as we quickly approach the 100-day mark of the Trump Presidency, it is a good time to look back on what this administration has accomplished and has not accomplished. One thing is clear: This President has either broken or failed to fulfill many of the promises he made to working families during the campaign. This morning, I wish to focus on one area in particular—this President's promises to working people on jobs and the economy.

One of the President's key rationales as to why he would be an effective President was that he was a good businessman who could create jobs and get the economy moving much faster than anyone predicted. But on the major issues of jobs, including outsourcing, “Buy American,” trade—key economic issues that help job growth in America, that help working families—President Trump has made scant progress during his first 100 days and has broken several core campaign promises he made to kick-start the economy for working families.

On jobs, President Trump said he was going to be “the greatest job President that God ever created,” but have we seen one significant piece of legislation that would create jobs from this President? What about infrastructure, for instance? That is something that would create tons of good-paying jobs, and Candidate Trump talked about it a lot when he campaigned. He promised to fix America's crumbling infrastructure, pledging a \$1 trillion plan to do

it. But we haven't seen any details of any plan yet, and no comprehensive plan to rebuild our infrastructure has been introduced by any Republicans in Congress.

So we Democrats came out with our own \$1 trillion infrastructure plan, taking what the President said in his campaign. The bill would create 15 million good-paying jobs, going to the working families of America. We haven't seen any proposal or gotten any response to our proposal from the President. The only thing we have seen from President Trump on infrastructure is that he has proposed multibillion-dollar cuts to vital transportation programs in his 2018 budget, saying one thing in the campaign—infrastructure jobs—yet doing exactly the opposite—cutting infrastructure jobs—in his proposed budget for next year.

On outsourcing, Candidate Trump lamented the fact that so many companies were shipping U.S. jobs overseas, promising: “We’re going to stop it day one. It’s so easy to stop.”

While President Obama used regulatory measures to stop inversions in their tracks—a company in New York, Pfizer, which I thought was so wrong to try and invert—President Trump has just signed an Executive order to review those rules and potentially undo them—the exact opposite of what he campaigned on. This is astounding. He said he was going to prevent jobs from going overseas. President Obama put in regulations that have virtually stopped inversions—companies moving their headquarters overseas for tax breaks. President Trump, directly in contradiction of what he talked about over and over and over again in his campaign, says: Now let’s review those rules and possibly undo them. It is just hard to comprehend.

President Trump said his policy would be “Buy American and Hire American,” and he has had a bunch of little rallies where he talks about this, but he has refused to insist that pipelines and water infrastructure be made with American steel.

If he were serious about stopping outsourcing, he would demand that Senate Republicans put Senator BALDWIN’s bill requiring infrastructure to be made with American steel on the Senate floor. If we increase water and sewer as one of our biggest infrastructure proposals, American steel would get a huge boost, if companies had to buy American steel. Senator BALDWIN has a bill that does it. President Trump has not gotten any action. He ought to tell Leader MCCONNELL, tell Speaker RYAN he is for that bill, and they should bring it to the floor, and, with a lot of Democratic votes—probably every one, just about—we can pass it.

On trade, which is another crucial issue for the American worker—maybe the issue that President Trump garnered the most support for from working families—well, he has made some big promises, but he has either broken them or failed to deliver in his first 100

days. He pledged to hold China accountable for its rapacious trade practices, which have robbed America of millions of jobs and cost trillions of dollars of wealth. He said China was “world champion” of currency manipulation and pledged to name it a currency manipulator on day one. President Trump has done neither of those things. He has broken his promise to name them a currency manipulator, and he has backed off on his promise to get tough with trade on China in general.

This is an issue I am passionate about. I didn’t agree with President Trump on a whole lot of issues, but when he talked about China during the campaign, I said: I am closer to President Trump on how we treat China than I was with President Obama or President Bush, and I thought it would be one of the areas where we could make real progress. Instead, we have seen a U-turn—China, not a currency manipulator, when he said over and over again they were, and they are manipulating their currency.

I know all the free-trade pundits get up and say: Yes, but now they are not reducing the value of their currency; they are doing the opposite of what they did when they made it easier for them to export. But they are still manipulating it. It still doesn’t flow. As sure as we are sitting here, if China’s advantage is to once again devalue the currency so they can have more exports and unfair advantages over American workers, they will do it in a minute.

Furthermore, had he called China a currency manipulator, it would have sent a shot across China’s bow. For years, frankly, under Democratic and Republican administrations, China has gotten away with economic murder. They steal our intellectual property. They don’t let good American companies into China. They buy American companies to get their technology and then produce it in China and try to export it here. They have over the years manipulated the currency to their advantage, among many other things. They are hurting us. Probably nothing has done more to hurt American jobs than China’s rapacious trade policies. And President Trump is nowhere to be found. In fact, he is doing the opposite of what he promised on trade.

Instead of sticking up for hard-working, middle-class Americans by trying to create jobs and get tough on both trade and outsourcing, President Trump has spent the last few months looking out for powerful corporations and the special interests he repeatedly campaigned against, breaking promise after promise to working families. It is a shame he has taken this route.

On issues like infrastructure, outsourcing, and trade, we Democrats agree with many of the things Candidate Trump was saying, but he is nowhere to be found to work with on these issues. President Trump could have chosen to spend his first 100 days

working with us Democrats on these issues, finding compromises and consensus to fulfill his promises to working America. Instead, he spent the first 100 days governing from the very hard right, refusing to seek Democratic input on any major legislation. That is not how you get things done here, and that is why the President has so little to show for his first 100 days.

We Democrats are prepared to work with him to give the middle class and those struggling to get there a much needed boost, but the President and Republicans in Congress need to start reaching out and meeting us halfway.

As I have told the President many times, if he governs from the middle, if he is willing to work with both parties to get things done, we might be able to compromise on some of the important economic issues where we have had these values for a long time—the ones I just mentioned. If the President, Republicans, and Congress continue their “my way or the highway approach,” the next 100 days will be just like the first—a lot of broken and unfulfilled promises and very few accomplishments from this new administration.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ANTIQUITIES ACT

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, President Trump is expected to issue an Executive order directing the Department of the Interior to review all of the national monuments issued over the past 20 years, to see whether those monuments should be reduced in size or repealed. It is clear to me that many of us know the value of our public lands. But I am questioning whether our President understands that trying to illegally roll back those national monuments—some of the most treasured lands in our country—is something we should not do.

This shortsighted move is a pretext to attacking the designation of the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah, which is sacred to the five tribes that form the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, and is a breathtaking site for all Americans who come to experience what is the unbelievable, unique beauty of the West.

Whether they are there hiking or climbing or vacationing, it is a special place. But President Trump’s Executive order is expected to go even further than just Bears Ears, reviewing any designation in the last 20 years, threatening the question of the San Juan Islands or Hanford Reach National Monuments and the creation of other sites around the United States and threatening our economy.

Time and again, the Trump administration is pushing for policies that are harmful to our recreation economy and a disaster for our pristine places, and it sets a terrible precedent for future conservation efforts.

The Antiquities Act is one of our Nation's most successful conservation laws. It was signed into law in 1906 by President Theodore Roosevelt to designate Devils Tower in Wyoming as our Nation's first national monument.

In the 110 years since its enactment, the Antiquities Act has been a very useful tool by 16 different Presidents—eight Republicans, eight Democrats—to designate more than 140 national monuments, including, as I mentioned, the San Juan Islands and Hanford Reach in the State of Washington.

Nearly half of all of our national parks, including national icons such as the Grand Canyon or Olympic National Park, were first designated as national monuments under the Antiquities Act. So it is a very helpful tool to making sure we preserve those special places. I will note, too, that only 4 percent of all land in the United States is set aside this way, designated as part of the national park system or as a national monument.

So, of all the lands in the United States, we are asking to protect 4 percent of the lands, that are these unique special places, to be persevered for the American public and not turned over to special interests for oil and gas mining.

I also think it is important to note that the Antiquities Act gives the President the authority to make sure that these monuments are designated because from time to time there are those who do not believe in these special places.

I note that when the Grand Canyon was being considered, an editorial in that time period editorialized: "The idea of protecting the Grand Canyon represents a fiendish and diabolical scheme." Now, I don't think that is what Americans think today about the Grand Canyon, nor do they think that it is something that hasn't enriched the lives of millions of Americans over the years or added to our economy and tourism. So I find it ironic that the same people think that the designation of Bears Ears is somehow a "fiendish and diabolical scheme."

Well, what I know is that the President is wrong to think he can use the Antiquities Act in reverse. In 1938, an Attorney General's opinion was issued stating that the President did not have the authority to use it in reverse.

So I think any attempt by the Trump administration to modify or revoke earlier national monument proposals is without the legal authority to do so. But I also want to make sure that we are talking about how important and how special Bears Ears is. It is a monument of true significance. It encompasses 1.3 million acres of beautiful desert hills, mesas, and sandstone canyons in southeastern Utah and is home to some of the most spiritually signifi-

cant lands of the local Tribes and some of the best rock climbing in the world.

Bears Ears encompasses Native American archaeological sites dating back at least 13,000 years. The area is covered in rock art, petroglyphs and pictographs, cliff dwellings, and artifacts. So if nothing else, those special places should be preserved.

It is also special to many of the early inhabitants of that area: the Ute Tribe, the Navajo Tribe, the Uintah Ouray Tribe, the Hopi Tribe, and the Zuni Tribe. Bears Ears is important to these Tribal members for sacred ceremonies, and hunting, and fishing.

Bears Ears also continues to be one of the richest paleontological resources in our Nation, with fossil records dating back millions of years. So it is easy to see why it is so important that this special place was designated.

In addition to its historical and cultural significance, Bears Ears is also a world-class recreation resource visited by rock climbers from all over the world. It is also visited by hunters, hikers, canyoneers, white water rafters, mountain bikers, and the entire conservation community. That is why the Outdoor Retailer show, which had previously located its biannual event in Utah, decided after two decades that they were pulling out. That is right. They are pulling out their \$40 million contribution to the Utah economy because they are against the efforts by many in Utah to oppose the Bears Ears monument and try to get the President to reverse the Antiquities Act and then use that Federal land for oil and gas exploration. I was so proud to see the outdoor industry take such a bold step. Companies like REI, Patagonia, Black Diamond, and Outdoor Research really made a big and bold statement. They decided that if a State was going to attack the very economy that was so important to their jobs in recreation, they were going to do something about it.

I agree with the Salt Lake Tribune editorial on the Outdoor Retailer's decision, which said that the debate over public lands is about "who we are and where we are headed. To get there, we need leaders with a better appreciation of the magnificent gifts God has given everyone, not just Utahans."

So what is ironic and, frankly, a bit sad is that at the same time the Trump administration is waging war on our public lands and fighting imaginary ones, like the War on Coal, we have new data on just what an economic engine the recreation industry has become. Just today, the Outdoor Industry Association released a new report on the economic contributions of the recreation economy. Today, the recreation industry generates \$887 billion in consumer spending every year. That is up more than \$200 billion—from \$646 billion—since the last time the study was done a few years ago. What does this tell us? Not only do more Americans enjoy recreation on our public lands, but an economy has been built

around it, and it continues to grow and thrive, with new products, new services, and more comfortable and innovative ways to enjoy the outdoors. The outdoor recreation economy is responsible for 7.6 million jobs in this country. That is a growth of 1.5 million jobs since the last time the report was done.

Meanwhile, the Trump administration seems perfectly content to do the bidding of these natural resources industries instead of focusing on these jobs and these recreational opportunities that are booming. In fact, the clean energy economy is now supporting more jobs than fossil fuels in 26 States and the District of Columbia. So it is an economy that exists in many parts of our country.

On top of this effort to try and weaken these national monument designations and use the Antiquities Act in reverse, the President is also expected to gut some of our key investments in science and innovation that are also helping us grow in new ways.

I will tell you that pollution is not an economic strategy. We cannot turn the economy of the past into hope for the future. What we need to do is make sure we are paying attention to the unique resources that these special places represent and the great heritage of both Democratic and Republican administrations, which have done great work by protecting places like the Grand Canyon and Bears Ears.

I hope all of my colleagues will realize that this is a futile effort and that these special places do not belong only to us. They do not belong to the people who are here on the Senate floor. They belong to generations and generations of Americans.

To those great Presidents—Republican and Democratic—who made those decisions and created those special places for all of us, thank you. I hope that some future generation will be standing here thanking us for protecting Bears Ears and all of the national monument designations that have taken place over the last two decades.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

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

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

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Michigan farmers. Agriculture is a vital part of Michigan's economy. In fact, Michigan is home to more than 51,000 farms that contribute over \$100 billion to our Nation's economy. Michigan is also the second most diverse agricultural producer in the Nation, growing more than 300 commodities, including a significant portion of our Nation's milk, corn, cherries, cucumbers, and much more.

Last week I had the pleasure of visiting the Iciek Dairy Farm in Gladwin, MI. It was incredible to see firsthand how this family-run dairy has grown from a small farm of a few dozen cows to a large, modern dairy operation with 700 cows and seven full-time employees.

Today, the Iciek Dairy works with the Michigan State University Extension program to help mentor new businesses and farmers who are just starting off with their own small dairy operation. Michigan's farmers and farmers all across our country feed our country and people around the globe, and we must do what we can to support them. Our agricultural businesses rely on the ability to access the resources they need to keep growing, creating jobs, and contributing to our economy.

Access to these resources can be especially challenging for new small farm operations that are just getting started, including those small farms that make up 82 percent of Michigan's agricultural producers. Small farms that are just starting up or are facing tough economic conditions sometimes struggle to find and secure affordable credit. That is why I am working across the aisle with Senator TILLIS to urge congressional appropriators to fully fund the Farm Service Agency loan programs as Congress considers government funding bills for 2018.

The Farm Service Agency works with lenders to guarantee and deliver small dollar loans to the small farms that need them the most. When a farm has no other options, Farm Service Agency loans and guarantees can help farmers cover urgent operating costs for feed, seed, and fertilizer to get them through the season. Without these loans, farmers could lose their ability to purchase equipment and other necessities for the planting season and could be forced to curtail their operations.

Currently, more than 2,300 farms in Michigan have Farm Service Agency loans totaling over \$630 million. Across the country last year, the Farm Service Agency made and guaranteed a total of 39,650 loans totaling \$6.3 billion. It is critical that Farm Service Agency funding reflect expected demand for loans so that small farms can continue to have this crucial lifeline.

This program is in such high demand that just last year the Farm Service Agency ran out of money to finance its operating loans, including more than 1,000 loans that had already been approved for small farmers. This led to a backlog of loans, and farmers were forced to wait for months until Congress passed emergency funding to get the loans they needed for their day-to-day operations.

Access to capital is critical across a range of businesses, but it is incredibly important to our farmers. They can lose out on an entire growing season if they cannot buy the equipment and the supplies they need while they wait for Congress to fund the Farm Service Agency.

Today, ensuring that the Farm Service Agency has sufficient funding is even more critical, especially following President Trump's proposed \$4.7 billion cut to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Like our small businesses, students, and families, America's farmers deserve to have affordable loan options, and they deserve our attention and our support. I urge my colleagues to join me in asking for robust Farm Service Agency funding so we can continue to support our farming communities as they support and sustain us each and every day.

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

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

#### FOREIGN POLICY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, as we come back into session after a 2-week State work period, I think we need to take stock of what we have been able to accomplish in working together during the last few months.

Through the efforts of the administration and in working with Congress, we have been able to greatly lessen the regulatory burden on many American job creators, which is something sorely needed while our economy has been bumping along at, roughly, 2 percent growth of our gross domestic product since the Great Recession of 2008. We have confirmed a ninth Supreme Court Justice, and we have seen strong, credible action taken against people like the terrible Assad regime in Syria.

It is important to remember, as folks continue to judge the current administration and its foreign policy in particular, how we got here and what this White House inherited after 8 years of the Obama administration.

As President Obama left office, he left in his wake fires burning around the world. There is no better example than the Middle East. President Obama celebrated the Arab Spring as a testament to the power of a democratic voice, but he did little to help our partners across the Middle East and North Africa find stability and prosperity. Along the way, he made the world a lot more dangerous for all of us by his inaction or, in some cases, by his actions. Libya is one of the most tragic examples.

Without his coming to Congress but instead going to the United Nations for a resolution, under President Obama's watch, the country fractured after he helped to launch a poorly conceived military campaign that helped depose Muammar Qadhafi, with no plan at all as to what to do afterward to stabilize the country. Apparently, despite all of President Obama's criticisms of President Bush's 2003 invasion of Iraq, he learned very little from it, and terror-

ists, including ISIS, jumped at the opportunity to fill the vacuum in Libya.

Later, the American Consulate in Benghazi would be attacked, resulting in the deaths of four Americans, including that of Ambassador Christopher Stevens. That was the result of President Obama's failed strategy in Libya.

To the east, as 2016 came to a close, Syria was embroiled in even more disarray, more bloodshed, and more violence than when the civil war initially broke out. President Obama promised the world—now infamously—that should the Syrian Government use chemical weapons that at that point a red line would have been crossed. We know how that turned out and so do the citizens of Syria and so do, importantly, other thugs, autocrats, and dictators around the world—red lines crossed but not enforced.

President Obama's threats went unanswered. Russia became bolder in its support of Assad as it became clearer that the United States would not intervene. Now, in light of years of inaction by the previous administration, we have a refugee crisis in the Middle East and throughout Europe. Millions of people have been displaced both internally and externally across Europe. We have a war criminal leading the Syrian Government who has repeatedly used chemical weapons and indiscriminately killed civilians, including children, in a region even further from any measure of stability than when President Obama took office.

Yet, instead of developing a strategy, instead of listening to his own military and national security leadership, President Obama and his team perversely opted to strengthen our adversary Iran. The ill-conceived JCPOA deal cemented the status of this state sponsor of terrorism as a future nuclear power as it released billions of dollars in sanctions relief to the regime and empowered our enemy to engage in even more terrorist activities abroad and around the world. After 8 years of the Obama administration, the bottom line is, our foremost enemy in the Middle East became stronger, not weaker.

On top of all of that, President Obama pushed aside our strongest ally in the region—Israel—time and time again to appease nations that were working against us. That is simply not how the United States should operate in its leadership role around the world.

I could go on and on about the foreign policy failures of the last administrations with respect to the Middle East, but it is not the only region in worse shape. Under President Obama's watch, Russia invaded Crimea and eastern Ukraine. It repeatedly threatened NATO member states and ramped up its cyber espionage to influence and undermine public confidence in free and fair elections both in the United States and in Europe. Along the way, our allies in Europe were cast aside rather than assured of our support—all with Russia's mounting aggression close by.

In the Pacific, China continued to advance its regional dominance by making claims to islands disputed by our allies, going so far as to convert sand bars and reefs into island military bases—some with 10,000-foot military-capable runways right there in the South China Sea.

Finally, North Korea continues to develop and test its nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities with the threat of soon being able to use both to reach the continental United States. North Korea carried out four nuclear tests during the Obama administration. That is simply unacceptable.

The truth is, after two terms of inaction, no coherent strategy, and leading from behind, our allies and partners around the world questioned the commitment and power of the United States and our ability to defend our national interests around the globe.

I, personally, am thankful for what we have seen President Trump accomplish so far, even in a short period of time. His tough but honest discussions about America's role in the world are appreciated not only by those of us here at home but by our allies and friends around the world who have been hungry for American leadership.

When Assad crossed a line the entire international community deemed abhorrent, President Trump, unlike President Obama, took action. Unfortunately, President Trump has inherited foreign policy predicaments that were created by both the action and inaction of his predecessor around the world. My hope is, President Trump will continue to work with the great team he has assembled to make sure U.S. interests are put first and that America continues to exert its leadership role around the world.

The truth is, a strong America and an America that leads is a stabilizing and peacekeeping influence around the world. Just the opposite is also true. As America retreats, there is no other country that can fill that leadership vacuum. It is inherently destabilizing, and it is an invitation for bad actors around the world to take advantage of that power vacuum.

I look forward to working with the administration, as well as all of our colleagues in the Congress, to help keep Americans safe by making clear that we will back up and support our allies and partners abroad and send a powerful message to those who threaten our interests.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I support Mr. Rosenstein's nomination

to be Deputy Attorney General. Not only is he a very experienced and accomplished attorney, he has served in the Justice Department for almost three decades under five Presidents, but he served as the U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland under both President Bush and President Obama—a very rare record of service. During his nominations hearing to be Deputy Attorney General, Mr. Rosenstein promised us that he would “work to defend the integrity and independence of our justice department, to protect public safety, to preserve civil rights, to pursue justice, to advance the rule of law and to promote public confidence.”

However, many Members have mentioned they are concerned about the FBI Director's announcement of an investigation of Russia. And during his nominations hearing, Mr. Rosenstein was repeatedly asked if he would commit to appointing a special counsel to handle any investigation in this matter. I was impressed with his unfailing commitment to independence when he answered these questions.

Rather than prejudice investigations before he knows the facts, he unwaveringly promised to make decisions only after thoroughly reviewing all the relevant information in a particular case. He committed to not prejudice the situation before he knew the facts. And he committed to conducting every investigation with independence.

I personally believe Mr. Rosenstein possesses the necessary independence to conduct any investigation of this type. He told us he had never met with Russian officials nor has he spoken to the President or Attorney General about this matter. And he spoke in great length about his career-long commitment to independence and to conduct his work free from political concerns.

In fact, we already know that he has a well-known reputation for independence. In 2012, Attorney General Holder specifically asked Mr. Rosenstein to handle a special investigation into leaks of classified information because of his reputation for independence and impartiality.

When Republicans suggested a special prosecutor might be appropriate, members of the Judiciary Committee assured us that none was necessary precisely because Mr. Rosenstein was at the helm of the investigation. One member of the Committee described him as a “scrupulous man” and “independent.” There was “no reason to believe why [he] cannot work with the FBI and assemble a very strong prosecution team where warranted.”

Mr. Rosenstein is still scrupulous and independent. If Mr. Rosenstein could conduct an investigation with independence under Holder then, he can certainly do it now. Furthermore, Mr. Rosenstein comes with high recommendations from a bipartisan list of former Attorneys General and Deputy Attorneys General. And he comes with high recommendations from his home state Senators, current and former.

Former Senator Mikulski wrote the committee and told us that he will be a “strong, experienced leader at the Department of Justice who is fair and committed to the equal application of our laws” and “In these polarized times, now, more than ever we need a strong, experienced leader at the Department of Justice who is fair and committed to the equal application of our laws. I hope the Senate will confirm Rod Rosenstein for this important position.”

After Senator CARDIN described all Mr. Rosenstein's professional accomplishments when he was introducing him at the hearing, he said, “What impresses me the most, he has done this in a totally non-partisan manner.” And concluded by saying, “I think Mr. Rosenstein is the right person at the right time for Deputy Attorney General.”

Finally, James Cole, President Obama's Deputy Attorney General, wrote to inform the committee that Mr. Rosenstein will respect the need for the Department “to not only enforce the laws, but to also maintain a level of independence that enables it to have credibility in the eyes of our citizens.”

From all I see and know about him, I believe Mr. Rosenstein will keep his promise for integrity and independence. He promised us if he is confirmed as Deputy Attorney General, “all investigations under my supervision [will] be initiated and conducted in a fair, professional, and impartial manner, without regard to political considerations.” We can't ask for anything more. I urge all my colleagues to join me in voting to confirm Mr. Rosenstein to be Deputy Attorney General.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all time postcloture on the Rosenstein nomination expire at 5 p.m. today and that, if confirmed, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume consideration of the Acosta nomination.

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

Mr. GRASSLEY. I yield the floor.

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:30 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. PORTMAN).



## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

HONORING NEBRASKA'S SOLDIERS WHO LOST  
THEIR LIVES IN COMBAT

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I rise today to remember another of Nebraska's fallen heroes—those young men and women who have given their lives defending our freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan. They all have different stories. Their families all have the same request: Remember their sacrifice. By telling the stories of these heroes here on the Senate floor, we honor the request of these Gold Star families.

## SPECIALIST WILLIAM "BILL" BAILEY

Today, Mr. President, I honor the life and service of William "Bill" Bailey of Bellevue, NE. Now, the name "William" comes from old German. It means "determined protector". Bill Bailey lived up to his name. His mother Margaret says he was a born protector. When Bill was very young, he lost his father to a car accident. Margaret recalls how Bill embraced his younger sister Jessy just after her birth. The word came to her at once: protective.

As he grew, Bill naturally looked to protect those outside his family too. Ron Budwig was matched with Bill through the Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

Ron recalled a simple but profound example of Bill looking out for Ron's family. Ron's mother was running late to one of the program's activities, and, meanwhile, the parking lot was filling up. Bill went and stood in a parking space, keeping it open until Ron's mother could come. It was a simple act, but it said a lot.

Bill attended Bellevue East, where the call to protect his country prompted him to enlist in the Nebraska Army National Guard in 1995. After graduating from high school in 1996, he served out his enlistment with distinction.

A few years later, in December 2000, Bill met Deanna, whom everyone calls Dee. She was a bank teller at Wells Fargo. He drove an armored truck. They met through a service window. Now, Bill had left the service in 2001 when his enlistment ended. After 9/11, he felt the call to serve his country again—but first things first. Bill and Dee married in 2004. Dee's children, Cody and Maqala, took immediately to Bill and his children, Catlynn and Billy. Logan soon followed.

As you can expect, Bill's protective nature made him a great father. It also made him a great firefighter. Extending his protection beyond his family once again, he joined the Bellevue Volunteer Fire Department. He was a natural fit. Whether there or working as a life flight dispatcher, Bill worked to keep Bellevue safe.

