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2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 360

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 29 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 17), 2008

Received

OCTOBER 2 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 17), 2008

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the important social and economic contributions and accomplishments of the New Deal to our Nation on the 75th anniversary of legislation establishing the initial New Deal social and public works programs.

Whereas this year marks the 75th anniversary of the “First Hundred Days”, from March 4, 1933, to June 16, 1933, which was an unprecedented period of legislative action that engendered the programs that constituted the New Deal;

Whereas the New Deal was a set of programs and policies with the purpose of promoting economic recovery,

as well as social and financial reform, during a time of severe economic and social distress due to conditions created by the Great Depression;

Whereas the New Deal established Federal programs to address these issues, including the Civilian Conservation Corps, Works Progress Administration, Public Works Administration, Farm Securities Administration, National Youth Administration, Home Owners Loan Corporation, Tennessee Valley Authority, and the Rural Electric Administration;

Whereas these programs left behind a massive public works and architectural legacy;

Whereas the United States continues to benefit from infrastructure projects built as a result of the New Deal, including numerous schools, hospitals, courthouses, libraries, city halls, fire houses, housing, public health facilities, roads, bridges, airports, sewer and water systems, flood control projects, dams, trails, parks, playgrounds, and zoos;

Whereas these infrastructure projects employed millions of individuals who planted more than 3,000,000,000 trees and constructed or repaired 650,000 miles of public roads, 125,000 public buildings, 75,000 bridges, 8,000 parks, 800 airports, and a number of sewage disposal plants;

Whereas the income from the millions of jobs created by the New Deal lifted many people out of poverty and provided stability to every sector of the American economy;

Whereas these programs built renowned structures