That deep desire to serve his country continued to tug at him. In 2005, Bill reenlisted in the Nebraska Army National Guard. Originally assigned to

the 600th Transportation Company, he transferred to the 755th Chemical Company. Why the transfer? Because he learned the 755th would soon deploy. In late 2006 it did. Bill Bailey went with it. The 755th Chemical Company was assigned to provide security escorts for truck convoys operating out of the Balad Air Base in Iraq. Iraq at this time was increasingly unstable. It was dangerous, but Bill's good nature made it bearable.

SGT Timothy Ossowski remembers SPC Bill Bailey fondly: "When I became his team leader, I thought I had struck the jackpot." By 2007, the insurgency in Iraq had erupted to new levels of violence. Increased American forces sought to seek out and destroy the al-Qaida network. Casualties ran high.

Despite the high operations tempo, Bill and Dee communicated almost every day through phone calls or texts. On May 24, they were able to talk by phone. In typical fashion, Bill mentioned he was excited to finish his dull watchtower duty and start a new security escort mission the next day. Bill was also excited for his upcoming leave in June, when the Bailey family planned to celebrate Bill's birthday.

The next day, May 25, 2007, Bill took part in that security escort mission. During it, his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device. Three Nebraska Army National Guard soldiers were wounded, and Bill Bailey was killed.

More than 1,000 people gathered in Bellevue to remember Bill. A Patriot Guard of more than 100 flag-flying motorcycles accompanied his funeral procession. Specialist Bailey earned several military awards, including the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, and the Combat Action Badge. Bill's brother-in-law, Damian Kuzeppa, summarized Bill's life:

Bill was a wonderful husband, brother, son, father. He dedicated quite a bit of his life to helping other people. He was definitely a go-doer. He will definitely be missed.

William Bailey is survived by his mother Margaret, his wife Deanna, and their children, Cody, Maqala, Catlynn, Billy, and Logan. Bill Bailey is a true Nebraska hero. I am honored to tell his story.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

## BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I am pleased to be able to serve with the Presiding Officer on the Committee on Homeland Security. Part of our responsibilities on homeland security is to make sure, to the extent that we can, that our borders are secure. We do that in a variety of ways. We do that, in some cases, with our Border Patrol officers. We have a lot of them. We appreciate the work they do.

We also have, in many places, particularly along the border of Mexico—as the Presiding Officer knows—a lot of fencing that is there. We have a lot of roads that our vehicles can travel

along to have mobility on the ground. Our President has proposed, at least earlier this year, that we spend about \$25 billion to build a wall, maybe 10-, 15-, 25-feet high along the 2,000 miles between the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico.

I have never been convinced that that is the best way—to put all of our money in the basket—that that is really the best way to better ensure the security of our border with Mexico. As it turns out, most of the folks who are coming into the United States from that part of the world are not Mexicans. Actually, more Mexicans are going back into Mexico than Mexicans coming across the border into the United States.

Most of the illegal immigration—not all but most of it—is coming from three countries: Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador. The reason why they come here is because their lives are miserable. They are miserable because we buy drugs. We have this insatiable appetite for illegal drugs. So a lot of them are trafficked through Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador.

We send money down to those three countries for the drugs, and we send guns down to that part of the world. When we catch bad guys in this country from Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador, we send them back to those three countries.

So part of the security of our southern border involves actually trying to help those three countries figure out ways to keep their people home, rather than wanting to come to our country. Part of it is making sure that they have decent lives to live. Twenty years ago, as you all may remember, a bunch of gunmen rounded up the supreme court justices in Colombia, took them into a room, and shot and killed them—shot them all to death.

It was a time when the government was tottering and there was a question of whether they were going to survive in Colombia. Some very brave people stood up in Colombia and said: No, no, we want to survive, we want to fend off the drug cartels, and we want to fend off the leftist guerillas. Ultimately, they were successful. It has taken 20 years.

They worked on something called Plan Colombia to help turn around their country. We came in, and we helped them. They did the heavy lifting, and we helped out as well. I like to say that it is sort of like at Home Depot: "You" can do it—using, in that case, Colombia—and "we" being the United States.

A similar kind of thing is going on in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador. They have come up with their own Plan Colombia. You might call it "Plan Central America." The three countries have come up with things they are responsible for doing to improve the quality of life for their folks and the ability to have economic growth and opportunity and hope. We are helping out as well. We have done



that in some appropriations bills for the last fiscal year. We are trying to spend a little bit more. Wisely invested, it will be a fraction of what they are actually spending on their own.

To the extent that those three countries can be more attractive to people who live there, that actually helps a whole lot in terms of the pressure on our own borders. Plus, it is the right thing to do. The other thing I would mention, as to our energy policy in this country, is that sometimes we have had an “all of the above” energy approach. It is not just coal, it is not just wind, it is not just solar, it is not just geothermal, it is not just nuclear, and it is not just natural gas. It is all of the above. It is conservation as well.

We need a similar approach to continuing to protect our borders, whether it is in the South or other places. But it should involve a variety of things. There are some places along the 2,000 miles where it will actually make some sense. There are a lot of places where a fence makes more sense. There are a lot of places where it makes more sense just to pave the roads alongside the border.

The Presiding Officer actually spent, as he said, his “misspent youth”—but I will say his youth—earlier in his life where he and other kayakers were in boats along the Rio Grande River. Part of border security is boats along that stretch of the river, that stretch of the border because it is literally hundreds of miles where the border is defined by a river. So in some places, boats make sense. In other places, boat ramps make sense.

Sometimes it makes sense to have drones up in the air that can surveil up to 100 miles into Mexico for folks coming our way. Sometimes it makes sense to put helicopters, sometimes fixed-wing aircraft. But you can't just send them up with binoculars. You need to put the right kind of surveillance equipment on there. We have that equipment. The key is to put it on the aircraft.

Sometimes stationary towers going up 200, 300 feet makes sense. Sometimes it makes sense to make those mobile. Sometimes we can put those surveillance systems 5,000 feet up in the air to look literally 100 miles into Mexico to see what is coming our way. If we have the right surveillance system, they could see not just during daylight, sunny skies, but they could see at night. They can see in fog and dense fog. So the key is all of the above—it is not any one thing—and to find out what works. The other thing is, maybe to continue to support and ask our Border Patrol: What do you guys and gals think? What do you think makes sense? And listen to them.

No, I am not smart enough to figure out how much money we put exactly in each one of those, but I think it makes sense, depending on what the needs are and on the advice of the folks who really are the experts on the ground, what

they suggest, and we can do an “all of the above” approach. But we also have to consider that the reason most of the illegals are coming to our country is that they live their lives in misery. If we don't do something to help them help themselves, we are going to be falling short of where we want to be.

I just wanted to share that before we recognize the next Senator.

I am looking forward to the inaugural address of the new Senator from Illinois.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I am honored to be on the floor for the maiden speech of my colleague Senator DUCKWORTH.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

#### OUR SHARED VALUES

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I thank my friend and mentor, a great Illinoisan, Senator DURBIN for being here today. I wouldn't be here without his guidance and friendship over the years.

It is truly an honor to stand at this desk, which was once held by another great Illinoisan by the name of Barack Obama, delivering my maiden speech from the floor of the U.S. Senate to the people of Illinois, the same State that has been represented in Washington by other impressive leaders like Paul Simon and Abraham Lincoln. And it is an honor to address the people of the United States of America, the greatest Nation in the world.

Though we have occasionally made choices as a society that do not reflect our best selves, we are today the greatest Nation on Earth because of the founding ideals that have anchored our Nation and because of the shared values that have guided the development and strength of our economy and our people—values like treating each other equally, showing strength and resilience in the face of hardship, and embracing the diversity that makes us who we are. They are shared values that have helped us to strive toward that more perfect Union the Constitution's Framers envisioned, a more perfect Union that offers everyone a chance to reach his or her potential, a more perfect Union that will not give up on its people, and a more perfect Union whose people don't give up on themselves either.

We face a great deal of challenges and threats, threats I know well, but we cannot allow today's hardships to change who we are as a people, to tear down the pillars that make this Nation great. Falling victim to fear and demagoguery will only ensure a weaker America for our children, and that is simply not the future I want for my Abigail.

When we, as a society, think about the future we want for all of our children, I think it is important for us to remember how we got here. Our Nation wasn't founded as the dominant global economic and military force that it is

today. We were not founded as the leader of the free world; our people built that. Americans understood that when we invest in ourselves, the fabric that holds our country together only grows stronger. A scrappy gang of patriots in the American Revolution—my own family included—won us our liberty, which we used to push for greater civil and human rights and to make investments in agricultural and educational systems that sparked our economy, allowing us to strengthen our military into the greatest fighting force the world has ever seen.

Success, however, was never guaranteed. From our founding, the United States of America was forged through fierce debates and stark divisions. Slavery led to bloodshed across the country, including in the Senate Chamber, and culminated in brothers killing brothers during our Civil War. Yet our Union made it through our greatest challenges and emerged even stronger. We emerged a more perfect Union.

Our strength has been on display outside of our military as well: When heroes like Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman risked everything to help bring an end to slavery; when Martin Luther King, Jr., had a dream; when the children of the Little Rock Nine braved harassment and abuse to bring an end to segregated schools and ensure educational opportunity for all; and when the backbreaking work of Asian and American laborers united our Nation from sea to shining sea with the completion of the transcontinental railroad.

America catalyzed the industrial revolution for the globe. We helped rescue the global community from fascism during World War II. We promoted civil and human rights around the globe. We explored space, launched the internet revolution, helped feed the world, built a world-class infrastructure network, developed a gold standard education system, and grew the strongest economy ever seen.

We were able to win World War II not because of the brave troops in our Armed Forces alone but also because our Nation's manufacturers and steel mills were able to produce the tanks and planes and firearms and other tools we needed to defeat the Nazis. We were able to build those weapons, launch the internet revolution, and send a man to the Moon only because we had a well-educated workforce made of people from all around the globe, all of whom had an opportunity to attend world-class colleges and universities right here in the United States, universities we spent generations strengthening.

Our economy was able to grow to its current strength not only because of that well-educated workforce and those who came from distant lands but also all who came and stayed to contribute to our society. It was also able to grow because we had invested heavily in infrastructure and built an interstate system and air and rail networks that enabled our farmers, ranchers, and

other producers to get their goods to market inside and outside our country's borders.

We were able to feed the world not only because of our strong agricultural sector and infrastructure alone but also because of the scientific advances supported by those educational institutions that helped increase farm production and yields.

Throughout our history, we pushed to expand human and civil rights from the abolitionists to the suffragettes, learning from people like the Tuskegee Airmen, the Selma marchers, and the LGBTQ leaders today that being inclusive and enabling people to reach their full potential only strengthens the American core. We did all of these things as a result of our shared values, and we have reaped their rewards for generations.

We have seen our Nation's strength in our prouder moments, as when America chose to go to the Moon—not because it was easy but, in President Kennedy's words, because it was hard.

We have seen our strength in tragedy, reuniting under a common cause in the rubble of the Pentagon and Ground Zero on 9/11.

We might get knocked down, but the America that I know, the America that I fought for and love, does not give up. That is not a Democratic principle or a Republican principle; it is simply the American way.

America's greatness has never depended on the strength of any individual person, but on all of us working together toward a common goal. When we have failed to stay true to our core values, when we deny another person our Nation's promise of opportunity, our Nation's strength suffers. When a child can't access the tools to succeed in school, when a woman can't afford basic healthcare, when refugees fleeing terror see the door slammed shut in their face, when we deny civil rights on the basis of skin color or sexual orientation or religion, and when a working family can't put food on the table, our whole Nation suffers. At the end of the day, America's greatness depends on each of us remaining true to the common values of our Nation.

But we have lost sight of those values. The Nation that built an interstate highway system, that was a refuge for immigrants who became the foundation of our economy, this Nation that pushed humanity to new heights, first with planes and helicopters and then into space, that same Nation seems to have forgotten how to invest in itself.

Our country that ushered in the era of aviation is now home to aging airports that struggle to compete with their global competitors. Our country that took on the Herculean task of reversing the flow of the Chicago River to protect the city's drinking water can no longer muster the resources to modernize public water systems to prevent our children from being poisoned by lead. Our country that built the

greatest military the world has ever seen, sending a signal that we will not cower in front of anyone, now finds itself with leaders who believe in the misguided notion that it is simply better to hide behind walls than to help lead with strength.

Make no mistake, America has not lost her greatness. Our Nation remains the dominant force on the global stage. But if we don't act, if we don't invest in ourselves, our adversaries are positioned to overtake us.

Though some may try to convince us the path forward is less engagement with the world, less acceptance of others, and less investment in ourselves, I know the path forward for our country cannot include—does not include—turning our backs on the shared values that built this Nation.

Perhaps more than any other State, Illinois knows this. We represent all the strengths of our Nation, from our dynamic cities to our strong rural and industrial communities and everything in between. We are the realization of the values that have created that robust American economy, bolstered by a strong agricultural community and manufacturing sector, both of which innovate and strengthen our Nation with the help of wise public policy and investments.

Those investments enabled Illinois steelworkers to help us develop our farmland, build our cities, and secure our military strength. American manufacturing built this Nation, but too many of the steel mills we relied on to win World War II have been idled or shuttered completely.

After years of illegal trade practices, like dumping of cheap foreign products and currency manipulation by our competitors, our manufacturing base has been weakened. That hurts not only American jobs but also our Nation's military strength as well as the resilience of our entire economy. We simply need to do a better job of keeping manufacturing jobs within our borders, and we need to make the investments necessary to ensure that we have a workforce trained for our 21st century jobs.

We can do better by Illinois' tens of thousands of farmers as well. These farmers, ranchers, and agricultural workers form the basis of our Nation. They all wake up with a purpose, each farm feeding nearly 170 people every year while supporting an industry that is developing cutting-edge biofuels and other technologies.

I have seen firsthand the painful price our Nation pays because of our overreliance on oil imported from our competitors. The simple fact is that American farmers are helping us improve our national security. They are helping to strengthen our Armed Forces and our entire country every day. They are already helping produce billions of gallons of clean fuel for our cars, our factories, and our military, and every single one of those gallons brings us closer to energy independence.

We cannot afford to leave our agricultural sector behind. We should be working to preserve policies like the Renewable Fuel Standard that support agricultural jobs and to open new markets, like Cuba, for their goods.

For generations, our manufacturers and agricultural sectors have relied on a strong infrastructure network, including roads, bridges, waterways, railways, and air transportation, to get their goods to market, both domestically and internationally. Illinois has often led the way. We built the Nation's first elevated electric rail line in the 1800s. But today, far too much of that infrastructure is crumbling. It is in dire need of the investments our society once understood the need for. The down payments previous generations made paid dividends to us all in the form of increased tourism, lower costs, more efficient shipments, easier travel, and so many other benefits.

If we fail to continue the investments past generations have made, we risk falling behind our global competitors, hurting not only our tourism industry but also our manufacturers and our hard-working ranchers, farmers, and producers who will find it harder and more expensive to get their products to market.

If we choose to disregard our infrastructure much longer, we simply will not be able to compete in the 21st century global economy. Improving our infrastructure isn't a partisan issue. It is common sense. It is an economic priority, a defense priority, and a national security imperative. This is something we can all work on together.

I am proud to say that the first bill I proposed after arriving here in the Senate passed unanimously with bipartisan support. It will cut redtape and help streamline efforts to modernize our infrastructure and allow our economy to continue growing for generations to come.

That is also true of supporting our schools, colleges, and universities. We have developed global gold standards for education that enable our manufacturers, agricultural workers, engineers, and brilliant Americans all across every sector to push our economy further.

There is a reason that wealthy elites across the globe—including world leaders from foreign lands—still send their children to be educated on our shores, in world class institutions like the University of Illinois and the University of Chicago. Our education system is widely recognized as the best in the world. Our teachers and institutions continue to produce some of the best trained and most skilled professionals in every field imaginable—both American and international students. That is a good thing.

But more and more Americans are no longer able to access those same educational opportunities. We have priced too many of our own children out of the market for those colleges and universities that we have developed to ensure our Nation's workforce remains

more skilled than our competitors, or we have saddled them with crippling debt. We are failing to make the necessary investments in K–12 public institutions that, regardless of ZIP Code, should be preparing every single one of our children to lead our country into the future.

Quality primary education should not be a privilege only for the wealthy, and it should not depend on rolling the dice on receiving a voucher. In the greatest and wealthiest Nation in the world, a quality education should be a right for every single American child. Our Nation's promise of opportunity should be a reality for every child in America, not just for those whose parents can afford it. We already have some of the world's greatest teachers, the brightest students, and the best facilities within our own borders. All we have to do is ensure they have the resources they need to succeed. That means our kids should not have to worry about going to school hungry or getting the help they need after school or being able to pay for college when they graduate high school.

That is why I focus on commonsense solutions to increase access to educational opportunity, whether by helping to lead the charge to make college more affordable or doing well to ensure the education we are providing people actually helps them find good-paying jobs when they graduate.

In that vein, I am also disheartened by the recent erosion of civil rights protections in our Nation. The calls for bigger walls and closed doors are not only bad, costly policies, they run counter to our society's shared value for inclusion over exclusion. Too many of us seem to forget the immigrant roots within our own families. If we lose sight of our Nation's founding principles, as some in Washington would like us to do, we will lose out on the innovations we have seen from immigrants and immigrant families.

If we had rejected immigrants years ago, Apple Computers might never have been founded by the son of a Syrian man. I worry that at a time when we still have so much work to do to make our Union more perfect and to provide truly equal rights for all, under the current administration we are at risk of backtracking on hard-fought progress made by civil rights leaders who bled and even died for the rights of all Americans, regardless of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, income or ZIP Code to have the right to vote, to have equal protection under the law, to have basic worker protections, and for the everyday rights and privileges so many of us take for granted. We still have so much progress left to make if we want the American dream to be accessible to all Americans—equal pay for equal work, a criminal justice system that truly provides justice for all, nationwide leave policies that enable anyone to take time to care for a sick family member or to start a family, a society that is

accessible for all disabled Americans and truly equal for all LGBTQ Americans.

I worry that we are at risk of going backward instead of forward. Failing to continue our Nation's inclusive nature weakens our global standing as well as the rest of the world begins to look elsewhere for moral leadership. That would be a failure for us and a weakening of our Nation that I will fight to prevent.

Of course, I also know how much our military has contributed to our Nation's greatness throughout our history. We must do a better job of recognizing these contributions, not just by purchasing equipment and technology, though what our skilled workforce has done is the envy of the world, but also by ensuring that we recognize and respect the sacrifices made by our troops, our military families, and our veterans. Servicemembers embody our values of shared sacrifice and perseverance, of loyalty and selfless service, and they each make great sacrifices to protect us.

They deserve from their leaders in Washington a clear sense of mission and strategy, and they deserve to know we fully support them. So, yes, when the drums of war are beating in the White House or in Congress, you can bet I am going to be right here on the floor of the Senate, asking tough questions and making sure our leaders in Washington, especially those who have never worn the uniform, truly consider the true costs of war—not just in dollars and cents but in human lives—in the commitments we are making on behalf of the Nation. I will also be here to remind my colleagues that we are all dishonored when any veteran is forced to lay their head down to sleep on the same streets they defended. We must end veterans homelessness. When our troops come home, I will be working to see that the veterans receive the care and support they earned for the sacrifices they have made.

Each of these components of our society contribute to what has made our country great—our military, our values, our infrastructure, our agriculture, our manufacturers, and our world-class educational system. If we fall prey to our fears, to our worst demons, and allow any of these pillars to fall, we will lose our opportunity to remain the leader of the world. We can rebuild the foundation of our Nation's strength and revamp it for the 21st century, but we can't simply rest on our past successes and act like our greatness is guaranteed forever. It isn't. It will take work.

This is deeply personal for me. I wouldn't be here today without the public education that enabled me to serve in our military for more than two decades and allowed me to give back to my Nation, both in and out of uniform.

Our Nation would not be as strong as it is today without the millions of individuals who sacrificed to build it. Our Nation's strength—what truly makes

America great—is rooted firmly in our shared sense of sacrifice. It comes from our single parents working multiple jobs just to make sure our kids don't go to school hungry; it comes from the farmer in Illinois waking long before dawn and working long after dusk to help power and feed our Nation; it comes from an immigrant family willing to put everything on the line to give their kids a chance at a better life than their own; it comes from the hard work and compassion, the sacrifice that Americans serving in our country in and out of the military demonstrate every single day.

We can all do a better job of remembering the shared values that have helped to build this Nation, but I want to make one thing clear: America is already great. We shouldn't let anyone tell us otherwise.

We know we still have a lot of work to do as a country, but let us not lose sight of the core values that make our improbable Union possible. We are still the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth, and if anyone has the capacity to overcome the challenges of today, it is this Nation. It is the American people.

I thank my colleagues for joining me today for my maiden speech.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

CONGRATULATING SENATOR DUCKWORTH

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise to thank my colleague for her first speech. The first speech given on the floor of the Senate is a memorable occasion for not only my colleague but for the staff, friends, and family who have followed this amazing story of TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a U.S. Senator from Illinois. She didn't disappoint with this first speech.

If there was ever an inspirational speech speaking to who we are as a nation and what we can be, she encapsulated it in her comments on the floor of the U.S. Senate. It was an aspirational speech, too—a challenge to all of us to do a better job for this Nation, to make it stronger and to represent more effectively the people who have sent us here to serve them.

She brings a special quality to the service that very few have been able to bring to the U.S. Senate. I first met MAJ TAMMY DUCKWORTH 12 years ago when she was my guest at the State of the Union Address just weeks after her helicopter had been shot down over Iraq. I was amazed by her tenacity, her courage, her good humor. I thought to myself, this woman has really made history. I think she can even make more history, and she has, being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives as well as the U.S. Senate, an opportunity that fewer than 2,000 Americans have had in our Nation's history.

I think back on what she brings to the Senate, and it is something that is special and extraordinary. To come to this Senate after her service in the military is to follow in the path of Senator Bob Dole, a disabled veteran from

World War II, who led the Republican side of the aisle; Senator Daniel Inouye, a personal friend to both Senator DUCKWORTH and me, who served in World War II; Senator Paul Douglas of Illinois, who served as well; Strom Thurmond, from South Carolina, a Republican; and more recently, Max Cleland, a Vietnam veteran; Bob Kerrey, John Kerry—the list goes on and on, the great people who have served our Nation in the military and then came to serve in the Senate.

One of the points she made in that speech was one of the reasons I supported her so wholeheartedly. When we face the most difficult, trying, and challenging votes in a Senate career, the vote to go to war, having the voice of TAMMY DUCKWORTH on the floor is a reminder of the real cost of war and how we should avoid it at any cost, if we can, and what we are asking our men and women in America to do if we send them off to war. She will have more credibility, will have more confidence in her judgment, than virtually any colleague on the floor of the U.S. Senate. So she is going to play a special role.

Finally, let me say, in a short period of time serving as a U.S. Senator from the State of Illinois, she has shown that she is not going to be taking it easy. She has covered our State from one end to the other, most recently during the Easter recess, with town meetings and meetings with all sorts of people across our State, leaving a positive impression of her commitment to public service.

When I saw her and her mom and her little daughter Abigail get on the plane just the other day, yesterday, to come out here, I realized it is a family commitment which includes all of her family and her husband Bryan. They are committed to this country, they are committed to our great State, and we are fortunate to have her service.

Mr. President, I congratulate my colleague.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. HOEVEN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### THE ECONOMY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, it is no surprise that the economy continues to be one of the top issues on the minds of Americans. The 8 years of the Obama administration were characterized by weak economic growth, a dearth of jobs and opportunities, and almost nonexistent wage growth. The Obama administration ushered in long-term economic stagnation.

The Congressional Budget Office predicts that the economy will grow at a rate of just 1.9 percent over the next 30

years—a full percentage point lower than the average growth rate over the past 50 years. We cannot resign ourselves to that. Resigning ourselves to long-term growth of 1.9 percent would mean resigning ourselves to decades of fewer jobs and opportunities, low wage growth, and a reduced standard of living. Fortunately, there are a lot of things we can do to get our economy thriving again and to spur economic growth.

A recent report from the Economic Innovation Group identified one important problem with our economy today, and that is a lack of what the EIG calls economic dynamism. Economic dynamism, as the Economic Innovation Group defines it, refers to the rate at which new businesses are born and die.

In a dynamic economy, the rate of new business creation is high and significantly outstrips the rate of business death, but that has not been the case in the United States lately. New business creation has significantly dropped over the past several years. Between 2009 and 2011, business death outstripped business birth, and while the numbers have since improved slightly, the recovery has been poor and far from historical norms.

The Economic Innovation Group notes that in 2012—which, by the way, was the economy's best year for business creation since the recession—it still “fell far short of its worst year prior to 2008.” This is deeply concerning because new businesses have historically been responsible for a substantial part of the job creation in this country, not to mention a key source of innovation. When new businesses are not being created at a strong rate, workers face a whole host of problems. “A less dynamic economy,” the Economic Innovation Group notes, “is one likely to feature fewer jobs, lower labor force participation, slack wage growth, and rising inequality—exactly what we see today.”

Restoring economic dynamism would go a long way toward boosting economic growth and providing new jobs and opportunities for American workers. One big thing we can do to achieve this is to relieve the burden of excessive government regulations. Obviously, some government regulations are important and necessary, but too many others are unnecessary and do nothing but load businesses with compliance costs and paperwork hours. The more resources businesses spend on complying with regulations, the less they have available for growth and innovation. Excessive regulations also prevent many new businesses from ever getting off the ground. Small startups simply do not have the resources to hire individuals—let alone consultants and lawyers—to do the costly work of complying with scores of government regulations.

Unfortunately, over the past 8 years, the Obama administration spent a lot of time on imposing burdensome and unnecessary regulations on American

businesses. According to the American Action Forum, the Obama administration was responsible for implementing more than 675 major regulations that cost the economy more than \$800 billion. Given those numbers, it is no surprise that the Obama economy left businesses with few resources to dedicate to growing and creating jobs or that new business creation seriously dropped off during the Obama administration.

Since the new Congress began in January, Republicans in Congress and the President have been focused on repealing burdensome Obama-era regulations. So far, we have saved individuals and businesses approximately \$67 billion and freed them from 56 million hours of paperwork. Eliminating burdensome regulations will continue to be a priority for both Republicans in Congress and for the White House.

In addition to removing burdensome regulations, we need to focus on reforming our Tax Code. Our current Tax Code is strangling businesses, both large and small. Some corporations escape with paying very little in taxes, but others end up paying the highest corporate tax rate in the developed world. Meanwhile, small businesses and family farms face high tax rates, at times exceeding those paid by large corporations.

Tax reform needs to address these obstacles to growth. We need to trim our excessive corporate tax rate to make U.S. businesses competitive in the global economy, and we need to reduce taxes for small businesses so that we do not choke off these sources of growth and innovation. Measures like allowing new businesses to deduct their startup costs and expense more of their investments in machinery and equipment would spur new business creation and help small businesses thrive.

Our goal is to take up tax reform this year, and I am looking forward to that debate. Reforming our Tax Code will go a long way toward restoring dynamism to our economy and encouraging growth, job creation, and better wages.

There are other growth-boosting measures we can take as well, like removing unnecessary barriers that restrict access to capital. Both new and existing businesses rely on capital to help them innovate and expand.

The last 8 years were discouraging years for American workers, but the stagnation of the Obama years does not have to be the new normal. American workers and job creators are as dynamic and creative as ever; we just need to clear the obstacles from their paths. I look forward to working with my colleagues this year as we make putting our economy on the path to long-term health and vitality a top priority for the U.S. Senate.

I yield the floor.

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. MCCONNELL. 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 BRIAN MCGUIRE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this is one of those days I never look forward to. In my time in the Senate, I have had a lot of outstanding chiefs of staff. It is a pretty impressive group of men and women who have been in that position with me over the years—none more impressive than the person who, unfortunately, I have to say goodbye to today.

I am here today to pay tribute to Brian McGuire, the chief of staff in my personal office, who is going to be leaving after well over 10 years of service in several different capacities but over the last few years as my personal office chief of staff. He is really a uniquely gifted person. He is one of the most skilled writers I have ever encountered and, in fact, in my career, the most skilled writer I ever encountered. But in addition to that, he is good at a whole lot of other things, too, as I will subsequently describe in my remarks.

As I think back about the chiefs of staff I have fortunately been lucky enough to have, none has been better at so many different things than Brian McGuire. I always hate to see these talented people go, but we know the best way for each of us to operate is to do what is in our own best interests. Of course, he has reached the point where he has a big family. There are more lucrative alternatives out there—maybe not as much fun and not as meaningful as daily life around here but important to making sure our families are taken care of.

It is hard to know really where to begin with Brian. He came to my office in 2007. It was a critical time. I had just been elected Senate Republican leader. We were not in the majority, but I had just been elected to this position. There was a lot of pressure to get things right.

Obviously, I was setting up a new staff in the leadership office. I wanted the best I could find. When we set out to hire a speechwriter, I certainly wasn't envisioning an upstate New Yorker with a master's in philosophy and a resume that included stints at HUD and the Schenectady Daily Gazette. From HUD to the Schenectady Daily Gazette and a guy from Albany, NY—not exactly what I had envisioned, but that was Brian McGuire, and he quickly proved himself in that role. That wouldn't surprise anyone who knows Brian. He is, as I said earlier, a skilled writer. He is bright. He is talented. He is guided by faith and his family. He is also the consummate professional, going above and beyond each and every time, no matter what the challenge, and we have plenty of them. As the years went by, there would be many different challenging situations—communications challenges, policy challenges, political chal-

lenges—but whatever the issue, Brian always rose to the moment.

After the 2014 election, when I became majority leader, I asked Brian to leave speechwriting behind and become the chief of staff in my personal office. He agreed, fortunately. He took to his new opportunity to serve the people of Kentucky with similar skill and always good humor.

These days, you would be forgiven for thinking Brian had spent his formative years in Albany, KY, rather than Albany, NY. He is an adaptable guy. He led my office in pressing the Commonwealth's priorities on issues as diverse as industrial hemp, clean coal technology, and the fight against heroin and opioid abuse. So we can see the versatility, from a skilled writer from New York, of all places, to an effective advocate for Kentucky and Kentucky's interests.

Brian will be ably succeeded by another impressive individual, Phil Maxson, a Kentucky native who I know will continue Brian's legacy of service to Kentucky and who will serve with similar distinction.

Brian McGuire probably never imagined he would find himself here. Like me, he grew up dreaming of a career in the Major Leagues. As he put it, though, you can either hit the fastball or you can't. And since neither of us could, we ended up here. But Brian is more than just another power hitter; he, like his idol growing up, the Mets' Keith Hernandez, is an all-star. Brian is an indispensable utility player who can play every position, and I am not sure what I would have done without him. He is also one of the most interesting guys you will meet. Brian has a great sense of humor and a rather infamous reputation for spot-on impressions. He is probably the only one around here who holds Keith Hernandez and Aristotle in similar reverence and can reference each with similar ease.

At his core, though, Brian is incredibly grounded. He is all about the things that really matter—his Catholic faith, his two beautiful children, Stella and Max, and his wonderful wife Ashley. Ashley, I am happy to say, is due with their third child next month—just in time for Mother's Day. So Brian has a lot to look forward to as he climbs the next mountain. I hope he takes some time to look back and reflect on all he has accomplished here in his time with us.

Let me say again that Brian McGuire, on so many different occasions, has made me look so much better than I am. I could never thank him enough for the enormous contribution he made not only to my career but to Kentucky and to the Nation. So it won't surprise my colleagues to know I am going to miss Brian McGuire a lot.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the nomination of Rod J. Rosenstein to be the Deputy At-

torney General of the United States at the Justice Department. Rod has served the people of Maryland extraordinarily well since 2005 as the U.S. attorney for the District of Maryland. I am pleased to support his nomination, and I hope the Senate will confirm him in very short order.

I might point out that he received a favorable recommendation from the Judiciary Committee by a lopsided vote of 19-to-1.

Rod Rosenstein is the total package. He has committed his life to public service. Rod graduated from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania with a B.S. in economics, summa cum laude, in 1986. He earned his J.D. degree from Harvard Law School in 1989, where he was the editor of the Harvard Law Review. He then served as a law clerk to Judge Douglas H. Ginsburg of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. After finishing his clerkship in 1990, he became a trial attorney in the Public Integrity Section of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice. He has remained at the Justice Department for his entire career.

Mr. Rosenstein has devoted his life to public service. In Maryland, Rod was appointed in 2005 by President Bush and then held over by President Obama, with the strong support of his two home State Senators, which include myself and the senior Senator at that time, Senator Barbara Mikulski. Rod has now become the longest serving U.S. attorney in the country today.

I really want to underscore that point. I know my colleagues know the prerogatives we have when we come into office and there is an opening at the U.S. attorney's office because of an election of a President from your own party where the previous U.S. attorney was appointed by the other party. In this case, it was a Republican who appointed Mr. Rosenstein. President Obama came into office, and the senior Senator and junior Senator had the opportunity to replace that U.S. attorney, which has been the tradition in the Senate. Senator Mikulski and I had no hesitation when asking Mr. Rosenstein to remain on as the U.S. attorney in Maryland. We did that because we knew how valuable he was for law enforcement in our State.

As U.S. attorney for the District of Maryland, Rod has garnered broad bipartisan support from the State and local law enforcement officials across our great State as he has tackled problems of crime, terrorism, drug trafficking, gun and gang violence, civil rights enforcement, environmental crimes, intellectual property fraud, and corruption. I just mentioned a couple of those.

I sat down with the U.S. attorney to talk about gang violence in our State because I had been to Central America and I saw the exporting of gang violence from Central America to Maryland. The U.S. attorney, Mr. Rosenstein, and I had a chance to talk about

the strategies we would use in Maryland to combat that. But he didn't just work by himself at the U.S. attorney level; he worked with local law enforcement to make sure we had a team approach.

In terms of his pro bono work, Rod wrote in his Judiciary Committee questionnaire:

My entire legal career has been devoted to public service, and much of my work directly benefits disadvantaged persons. In addition to my official duties and public speaking, I have taught without compensation at area law schools, served as a judge at law school moot court and mock trial competitions, and counseled other lawyers who have devoted some or all of their career to public service.

He has truly been a model for many others in public service, a real role model.

Let me share a few examples with my colleagues of how State and local officials in Maryland have viewed Rod's work over the past decade. Let me begin with the city of Baltimore, which has just entered into a consent decree with the U.S. Department of Justice to reform its police practices after the death of Freddie Gray in custody 2 years ago.

Baltimore police commissioner Kevin Davis wrote:

Mr. Rosenstein and the Baltimore Police Department have collaborated on numerous large-scale investigations and resulting indictments of violent criminal organizations operating in Baltimore City. Under Mr. Rosenstein's leadership, the U.S. Attorney's Office and its prosecutors operate with the highest sense of justice and integrity in the course of these investigations and trials.

Commissioner Davis continues:

It is undeniable that Baltimore City is a safer place as a result of Mr. Rosenstein's tenure as U.S. Attorney. Through our professional collaborations, I have come to know Mr. Rosenstein on a personal basis as well. Mr. Rosenstein is a man of utmost character and intellect.

Former State's attorney for Baltimore City, Gregg Bernstein, a Democrat, wrote:

Simply stated, Rod was a terrific partner. Even a cursory review of his body of work as the United States Attorney for the District of Maryland makes readily apparent that Rod was committed to reducing the level of violent crime in Baltimore. His commitment and effort trickled down to other law enforcement agencies as well, including the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office.

In Rod, we saw a person who was not interested in personal credit or accolade, but instead, one who created an atmosphere of collaboration that had not been seen in Baltimore for some time. It was much more important to him that everyone was working as hard as they could to fight crime in the City and the rest of Maryland.

Mr. Bernstein continues:

As a result of his tireless efforts, Rod helped to reduce the homicide rate in Baltimore to historically low levels not seen in decades. He also was responsible for supervising a United States Attorney's Office that was able to dismantle many of the gangs in Baltimore that were responsible for much of the illegal drug trade and violence that have plagued the City. He has earned the universal respect and admiration of not only his colleagues in the United States Attorney's

Office, but other law enforcement agencies, and a debt of gratitude from the public that has greatly appreciated his work to make Baltimore a safer place to live and work.

State and local elected prosecutors of both political parties in Maryland have also weighed in in support of Mr. Rosenstein's nomination. Scott Shellenberger, the Baltimore County State's attorney, wrote on behalf of the Maryland State's Attorneys' Association:

Rod has been an outstanding partner with every local prosecutor in the State of Maryland. Whether it is partnering with prosecutors in the City of Baltimore to stem gun violence, to the prosecution of prison gang corruption both in the city and in rural counties . . . Rod has always been there for law enforcement. When prosecutors in this State ask Rod for assistance, he does not care if you are a "D" or an "R," he has only cared about making this State a safer place. Rod makes his decisions based on the law, the evidence, logic and reasons, never allowing emotion or passion to move him from his core mission.

I have full confidence that Rod will call it like he sees it without regard to partisan or political considerations and that he will continue to uphold his oath to support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States.

I must tell you that I have heard from State and local officials directly who have worked with Rod on political corruption cases and thanked Rod for the manner in which he collaboratively worked to root out corruption and misconduct by State and local officials in Maryland. As you can imagine, State and local officials do not always welcome Federal investigations or prosecutions into their domain, so this really speaks volumes about Rod as a prosecutor and a person and his ability to get along and accomplish results.

Former Maryland attorney general Doug Gansler wrote:

I have always found [Rod] to be totally by-the-book and completely apolitical. Rod understands the importance of staying out of the political limelight. The fact that I am a Democrat who served in elected office for 16 years and that Rod was appointed by a Republican President never was mentioned. He makes decisions for the right reasons and articulates those reasons with aplomb. . . . Rod is and always has been extremely ethical and conscientious, qualities which have earned him the respect of his peers and colleagues.

As Deputy Attorney General, Rod Rosenstein would basically serve as the chief operating officer at the Justice Department and manage the daily operations of the Nation's largest firm. The Department of Justice is a sprawling Cabinet Department with more than 100,000 employees and a \$28 billion budget. That is a pretty big undertaking. It is good to know that a person of his reputation has shown that he will not yield to partisan pressure but do what is right. It is good to know that we have that type of person whom we can confirm as the Deputy Attorney General. That is why it is so important that we have an effective manager and leader.

Maryland attorney general Brian Frosh, a Democrat, wrote:

I have found [Rod] to be intelligent, principled, and fair. As U.S. Attorney, Mr. Rosenstein has been an exemplary leader. He inherited an office that was in turmoil. With a steady hand and superb management, he has built it into an institution that is universally respected in our state. He has been able to recruit and retain extremely talented attorneys, investigators and staff, and the office has been effective and successful in carrying out its mission.

I expect Rod to exercise the same management style as the Deputy Attorney General overseeing the dozens of divisions, offices, and agencies at the Department of Justice. He will use that same commitment that he used as the U.S. attorney for the State of Maryland.

Lastly, let me quote from former Deputy Attorney General James Cole, who served in President Obama's administration under Attorney General Holder. I know Mr. Cole well. He was the special counsel during the House ethics investigation of former Speaker Newt Gingrich, which committee I was on. Mr. Cole supports Mr. Rosenstein's nomination. Mr. Cole writes:

Rod brings with him the knowledge, skill, experience, and wisdom that is required for this job. He also brings an understanding of, and respect for, the important role the Department of Justice occupies in our government—the need for it to not only enforce the laws, but to also maintain a level of independence that enables it to have credibility in the eyes of our citizens. Rod will make an excellent Deputy Attorney General. . . . Even at an earlier age, he exhibited the sound judgment and careful thought that was necessary to handle the very sensitive public corruption cases that were prosecuted by the [Public Integrity Section of the Criminal Division].

That is Mr. Cole. Mr. Cole was a former Deputy Attorney General, and he understands this role very well and understands Mr. Rosenstein is uniquely qualified to hold this position.

I want to conclude by urging my colleagues to support Mr. Rosenstein's nomination.

I especially thank Rod's family for their contribution to public service as well. As we know, we can't do this without a supportive family, and this service comes at a steep price in terms of time spent doing public service and sacrifices made by his family. I thank his wife Lisa and his daughters, Julie and Allison, for being willing to share their husband and father with our country.

I urge the Senate to confirm Mr. Rosenstein's nomination to be the next Deputy Attorney General of the United States at the Justice Department.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Rod Rosenstein's nomination to be Deputy Attorney General comes at a unique moment in history and critical juncture for the Department of Justice, as well as for this country. It has been 44 years since the Senate considered a Justice Department nominee who will be in charge of an active criminal investigation into a sitting President's



campaign and administration. Since the Judiciary Committee reported Mr. Rosenstein's nomination to the Senate earlier this month, further press reports underscore how important it is that we have an independent and impartial investigation into Russian interference in our elections and connections with the Trump campaign and administration.

In just the past 3 weeks, we learned that a notable Trump campaign adviser was reportedly the subject of a FISA warrant. CNN reported that this adviser was among those who "Russian operatives tried to use . . . to infiltrate the Trump campaign." The AP reported that Paul Manafort, who worked for free as the Trump campaign chairman, previously received at least \$1.2 million for consulting work on behalf of a Ukrainian ally of Russian President Putin. That is in addition to reports that Mr. Manafort earned \$10 million per year for secret work on behalf of Vladimir Putin. We learned that President Trump's first National Security Advisor "failed to list payments from Russia-linked entities" on his financial disclosure forms. We also learned that the President's son-in-law and top adviser failed to disclose meetings with the Russian Ambassador and other officials on his application to obtain top secret security clearance—just like when the Attorney General provided false testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee in response to questions from me and Senator FRANKEN about his own Russian contacts.

If confirmed, Mr. Rosenstein will assume leadership of the sprawling investigation into Russia's multifaceted attempts to interfere with our elections, an investigation that embroils not only individuals in the Trump campaign, but also those who are now in the President's Cabinet and senior officials in the White House. Attorney General Sessions was forced to recuse himself from this investigation after the press revealed that he had misled the Judiciary Committee and the American people about his connections to Russian officials and agents. There is no question that the Attorney General's recusal was required—and should have happened on day 1 after assuming office. Justice Department regulations required him to recuse himself because of the integral role that then-Senator Sessions played in the Trump campaign and his continuing contacts with those directly under investigation. These Department of Justice regulations protect the impartiality of all Justice Department investigations.

The Justice Department's regulations regarding appointment of a special counsel are equally significant. These regulations direct appointment of a special counsel when there is "a conflict of interest for the Department or other extraordinary circumstances" and "it would be in the public interest to appoint an outside Special Counsel to assume responsibility for the mat-

ter." The current situation unquestionably meets that standard. Mr. Rosenstein acknowledged at his confirmation hearing that it would be an unusual challenge to lead an investigation that potentially includes the Attorney General, his direct supervisor. This investigation now not only includes Mr. Rosenstein's potential boss, but also several others inside the White House. Americans deserve an investigation that is independent and inspires public confidence, and that requires appointment of a special counsel who is free from political influence. This issue is too important for us to skew for partisan motivations. Country must come before party, and I hope and trust Mr. Rosenstein will understand that if he is confirmed.

We know that this administration and this President have already interfered with the House Intelligence Committee's investigation into Russian activity and connections to the Trump campaign. DEVIN NUNES, the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, recused himself from his own committee's investigation after what Ryan Lizza of the New Yorker called a "co-ordinated effort between the Trump Administration and [Chairman] Nunes . . . to manufacture a fake scandal" in order to distract from, as well as obstruct, any real investigation. Earlier this month, President Trump even said that "it's not too late" to fire FBI Director Comey. This administration cannot be trusted to respect the independence of any investigation, which is why we need an outside special counsel. Whoever assumes the role of Deputy Attorney General in this administration will face extraordinary tests of integrity. Mr. Rosenstein has a reputation for integrity that is unusual for this administration's nominees, and I hope he is up to the challenge.

We already know from the intelligence community's public report that Russian President Putin waged a multifaceted influence campaign to delegitimize Secretary Clinton and help Donald Trump win the Presidency. Worse, he intended to undermine public faith in our democratic process. This interference did not end on November 8th. It is ongoing and, according to the intelligence community, President Putin will continue using cyberattacks and propaganda campaigns to undermine our future elections—but there is still much we do not know.

We need a thorough, independent investigation. President Putin's goal last year was to undermine our democratic institutions—to corrode Americans' trust and faith in our government. If we do not get to the bottom of Russian interference, he will have been successful, and he will no doubt do it again. I hope that Mr. Rosenstein will do the right thing and appoint a special counsel to lead a truly independent investigation—one in which all Americans can have confidence.

If confirmed, Mr. Rosenstein will face other critical tests as well, including

whether he will continue to support the Justice Department's Smart on Crime initiative, focusing the most serious criminal penalties on the most serious offenders. With his 27 years of experience in the Justice Department, I hope that Mr. Rosenstein will be an independent check on the excesses of this administration, which has already sought to undermine the principle of judicial review. He has served as U.S. Attorney under both Democratic and Republican administrations, so I hope that, as Deputy Attorney General and as Acting Attorney General in matters relating to the Trump campaign, he will remember that he is not the President's attorney, but the people's attorney.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I rise today to address President Trump's proposed budget for fiscal year 2018. My predecessor in this seat, my friend, former Vice President Joe Biden, once said to me years ago: Show me your budget and I will show you your values.

One of my concerns about the proposal we have received—the initial slimmed-down overview proposal we have received—is that it suggests values that I think are quite out of line with what my home State of Delaware would look for me to be doing in this body, what I think addresses the real needs and priorities of the American people.

Last month President Trump released an overview of his budget—what is called a skinny budget—and we haven't yet received a full and detailed budget proposal. Even though what we have received is just an overview, it indicates that the cuts President Trump is proposing will significantly weaken vital domestic programs, often with the goal of completely eliminating existing and valued initiatives.

This chart gives a rough summary of all the different Federal agencies that would take double-digit hits in order to be able to pay for the significant \$54 billion increase to defense spending. Targeting only nondefense programs that millions of Americans and Delawareans rely on ignores commitments made over the last couple of budget cycles and years, as Republicans and Democrats have worked together to ensure placing equal priority on defense and nondefense spending.

Under sequestration, under the Budget Control Act, we have already made significant cuts to important domestic programs. After the difficult budgets of the last few years, in my view, we have already made too many cuts to some of the programs that helped build our Nation.

To be clear, I am as passionate as anyone in this body about supporting our Armed Forces, particularly when they are in harm's way and particularly as we continue to conduct operations against ISIS in Iraq and Syria.



But Democrats will not stand for cutting domestic programs simply to pay for a \$54 billion military expansion that hasn't been explained or justified through a thorough review of what are the appropriate investments in defense that will respond to the challenges and threats we face in this world.

To pay for that \$54 billion increase in defense by cutting investments in education, housing, job training, and more here at home strikes me as the wrong set of priorities and the wrong direction. If anything like these proposed Trump budget cuts are enacted, I know my home State of Delaware would lose millions and millions of dollars for valuable and effective Federal programs that help my constituents each and every day. Trump's budget proposal would cut research and health programs. It would cut job-creating infrastructure programs. It would cut grants for higher education. It would cut housing and so much more.

I wish to take a few minutes to focus on a few of many proposed budget cuts to give a sense of the impact it might have on our livelihood, our security, and our prosperity at home. Let me start with some cuts that would directly affect our national security, our safety.

In my view, the deep cuts made in the proposed Trump budget would simply make us less safe. For example, the U.S. Coast Guard, which has a station in Delaware, would be cut by more than \$1.3 billion. The Transportation Security Administration, or TSA, has just as high a cut. Ironically, even though these are the very agencies that protect our ports and other points of entry, Trump proposes cutting their funding so that a southern border wall can be built for an estimate well above \$25 billion. This simply makes no sense. If you listen to the words of the Coast Guard Commandant, ADM Paul Zukunft, he warned that simply focusing all those resources on building a wall along the border with Mexico would make our ports and waterways even more appealing to smugglers and those who seek to bring illicit drugs or to bring people into the United States through unlawful entry.

That is not all. The Trump budget would make us less safe by depleting Federal protection from natural disasters, starting with a proposed \$600 million cut to FEMA State and local grants. The budget also proposes restructuring fees for the National Flood Insurance Program, which would lead to raising rates for homeowners who get flood insurance.

My home State of Delaware is the lowest mean elevation State in America—literally the lowest lying State and ground zero for sea level rise. These cuts would have a significant impact on homeowners up and down my State, those at our seashore and those in my home community of Wilmington who face steadily rising flood insurance premiums.

It is not just our safety, though, that would be impacted by the President's

budget; it also threatens job growth and economic security. As a President who ran a campaign on a middle-class jobs agenda, I am struck that his proposed budget would endanger Americans across the country financially by also undermining support for development in both rural areas and urban areas. Take the Department of Agriculture, which provides critical support through the Rural Development Program. In Delaware, at least, Rural Development, or RDA, has played a critical role in supporting housing, businesses, and communities in the rural parts of Delmarva—Delaware and Maryland.

The Trump budget would also eliminate the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, or RBS, which promotes economic development in distressed rural areas. That is a program which has supported things like Del Tech automotive technician training and architectural services for the Seaford Historical Society, among many other things.

Something I am much more familiar with and more passionate about is the Manufacturing Extension Partnership. Across the State of Delaware, the MEP, as it is known, has helped small and medium manufacturing companies to be better at taking advantage of cutting-edge technology, understanding how to manage their inventory, how to invest more wisely in new capital equipment, and how to grow and compete around the world.

Since 2000, Delaware's Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program has used Federal support to help Delaware manufacturers increase sales by more than \$120 million, helping create more than 1,600 good-paying jobs and finding over \$100 million in cost savings in Delaware's small and medium manufacturers. These are great impacts for a fairly small program. Why that program specifically targeted at helping small and medium manufacturing companies would be a priority for elimination is beyond me.

Cuts to other areas that impact research and energy in our economy also strike me as unwise and ill-considered. It is not just our economy and national security; Trump's budget would also threaten our infrastructure, our transportation, and our housing.

As a Delawarean and someone who rides Amtrak between Wilmington and Washington almost every day we are in session, I know how important our passenger rail system is for the Northeast, as well as for connecting the rest of our country. Amtrak's long-distance routes are critically important to the Nation's economy and to sustaining passenger rail as a nationwide Federal service. Yet, as our competitors around the world are investing billions of dollars in high-speed rail and in efficient rail networks that connect whole countries, President Trump's proposal would eliminate all Federal funding for Amtrak's long-distance routes.

Another effective Federal program that has made a difference in my home

State in infrastructure is the so-called TIGER Program, which invests in a whole range of infrastructure options—highway, transit, rail and port—by leveraging private capital and supporting competitive, innovative solutions to infrastructure challenges. The TIGER Program has supported projects like a new regional rail transportation center at the University of Delaware, taking advantage of the former Chrysler rail yard, and the significant new growth we are seeing at the University of Delaware's STAR campus. This is an investment that will have several multiples that will leverage private sector benefits by promoting economic development, accessible housing, and multi-modal transportation choices in the area.

Many of my colleagues have similar experiences in their States about the impact of the TIGER Grant Program. In the last year, it had a demand nearly 20 times the available funding. Yet the Trump budget would again eliminate all Federal funding to this vital transportation infrastructure program that creates jobs and helps to leverage private sector investment.

There are so many other programs on the chopping block, it is hard to even begin to touch on them: Community Development Block Grants, which I relied on in my previous job as county executive to provide support for low-income and disabled individuals to have access to high quality housing; the funds that support things like Meals on Wheels, that allow our low-income seniors to age in place rather than having to be moved to institutions; and many other programs through the Federal Department of Housing that have a positive impact in communities up and down my State, from Newark and Wilmington to Dover and Seaford.

If you take the U.S. Department of Agriculture's rural water and wastewater loan and grant programs, these would be eliminated entirely. These programs are critical to ensuring that rural communities can access funds to support safe drinking water and sewer systems. Many communities in Southern Delaware rely on rural water funds to ensure safe drinking water supplies for the families that live there. As I have suggested, the list of potential cuts to programs goes on and on.

Let me move to some impacts on the environment, briefly. The Chesapeake Bay is one of the world's largest estuary systems, and Delaware is a State that borders on the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Economists insist that there is nearly \$1 trillion worth of economic value to the Chesapeake Bay watershed, yet the Trump budget cuts nearly half of the funding for the EPA to allow States to get grants that will help improve air quality, clean up contaminated waste sites, and remove lead from drinking water. Delaware alone would lose \$3 million in these vital initiatives.

There are millions of Americans who rely on many more programs listed

here—AmeriCorps, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the African Development Foundation, and many more—all eliminated in this budget in order to prioritize a focus on our military and defense.

I don't think the President understands that we cannot maintain our status as a global leader with defense and military alone. We need to ensure that a complementary strength exists in our development and diplomacy programs, which are less than one-tenth of our spending on national defense.

I recently had the opportunity to see the impact that USAID and our programs to assist the hungry and needy around the world can make in stabilizing fragile states and preventing them from becoming failed states. We spent less than one percent of the Federal budget on these sorts of programs. They provide a critical connection to parts of the world where a positive understanding of America and our values would be a good thing.

The international affairs budget, which includes needed funding for USAID, the State Department, and other related programs, would be cut by one-third under the Trump budget—a 29 percent cut to the State Department alone.

If history is any indicator, the last 70 years show these investments in diplomacy and development are critical. Foreign assistance is not charity. It serves a humanitarian purpose, but it also makes us stronger by promoting American values around the world, building coalitions that isolate our adversaries, and helping make tens of millions less susceptible to terrorism and to extremism around the world.

This is a false choice between significantly increasing our defense spending and the need to sustain our investments in diplomacy and development. I hope my colleagues and constituents will take time to think about the many different Federal programs that I have briefly discussed in these remarks about the proposed budget and all the different ways that these Federal programs have invested in our quality of life, in our national security, and our economic prosperity. Many of them are scheduled for elimination under this budget.

As I have heard both Republicans and Democrats say in press interviews and on this floor: No President's budget is adopted without change. It is my hope that this budget will be set aside and that the folks who represent our States here will begin anew the process of building an appropriations path forward that actually protects our country, protects our livelihood, and invests significantly in sustaining and saving the very best of these programs that have benefited my home State and my constituents for so very long.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

#### REFORMING FINANCE FOR LOCAL ECONOMIES ACT

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss my bill, the Reforming Finance for Local Economies Act, which I introduced earlier this week. This bill is very simple and straightforward. It would exempt community banks and credit unions with assets of less than \$10 billion from complying with the loan-killing, anti-jobs disaster that we commonly refer to as Dodd-Frank. Every reasonable person with a passing knowledge of our banking system knows the destabilizing effect that Dodd-Frank has had on local economies, community banks, and the Nation's credit unions.

Just last week, President Trump turned to the problems wrought by Dodd-Frank by signing two Presidential memorandums to take a look at the Orderly Liquidation Authority and the systemic risk designation process at the Financial Stability Oversight Council. I applaud the President's efforts in that regard. I believe they are desperately needed. Reforming this flawed law is crucial to the future success of the American economy.

Some of my colleagues were here when Dodd-Frank was passed in 2010. As we all know, it was intended to prevent another 2008-like banking crisis by strengthening Federal Government regulation of financial services. But in the process, as so often happens, Congress actually crippled America's small community banks and credit unions that played absolutely no role—none, zero, nada—in instigating the 2008 meltdown. And that is not just my opinion. Our Federal Reserve Chair, Dr. Janet Yellen, appeared before the Senate Banking Committee earlier this year—actually, February 14. When it was my turn to ask her questions, I asked her the following simple question: “What did community banks do wrong in 2008?”

This was the Chairwoman's answer: “Well, community banks were not the reason for the financial crisis. It was larger institutions that took risks and risks that developed outside the banking system.”

Let me read that first sentence again. Chair Yellen: “Well, community banks were not the reason for the financial crisis.”

I believe she is right. The fact is that our smaller banks and our credit unions are smothering under the weight of Dodd-Frank. I will give you an example of what I am talking about. The Truth in Lending Act passed by Congress is actually 22 pages long. The Federal Reserve Act, setting up our Federal Reserve System, is 32 pages long. Glass-Steagall, about which we heard a great deal, was 37 pages long. Dodd-Frank is a breathtaking 2,300 pages with 22,000 pages of regulations. You can stand on the thing and paint the ceiling.

That is why so many community banks no longer exist. Those that have managed to survive have seen their costs go up, their profits go down, and

their ability to make small business and consumer loans curtailed—all as a result of the unnecessary, heavy hand of government. In fact, since Dodd-Frank was passed in 2010, this country has lost 1,700 small institutions. The reason is very simple. Dodd-Frank has forced community banks and credit unions to merge, consolidate, or to go out of business because of the heavy hand of regulation and because they can't make the loans that they normally would be able to make.

Nationwide, we have been losing an average of one community bank or credit union a day—every single day—since Dodd-Frank was passed because of its costs, which have driven our banks to sell or merge with larger banks. It is so ironic that this forced consolidation—forcing our smaller banks and credit unions to either merge with or be bought out by larger institutions—has caused even greater concentration of assets on the books of even larger and, in some cases, too-big-to-fail banks that Dodd-Frank was supposed to do something about.

My legislation will help 5,785 American credit unions. It will help 5,461 community banks in our country survive. Specifically, financial institutions with assets of less than \$10 billion—if you are a financial institution and you have less than \$10 billion in assets, you will be exempt completely from Dodd-Frank, its 2,300 pages and its 22,000 pages of regulations. We are talking about a lot of banks.

Banks with less than \$10 billion in assets make up 92 percent of our Nation's banks, according to the FDIC. Banks with less than \$10 billion in assets provide 48 percent of all small business loans, 16 percent of residential mortgages, 44 percent of lending to purchase farmland, 43 percent of lending for farm operations, and 35 percent of commercial real estate loans. If my bill passes, these institutions will no longer have to reduce their products and service offerings in order to divert resources to compliance, to interpretation, and to execution.

The expertise of our smaller banks and credit unions in America in evaluating risk will no longer be reduced to some algorithm—some mathematical exercise. Instead, our institutions will be able to deliver the desperately needed capital to the customers they know so well because that is what community banks and credit unions do. They take in local deposits, and they make loans to local borrowers whom they know and whose creditworthiness they can closely monitor because community bankers, as we all know, are relationship bankers. They don't participate in widespread subprime lending. They don't use derivatives to speculate, and they never did. Most of them have fewer than 100 employees.

The type of regulation they need—and I am not suggesting they don't need regulation. What I am suggesting is the type of regulation they need—because of the risks our small institutions take—is much different than the

regulation needed by a \$700 billion or a trillion-dollar bank.

I am certain that the proponents of Dodd-Frank were well-intentioned when they wrote and passed it. But 150 years ago, doctors used to bleed their patients with the best of intentions. They stopped doing that because their patients died. That is why I suggest today that we eliminate Dodd-Frank for our smaller institutions. Making Dodd-Frank applicable to community banks and credit unions is a lot like using a sledgehammer to go after a gnat. It is way over the top.

Now, certainly our smaller institutions need regulation. Certainly, they need regulation to ensure that they are stable and secure. Our small institutions know that. They know they need it. They want it. They welcome it. But even after my bill becomes law, community banks are still going to be subject to a strict regulatory scheme established by dozens of applicable Federal statutes. I am talking about the Banking Secrecy Act, the Electronic Fund Transfer Act, the Truth in Lending Act, and the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, and I could go on and on.

All of these statutes will still apply to our smaller banks and credit unions. Our smaller banks and credit unions—now exempt, if my bill passes, from Dodd-Frank—will still be under the supervision of the Federal Reserve. They will still be under the supervision of the Comptroller of the Currency. They will still be regulated by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the National Credit Union Administration, and even the Department of Justice.

America's smaller lending institutions need some relief. What they need is relief from the destabilizing consequences of Dodd-Frank. The Reforming Finance for Local Economies Act, in my estimation, is a step in that direction. I would also like to say, in closing, that I am pleased that both President Trump and Senate Republicans are committed, as we are, to paving the way for new businesses and the jobs they create through regulatory reform as our actions have already proven this year.

However, I would also like to stress that helping our community banks and credit unions is a bipartisan issue and one that I hope will garner support from many of my colleagues, not only just on the Republican side of my aisle but by friends on the Democratic side of the aisle.

I welcome their support. I look forward to working with my fellow Senators on the Banking Committee to find some commonsense solutions that will help grow our local economies.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. STRANGE). The Senator from Louisiana. CONGRATULATING SENATOR KENNEDY

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I would like to acknowledge my experienced and talented friend from Louisiana in his maiden speech, speaking about something that reflects his experience.

Briefly, his experience, aside from being an outstanding citizen, was as a secretary of revenue in Louisiana, a State treasurer in Louisiana, and an attorney and a law school professor.

So now there are his committee appointments, which include the Banking, Appropriations, and Judiciary Committees, which are tailor-made for what he does. As a product of a small town and as someone who as treasurer in our State has been so aware of the economic development issues, no one would know better than he what a critical role small banks play in generating the capital and delivering the capital to a small business that grows to be a bigger and a bigger and a big business, while along the way employing more folks.

So, as we as a nation grapple with how to create better-paying jobs, it is fitting that Senator KENNEDY would begin by speaking directly to how to create better-paying jobs. I welcome him as a colleague. I look forward to working with him for things that would benefit our State, our Nation, and the people who live here.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, in less than an hour, we will consider the nomination of Rod Rosenstein to be Deputy Attorney General of the United States.

We consider his nomination under highly unusual, if not unique, circumstances. Only today, there were revelations from the House Oversight Committee at a bipartisan conference indicating that General Flynn, formerly the National Security Advisor, may have broken criminal laws by his concealing payments from Russia—specifically, from Russia Today—in connection with his speaking fees and travel expenses in 2015. He concealed these payments in security clearance forms submitted in 2016, SF86 forms. False statements on such forms are a violation of our criminal laws. His potential criminal liability is a serious and important allegation that needs to be investigated further.

What we know for sure is that the investigation of this allegation and others—this very colorful violation of Federal criminal law—can be done reliably, impartially, and credibly only by a special prosecutor. That is why I have asked Mr. Rosenstein to commit that he will appoint a special prosecutor to investigate this allegation as well as others involving the President's staff, campaign associates, and staff in connection with Russia's interference with our election.

There is no question that the Russians sought to interfere and that they

did so. That is the conclusion of the investigation that was already done by our intelligence community, and it is a conclusion that is virtually universally accepted. The only question now is this: What was the involvement and potential collusion and aiding and abetting of Americans in that Russian cyber attack on this country? In my view, it was an act of war. We can debate that question.

What is undebatable is the need for a thorough, impartial, vigorous, and aggressive investigation that will give that information to the American people. It must be an investigation that can pursue criminal wrongdoing, if it is proved, and that can prosecute it and ultimately make that investigation transparent to the American people so they know what actually happened.

I have asked Rod Rosenstein to follow the precedent that was established by Elliot Richardson under circumstances that were not unlike the ones we encountered here.

The saying is that history almost never repeats, but it rhymes. What we have here is a situation that rhymes with the one that Elliot Richardson encountered when he was Attorney General-designee. He was requested to appoint a special prosecutor as a condition of his confirmation. He agreed to do so in 1973. He appointed Archibald Cox. That, in turn, led to the Watergate investigation and, ultimately, it vindicated the judgment on the part of our Senate Judiciary Committee that an independent special prosecutor was necessary under those circumstances.

My colleague who is presiding, as a former State attorney general, knows well the importance of independence and credibility in any judicial role of this kind. This Nation now faces a looming constitutional crisis—again, not unlike Watergate, which ultimately resulted in United States v. Nixon before the U.S. Supreme Court, a subpoena that had to be enforced by that special prosecutor against the President of the United States.

Only Rod Rosenstein can vindicate that important public interest. Only the Deputy Attorney General of the United States can appoint a special prosecutor because the Attorney General rightly has recused himself. Jeff Sessions has recused himself because of his own conversations with Russian officials, which he failed to disclose during testimony to the Judiciary Committee.

Only the Deputy Attorney General can perform that vital function, and only a special prosecutor can do what is necessary to vindicate the public interest through a vigorous investigation into any criminal wrongdoing and to prosecute lawbreakers.

I have confidence that our Intelligence Committee in the Senate will impartially and objectively do whatever it can to uncover the truth. But even if it succeeds—and there are obstacles and challenges to its success—it cannot pursue a criminal investigation,

and it cannot bring criminal charges and pursue a conviction. It probably cannot make fully transparent or disclose all of the facts that it uncovers. Its custom is to issue a report and, when it does so, redacting information that can be considered classified or sensitive. It may well lead, in an abundance of caution, toward redacting rather than disclosing.

That is why I have asked Rod Rosenstein, as a condition of his becoming Deputy Attorney General, to commit that he will appoint a special independent prosecutor. Call that office whatever you wish—special counsel, independent counsel, special prosecutor. The role is what is significant. It is someone who will uncover the wrongdoing and follow the evidence and the facts wherever they lead.

Neither Mr. Rosenstein nor Mr. Sessions can do so. Neither Rosenstein nor Sessions will ever convince the public that they are really pursuing their boss, the President of the United States, if there is evidence that leads to his culpability. They report to him. Rod Rosenstein reports to Jeff Sessions, and he, in turn, reports to the President of the United States. That is why the appearance and the reality of independence is so critically important, and that is why only a special prosecutor can pursue that interest.

If we were in normal times, Rod Rosenstein would be an eminently acceptable nominee, and I would welcome his nomination without attaching any kind of request or condition. He is certainly an honorable public servant. He is a career prosecutor. I admire his dedication and commitment to public service. As U.S. attorney for Maryland, he certainly has an admirable record. He is, in some senses, what we value in the Department of Justice—someone who is committed to the rule of law. That is why I have been surprised and disappointed that he has failed to heed my request.

Whatever happens today, I want to ensure my colleagues and, most especially, him and the loyal and dedicated members of the Department of Justice that I will support his work in his capacity as Deputy Attorney General, if he is confirmed today, because the professionalism of the Department of Justice is of preeminent interest for me personally, having served as a U.S. attorney and also as attorney general of my State, but it is also vitally important to the American people.

We must consider his nomination in the light of the looming constitutional crisis that our Nation confronts. It is a crisis partly of the administration's making by its attacks on the judiciary, calling a member of the bench a "so-called judge," saying to the American people that a circuit court of appeals will be responsible for any violence that may occur as a result of its ruling on the constitutionality of Executive orders related to immigration, demeaning and disparaging a judge because of his ethnic heritage—a judge born, in fact, in Indiana.

These kinds of attacks on the judiciary undermine respect and trust in a branch of government that is the bulwark of our democracy and that, in my view, when the history of this era is written, will be regarded as having been one of its finest hours. We will be relying on it to protect our Nation's fundamental rights and liberties. The independence of the judiciary is a sacred pillar of our democracy, and it must be free of political interference.

The other hero of this era, in my view, will be the press, which has uncovered many of the facts leading to my conclusion, joined by so many of my colleagues, that there must be a special prosecutor. That conclusion is not mine alone. It has been joined by many of my colleagues, 10 of them having cosigned a letter I wrote in mid-February asking for a special prosecutor.

The independence of our judiciary and of our prosecutors is so critically important for the trust and credibility of the American people that the rule of law will prevail and that no official will put himself above the rule of law. That is the threat and the constitutional crisis that we potentially face.

Two high-ranking administration officials have been caught misrepresenting their ties with Russia. One of them is, in fact, the Attorney General, Jeff Sessions, who did so before the Judiciary Committee, under oath.

Mr. Rosenstein has said that he wants to be approved by the Senate before he decides whether to appoint a special prosecutor, but that delay will mean that a man who was hired and can be fired by President Trump will decide whether the Trump administration will face a thorough and complete investigation. This body has a duty to insist on it before his confirmation. We must seize this opportunity to assure accountability to the American people and make sure also about their confidence in our electoral system. While Mr. Rosenstein has claimed he needs to be in office to familiarize himself with the facts of an investigation into the Trump administration before he can commit to appointing a special prosecutor, the row of facts are all a matter of public record now.

We know Russia interfered in the 2016 election. We know the FBI is investigating Trump administration lawbreaking associated with that interference. That investigation has been confirmed by the Director of the FBI himself. We know Attorney General Jeff Sessions met with officials of Russia's Government, and yet he said under oath that he did not meet with those Russians. That is more than ample information to justify appointing a special prosecutor, but there is much more, including actions by Carter Page, Paul Manafort, Roger Stone. These kinds of abundant facts are known now and warrant this action and also more than justify this body insisting that he commit to appointing that special prosecutor.

That public information concerning known associates of the President and their Russian contacts includes General Flynn's actions disclosed today. On December 10, 2015, General Flynn was paid to attend an event in Moscow celebrating the 10th anniversary of Russia Today, a propaganda arm of the Russian Government. He concealed the amount Russia Today paid him for speaking fees and travel expenses in those security clearance forms he submitted in 2016, the SF86. He dined with Vladimir Putin just 18 months after leaving his position leading the Defense Intelligence Agency. As a retired general, he is prohibited from receipt of consulting fees, gifts, travel expenses, honorary or any other kind of salary from a foreign government without congressional consent. That action also is a potentially prosecutable action.

After the election, General Flynn spoke repeatedly to Russian Ambassador Kislyak regarding lifting sanctions on Putin, an amazing act of disloyalty. Misleading Vice President Pence and the American public on the nature of these secret discussions, he demonstrated a lack of candor and credibility inconsistent with the role of National Security Advisor, and therefore he was compelled to resign.

The President also selected Carter Page to serve during the campaign on his foreign policy advisory committee. He is the same individual we have learned who was under investigation for his contacts with Russian agents.

The President's campaign manager, Paul Manafort, worked for years on a disinformation campaign to benefit the Putin government and was paid millions of dollars to do so. The President's son-in-law Jared Kushner held an undisclosed meeting with both the Russian Ambassador and also executives from a Russian bank, EDB, a bank built by Putin's cronies. The President himself has sold real estate to Russian investors seeking to profit from their corrupt activities in Russia or, as his son, Donald Trump, put it, "We see a lot of money pouring in from Russia."

The administration's supposed attempts to investigate itself have produced mixed signals and clear conflicts of interest such as House Intelligence Chair DEVIN NUNES's ill-fated trip to the White House to discuss his committee findings.

The robust congressional oversight hearings that we all hope will happen are certainly essential, but only the Department of Justice can analyze these facts and information which are only the tip of the iceberg—analyze it, digest it, determine its relevance to a criminal investigation and to a prosecution, pursuit of a violation of law and charges. The FBI can investigate, but it cannot bring charges. Only a lawyer from the Department of Justice can do so, and only a special prosecutor can make that judgment independently and impartially without having to

worry about what his boss thinks or what his boss's boss thinks.

So I have reached the conclusion reluctantly—because Rod Rosenstein has a very admirable record of public service—that I must vote against his nomination in just a short time because of his failure to commit to a special prosecutor. I have no illusions about convincing my colleagues about joining me to vote on cloture with a degree of realism about the views of this body on his nomination, but I hope he will heed the example of Mr. Richardson in 1973 and also of Jim Comey, who at one point also resorted to a special prosecutor to investigate a controversial matter that arose during President George Bush's administration.

There is clear, unmistakable, bipartisan precedent for a special prosecutor under these circumstances. There is not only precedent, there is historical imperative. At the root of this constitutional crisis is a concern for the rule of law, for preserving the public's faith and trust and respect for our justice system. It is at the foundation of what we do when we vote. When we make laws, we presume they will be rigorously and fairly enforced without fear or favor, and that no official, not even the President of the United States, will be placed above the law. That is the lesson of Watergate, but it is also the lesson established throughout our history, going back to the Founders and the preeminent role played by our U.S. Supreme Court.

I will support Mr. Rosenstein in his efforts to pursue the truth and pursue justice, as I believe he must do, and I hope he will do because the credibility of the Department of Justice and our justice system is so much at stake.

I urge my colleagues to vote against his nomination, as I will do, but I also pledge my support for him and the loyal, dedicated, hardworking members of the Department of Justice if he is confirmed.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JOHNSON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, all time is expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Rosenstein nomination?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 94, nays 6, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 114 Ex.]

#### YEAS—94

Alexander	Gardner	Paul
Baldwin	Graham	Perdue
Barrasso	Grassley	Peters
Bennet	Hassan	Portman
Blunt	Hatch	Reed
Boozman	Heinrich	Risch
Brown	Heitkamp	Roberts
Burr	Heller	Rounds
Cantwell	Hirono	Rubio
Capito	Hoeven	Sanders
Cardin	Inhofe	Sasse
Carper	Isakson	Schatz
Casey	Johnson	Schumer
Cassidy	Kaine	Scott
Cochran	Kennedy	Shaheen
Collins	King	Shelby
Cooms	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Corker	Lankford	Strange
Cornyn	Leahy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Tester
Crapo	Manchin	Thune
Cruz	Markey	Tillis
Daines	McCain	Toomey
Donnelly	McCaskill	Udall
Duckworth	McConnell	Van Hollen
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Enzi	Merkley	Whitehouse
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Feinstein	Murkowski	Wyden
Fischer	Murphy	Young
Flake	Murray	
Franken	Nelson	

#### NAYS—6

Blumenthal	Cortez Masto	Harris
Booker	Gillibrand	Warren

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of R. Alexander Acosta, of Florida, to be Secretary of Labor.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RUBIO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act

requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, Room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 17-18, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to Canada for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$195 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

GREG KAUSNER,  
(For J.W. Rixey, Vice Admiral,  
USN, Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 17-18

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Canada.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:  
Major Defense Equipment\* \$ 0 million.  
Other \$195 million.  
Total \$195 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE: Non-MDE items and services under consideration for sale are follow-on support for five (5) CC177 aircraft (Canada's designator for the C-17), including contractor logistics support (CLS) provided through the Globemaster III Integrated Sustainment Program (GISP), in-country field services support, alternate mission equipment, major modification and retrofit, software support, aircraft maintenance and technical support, support equipment, personnel training and training equipment, additional spare and repair parts, publications and technical documentation, and other U.S. Government and contractor engineering, logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (QCR).  
(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: CN-D-QZZ—\$1.3B—15 Nov 06.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: April 19, 2017.

\*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

##### Government of Canada—Sustainment Support for C-17 Aircraft

The Government of Canada has requested a possible sale of follow-on support for five (5) CC177 aircraft (Canada's designator for the C-17), including contractor logistics support (CLS) provided through the Globemaster III Integrated Sustainment Program (GISP), in-country field services support, aircraft maintenance and technical support, support equipment, alternate mission equipment, software support, spares, personnel training and training equipment, U.S. Government and contractor engineering and logistics support services, publications and technical documentation, and major modification and retrofit kits support. The total estimated program cost is \$195 million.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by sustaining the military capabilities of Canada, a NATO ally that has been, and continues to be, an important force for ensuring political stability and economic progress in the world, including through its involvement in military, peacekeeping, and humanitarian operations. The sustainment of Canada's C-17s will ensure the country's continued capability to rapidly deploy its forces, as well as the continued interoperability between the U.S. and Canadian Air Forces' C-17s.

The proposed sale of defense articles and services is required to maintain the operational readiness of the Royal Canadian Air Force C-17 aircraft. Canada's current contract supporting its five (5) C-17s will expire on 20 September 2017. The Royal Canadian Air Force will have no difficulty absorbing this support.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

Sources of supply will award contracts when necessary to provide the defense articles ordered if items ordered are not available from U.S. stock or are considered lead-time away.

The prime contractor will involve the following contractors:

Boeing Company, Long Beach, California.  
Boeing Company Training Systems, St. Louis, Missouri.  
Lockheed Martin Corporation/MFC, Lexington, Kentucky.

There are no known offsets. Any offset agreements will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Canada. There is an on-going foreign military sales case providing C-17 sustainment services. There are currently 13 contractors from Boeing in-country providing contractor technical services support on a continuing basis.

There will be no adverse impact to U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 17-10, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Iraq for defense articles and services

estimated to cost \$295.6 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J.W. RIXEY,  
Vice Admiral, USN, Director.

Enclosures:

TRANSMITTAL NO. 17-10

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser, Government of Iraq.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment\* \$40.6 million.

Other \$255.0 million.

Total \$295.6 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Four thousand four hundred (4,400) M16A4 Rifles.

Forty-six (46) M2 50 Caliber Machine Guns.  
One hundred eighty-six (186) M240B Machine Guns.

Thirty-six (36) M1151 High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWVs).

Seventy-seven (77) M1151 up-armored HMMWVs.

Non-MDE: All necessary equipment and accessories to outfit two Peshmerga Regional Brigades and two support artillery battalions, to include twelve (12) 3 kilowatt tactical quiet generator sets, body armor, helmets, and other Organization Clothing and Individual Equipment (OCIE); small arms and associated accessories including tripods, cleaning kits, magazines, and mounts; mortar systems and associated equipment; Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) detection and protective equipment; dismounted and mounted radio systems; commercial navigation equipment including compasses, binoculars, and Geospatial Position System (GPS) limited to the Standard Positioning System (SPS); M1142 HMMWVs; medical equipment; Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles (MRAP); cargo and transportation equipment, including light tactical vehicles, medium tactical vehicles, water trucks, fuel trucks, and ambulances; thirty-six (36) refurbished M119A2 105mm howitzers; RF-7800V Very High Frequency (VHF) dismounted radios; spare parts, training and associated equipment related to the mentioned vehicles and artillery systems.

(iv) Military Department: Army (ADI, ADJ).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid. Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: April 18, 2017.

\*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Government of Iraq—Equipment for Two Peshmerga Infantry Brigades and Two Support Artillery Battalions

The Government of Iraq has requested a possible sale of the equipment necessary to fully outfit two full Peshmerga Regional Brigades of light infantry, as well as the equipment necessary to outfit two artillery battalions that will ultimately provide support to those regional brigades. These artillery battalions and infantry brigades will operate under the Kurdistan Regional Governments Ministry of Peshmerga (KRG MOP) with the concurrence of the central government. Re-

quested equipment includes the following: (4,400) M16A4 rifles; (46) M2 50 caliber machine guns; (186) M240B machine guns; (36) M1151 HMMWVs; (77) M1151 up-armored HMMWVs; (12) 3 Kilowatt Tactical Quiet Generator sets; body armor, helmets, and other Organization Clothing and Individual Equipment (OCIE); small arms and associated accessories including tripods, cleaning kits, magazines, and mounts; mortar systems and associated equipment; Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) detection and protective equipment; dismounted and mounted radio systems; commercial navigation equipment including compasses, binoculars, and Geospatial Position System (GPS) limited to the Standard Positioning System (SPS); M1142 HMMWVs; medical equipment; Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles (MRAP); cargo and transportation equipment, including light tactical vehicles, medium tactical vehicles, water trucks, fuel trucks, and ambulances; (36) refurbished M119A2 105mm howitzers; spare parts, training and associated equipment related to the mentioned vehicles and artillery systems.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States, by supporting Iraq's capacity to degrade and defeat the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Iraq will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

There are a number of contractors involved in this effort, including but not limited to AM General, Oshkosh Defense, Navistar Defense, Harris Radio, and Colt Corporation. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the deployment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor personnel to Iraq.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 17-10

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. M16A4 Assault Rifle. The M16A4 assault rifle is the fourth generation of the M16 series that fires 5.56mm NATO cartridges. The A4 variant is equipped with a removable carrying handle and full length quad Picatinny rail for mounting optics and other ancillary devices. The highest level of information that could be disclosed through the sale and testing of this end-item is UNCLASSIFIED.

2. M2 Machine Gun. The M2 machine gun is an air-cooled belt-fed machine gun that fires the .50 caliber Browning Machine Gun (BMG) cartridge. The highest level of information that could be disclosed through the sale and testing of this end-item is UNCLASSIFIED.

3. M240B Machine Gun. The M240B machine gun is a belt-fed, gas-operated medium machine gun firing 7.62x51mm NATO cartridges. The M240B variant is a tripod or vehicle-mounted configuration. The highest level of information that could be disclosed through the sale and testing of this end-item is UNCLASSIFIED.

4. M1151 HMMWV. The M1151 is an expanded capacity armament carrier HMMWV variant that is armor-ready. Designed as an armament carrier, the M1151 provides for the mounting and firing of various weapon systems that are ring-mounted with a 360 degree-arc of fire. The level of information that could be disclosed through the sale and testing of this end-item is UNCLASSIFIED.



5. Garmin Fortrex 401 Navigation Set/Global Positioning System (GPS). The Garmin Fortrex is a commercial GPS solution for individual navigation which utilizes GPS Selective Positioning Service (SPS) mode only. This is a commercial-off-the-shelf item. The level of information that could be disclosed through the sale and testing of this end-item is UNCLASSIFIED.

6. RF-7800V Very High Frequency (VHF) Dismounted Radio. The RF-7800V is a multi-purpose, exportable radio system that can be configured for 10W handheld/dismounted, 50W vehicle, or 50W base station use. The system incorporates 128 and 256 bit Harris proprietary and Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) encryption and does not utilize SG/NATO waveforms. The system has an integrated GPS receiver which is SPS capable only. This radio is not used by the U.S. military and the highest level of information that could be disclosed through the sale and testing of this end-item is UNCLASSIFIED.

7. Tactical Quiet Generator Set. The 3KW Tactical Quiet Generator Set—Mobile Electric Power (MEP) 831A (60HZ) is a mobile electrical generator that runs on JP/Diesel fuel. These items are no longer in service with the U.S. military, but are offered as refurbished articles to Foreign Military Sales (FMS) customers. The highest level of information that could be disclosed through the sale and testing of this end-item is UNCLASSIFIED.

8. All other support and non-MDE equipment offered on this case carry no technology transfer concerns. The highest level of information that could be disclosed through the sale and testing of this end-item is UNCLASSIFIED.

9. All equipment and support listed on this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Iraq.

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 17-03, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the Republic of Iraq for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$1.06 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J.W. RIXEY,  
Vice Admiral, USN, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 17-03

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: The Government of Iraq.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment \* \$0 billion.

Other \$1.06 billion.

Total \$1.06 billion.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE: Pilot training; maintenance training; and contractor logistical services support for C-172, C-208, and T-6 aircraft for up to five (5) years to include contractor aircraft modification; repair and spare parts; publications; aircraft ferry; and miscellaneous parts, along with training base operation support, base life support, security,

construction, and other related elements of program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (X7-D-NAA).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: N/A.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: April 11, 2017.

\*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Republic of Iraq—Pilot and Maintenance Training Contractor Logistical Support (CLS) for Trainer Aircraft, and Base Support

The Government of Iraq has requested a possible sale of pilot training; maintenance training; and contractor logistical services support for C-172, C-208, and T-6 aircraft for up to five (5) years to include contractor aircraft modification; repair and spare parts; publications; aircraft ferry; and miscellaneous parts, along with training base operation support, base life support, security, construction, and other related elements of program support. The estimated total program value is \$1.06 billion.

The proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to provide for a stable, sovereign, and democratic Iraq, capable of combating terrorism and protecting its people and sovereignty. Iraq currently owns twelve (12) C-172, five (5) C-208, and fifteen (15) T-6 training aircraft. The training pipeline will allow the Iraqi Air Force to tailor pilot training for several U.S.-origin operational aircraft. The C-172s and T-6s are Iraq's training platforms for their mobility and fighter attack fleets. The C-208s are Iraq's platform of choice for training its Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) pilots.

The proposed sale of training and support services will improve Iraq's ability to train its pilots and maintenance technicians. By training its own pilots and maintenance technicians in-country, Iraq will decrease its overseas training requirements, significantly reduce its training costs, and will enhance its ability to take over the sustainment of its aircraft. Iraq will have no difficulty absorbing this support. In addition to its primary mission—pilot and maintenance training for Iraqi Air Force personnel—this proposed sale includes Contractor Logistical Support costs for the trainer aircraft, as well as possible future construction and base operation support costs.

The proposed sale of this training and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor is Spartan College, Tulsa, OK. At this time, there are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of approximately four U.S. Government representatives and 50-55 contractor representatives to Iraq.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale. All training and support listed on this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Iraq.

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of

the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 16-80, concerning the Army Corps of Engineers' proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Kuwait for airbase construction and services estimated to cost \$319 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J.W. RIXEY,  
Vice Admiral, USN, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-80

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Kuwait.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment \* \$0 million.

Other \$319 million.

Total \$319 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Non-MDE: Design, construction, and procurement of key airfield operations, command and control, readiness, sustainment, and life support facilities for the Al Mubarak Airbase in Kuwait. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will provide project management, engineering services, technical support, facility and infrastructure assessments, surveys, planning, programming, design, acquisition, contract administration, construction management, and other technical services for the construction of facilities and infrastructure for the airbase. The overall project includes, among other features, a main operations center, hangars, training facilities, barracks, warehouses, support facilities, and other infrastructure required for a fully functioning airbase.

(iv) Military Department: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) (HBE).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: N/A.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: April 6, 2017.

\*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Government of Kuwait—Facilities and Infrastructure Construction Support Service

The Government of Kuwait has requested possible sale for the design, construction, and procurement of key airfield operations, command and control, readiness, sustainment, and life support facilities for the Al Mubarak Airbase in Kuwait. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will provide project management, engineering services, technical support, facility and infrastructure assessments, surveys, planning, programming, design, acquisition, contract administration, construction management, and other technical services for the construction of facilities and infrastructure for the airbase. The overall project includes, among other features, a main operations center, hangars, training facilities, barracks, warehouses, support facilities, and other infrastructure required for a fully functioning airbase. The estimated total cost is \$319 million.

The proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by supporting the infrastructure needs of a friendly country which has been, and continues to be, an important



force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

The facilities being constructed are similar to other facilities built in the past by USACE in other Middle Eastern countries. These facilities replace existing facilities and will provide autonomous airbase operations to the Kuwait Air Force. The new airbase will ensure the continued readiness of the Kuwait Air Force and allow for the continued education of current and future Kuwait Air Force personnel. The construction of this airbase will enable Kuwait to enhance the operational effectiveness of its military and promote security and stability throughout Kuwait. Kuwait will have no difficulty absorbing this additional capability into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this infrastructure and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

USACE is the principal organization that will direct and manage this program. USACE will provide services through both in-house personnel and contract services. The estimated number of U.S. Government and contractor representatives to be assigned to Kuwait to implement the provisions of this proposed sale will be determined as a result of program definitization.

There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Kuwait.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING SHAWN GILBERT

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of Shawn Gilbert. Shawn was a prominent member of Montana's Little Shell Tribal community who tragically lost his battle with cancer this past January. Even in his final days, Shawn maintained a positive attitude, and all who knew him fondly remember the constant smile on his face. As is the Montana way, Shawn loved the great outdoors. He enjoyed snowmobiling, four-wheeling, and hunting with his family, as well as reloading his own ammunition and target practice with his pistols. Shawn served his people as a member of the tribal council and dreamt of the day his nation, Little Shell Nation, would be formally recognized. It is our duty and my honor to keep that dream alive as my colleague, Senator TESTER, and I work to enact into law legislation to do just that. I had the pleasure of meeting Shawn while he was in office at the Little Shell Tribal headquarters. Along with his fellow tribal leaders, Shawn presented me with a beautiful beaded bolo tie which sits on display in my office. It serves as a daily reminder of the Little Shell people and of Shawn. May God watch over his soul as his light lives on through the memories of his loved ones.●

##### RECOGNIZING THE LEWISTON HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION CHEERLEADING TEAM

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, each year high school student-athletes from

across the country compete for their State championship title. The journey of a championship team is not merely a story of glory or success, but rather an aggregation of hard work, sportsmanship, and persistence. Today I wish to extend recognition to a team in Maine whose perseverance and teamwork have made them a force to be reckoned with each season. I am proud to highlight the achievements of the Lewiston High School Blue Devils competition cheerleading team who, on the path to their third consecutive Class A State title for the sixth time in the last seven seasons, have demonstrated a remarkable level of drive, ambition, and pride towards achieving success.

Lewiston High School's nationally recognized and distinguished competition cheer program has a long history of talent and teamwork symbolic of the pride felt for the Blue Devils throughout the community. As the eighth consecutive Class A North/East Regional Champions, the cheer team has experienced few losses in recent years, but the program and student-athletes see each challenging loss as an opportunity to work harder and be stronger. The Blue Devils fulfilled that promise and more this past season. After a loss in the Kennebec Valley Athletic Conference, KVAC, the team responded with an impressive display of discipline and grit when they exceeded expectations and won the State title with a score of 95—representative of a nearly seamless routine.

The Lewiston cheer program is much more than a team of exceptional student-athletes. These talented and aspiring young people have contributed to a cheer dynasty that inspires young athletes and is recognized as a premier program throughout the State. The pride felt for the program, team members, peers, and the Lewiston community at large shows the level of dedication and ambition that has led to so many impressive successes.

I wish to join the city of Lewiston and the entire Maine community in congratulating the Lewiston High School competition cheering team for their well-earned recognition. The program has built a legacy of success, instilling core values of hard work, perseverance, and sportsmanship and imbues all that is significant about participation and competition in sport at any level. For this and so much more, the Blue Devils competition cheer team are true champions.●

##### RECOGNIZING GARBAGE TO GARDEN

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the work of Tyler Frank and his award-winning company Garbage to Garden—a curbside composting service that was founded in Portland, ME. In August 2012, Tyler Frank was living in Portland and wanted to start a compost pile, but didn't have the space in his urban surroundings. He and his roommates wondered why they

couldn't put compost out on the curb like they do with their trash and recycling, and with that, Garbage to Garden was born. Tyler set up a table on Congress Street during a First Friday Artwalk, and by the end of the day, 17 Portland residents had signed on to his curbside composting service. Today one in seven Portland households participates in Garbage to Garden. Tyler and his partners have expanded their service to eight other Maine communities and three communities in Massachusetts.

Tyler was able to create a unique and effective composting company, and with more than 8,000 households, schools, restaurants, and businesses using their services, they are the most successful curbside composting company in the country. Tyler has created a sustainable and local experience. Food scraps are composted by Benson Farms in Gorham, and all food waste can be incorporated into Garbage to Garden's compost, due to the high-heat process they use. Garbage to Garden also collects used cooking oil, and Maine Standard Biofuels turns it into biofuel and soap, which is then used to wash the composting buckets. Using clean composting buckets is a key part of Garbage to Garden's process, eliminating the "ick factor" that turns many people off from composting. Garbage to Garden even offers free service to those who volunteer for the company or for one of their partner organizations. Every day, Garbage to Garden diverts 20 tons of food scraps from landfills, and over a 3-year period, the average household will divert 1 ton of food waste from landfills.

Garbage to Garden is a shining example of what can happen when you have a little determination, a great idea, and passion to make a difference. Tyler is an excellent example of a hard-working Mainer who is making a difference in our State and beyond. I look forward to following the company's continued growth and remarkable service to Maine communities. Thank you, Tyler, for all you have already done for the greater Portland community and our great State of Maine. We are lucky to have people like you working to better our communities.●

##### NEW JERSEY HIGH SCHOOL ARMED SERVICE ENLISTMENT

• Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the following New Jersey high school seniors for their commendable decision to enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces: Craig Ackerly, Bryan Adame, Aldo Aguayo Flores, Alba Agyao, Dalton Ailtmar, Janae Albright, Michael Vincent Alvarez, Michael Luis Alvarez, Jose Alvarez, Juan Alvarez, Alexander Alvarez Escobar, Andre Ascura, Daniel Ayala, Elijah Baez, Justin Baez, Joseph Barbato, David Batastini, Frederick Bauer, Sergio Bautista Benitez, Joseluis Bejarano, Alejandro Bejarano Valencia, Nathan Bell, Joseph Bell,

Fallon Bennett, Nula Bolden, Christopher Bonario, Joyce Bonilla Gonzalez, James Brackett, Patrick Brand, Nicolas Brett, Imani Brown Hilton, Alexander Brutosky, Tyree Bull, Logab Burns, Rory Bushby, Jose Caba, Dino Cabrales, Jorge Cabral Gonzalez, Ralph Calitre, Brian Callahan, Christopher Campos, Daniel Cano, Reinier Carlos, Jose Caro, Rafael Castellanos, Addison Chang, Eric Cho, Dhane Christensen, Anthony Ciarlo, Jack Cipas, Dashonda Clark, Amanda Clarke, Tyler Cochran, Alexander Colavito, Liam Collins, Vincent Concina, Dayana Coreas-Alvarez, Kevin Cornelio, Ethan Correa, Kevin Cosme, Jonathan Cox, Jeffrey Cox, Nasir Crank-Williams, Kevin Cubillos, Andrew Cumming, Aidan Curran, Douglas Dasilva, Joshua Dechillo, Michael Dehaas, Michael Delcher, Johanny DelOrbe, Esvicarla Delossantos, Christopher DeRienzo, Damian Diaz, Diego Diazrazuri, Thomas Digiovanni, Brett Dolgos, Heydi Dominguez, Eric Dougherty, Sean Dougherty, Christopher Dramis, Anna Drew, Santana Duran, John Duran, Jared Durante, Miguel Duvergepena, Jesse Efymow, Linwood Mickey Evans, Matthew Eggink, Katherine Espinal, Jacob Fallon, Tyler Fanz, Joseph Fiduccia, Nicholas Fiorelli, Jack Flores, Salatiel Flores, Kimberly Fox, Jacob Franks, Richard Furmanek, Benito Gabriel, Manuel Gallego, Matthew Galloway, Eddison Garcia, Jack Garcia, Giselle Garcia Clavijo, Edgar Garcia Gonzalez, Michael Garrido, Liam Gavin, Sebastian Geary, Jake Gerber, Andrew Ghaleb, Brian Gilligan, Ryan Goldy, Edward Gomez, Adriana Gomez, Jeremy Gomez, Matthew Gonzalez, Josue Gonzalez, Christian Gonzalez, Carlos Gonzalez, Anthony Goodell, Destiny Goodridge, Jonathan Gorgonio Ramirez, Robert Gorny, Patrick Grabowski, Julian Guarderas, Christian Guevara, Grant Gunnarson, Samantha Harris, Jonathan Hart, Anthony Hernandez, Henry Hernandez, Travis Hickman, Christian Hoffman, Nicholas Hoffman, Frank Hofmann, Sean Holl, Rose Hollywood, Tyler Horner, Ryan Howard, Brendan Ingino, Kyle Irwin, Zach Irwin, Andrew Jones, Miguel Juarez Hernandez, Sabrina Jung, Madison Kasza, Brendan Kelly, Bailey Kiefer, Kaitlyn Kimble, Shayne King, Cody Kniveton, Thomas Kopec, Benjamin Kwok, Caelb Lamberson, Emma Landsaw, Bryan Laumbach, Corey Laurenzi, Justin Lebron, Kevin Lee, Sandro Lema, Derik Leon, Brandon Lima, Derek Liptak, Alexander Lonky, Ever Lopez, Moises Luna, Marcus Macalinao, Jastin Macalino, Marc Macalino, Joshua MacMillan, Austin Madden, Liam Madden, Jaelon Magat, Christopher Major, Julio Maldonado Martinez, Joana Mallari, Mark Mangravito, Armando Marrero, Jerwin Martilus, Miguel Martinez, Jayr Martinez Reyes, Pedro Martinez Tapia, Evan Martinovitch, Anthony Mazza, Aubrey McCarrick, Matthew McGee, Caitlin McHorney, Jack McMa-

hon, Jose Mendez Sagastume, German Mendoza, Luis Mendoza, Kiyara Middleton, Joseph Mihalko, Phillip Milder, Charles Miles, Luis Mimbs Fuentes, Jeffrey Miranda, Edward Molano, Xavier Molina, Laura Molina, David Monaco, Carlos Monterrosa, Albert Montilla, Michael Mourey, Almadelia Navarro Martinez, Shania Negron, Mylique Nelson, Daniel Newkirk-Carpenter, Victor Noa, Chelsea Nunez, Jacob Nussbaum, Collins Nwekeze, Lucas Ochoa, Peter Oliva, Tyler Oliveira, Zachary Ortega, Kiara Osbourne Willis, Wesley Osoria, Zachary Pacetti, Mariya Pakhomova, George Panchana, Nicholas Paola, Kiana Papaleo, Nathaniel Paras Clenista, Piiquiline Park, Shweta Patel, Brandon Paul, Jacob Perez, Ashley Perezferrer, Charles Phan, Justin Michael Pineda, Aidan Proulx, Cross Quinlan, Nidhi Rakholia, Michelle Ramirez, Sheehan Ramirez, Adam Randazzo, Jackie Remache, Ernesto Reyes, Nicholas Ribeirocarvalho, Evan Ridgell, Alido Rivera, Brian Rivera, Isis Rivera, Jayvon Roberson, Guy Robinson, Peter Robinson, Daniel Roble, Stephan Roche, Viana Rodriguez, Guillermo Rodriguez Zavala, Christopher Rojas, Yandry Romero, Darion Rosario, David Roxas, James Russell, Kevin Saar, Lau Sage, Vicuna Saltos, Nicholas Salvucci, Anthony Sanchez, Christopher Sanford, Michael Santangelo, Eddie Santiago, John Santiago, Giovanni Santos, Nicholas Scanzano, Jacob Schettino, Lisa Schrage, Jason Schultz, Dylan Schweibinz, Paloma Seijas, Kyle Seo, Armani Serrano, Dante Shearin, Edward Simo, Gurvir Singh, Jacob Solem, Victor Souza, Terrell Stearns Bailey, Brian Stevens, Brendan Stevenson, Alaysia Stewart, Dawid Sura, Yerines Surriel-Baez, Shane Tambussi, Joseph Tamimi, Jordan Tanis, Nicholas Tejada, Michael Tesauero, Jailey Torres, Fabio Toyos, Brandon Tuberquia, Elvis Tumuxcurruchich, Paul Turnbull, Luke Turner, Jared Tymon, Zaria Underwood Madden, Michael Valdes, Steve Valencia, Mateo Valentine, Miranda Vallese, Jessica Vanderzyde, Damian Vanriper, Francis Vantecekelenburgh, John Vargas, Michael Velthaus, Edward Villela, Romelson Virtusio, Jeffrey Walsh, Kevin Watts, Jacob Wendt, Camdyn Williams, Tenzin Woesser, Brandon Woodall, James Young, and Drew Zigo.

These outstanding individuals will also be honored at various "Our Community Salutes" recognition events held throughout New Jersey in May 2017.

The future of our Nation remains strong because these individuals have decided to step forward and commit themselves to the defense of our Nation and to uphold the ideals upon which it was founded. Indeed, these New Jerseyans represent the very best of America, and they should rest assured that the full support of the U.S. Senate, as well as the American people, are with them in whatever challenges may lie ahead.

It is thanks to the dedication of untold numbers of patriots like these that we are able to meet here today, in the U.S. Senate, and openly debate the best solutions to the many and diverse problems that confront our country. It is thanks to their sacrifices that the United States of America remains a beacon of hope and freedom throughout the world. We owe them, along with all those who serve our country, a deep debt of gratitude.●

#### RECOGNIZING DESTINATIONS INN

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, our country has been built upon a bedrock of guiding principles which has molded the character of many Americans. Hard work, risk-taking, and perseverance are some of the characteristics that have helped so many of our Nation's citizens achieve the American Dream. Continually on the cutting edge of innovation, America's entrepreneurs share an inspiring creative spirit. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, it is my pleasure to recognize one such entrepreneur, Larry Fisher, and his small business, Destinations Inn, as the Senate Small Business of the Month for April 2017.

With a lifelong understanding of business, Mr. Fisher has built many successful businesses, including the critically acclaimed Black Swan Inn. Acquired in 1997, Mr. Fisher transformed the unique 1933 English Tudor into a luxury themed suite lodging facility catering to couples, tourists, and business travelers who are looking for a unique experience.

After the success of the Black Swan Inn, the Fishers purchased and opened a sister hotel located in Idaho Falls in 2010, the Destinations Inn. The building was built in 1905 and has served as host to a number of businesses since that time, including the O.P. Skaggs Grocery Store and Ferrell's Clothing. In 2006, the Destinations Inn reopened as a premier luxury hotel and began to host guests from all over the world. When the Fishers acquired the building in 2010, they used their skills in artistry and contracting to transform the hotel into a world-class themed suite lodging facility. Each of the 14 suites within the Destinations Inn is creatively tailored to encapsulate an imaginative atmosphere. Combining their talents and vision, Larry and Debbie Fisher have created a business environment where creativity and ideas thrive. The Fishers exemplify professionalism and entrepreneurial passion through the success of the Destinations Inn.

Born and raised in Pocatello, ID, Mr. Fisher has been a mainstay in his community since his early years. Mr. Fisher currently serves on numerous boards and committees, including the Pocatello Development Authority, Grand Teton Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and Portneuf Valley Interfaith Fellowship. Recognized for his commitment to the community, Mr.

Fisher was a recipient of a number of awards, including Parade of Homes Best Show, Builder of the Year, Bridge Builder Award from the Grand Teton Council of the Boy Scouts of America, voted as best lodging property several years by the community, TripAdvisor Hall of Fame Award for 5 years of certificates of excellence, and the Community Black Belt Volunteer Award. Mr. Fisher has dedicated his life to serving his customers and the community. It is my honor to recognize Larry and Debbie Fisher and the employees of Destinations Inn who have done so much for their community. You make our State proud, and I look forward to watching your continued growth and success.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### 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-1267. A communication from the Deputy Director, Office of Senate Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year 2011 (OSS-2017-0369); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1268. A joint communication from the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, transmitting a request relative to issuing a travel restriction on senior officials' travel to Syria for the period of April 7, 2017, until further notice; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1269. A communication from the Senior Official performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Modification to Support for Non-Federal Development and Testing of Material for Chemical Agent Defense; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1270. A communication from the Acting Secretary of the Navy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Program Acquisition Unit Cost (PAUC) and Average Procurement Cost (APUC) for the Advanced Arresting Gear (AAG) program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1271. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General William J. Bender, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1272. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Philip H. Cullom, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1273. A communication from the Acting Deputy Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Federal Grain Inspection Service Annual Report for 2016 and the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the report; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1274. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations; Panola County, MS, and Incorporated Areas, et al." (Docket No. FEMA-2017-0002) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1275. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Unverified List (UVL)" (RIN0694-AH29) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1276. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility (Pierce County, WA, et al.)" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2016-0002)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1277. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility (Otsego County, NY, et al.)" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2016-0002)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1278. A communication from the Assistant Director for Legislative Affairs, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Office of Minority and Women Inclusion Annual Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1279. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Reserve Bank Capital Stock" (RIN7100-AE47) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 6, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1280. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Reserve Bank Capital Stock" (RIN7100-AE47) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 6, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1281. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations; Carroll County, MS" (Docket No.

FEMA-2016-0002) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1282. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary (Terrorism and Financial Intelligence), Department of the Treasury, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 7, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1283. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director of the Mint, Department of the Treasury, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1284. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility (Loudon County, VA, et al.)" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2016-0002)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1285. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility (Jackson County, MO, et al.)" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2016-0002)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1286. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility (Davidson County, TN, et al.)" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2016-0002)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1287. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary (Financial Institutions), Department of the Treasury, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1288. A communication from the Acting Solicitor General, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's for-cause removal provision; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1289. A communication from the Assistant Director for Legislative Affairs, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fair Lending Report of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1290. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to

Syria that was declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1291. 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-1292. A communication from the Chairman, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the National Credit Union Administration's 2016 annual report; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1293. A communication from the Wildlife Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Migratory Bird Subsistence Harvest in Alaska; Harvest Regulations for Migratory Birds in Alaska During the 2017 Season" (RIN1018-BB71) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1294. A communication from the Chief of the Policy, Performance, and Management Programs Division, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reclassification of the West Indian Manatee From Endangered to Threatened" (RIN1018-AY84) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1295. A communication from the Special Agent in Charge of the Branch of Investigations, Office of Law Enforcement, Fish and Wildlife Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Penalties; 2017 Inflation Adjustments for Civil Monetary Penalties" (RIN1018-BB97) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1296. A communication from the Chief of the Policy, Performance, and Management Programs Division, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removal of the Scarlet-Chested Parrot and the Turquoise Parrot From the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife" (RIN1018-BB29) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1297. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary (Intelligence Affairs), Department of the Treasury, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 6, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1298. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Secretary, Department of the Treasury, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1299. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of General

Counsel, Department of the Treasury, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1300. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of General Counsel, Department of the Treasury, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1301. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of General Counsel, Department of the Treasury, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1302. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Secretary of the Treasury, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1303. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Chief Counsel, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1304. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Member, Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board, Department of the Treasury, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1305. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Member, Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board, Department of the Treasury, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1306. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary (Financial Markets), Department of the Treasury, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1307. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Anti-Harassment and Hostile Work Environment Case Tracking and Records System" (RIN0960-AH82) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1308. 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 "Election by Qualified Small Business to Claim Payroll Tax Credit for Increasing Research Activities"

(Notice 2017-23) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1309. 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 "Proposed Revenue Procedure for Requesting Consent to Change a Method of Accounting" (Notice 2017-17) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1310. 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 on Windsor-Related Estate, Gift and Generation-Skipping Transfer Issues" (Notice 2017-15) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1311. 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 "Announcement and Report Concerning Advance Pricing Agreements" (Announcement 2017-03) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1312. 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 "Relief from Section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code" (Announcement 2017-4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1313. 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 "2017 Automobile Price Inflation Adjustment" (Rev. Proc. 2017-29) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1314. 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 "Small Business/Self Employed Fast Track Settlement" (Rev. Proc. 2017-25) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1315. 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 "March 2017 Supplement to Rev. Proc. 2014-64, Implementation of Nonresident Alien Deposit Interest Regulations" (Rev. Proc. 2017-31) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1316. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country (OSS-2017-0378); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1317. A communication from the Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's annual report concerning military assistance and military exports (OSS-

2017-0402); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1318. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country (OSS-2017-0379); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1319. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country (OSS-2017-0380); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1320. A communication from the Acting Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report of the Attorney General to the Congress of the United States on the Administration of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended," for the six months ending June 30, 2016; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1321. A communication from the Office of Presidential Appointments, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, thirty-six (36) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of State, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 14, 2017; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1322. A communication from the Acting Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report of the Attorney General to the Congress of the United States on the Administration of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended," for the six months ending June 30, 2016; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1323. A communication from the Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-074); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1324. A communication from the Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-137); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1325. A communication from the Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-126); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1326. A communication from the Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-105); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1327. A communication from the Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-100); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1328. A communication from the Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-080); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1329. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty on the

Accession of Montenegro of March 28, 2017; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1330. A communication from the Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 17-008); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1331. A communication from the Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 17-017); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1332. A communication from the Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 17-005); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1333. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Program Operations, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Definition of the Term 'Fiduciary'; Conflict of Interest Rule—Retirement Investment Advice; Best Interest Contract Exemption (Prohibited Transaction Exemption 2016-01); Class Exemption for Principal Transactions in Certain Assets Between Investment Advice Fiduciaries and Employee Benefit Plans and IRAs (Prohibited Transaction Exemption 2016-02); Prohibited Transaction Exemptions 75-1, 77-4, 80-83, 84-24 and 86-128" (RIN1210-AB79) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 7, 2017; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1334. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision of FOIA Regulations" (RIN1290-AA30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 7, 2017; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1335. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Division of Select Agents and Toxins, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Possession, Use, and Transfer of Select Agents and Toxins—Addition of *Bacillus cereus* Biovar anthracis to the HHS List of Select Agents and Toxins" (RIN0920-AA64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2017; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1336. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits" (29 CFR Part 4022) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2017; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1337. A communication from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for the Division of Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties for Inflation" (RIN1801-AA16) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2017; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1338. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Title I—Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged (Subpart C—Mi-

grant Education Program)" (RIN1810-AA99) received in the Office of the President pro tempore of the Senate; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1339. A communication from the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2016 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1340. A communication from the Director, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2016 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1341. A communication from the Acting Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's fiscal year 2016 report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1342. A communication from the Chief Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the District of Columbia Family Court Act; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1343. A communication from the General Counsel, Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's fiscal year 2016 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1344. A communication from the Acting Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2016 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1345. A communication from the President, Inter-American Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Foundation's fiscal year 2016 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1346. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2014 and fiscal year 2015 inventories of commercial and inherently governmental positions in the Department of Transportation; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1347. A communication from the Acting Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2016 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1348. A communication from the Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's fiscal year 2016 report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1349. A communication from the Acting Director, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's fiscal year 2016 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1350. A communication from the Acting Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2016 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1351. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's fiscal year 2016 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1352. A communication from the Acting Director, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's fiscal year 2016 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1353. A communication from the Director, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's fiscal year 2016 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1354. A communication from the Director, Office of Communications and Legislative Affairs, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Annual Sunshine Act Report for 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1355. A communication from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to two (2) vacancies in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2017; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC-1356. A communication from the Acting Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Annual Privacy Report for the period October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2016; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1357. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) for two reports entitled "2016 Annual Report of the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts" and "Judicial Business of the United States Courts"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1358. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2017; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1359. A communication from the Chief of Special Projects, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Vet-

erans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "VA Dental Insurance Program" (RIN2900-AP91) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 7, 2017; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-1360. A communication from the Office Program Manager, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Release of VA Records Relating to HIV" (RIN2900-AP73) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 6, 2017; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-1361. A communication from the Acting Deputy 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 Jackson Hole Airport (JAC); to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1362. A communication from the Associate Chief of the Mobility Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of the Commission's Rules with Regard to the 800 MHz Cellular Radiotelephone Service" ((WT Docket No. 12-40; WT Docket No. 10-112; WT Docket No. 16-138; RM No. 11510; RM No. 11660) (FCC 17-27)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 7, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1363. A communication from the Associate Chief of the Mobility Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Promoting Technological Solutions to Combat Contraband Wireless Device Use in Correctional Facilities" ((GN Docket No. 13-111) (FCC 17-25)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 7, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1364. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions; Amendment of Parts 73 and 74 of the Commission's Rules to Establish Rules for Digital Low Power Television and Television Translator Stations; Channel Sharing by Full Power and Class A Stations Outside the Broadcast Television Spectrum Incentive Auction Context" ((GN Docket No. 12-268; MB Docket No. 03-185; MB Docket No. 15-137) (FCC 17-29)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 7, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1365. A communication from the Deputy Chief, Disability Rights Office, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Structure and Practices of the Video Relay Service Program; Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities" ((CG Docket No. 10-51 and CG Docket No. 03-123) (FCC 17-26)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 7, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1366. A communication from the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mam-

mals Incidental to Space Vehicle and Missile Launch Operations" (RIN0648-BG25) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 10, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1367. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments to Regulations Governing Service Contracts and NVOCC Service Arrangements" (RIN3072-AC53) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 6, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1368. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Safran Helicopter Engines, S.A., Turboshift Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-7850)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 6, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1369. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Policy and Rules Division, Office of Engineering and Technology, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Parts 2, 15, 80, 90, 97, and 101 of the Commission's Rules Regarding Implementation of the Final Acts of the World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 2012) (WRC-12), Other Allocation Issues, and Related Rule Updates" ((ET Doc. No. 15-99) (ET Doc. No. 14-14) (FCC 17-33)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1370. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy for the position of Maritime Administrator, Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1371. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy for the position of Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1372. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy for the position of Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1373. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy for the position of Administrator, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1374. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting,



pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy for the position of Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1375. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy for the position of Administrator, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1376. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy for the position of Administrator, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1377. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy for the position of Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology, Department of Transportation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1378. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy for the position of Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs, Department of Transportation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1379. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy for the position of Chief Financial Officer, Department of Transportation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1380. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy for the position of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1381. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy for the position of Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs, Department of Transportation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1382. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy for the position of Assistant Secretary

for Transportation Policy, Department of Transportation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1383. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy for the position of Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Policy, Department of Transportation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1384. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy for the position of Deputy Secretary, Department of Transportation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1385. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy for the position of Secretary of Transportation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-16. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of North Dakota urging the United States Congress, under Article V of the United States Constitution, to call for a constitutional convention limited to proposing amendments to the United States Constitution, which impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3006

Whereas, the founders of the United States Constitution empowered state legislators to be guardians of liberty against excessive use of power by the federal government; and

Whereas, the federal government has created a crushing national debt through improper and imprudent spending; and

Whereas, the federal government has ceased to operate under a proper interpretation of the United States Constitution; and

Whereas, the federal government has invaded the legitimate roles of the states through the manipulative process of federal mandates, most of which are unfunded to a great extent; and

Whereas, it is the solemn duty of the states to protect the liberty of our people, particularly for the generations to come, by proposing amendments to the United States Constitution through a convention of the states under Article V for the purpose of restraining these and related abuses of power: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives of North Dakota, the Senate concurring therein:*

That the Sixty-fifth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the United States Constitution, to call a convention of the states limited to

proposing amendments to the United States Constitution which impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of Congress; and be it further

*Resolved*, that this application constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the United States Constitution until the legislatures of at least two-thirds of the several states have made applications on the same subject; and be it further

*Resolved*, that the Legislative Assembly adopts this application expressly subject to the following reservations, understandings, and declarations:

1. An application to the Congress of the United States to call an amendment convention of the states pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution confers no power to Congress other than the power to call such a convention. The power of Congress to exercise this ministerial duty consists solely of the authority to name a reasonable time and place for the initial meeting of a convention;

2. Congress shall perform its ministerial duty of calling an amendment convention of the states only upon the receipt of applications for an amendment convention for the substantially same purpose as this application from two-thirds of the legislatures of the several states;

3. Congress does not have the power or authority to determine any rules for the governing of a convention for proposing amendments called pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution. Congress does not have the power to set the number of delegates to be sent by any state to such a convention, nor does it have the power to name delegates to such a convention. The power to name delegates remains exclusively within the authority of the legislatures of the several states;

4. By definition, an amendment convention of the states means that states shall vote on the basis of one state, one vote;

5. A convention for proposing amendments convened pursuant to this application must be limited to consideration of the topics specified herein and no other. This application is made with the express understanding that an amendment that in any way seeks to amend, modify, or repeal any provision of the Bill of Rights is not authorized for consideration at any stage. This application is void ab initio if ever used at any stage to consider any change to any provision of the Bill of Rights;

6. Pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution, Congress may determine whether proposed amendments must be ratified by the legislatures of the several states or by special state ratification conventions. The Legislative Assembly recommends Congress select ratification by the legislatures of the several states; and

7. The Legislative Assembly may provide further instructions to its delegates and may recall its delegates at any time for a breach of a duty or a violation of the instructions provided; and be it further

*Resolved*, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the President and Secretary of the Senate and the Speaker and Clerk of the House of Representatives of the Congress, each member of the United States Congressional Delegation from North Dakota, and the presiding officers of each house of the legislatures of the several states, requesting their cooperation.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:



By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on Finance, without amendment:

S.J. Res. 41. An original joint resolution providing for an exception to the limitation on the appointment of certain persons as the United States Trade Representative.

### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. MCCAIN for the Committee on Armed Services.

Navy nominations beginning with Rear Adm. (lh) Richard A. Brown and ending with Rear Adm. (lh) John W. Tammen, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 21, 2017.

Navy nominations beginning with Capt. Kevin M. Jones and ending with Capt. Thomas J. Moreau, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 21, 2017.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. David G. Bellon and ending with Brig. Gen. Patrick J. Hermesmann, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 21, 2017.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Edward D. Banta and ending with Brig. Gen. Eric M. Smith, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 21, 2017.

Marine Corps nomination of Col. Michael S. Martin, to be Brigadier General.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Col. James H. Adams III and ending with Col. Christian F. Wortman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 21, 2017.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Bryan P. Fenton, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Darrell K. Williams, to be Lieutenant General.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. David H. Lewis, to be Vice Admiral.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. Mathias W. Winter, to be Vice Admiral.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. (lh) Steven L. Parode, to be Rear Admiral.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. (lh) John P. Polowczyk, to be Rear Admiral.

Navy nominations beginning with Rear Adm. (lh) Jon A. Hill and ending with Rear Adm. (lh) Gordon D. Peters, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

Air Force nomination of Raymond C. Jones III, to be Major.

Air Force nomination of Christopher E. Austin, to be Colonel.

Air Force nominations beginning with Robert D. Houghteling and ending with Carl H. Spears, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Lisa Ann Banyasz and ending with Julie L. Wible,

which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Lori J. Betters and ending with Lisa S. Shear, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Air Force nomination of James A. Crider, to be Colonel.

Air Force nominations beginning with Jose E. Barrera and ending with David H. Zonies, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Kristin L. Ader and ending with Christopher C. Vannatta, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Gregg Michael Caggianelli and ending with William Scott Wiecher, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Patrick W. Albrecht and ending with Stephen S. Yoon, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Air Force nomination of Stephen N. Luker, to be Major.

Air Force nominations beginning with Tyler J. Banachowski and ending with Marita N. Zguri, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Joni A. Abbott and ending with Danielle C. Yuen, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Michael J. Alfaro and ending with Sara M. Wilson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Jessica L. Abbott and ending with Heath D. Wright, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Corey R. Anderson and ending with Andrew J. Stoy, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Edward R. Anderson III and ending with Ramon Yambo Arias, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Patrick M. Albritton and ending with Ray A. Zuniga, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Neil R. Copeland and ending with Olivia M. Vaughan, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 6, 2017.

Air Force nomination of Robert P. McCoy, to be Colonel.

Air Force nomination of Allen R. Henderson, Jr., to be Colonel.

Air Force nomination of George L. Burnett, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Air Force nomination of Dion R. Dixon, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Air Force nomination of Rebecca A. Lipe, to be Major.

Air Force nomination of Michael N. Tesfay, to be Major.

Air Force nomination of Megan G. K. Steele, to be Major.

Air Force nominations beginning with Ryan W. Abner and ending with Breanca G.

Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 6, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Allen Seth Abrams and ending with Thomas Benjamin Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 6, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Chad A. Bellamy and ending with Andrew L. Thornley, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 6, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Aimee L. Alviar and ending with David A. Whitehorn, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 6, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Willie J. Babor and ending with Maureen Schellie Wood, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 6, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Hector L. Coloncolon and ending with Kevin L. Lockett, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 6, 2017.

Air Force nominations beginning with Beth M. Baykan and ending with William T. Wilson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 6, 2017.

Air Force nomination of Martin J. Hamilton, to be Colonel.

Air Force nominations beginning with Michael A. Blackburn and ending with Jason S. Wrachford, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 6, 2017.

Army nomination of Scott C. Apling, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Patricia L. George, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Adam J. Points, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Larry G. Workman, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Robert J. Dunlap, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Wayne O. Dehaney, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Johnathan T. Parchem, to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Jacob P. Absalon and ending with G010445, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Army nominations beginning with Mark P. Adams and ending with G010388, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Army nominations beginning with Amir A. Abuakeel and ending with D013352, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Army nominations beginning with Vanessa R. Asmus and ending with D013007, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Army nomination of Michael C. Flynn, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Steve L. Martinelli, to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Kenneth Ahorrio and ending with Paul W. Ziegler III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Army nominations beginning with Tolulope O. Adeyemi and ending with D013595, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Army nominations beginning with Paul J. E. Auchincloss and ending with D012628, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Army nominations beginning with Rachel A. Acciacca and ending with Lauren E. White, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Army nomination of Christopher J. Brown, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Daniel B. King and ending with Todd E. Wainman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2017.

Army nomination of John J. Bottorff, to be Major.

Army nomination of Eugene L. Thomas III, to be Major.

Army nomination of John T. Bleigh, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Jeffrey D. Buck, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Michael W. Preczewski, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Candy Boparai and ending with Lincoln F. Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Army nominations beginning with Charles J. Haselby and ending with Jason T. Ramspott, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Army nomination of Alexander M. Willard, to be Major.

Army nomination of Christopher K. Berthold, to be Major.

Army nomination of Preston H. Leonard, to be Major.

Army nomination of Nicole E. Ussery, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Michael D. Baker, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Bridget V. Kmetz, to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Vedner Bellot and ending with James Robinson, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Army nominations beginning with Angela L. Funaro and ending with Chad Hackley, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Army nomination of Brian R. Harki, to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Jonathan L. Bouriaque and ending with David A. Langer, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Army nominations beginning with Timothy L. Baer and ending with Gerald R. White, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Army nomination of James V. Crawford, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Mohammed S. Aziz, to be Major.

Army nomination of Seth C. Lydem, to be Major.

Army nomination of Christopher C. Ostby, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Calvin E. Fish, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Aaron E. Lane, to be Major.

Army nomination of Damien Boffardi, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Randy D. Dorsey, to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Benjamin R. Smith and ending with Stalin R.

Subramanian, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Army nomination of Mark W. Hopkins, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Thomas R. Matelski and ending with Joshua H. Walker, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Army nomination of Mark B. Howell, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Julio ColonGonzalez, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Jason N. Bullock and ending with Gerald A. Nunziato, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Army nomination of Jennifer A. McAfee, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Nina R. Copeland, to be Major.

Army nomination of Calvin E. Townsend, to be Major.

Army nomination of Scott A. McDonald, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Thomas P. Lukins, to be Major.

Army nomination of Scott M. McFarland, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Jeffrey A. Miller, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Joseph M. Kilonzo, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Brandi A. Schuyler, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of David J. Kaczmarek, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Jonathan A. Johnson, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with James A. Benson and ending with William M. Yanek II, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 6, 2017.

Army nomination of Crystal J. Smith, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Dana B. Love, to be Major.

Army nomination of Douglas A. McKewan, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of David M. Wallace, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Lisa M. Patton, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Basil J. Catanzaro, to be Colonel.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Daniel E. Alger, Jr. and ending with Jessica M. Wall, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Anis A. Abuzeid and ending with Craig A. Zoellner, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Daniel W. Annunziata and ending with Leah R. Parrott, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Marine Corps nomination of James R. Reusse, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Jose M. Acevedo and ending with Francisco X. Zavala, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Henry Centeno, Jr. and ending with James L. Shelton, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Marine Corps nomination of Richard K. O'Brien, to be Major.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Michael J. Allen and ending with Chris-

topher T. Hambrick, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Jeremy T. Flannery and ending with Mark L. Oldroyd, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Marine Corps nomination of Joseph W. Hockett, to be Major.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Francisco D. Amaya and ending with Tyson E. Peters, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Michael M. Dodd and ending with Robert J. Snoddy, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Marine Corps nomination of David S. Gersen, to be Major.

Marine Corps nomination of John W. Glinsky, to be Major.

Marine Corps nomination of Keith A. Stevenson, to be Major.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Quentin R. Carritt and ending with Eric A. Sharpe, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Anthony P. Green and ending with Michael A. Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Marine Corps nomination of Stuart M. Barker, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Richard Canedo and ending with David L. Ogden, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Marine Corps nomination of John E. Simpson III, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Marine Corps nomination of Sean T. Hays, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Luke A. Crouson and ending with Jason C. Flores, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Arlington A. Finch, Jr. and ending with Kevin M. Tscherch, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Stephen J. Acosta and ending with Donald R. Wright, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Joshua P. Bahr and ending with Janhendrik C. Zurlippe, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with John T. Brown, Jr. and ending with Julius G. Jones, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Eli J. Bressler and ending with James R. Strand, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Chadwick W. Ardis and ending with Brad J. Wilde, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Marine Corps nomination of Duane A. Gumbs, to be Major.

Navy nomination of Aaron B. Mayer, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of John J. Kitt, to be Commander.

Navy nominations beginning with Jorge R. Balaes, Jr. and ending with Brandon M. Zoss, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Navy nomination of Mary E. Linnell, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nominations beginning with Spencer M. Burk and ending with Brianna S. Whittemore, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Navy nominations beginning with Kirk J. Hippensteel and ending with John M. Ruggero, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2017.

Navy nomination of Evita M. Salles, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of John P. H. Rue, to be Captain.

Navy nominations beginning with Michael W. Ameche and ending with Joshua J. Whitlow, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 6, 2017.

Navy nominations beginning with Rachel E. Carter and ending with Kevin D. Keith, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 6, 2017.

Navy nominations beginning with Mauer Biscotti III and ending with Adam J. Susmarski, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 6, 2017.

Navy nomination of Donald V. Wilson, to be Commander.

Navy nomination of Michael A. Winslow, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nominations beginning with Horacio G. Tan and ending with Derrick A. Thomas, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 6, 2017.

Navy nomination of Natalie C. O. Gilliver, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of John F. Sharpe, to be Commander.

Navy nomination of Reann S. Mommsen, to be Lieutenant Commander.

By Mr. HATCH for the Committee on Finance.

\*Robert Lighthizer, of Florida, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

\*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 Mrs. ERNST (for herself and Mr. HIRONO):

S. 925. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the ability of health care professionals to treat veterans through the use of telemedicine, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. ERNST (for herself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 926. A bill to authorize the Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation to establish

the National Global War on Terrorism Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 927. A bill to allow acceleration certificates awarded under the Patents for Humanity Program to be transferable; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 928. A bill to prohibit, as an unfair or deceptive act or practice, commercial sexual orientation conversion therapy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 929. A bill to improve the HUBZone program; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. KING):

S. 930. A bill to require the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration to establish a pilot project to provide increased transparency for customers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 931. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4910 Brighton Boulevard in Denver, Colorado, as the "George Sakato Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. LEE):

S. 932. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide that any estimate prepared by the Congressional Budget Office or the Joint Committee on Taxation shall include costs relating to servicing the public debt, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 933. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide veterans the option of using an alternative appeals process to more quickly determine claims for disability compensation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 934. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the user-fee programs for prescription drugs, medical devices, generic drugs, and bio-similar biological products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. HELLER):

S. 935. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to permit Governors of States to regulate intrastate endangered species and intrastate threatened species, to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to permit the taking of certain black vultures and ravens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 936. A bill to designate certain National Forest System land and certain public land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior in the States of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming as wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, wildland recovery areas, and biological connecting corridors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. ROUNDS, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 937. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a refundable adoption tax credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. REED):

S. 938. A bill to require notice of cost-free Federal procurement technical assistance in connection with registration of small business concerns in procurement systems; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 939. A bill to reserve any amounts forfeited to the United States Government as a result of the criminal prosecution of Joaquin Archivaldo Guzman Loera (commonly known as "El Chapo"), or of other felony convictions involving the transportation of controlled substances into the United States, for security measures along the Southern border, including the completion of a border wall; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. NELSON):

S. 940. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules relating to loans made from a qualified employer plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 941. A bill to withdraw certain National Forest System land in the Emigrant Crevice area located in the Custer Gallatin National Forest, Park County, Montana, from the mining and mineral leasing laws of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HATCH:

S.J. Res. 41. An original joint resolution providing for an exception to the limitation on the appointment of certain persons as the United States Trade Representative; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. Res. 138. A resolution honoring National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day on April 9, 2017, and commemorating the 75th anniversary of the fall of Bataan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 139. A resolution condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. Res. 140. A resolution supporting the designation of April 2017 as "Parkinson's Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCOTT (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. Res. 141. A resolution congratulating the University of South Carolina women's basketball team for winning the 2017 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Basketball Tournament Championship; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. KAINÉ (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. Res. 142. A resolution commemorating the 10th anniversary of the tragic events at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University on April 16, 2007; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. Res. 143. A resolution supporting fair and equitable grading treatment for exports of United States wheat products to Canada; to the Committee on Finance.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 59

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 59, a bill to provide that silencers be treated the same as long guns.

S. 109

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 109, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of pharmacist services.

S. 223

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 223, a bill to provide immunity from suit for certain individuals who disclose potential examples of financial exploitation of senior citizens, and for other purposes.

S. 234

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 234, a bill to provide incentives for businesses to keep jobs in America.

S. 253

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 253, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 292

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 292, a bill to maximize discovery, and accelerate development and availability, of promising childhood cancer treatments, and for other purposes.

S. 339

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) and the Senator from New

Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 339, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 445

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 445, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 470

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 470, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit and make the credit fully refundable.

S. 487

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 487, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion for assistance provided to participants in certain veterinary student loan repayment or forgiveness programs.

S. 497

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 497, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of certain lymphedema compression treatment items as items of durable medical equipment.

S. 517

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 517, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act with respect to the ethanol waiver for Reid vapor pressure limitations under such Act.

S. 569

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 569, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the Land and Water Conservation Fund to maximize the effectiveness of the Fund for future generations, and for other purposes.

S. 611

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin

(Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 611, a bill to amend the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to meet the needs of homeless children, youth, and families, and honor the assessments and priorities of local communities.

S. 632

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 632, a bill to amend title 28 of the United States Code to authorize the appointment of additional bankruptcy judges; and for other purposes.

S. 652

At the request of Mr. KAINÉ, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 652, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a program for early detection, diagnosis, and treatment regarding deaf and hard-of-hearing newborns, infants, and young children.

S. 717

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 717, a bill to promote pro bono legal services as a critical way in which to empower survivors of domestic violence.

S. 720

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 720, a bill to amend the Export Administration Act of 1979 to include in the prohibitions on boycotts against allies of the United States boycotts fostered by international governmental organizations against Israel and to direct the Export-Import Bank of the United States to oppose boycotts against Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 722

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 722, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to Iran in relation to Iran's ballistic missile program, support for acts of international terrorism, and violations of human rights, and for other purposes.

S. 744

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 744, a bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to delay the inclusion in consumer credit reports and to establish requirements for debt collectors with respect to medical debt information of veterans due to inappropriate or delayed billing payments or reimbursements from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 754

At the request of Mr. KAINÉ, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr.

PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 754, a bill to support meeting our Nation's growing cybersecurity workforce needs by expanding the cybersecurity education pipeline.

S. 832

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 832, a bill to enhance the transparency and accelerate the impact of programs under the African Growth and Opportunity Act and the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and for other purposes.

S. 869

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 869, a bill to repeal the violation of sovereign nations' laws and privacy matters.

S. 872

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 872, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make permanent the extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program and the increased payments under the Medicare low-volume hospital program.

S. 878

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 878, a bill to establish privacy protections for customers of broadband Internet access service and other telecommunications services.

S. 901

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 901, a bill to prohibit any reduction in the amount of the per diem allowance to which members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps or civilian employees of the Department of Defense are entitled based on the duration of temporary duty assignments or official travel, and for other purposes.

S. 910

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 910, a bill to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities who need long-term services and supports, and for other purposes.

S. 923

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 923, a bill to exempt certain financial institutions from regulations issued under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

S. CON. RES. 12

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 12, a concur-

rent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that those who served in the bays, harbors, and territorial seas of the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, should be presumed to have served in the Republic of Vietnam for all purposes under the Agent Orange Act of 1991.

S. RES. 99

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 99, a resolution recognizing the 11 African-American soldiers of the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion who were massacred in Wereth, Belgium, during the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 927. A bill to allow acceleration certificates awarded under the Patents for Humanity Program to be transferable; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, tomorrow, April 26, is World Intellectual Property Day, an opportunity for people around the world to appreciate and learn about the role of intellectual property rights in promoting innovation. Our Founders believed that the right to enjoy the benefit of one's own inventions was so important to the progress of science that they included it in the Constitution. More than 200 years later, limited exclusive rights for inventors continue to incentivize the research and development and make the United States the global leader in innovation.

In the spirit of this year's theme, "Innovation—Improving Lives," I am proud to partner with Senator GRASSLEY to reintroduce the Patents for Humanity Program Improvement Act. Patents for Humanity is a perfect example of how intellectual property rights encourage inventors to develop creative solutions to some of the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges.

Since 2012, the Patents for Humanity Program of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, PTO, has honored patent holders whose inventions apply cutting-edge technology to meet global challenges in medicine, nutrition, sanitation, energy, and living standards. The winning inventors receive a certificate to accelerate future PTO processes, such as a reexamination or additional patent applications. The Patents for Humanity Program provides an important incentive for talented innovators to use their expertise and intellect to enhance the public good.

The winners of the Patents for Humanity Program have addressed some of the toughest challenges in the developing world. One lab developed a vaccine cooler that has been used in the fight against the Ebola virus. A non-

profit organization created a strand of rice enriched with vitamin A to prevent a nutritional deficiency that is the leading killer of children globally. A social enterprise made a low-cost solar light that can replace dangerous kerosene lamps in areas without electricity. These life saving inventions are exactly the kind of innovations that our intellectual property system should incentivize.

In 2012, the Director of the PTO testified before the Judiciary Committee that Patents for Humanity would attract even more innovators if the winners could transfer their acceleration certificates to a third party. Frequently, successful small businesses and individual inventors are unable to continue their projects or are prevented from taking advantage of the accelerated process because of acquisitions and reorganizations. Transferability of the award certificates would increase the incentive for these small businesses and individuals to develop innovative technologies that would benefit the public and international development.

This bipartisan legislation would allow Patents for Humanity winners to transfer their acceleration certificates. This straightforward, common sense reform to the Patents for Humanity Program passed the Senate by unanimous consent last Congress. I am hopeful that it will again this Congress and that we can finally enact into law this simple improvement to a successful program. We should take every opportunity we can to encourage and support enterprising Americans with bright ideas that will benefit both our country and the world.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. LEE):

S. 932. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide that any estimate prepared by the Congressional Budget Office or the Joint Committee on Taxation shall include costs relating to servicing the public debt, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 932

*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 "Budgetary Accuracy in Scoring Interest Costs Act of 2017" or the "BASIC Act".

#### SEC. 2. CBO AND JCT ESTIMATES TO INCLUDE DEBT SERVICING COSTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 402 the following:

"ESTIMATES TO INCLUDE DEBT SERVICING COSTS

"SEC. 403. Any estimate prepared by the Congressional Budget Office under section

402, and any estimate prepared by the Joint Committee on Taxation, shall include, to the extent practicable, the costs (if any) of servicing the public debt.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 402 the following:

“403. Estimates to include debt servicing costs.”.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

### SENATE RESOLUTION 138—HONORING NATIONAL FORMER PRISONER OF WAR RECOGNITION DAY ON APRIL 9, 2017, AND COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF BATAAN

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

#### S. RES. 138

Whereas, throughout United States history, United States servicemen and service-women held as prisoners of war have endured unimaginable cruelty and unspeakable treatment at the hands of their captors in—

(1) British prison ships floating in the harbor of New York City;

(2) tiger cages in North Vietnam;

(3) coal mines in Omuta, Japan; and

(4) mine shafts in Berga, Germany;

Whereas many of these servicemen and servicewomen, while in service to the United States, lost their lives as prisoners of war under cruel and inhumane conditions;

Whereas United States service members held as prisoners of war have—

(1) endured situations few people of the United States can imagine; and

(2) found courage in a darkness that other people of the United States will hopefully never experience;

Whereas National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day was established to memorialize the surrender by General Edward P. King of 80,000 United States and Filipino troops on the Bataan Peninsula on April 9, 1942, which led to—

(1) the infamous Bataan Death March; and

(2) nearly 4 years of brutal imprisonment and slave labor for the survivors;

Whereas, by May 10, 1942, over 11,500 soldiers from the United States and the Philippines surrendered on Corregidor, a fortress island in Manila Bay, and at various bases on islands in the southern Philippines, which resulted in the largest surrender of United States soldiers in United States military history;

Whereas, during World War II, over 26,000 prisoners of war from the United States were held by Imperial Japan, of which an estimated 40 percent died, and nearly ⅓ of those deaths occurred on “hell ships” that carried the prisoners of war to Japan to become slave labor in Japanese companies;

Whereas the productive peace between the United States and Japan has produced a model of reconciliation between former combatants;

Whereas, in 2009, the Government of Japan offered an apology to the United States prisoners of war for the damage and suffering of the prisoners of war in Imperial Japan;

Whereas, in 2010, the Government of Japan established a program for former prisoners of war and their families to visit Japan and the former prisoner of war camps; and

Whereas the former prisoners of war who have participated in the program described in the ninth whereas clause have encouraged the Government of Japan to partner with Japanese companies to continue the program as—

(1) an international model of reconciliation; and

(2) a permanent fund to support projects for remembrance, documentation, education, and exchange; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day on April 9, 2017;

(2) commemorates the 75th anniversary of the fall of Bataan on April 9, 1942; and

(3) applauds the efforts of the Government of Japan toward a historic apology for the maltreatment of United States prisoners of war by Imperial Japan.

### SENATE RESOLUTION 139—CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN'S STATE-SPONSORED PERSECUTION OF ITS BAHAI MINORITY AND ITS CONTINUED VIOLATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

#### S. RES. 139

Whereas in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1996, 2000, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2013, 2015, and 2016, Congress declared that it deplored the religious persecution by the Government of Iran of the Baha'i community and would hold the Government of Iran responsible for upholding the rights of all Iranian nationals, including members of the Baha'i Faith;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom 2016 Annual Report states—

(1) “The Baha'i community, the largest non-Muslim religious minority in Iran, long has been subject to particularly severe religious freedom violations. The government views Baha'is, who number at least 300,000, as ‘heretics’ and consequently they face repression on the grounds of apostasy.”;

(2) “Since 1979, authorities have killed or executed more than 200 Baha'i leaders, and more than 10,000 have been dismissed from government and university jobs.”; and

(3) “Over the past 10 years, approximately 850 Baha'is have been arbitrarily arrested.”;

Whereas the Department of State 2015 International Religious Freedom Report states—

(1) Religious minorities in Iran “continued to face societal discrimination, especially the Baha'i community, which reported continuing problems at different levels of society, including personal harassment.”;

(2) The Government of Iran “continued to prohibit Bahais from officially assembling or maintaining administrative institutions, actively closed such institutions, harassed Bahais, and disregarded their property rights.”;

(3) In Iran, “Baha'i blood may be spilled with impunity, and Baha'i families are not entitled to restitution” and “Bahais cannot receive compensation for injury or crimes committed against them and cannot inherit property.”;

(4) The Government of Iran “requires universities to exclude Bahais from access to higher education or expel them if their religious affiliation becomes known.”; and

(5) In Iran, “Bahais are banned from government employment” and “[t]here were reports of non-Bahais being pressured to refuse employment to Bahais or dismissing Bahais from their private sector jobs.”;

Whereas on June 8, 2016, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief issued a joint statement condemning the “wave of incitement of hatred of the Baha'i community reflected in speeches made by religious, judiciary and political officials in the Islamic Republic of Iran”;

Whereas on September 6, 2016, the United Nations Secretary-General issued a report on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (A/71/374), which stated that “human rights violations have continued at an alarming rate”;

Whereas on December 17, 2016, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution (A/RES/70/179), which “[e]xpressed serious concern about ongoing severe limitations and restrictions on the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief and restrictions on the establishment of places of worship, as well as attacks against places of worship and burial, as well as other human rights violations, including but not limited to harassment, persecution and incitement to hatred that lead to violence against persons belonging to recognized and unrecognized religious minorities, including Christians, Jews, Sufi Muslims, Sunni Muslims, Zoroastrians and members of the Baha'i Faith and their defenders”;

Whereas since May 2008, the Government of Iran has imprisoned the 7 members of the former ad hoc leadership group of the Baha'i community in Iran, known as the Yaran-i-Iran, or “friends of Iran”—Mrs. Fariba Kamalabadi, Mr. Jamaloddin Khanjani, Mr. Afif Naeimi, Mr. Saeid Rezaie, Mr. Behrouz Tavakkoli, Mrs. Mahvash Sabet, and Mr. Vahid Tizfahm—and these individuals were convicted of charges including “spying for Israel, insulting religious sanctities, propaganda against the regime and spreading corruption on earth” and sentenced to 20-year prison terms, the longest sentences given to any prisoner of conscience in Iran at that time, now reportedly reduced to 10 years;

Whereas beginning in May 2011, officials of the Government of Iran in 4 cities conducted sweeping raids on the homes of dozens of individuals associated with the Baha'i Institute for Higher Education (referred to in this Resolution as “BIHE”) and arrested and detained several educators associated with BIHE, with 16 BIHE educators ultimately sentenced to 4- or 5-year prison terms, 7 of whom remain in prison;

Whereas scores of Baha'i cemeteries have been attacked, and, in 2014, Revolutionary Guards began excavating a Baha'i cemetery in Shiraz, which is the site of 950 graves, and built a cultural and sport center on the cemetery site;

Whereas the Baha'i International Community reported that there has been a recent surge in anti-Baha'i hate propaganda in Iranian state-sponsored media outlets, noting that—

(1) in 2010 and 2011, approximately 22 anti-Baha'i articles were appearing every month;



(2) in 2014, the number of anti-Baha'i articles rose to approximately 400 per month; and

(3) by 2016, the number of anti-Baha'i articles rose to approximately 1,500 per month;

Whereas there are currently 90 Baha'is in prison in Iran;

Whereas the Government of Iran is party to the International Covenants on Human Rights and is in violation of its obligations under such Covenants;

Whereas section 105 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8514) authorizes the President to impose sanctions on individuals "responsible for or complicit in, or responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, the commission of serious human rights abuses against citizens of Iran or their family members on or after June 12, 2009"; and

Whereas the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-158) amends and expands the authorities established under the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-195) to sanction Iranian human rights abusers: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights;

(2) calls on the Government of Iran to immediately release the 7 imprisoned Baha'i leaders, the 7 imprisoned Baha'i educators, and all other prisoners held solely on account of their religion;

(3) calls on the President and Secretary of State, in cooperation with responsible nations, to immediately condemn the Government of Iran's continued violation of human rights and demand the immediate release of prisoners held solely on account of their religion; and

(4) urges the President and Secretary of State to utilize available authorities to impose sanctions on officials of the Government of Iran and other individuals directly responsible for serious human rights abuses, including abuses against the Baha'i community of Iran.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 140—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 2017 AS "PARKINSON'S AWARENESS MONTH"

Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 140

Whereas Parkinson's disease is a chronic, progressive neurological disease and is the second most common neurodegenerative disease in the United States;

Whereas there is inadequate data on the incidence and prevalence of Parkinson's disease, but the disease affects an estimated 1,000,000 individuals in the United States and its prevalence is expected to more than double by 2040;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Parkinson's disease is the 14th leading cause of death in the United States;

Whereas every day Parkinson's disease greatly impacts millions of individuals in the United States who are caregivers, family members, and friends of individuals with Parkinson's disease;

Whereas, although research suggests that the cause of Parkinson's disease is a combination of genetic and environmental fac-

tors, the exact cause of the disease in most individuals is still unknown;

Whereas, as of March 2017, there is no objective test or biomarker for diagnosing Parkinson's disease;

Whereas there is no known cure or drug to slow or halt the progression of Parkinson's disease, and available treatments are limited in their ability to address the medical needs of patients and remain effective over time;

Whereas the symptoms of Parkinson's disease vary from person to person and may include—

- (1) tremors;
- (2) slowness of movement and rigidity;
- (3) difficulty with balance and gait;
- (4) disturbances in speech and swallowing;
- (5) cognitive impairment and dementia;
- (6) mood disorders; and
- (7) a variety of other nonmotor symptoms;

Whereas volunteers, researchers, caregivers, and medical professionals are working to improve the quality of life for individuals living with Parkinson's disease and their families; and

Whereas increased research, education, and community support services are needed—

- (1) to find more effective treatments; and
- (2) to provide access to quality care for individuals living with Parkinson's disease:

Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2017 as "Parkinson's Awareness Month";

(2) supports the goals and ideals of Parkinson's Awareness Month;

(3) continues to support research to find better treatments and a cure for Parkinson's disease;

(4) recognizes the individuals living with Parkinson's disease who participate in vital clinical trials to advance the knowledge of the disease; and

(5) commends the dedication of organizations, volunteers, researchers, and millions of individuals across the United States working to improve the quality of life for individuals living with Parkinson's disease and their families.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 141—CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2017 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. SCOTT (for himself and Mr. GRAMHAM) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 141

Whereas, on April 2, 2017, at American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, the University of South Carolina Gamecocks won the national title game for the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Basketball Tournament over the Mississippi State Bulldogs by a score of 67 to 55;

Whereas the University of South Carolina Gamecocks women's basketball team won the 2017 Southeastern Conference championship;

Whereas the University of South Carolina Gamecocks women's basketball team head coach Dawn Staley, a 3-time Olympian who was elected to carry the United States flag at the opening ceremony of the 2004 Summer Olympics, was elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2013, and is the new head coach of the United States women's national basketball team, joins

Carolyn Peck as the only 2 African-American female head coaches to lead a National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I basketball team to a national title;

Whereas this is the first National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Basketball Tournament Championship for the University of South Carolina Gamecocks women's basketball team, who finished the season with 33 wins and 4 losses;

Whereas A'ja Wilson, who is from Columbia, South Carolina, and an alumna of Heathwood Hall Episcopal School, was named Southeastern Conference player of the year and the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Basketball Tournament Championship most valuable player;

Whereas the University of South Carolina has been a leader on the Southeastern Conference Academic Honor Roll for last 10 years;

Whereas, each year, University of South Carolina student-athletes support approximately 100 events and organizations for a total of more than 5,000 hours of service;

Whereas A'ja Wilson received First Team All-America recognition from the Women's Basketball Coaches Association, and senior center Alaina Coates earned an All-America honorable mention;

Whereas junior Kaela Davis was a College Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-District selection;

Whereas University of South Carolina student-athletes earned a departmental grade point average of 3.245 for the Fall 2016 semester, the 20th-consecutive semester in which Gamecock student-athletes have combined for a grade point average above 3.0; and

Whereas the University of South Carolina is ranked number 1 in the United States for attendance at women's basketball games: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of South Carolina women's basketball team for winning the 2017 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Basketball Tournament Championship; and

(2) recognizes the achievements of—

(A) the team's players, coaches, and staff, whose hard work and dedication helped the University of South Carolina women's basketball team win that Championship; and

(B) the dedicated faculty and staff of the University of South Carolina for building an educational environment that has helped University of South Carolina student-athletes to thrive.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 142—COMMEMORATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAGIC EVENTS AT VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY ON APRIL 16, 2007

Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 142

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 32 victims who lost their lives as a result of the tragic events at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (referred to as "Virginia Tech") on April 16, 2007, Ross A. Alameddine, Christopher James Bishop, Brian R. Bluhm, Ryan Christopher Clark, Austin Michelle Cloyd, Jocelyne Couture-Nowak, Kevin P. Granata, Matthew Gregory Gwaltney, Caitlin Millar Hammaren, Jeremy Michael Herbstritt,



Rachael Elizabeth Hill, Emily Jane Hilscher, Jarrett Lee Lane, Matthew Joseph La Porte, Henry J. Lee, Liviu Librescu, G.V. Loganathan, Partahi Mamora Halomoan Lumbantoruan, Lauren Ashley McCain, Daniel Patrick O'Neil, Juan Ramon Ortiz-Ortiz, Minal Hiralal Panchal, Daniel Alejandro Perez Cueva, Erin Nicole Peterson, Michael Steven Pohle, Jr., Julia Kathleen Pryde, Mary Karen Read, Reema Joseph Samaha, Waleed Mohamed Shaalan, Leslie Geraldine Sherman, Maxine Shelly Turner, and Nicole Regina White;

(2) recognizes the 17 individuals who survived the shooting and supports the continued recovery of those survivors from physical and psychological wounds;

(3) offers condolences to the families and friends of the victims;

(4) expresses hope that the memory of each victim will live on; and

(5) recognizes—

(A) the resilience of the Virginia Tech community in the decade following the tragedy of April 16, 2007; and

(B) that the perseverance of the Virginia Tech community serves as an example to communities that experience similar tragedies.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 143—SUPPORTING FAIR AND EQUITABLE GRADING TREATMENT FOR EXPORTS OF UNITED STATES WHEAT PRODUCTS TO CANADA

Mr. TESTER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. RES. 143

Whereas Canada is the second-largest goods trading partner of the United States, with \$575,000,000,000 in goods traded between the 2 countries in 2015, as the United States exported \$280,000,000,000 in goods to Canada and imported \$295,000,000,000 in goods from Canada in that year;

Whereas the efficient and equitable flow of agricultural goods across the border is a critical component of the trade relationship between the United States and Canada;

Whereas wheat is the third-most widely produced field crop in the United States, and approximately ½ of the wheat produced in the United States is exported;

Whereas Canadian law requires wheat imported from the United States to be segregated from wheat produced in Canada and automatically designated as feed quality, the lowest possible designation, regardless of the actual quality or the variety of the wheat product;

Whereas United States Federal law allows wheat imported from Canada to be graded under the same system as domestically grown wheat;

Whereas that unfair devaluation practice puts United States agricultural producers at a distinct disadvantage when attempting to access Canadian wheat markets;

Whereas the treatment by Canada of United States wheat products is likely a violation of trade agreements and is to the detriment of United States agricultural producers; and

Whereas the strong economic ties between the United States and Canada are extremely important and well-served when a level playing field exists across all industries: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) wheat grading practices in Canada should—

(A) grade wheat produced in Canada in the same manner as wheat produced in the United States; and

(B) be fair to agricultural producers in the United States; and

(2) the President should—

(A) examine whether the wheat grading laws of Canada adhere to trade agreements; and

(B) insist on full access for United States exporters of wheat to the Canadian market.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I have 5 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

##### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 25, 2017, at 9:30 a.m., in open session, to receive testimony on policy and strategy in the Asia-Pacific.

##### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 25, 2017, at 10 a.m., in 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building, to consider the nomination of Robert Lighthizer, of Florida, to be United States Trade Representative.

##### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 25, 2017, at 9:45 a.m., to hold a hearing entitled "The Crisis in Libya: Next Steps and U.S. Policy Options."

##### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on April 25, 2017, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Intellectual Property—Driver of Innovation: Making Our Lives Healthier, Safer, and more Productive."

##### COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the 115th Congress of the U.S. Senate on Tuesday, April 25, 2017, from 2:15 p.m.-4:00 p.m., in room SH-219 of the Senate Hart Office Building to hold a closed hearing.

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my intern Nicholas Piwonka be granted privileges of the floor for the remainder of the day.

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

#### RESOLUTIONS DISCHARGED

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that applicable

committees be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of the following resolutions en bloc: S. Res. 105, S. Res. 122, S. Res. 128, S. Res. 129, S. Res. 130, S. Res. 131, and S. Res. 133.

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

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

S. RES. 128

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to ask my Senate colleagues to join me in designating April 2017 as National Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Month. Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia, also known as CDH, is a birth defect that occurs when the fetal diaphragm fails to fully develop, allowing abdominal organs to move into the chest cavity and preventing lung growth. When the lungs do not develop properly during pregnancy, it can be difficult for the baby to breathe after birth, or the baby is unable to take in enough oxygen to stay healthy. Congenital diaphragmatic hernia is a birth defect that occurs in 1 out of every 2,500 live births worldwide. Only about 50 percent of CDH cases are diagnosed in utero. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, estimates that CDH affects 1,600 babies in the U.S. each year. Every 10 minutes, a baby is born with CDH, adding up to more than 700,000 babies with CDH since 2000. According to the CDC, babies born with CDH experience a high mortality rate ranging from 20 to 60 percent, depending on the severity of the defect and the treatments available at delivery; yet most people have never heard of CDH.

Researchers are making great progress to determine the cause of this birth defect and to identify optimal treatment methods. In fiscal year 2017, the National Institutes of Health funded approximately \$4 million in CDH research, an increase of \$700,000 from fiscal year 2015. There is still much progress to be made, however. The cause of CDH remains unknown, and there currently is no cure. CDH survivors often endure long-term complications, such as congenital heart defects and developmental delays, and the average CDH survivor will face postnatal care of more than \$100,000.

Last month, members from the Association of Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Research, Awareness and Support, also known as CHERUBS, visited my office. Among them were David and Allison Finger and their daughter Vivienne from Hyattsville, MD. Vivienne was born with CDH and had to spend 60 days in the newborn intensive care unit after birth and had to have surgery to repair the hernia when she was only 3 weeks old. On March 18, 2017, Vivienne celebrated her second birthday and is doing very well. Babies like Vivienne, born with CDH, today have a better chance of survival due to early detection and research on treatment options.

For these reasons, I am proud my colleague the junior Senator from Alabama, Mr. STRANGE, has joined me in submitting a resolution designating April 2017 as National Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Month. In previous years, I was pleased to work with his predecessor, Senator Sessions, on this resolution. Designating this month in this fashion provides an opportunity to raise public awareness about CDH; promote quality prenatal care and ultrasounds to detect CDH in utero; and support finding for the research necessary to improve screening and treatment of CDH, discover the causes of CDH, and develop a cure for CDH.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles, where applicable, be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 105) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 30, 2017, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

The resolutions (S. Res. 122 and S. Res. 128) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in the RECORD of April 7, 2017, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

The resolution (S. Res. 129) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in the RECORD of April 7, 2017, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

The resolutions (S. Res. 130, S. Res. 131, and S. Res. 133) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in the RECORD of April 7, 2017, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 2017 AS "PARKINSON'S AWARENESS MONTH"

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 140, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 140) supporting the designation of April 2017 as "Parkinson's Awareness Month."

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions 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 resolution (S. Res. 140) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2017 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 141, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 141) congratulating the University of South Carolina women's basketball team for winning the 2017 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Basketball Tournament Championship.

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions 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 resolution (S. Res. 141) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### COMMEMORATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAGIC EVENTS AT VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY ON APRIL 16, 2007

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 142, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 142) commemorating the 10th anniversary of the tragic events at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University on April 16, 2007.

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to 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 resolution (S. Res. 142) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Democratic leader, in consultation with the vice chairperson of the Committee on Indian Affairs, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 114-244, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children: Tami DeCoteau of North Dakota.

#### ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2017

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 26; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Acosta nomination, with the time until 11:30 a.m. equally divided in the usual form; finally, that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture vote on the Acosta nomination occur at 11:30 a.m. tomorrow.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:44 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, April 26, 2017, at 9:30 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

##### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

KARI A. BINGEN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A PRINCIPAL DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE MARCEL J. LETTRE II, RESIGNED.

ROBERT DAIGLE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF COST ASSESSMENT AND PROGRAM EVALUATION, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, VICE JAMIE MICHAEL MORIN.

ROBERT STORY KAREM, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE DEREK H. CHOLLET, RESIGNED.

KENNETH P. RAPUANO, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE ERIC ROSENBAUGH, RESIGNED.

##### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SCOTT P. BROWN, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO NEW ZEALAND, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF SAMOA.

JOHN J. SULLIVAN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE, VICE ANTHONY BLINKEN, RESIGNED.

#### DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

STEPHEN ELLIOTT BOYD, OF ALABAMA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, VICE PETER JOSEPH KADZIK.

#### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

LEE FRANCIS CISSNA, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DIRECTOR OF UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE LEON RODRIGUEZ.

#### FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO BE A CONSULAR OFFICER AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

JOEL JUSTIN AGALSOFF, OF VIRGINIA  
MICHAEL ANDRUCHOW, OF VIRGINIA  
JONATHAN MANUEL ARAYA, OF VIRGINIA  
MEAGHAN CHRISTINE ARCHER, OF VIRGINIA  
DANIEL JACOB BABINSKI, OF VIRGINIA  
AMIN SHEILONI BAILEY, OF VIRGINIA  
ELIZABETH REUSS BAIOCCI, OF FLORIDA  
MERAH IRIS BAIRD, OF VIRGINIA  
AMY EILEEN BARNES, OF VIRGINIA  
BRIAN ANTHONY BARONE, OF NEW YORK  
REBECCA CHRISTINE BEARDSLEY, OF VIRGINIA  
DANIELLE M. BERRA, OF VIRGINIA  
CHRISTINA HERTA BERTRAND, OF VIRGINIA  
DEVIN DRAKE BICKMORE, OF VIRGINIA  
JEFFREY ROBERT BITTNER, OF VIRGINIA  
ALEXANDER JAMES ELACK, OF GEORGIA  
JOHN YOUNG BONDS IV, OF TEXAS  
BRANDON WAYNE BOYATT, OF VIRGINIA  
ERIC THOMAS BRASSIL, OF VIRGINIA  
TONI RAQUEL BRINK, OF VIRGINIA  
CHARLENE SUZANNE BROWN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MARSHALL L. BROWN, OF VIRGINIA  
GREGORY S. BROWN, OF VIRGINIA  
TARA LYNN DI TROLIO CAMPBELL, OF VIRGINIA  
MARIA CANIC, OF VIRGINIA  
DAVID W. CARR, OF VIRGINIA  
ANA ALICIA CARRIEDO, OF VIRGINIA  
I-JUN CHEN, OF VIRGINIA  
MATTHEW CLAYTON CHILDS, OF VIRGINIA  
KWANG U. K. CHUNG, OF NEVADA  
GABRIELLE CHWAZIK-GEIS, OF NEW YORK  
CASEY RICHARD CLARK, OF VIRGINIA  
SEAN P. COGHLAN, OF VIRGINIA  
GREGORY ROBERT COLLINS, OF VIRGINIA  
RYAN WEISS COOPER, OF VIRGINIA  
JORDAN PAIGE COUGHENOUR, OF VIRGINIA  
MICHAEL ANDREW CRAMER, OF CALIFORNIA  
TRAMPES CHRISTOPHER CROW, OF VIRGINIA  
COREY J. CROWLEY, OF VIRGINIA  
JENNY LYNN CURTOLA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
BENJAMIN JOHN CUSHING, OF VIRGINIA  
THOMAS A. DALTON, OF VIRGINIA  
BRYAN RUSSEL DELEUW, OF VIRGINIA  
MARCO J. DELGADO RODRIGUEZ, OF VIRGINIA  
KEITH J. DOMINICK, OF VIRGINIA  
ANGUS JAMES DOWTON, OF CONNECTICUT  
THERESA MARGUERITE VERMEULEN DRAKE, OF VIRGINIA  
MICHELLE LYNNNE DURANT, OF VIRGINIA  
CHRISTINE MARIA DWULET, OF VIRGINIA  
CHRISTOPHER JAMES EDGEComb, OF GEORGIA  
APRIL MAE ELDRIDGE, OF VIRGINIA  
LESLIE MARIE ELDRIDGE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ROBERT C. ELLIOTT, OF VIRGINIA  
ANNA EROKHINA, OF VIRGINIA  
ALISON K. ESQUIVEL, OF VIRGINIA  
ELIZABETH MARIA ESTELA, OF VIRGINIA  
PENNY FIELDS, OF WASHINGTON  
JEFFREY FINE, OF VIRGINIA  
THOMAS HAROLD FINKEN, JR., OF NEW YORK  
CARL F. FIORELLO, OF VIRGINIA  
JOEL BRENDON FITCH, OF FLORIDA  
ANNE COVINGTON FOSS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
TIMOTHY J. FRANCIS, OF VIRGINIA  
MARCUS SMOLIC FREDERICK-ROSE, OF VIRGINIA  
AMBER MARIE GARLOCK, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
CHELSEA NICOLE GEIER, OF WISCONSIN  
CHRISTINE E. GERSON, OF VIRGINIA  
KATHRYN K. GHENT, OF VIRGINIA  
SAMUEL PATRICK GLEASON, OF TEXAS  
ADAM GOODBREG, OF VIRGINIA  
GREGORY FOSTER GOVORUKH, OF VIRGINIA  
ROSARIO GRANADOS-RUIZ, OF VIRGINIA  
JAMES GARRISON GREENLEAF, OF OKLAHOMA  
LAURA MARIE GUNDERSON, OF VIRGINIA  
ANA HACIC-VLAHOVIC, OF VIRGINIA  
KEITH ERIK HAGER, OF NEW YORK  
AARON RAY HALL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
JASON BRADFORD HARMS, OF COLORADO  
RAFI HAROUTUNIAN, OF VIRGINIA  
ELIZABETH A. HARPER, OF VIRGINIA  
BETHANY ANNE HAWORTH, OF VIRGINIA  
KYLE JOSEPH HENNING, OF OREGON  
KATHRYN D. HINKLE, OF VIRGINIA  
MICHAEL ALLEN HINKLE, OF VIRGINIA  
HIPH ANH HOANG, OF VIRGINIA  
SHARON M. HOCH, OF VIRGINIA  
ZACHARY JOHN HODYNA, OF MICHIGAN  
MATTHEW ALAN HOPFER, OF VIRGINIA  
ANGIE M. HUNT, OF VIRGINIA  
JILLIAN LARSEN ITHARAT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
LLOYD JACKSON, OF VIRGINIA

CARL TAYLOR JENKINS, OF VIRGINIA  
GREGORY ALAN JOHNSON, OF VIRGINIA  
CATHLEEN MAURA JONES, OF VIRGINIA  
ROBERT HERBERT JOSWIAK, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ERIKA H. KARASIEWICZ, OF VIRGINIA  
CAITLIN MAUREEN KEEGAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
PATRICIA ELIZABETH KEHOE, OF VIRGINIA  
MEGAN ELLSBETH KENNY, OF WASHINGTON  
BAILEY KIMSSY, OF VIRGINIA  
MARC J. KLINE, OF VIRGINIA  
PATRICK JAMES KNAPP, OF NEW YORK  
PATRICIA LOUISE KNISELEY, OF VIRGINIA  
JOANNE ELLEN KRAMB, OF VIRGINIA  
SCOTT MICHAEL KRUSHINSKI, OF VIRGINIA  
DEREK JAMES KVERNO, OF CALIFORNIA  
CAYLEY ELYSE LAMB, OF VIRGINIA  
PATTY BADA LANE, OF VIRGINIA  
ERIC JOHN LARSON, OF VIRGINIA  
MARY H. LAWAL, OF VIRGINIA  
JESSE ZELUCK LEEDS, OF VIRGINIA  
VICTORIA ELIZABETH LEWIS-YOUNG, OF NEW JERSEY  
PAIJ BRIGITTE LINTZ, OF VIRGINIA  
ALEKSANDRA MARIA LIPSCOMB, OF VIRGINIA  
ADAM RYAN LONGENECKER, OF VIRGINIA  
GRAHAM TRUITT MACDONALD, OF FLORIDA  
ANUM SHAIKAT MALIK, OF VIRGINIA  
SHEHERBANO MALIK, OF VIRGINIA  
BRIAN BEARCE MALLOY, OF ILLINOIS  
SARA ELSBETH MANN, OF VIRGINIA  
LAUREN CHRISTINE MANNERS, OF VIRGINIA  
COLLIN MICHAEL MANNING, OF VIRGINIA  
KATHERINE ANNE MARKEY, OF VIRGINIA  
LESLIE EDNA MARKS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
COREY D. MARTIN, OF VIRGINIA  
FIONA ROSE MASLAND, OF MASSACHUSETTS  
BRIAN J. MASSEY, OF VIRGINIA  
LAQUANA LEIGH MCCALL, OF VIRGINIA  
MATTHEW RYAN MCCARTY, OF FLORIDA  
ANDRIE SHAUN MCGLAISHAN, OF VIRGINIA  
JOHN DEAN MCGREGOR III, OF MICHIGAN  
DOMINIC PAUL MCINTYRE, OF VIRGINIA  
KRISTIN AUSTRA MEANS, OF HAWAII  
WILLIAM D. MENZIE, OF VIRGINIA  
RICHARD A. MERCURIO, OF VIRGINIA  
LYLE VINCENT MIKOWICZ, OF NORTH CAROLINA  
RONALD P. MILLER, OF VIRGINIA  
ANUPAM MOHANTY, OF VIRGINIA  
SCOTT ANDREW MOORE, OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EMMA ECKERT MOROS, OF VERMONT  
NORMA IRIS MOZEE, OF COLORADO  
CLAIRE S. NEELY, OF VIRGINIA  
JOSHUA MICHAEL NELSON, OF FLORIDA  
MELLISA L. LEA NELSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DANE CLIFFORD RICHARD NIELSEN, OF VIRGINIA  
CHRISTOPHER PANKIEWICZ NOHR, OF VIRGINIA  
GREGORY JOSEPH NORTON, OF VIRGINIA  
ANNE LOVE NUechterlein, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
KATHERINE A. O'LEARY, OF VIRGINIA  
JOHN ROBERT OLSON, OF VIRGINIA  
JONATHAN JARRETT ORR, OF VIRGINIA  
SHANNON D. OTTMERS, OF VIRGINIA  
KINSTAL AMANDA OVERMYER, OF NEBRASKA  
MONALISA PAK-ARCHER, OF VIRGINIA  
RUBY REYNA CHAN PARKER, OF MASSACHUSETTS  
SHANNON A. PARONG, OF VIRGINIA  
KELLY LYNN PEDRONI, OF VIRGINIA  
ELIZABETH A. PENDZICK, OF VIRGINIA  
STEPHEN V. PERRY, OF VIRGINIA  
ALEXANDER ROBERT PICKETT, OF VIRGINIA  
ALLISON J. PILGER, OF VIRGINIA  
ANDREW FORREST POE, OF VIRGINIA  
ROBERT PHILIP POVTAK, OF VIRGINIA  
MARION EILEEN PREDA, OF VIRGINIA  
JAMES TATE PRESTON, OF VIRGINIA  
MICHAEL FRANCIS QUINE, OF VIRGINIA  
ROBERT LEE REEVES, OF UTAH  
CHRISTINE NOELLE REYES, OF VIRGINIA  
CHRISTINA V. ROHRS, OF VIRGINIA  
JAMES B. RYAN, OF VIRGINIA  
ANNE ELIZABETH SACKVILLE-WEST, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
JASON E. SASALA, OF VIRGINIA  
MOMOKO SATO, OF VIRGINIA  
SCOTT D. SCHAIPER, OF VIRGINIA  
GREGORY THOMAS SCHROEDER, OF VIRGINIA  
NICHOLAS JOHN SCHUCK, OF OHIO  
AMANDA CHRISTINE SHIFFLETT, OF VIRGINIA  
EDWARD DONGCHUL SHIN, OF VIRGINIA  
LINDA LEE SHIN, OF VIRGINIA  
BENJAMIN WICKE SHOAF, OF VIRGINIA  
KARINA BRITKOVA SILVER, OF VIRGINIA  
CASEY RAYE SIMMONS, OF VIRGINIA  
JESSICA SUSAN SKREBES, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
NATHAN ROGER PRIBBLE SLATTENGREN, OF IDAHO  
CLAUDE VANDIVER SMITH, OF VIRGINIA  
CHRISTOPHER BEARD COPEN SORENSON, OF VIRGINIA  
NATHAN ANDREW ST. JOHN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
JOHN ROBERT STARK, OF FLORIDA  
ROBERT WILLIAM STUCKEY, JR., OF VIRGINIA  
KATHLEEN M. SUDDARTH, OF VIRGINIA  
SADIE LEE THIMSEN, OF VIRGINIA  
ERIN ROGAN THURBER, OF DELAWARE  
MARTIN ALEXANDER THURN, OF FLORIDA  
JENNIE GAIL TRAWEEK, OF TEXAS  
JENNIFER MARIE TURNER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MARIE TONYA VLAHOS, OF VIRGINIA  
BENJAMIN DAVIS WHITNEY, OF VIRGINIA  
LAUREN VICTORIA WILLY, OF COLORADO  
COURTNEY ANN WYCHE, OF VIRGINIA  
HYOJUNG YANG, OF VIRGINIA  
IVA ZIZA, OF MARYLAND

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR APPOINTMENT AS A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, A CONSULAR OFFICER, AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

EDWARD FRANCIS ACEVEDO, OF FLORIDA  
BRIAN THOMAS ANDERSON, OF TEXAS  
JONATHAN A. ARMAH, OF WISCONSIN  
JONATHAN ERIC BANCO, OF CONNECTICUT  
RAZIA ZARINA BAQAI, OF CALIFORNIA  
RAYMA BARAN, OF TEXAS  
SARAH ATWOOD BARMA, OF NEBRASKA  
MICHAEL THOMAS BEHAN, OF CALIFORNIA  
LILLIAN D BENJAMIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
KENT ANTHONY MACKINNON BENSON, OF FLORIDA  
STEPHEN F. BERLINGUETTE, OF FLORIDA  
NATHANIEL BILLS, OF VERMONT  
BRINTON EDWARD BOHLING, OF VIRGINIA  
KIMBERLY ANN BOSTWICK, OF MARYLAND  
CIBELES GARCIA BURT, OF TEXAS  
HAROLD GEORGE CAREY, JR., OF CALIFORNIA  
DAVID B. CHALMERS, OF WASHINGTON  
CORY COLEMAN, OF ALABAMA  
JENNIFER CONNOLLY, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
TIMOTHY GUSTAVO CURTIN, OF MISSOURI  
JOSEPH B. DEVER, OF MICHIGAN  
CHARLEE NICOLE DOOM, OF NEW YORK  
NICOLE ENERSEN, OF MINNESOTA  
JESSICA R. FABER, OF WASHINGTON  
JACINTO F. FABIOSA, OF IOWA  
TODD EVAN FLOWER, OF MISSOURI  
JUAN J. GAMBOA, OF TEXAS  
ROY JOSEPH GEISER, OF VIRGINIA  
THOMAS GIBB, OF COLORADO  
JAMES M. GILMAN, OF MASSACHUSETTS  
JUSTIN ROSS GUNNOE, OF OHIO  
CAITLIN GAYLE HALL, OF FLORIDA  
FRANCIS XAVIER HIGDON, OF FLORIDA  
CAROLINE B. HILLAS, OF VIRGINIA  
SHAWNA GILLESPIE HIRSCH, OF WASHINGTON  
CHRISTOPHER ANDREW HOBBS, OF MASSACHUSETTS  
COLIN MARK HOLMES, OF CALIFORNIA  
MARK K. HYLAND, OF CALIFORNIA  
MARKHAM ANTHONY ISOM, OF FLORIDA  
JOHN JIRASEK, OF MINNESOTA  
NERY Y. JUBERT RIVERA, OF MARYLAND  
CHRISTINE KATIN, OF FLORIDA  
ANNA IRIS KATZ, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
CHELSEA JACCARD KAUFMAN, OF VIRGINIA  
JAMES PATRICK KELLEHER, OF VIRGINIA  
JULIA C. KENNEDY, OF TEXAS  
AMBER LILY KENNY, OF MISSOURI  
ASHLEY M. KING, OF WASHINGTON  
DENNIS KNECHT, OF OHIO  
LUKE RICHARD LEDENBACH, OF ILLINOIS  
STEPHEN FONTAINE LITTLE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
JESSICA-LOUISE BASS LOPEZ, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
PATRICE A.D. LOPEZ, OF MARYLAND  
KENNETH W. MACLEAN, OF FLORIDA  
KATELIN B. MAHER, OF FLORIDA  
TERHI H. MAJANEN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
COURTNEY MCGILL MALONEY, OF MICHIGAN  
ASHLEY B. MARCUS, OF VIRGINIA  
ANDREW MALONE MCCOWN, OF TEXAS  
ALEXIS MCGINNESS, OF CALIFORNIA  
DHULCE-JANICE MCGUIRE, OF VIRGINIA  
ISABELLE CHRISTINA MULIN, OF TEXAS  
SARAH MUWANGA-MASAGAZI, OF NORTH CAROLINA  
ANDREW JAMES NELSON, OF VIRGINIA  
JANE ASHLEY NETHERTON, OF KENTUCKY  
DANI L. NEWCOMB, OF FLORIDA  
MARK ANDREW NEWTON, OF VIRGINIA  
OGHALE A.D. ODDO, OF KENTUCKY  
THERESA FINN OUTLAW, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
OLEKSANDRA MYKOLAYIVNA PRICE, OF NEW YORK  
GUADALUPE ELIZABETH RAMIREZ, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MATTHEW DAVID RUSSELL, OF WISCONSIN  
DANIEL PATRICK RYAN, OF CALIFORNIA  
MELISSA A. SCHERER, OF VIRGINIA  
KRISTI SCHOBBER, OF TEXAS  
AGATHE SECTOR, OF FLORIDA  
JOSEPH A. SIDARI, OF ILLINOIS  
AMY M. SOUTHWORTH, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
JOANN CARLA SPARACINO, OF WASHINGTON  
DYLAN J. STEARNS, OF FLORIDA  
SHANNON LYNN STONE, OF WISCONSIN  
DAVID J. STRINE, OF CONNECTICUT  
PAMELA LESLIE STRONG, OF OREGON  
ALENA JUNKO TANSEY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
JASON P TAYLOR, OF IDAHO  
MARIA JULIA TELEVANTOS, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
JOHN NICHOLAS THUROW, OF WYOMING  
SERGIU ZGRIPCEA TROIE, OF MASSACHUSETTS  
LAURA MONICA VILLANUEVA, OF VIRGINIA  
CONSTANCE WARHOL, OF MINNESOTA  
STACEY T. WARREN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
THIBAUT WILLIAMS, OF VIRGINIA  
ERIN N. WRUBLEWSKI, OF INDIANA  
GRACE YANG, OF VIRGINIA  
SHANNON R. YOUNG, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
KATHERINE YOUNKER, OF CALIFORNIA  
BENJAMIN D. ZINNER, OF MINNESOTA  
THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR:  
JIM NELSON BARNHART, JR., OF GEORGIA  
ANDREW M. HERSCOWITZ, OF CALIFORNIA  
TERESA L. MCGHIE, OF NEVADA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, AS A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

HAVEN G. CRUZ-HUBBARD, OF MARYLAND  
TIMOTHY J. DONNAY, OF VERMONT  
JOSEPH L. DORSEY, OF VIRGINIA  
PETER WILLIAM DUFFY, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
JOHN L. DUNLOP, OF VIRGINIA  
MICHAEL JAMES EDDY, OF MISSOURI  
GABRIEL F. GRAU, OF FLORIDA  
ALER GRUBBS, OF INDIANA  
ANDREW DAVID HOLLAND, OF CALIFORNIA  
KAREN R. HUNTER, OF FLORIDA  
JENNIFER MARIE LINK, OF ILLINOIS  
SANDRA K. MINKEL, OF NEVADA  
DIANE B. MOORE, OF NEW YORK  
THOMAS R. MORRIS, OF VIRGINIA  
MARGARET ELIZABETH ENIS SPEARS, OF MARYLAND  
TANYA S. URQUIETA, OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
ANNE N. WILLIAMS, OF MARYLAND

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR:

JEANNE F. BAILEY, OF ILLINOIS  
CLAY M. HAMILTON, OF TEXAS  
BOBBY GENE RICHEY, JR., OF TEXAS  
ERIC A. WENBERG, OF WYOMING

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, AS A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

ALI ABDI, OF VIRGINIA  
MICHAEL LEO CONLON, OF VIRGINIA  
PAUL ALLEN SPENCER-MACGREGOR, OF VIRGINIA  
W. GARTH THORBURN II, OF FLORIDA  
ROBERT HENRY HANSON, OF WISCONSIN

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR APPOINTMENT AS A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, A CONSULAR OFFICER, AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

DAVID A. ASHFORD, OF NEW YORK  
JEFFERY S. AUSTIN, OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
GEORGE A. BALL III, OF FLORIDA  
THERESA L. BOYLE, OF COLORADO  
LEONIDES L. CARDENAS, OF FLORIDA  
DARYA CHEHREZAD, OF CALIFORNIA  
CYNTHIA K. DUERR, OF FLORIDA  
RUSSELL A. DUNCAN, OF MARYLAND  
CONRAD ESTRADA, OF NEW YORK  
KELAN R. EVANS, OF MISSOURI  
JOHN F. GILMORE, OF FLORIDA  
JOHN J. HURLEY, OF MARYLAND  
JEROMY J. MCKIM, OF WYOMING  
DAVID G. MIDGARDEN, OF FLORIDA  
ROBERTO E. PANTALEON, OF FLORIDA  
MARK C. PRESCOTT, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
SCOTT D. SAXE, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
ROBERT T. TANAKA, OF OHIO  
FRED WANG, OF MARYLAND  
SHARON WILLIAMS, OF KANSAS  
JEFFREY G. WILLNOW, OF OREGON

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER:

DAVID CHARLES MILLER, OF WASHINGTON  
SCOTT S. SINDELAR, OF MINNESOTA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR APPOINTMENT AS A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, A CONSULAR OFFICER, AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

FRED AZIZ, OF FLORIDA  
DAWN BRUNO, OF FLORIDA  
JULIE ANN CARDUCCI, OF FLORIDA  
JAMES PRESTON CURTIS, OF GEORGIA  
MINDI B. HERTZOG, OF FLORIDA  
NEIL PAUL PICKETT, OF FLORIDA  
MATTHEW QUIGLEY, OF MICHIGAN  
NATHALIE SCHARF, OF FLORIDA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR:

DAVID GOSSACK, OF CALIFORNIA  
SARAH KEMP, OF NEW YORK  
KEITH KIRKHAM, OF MAINE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, AS A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

STEPHEN ALLEY, OF TENNESSEE  
ISABELLA CASCARANO, OF VIRGINIA  
WILLIAM CZAJKOWSKI, OF CALIFORNIA  
BRIAN MCCLEARY, OF VIRGINIA  
MARY AILEEN NANDI, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
ALYCE CAMILLE RICHARDSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
SCOTT SHAW, OF ILLINOIS  
DOUGLAS WALLACE, OF CALIFORNIA  
PAMELA WARD, OF CALIFORNIA

## CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate April 25, 2017:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROD J. ROSENSTEIN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL.

## WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on April 25, 2017 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

TODD M. RICKETTS, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 20, 2017.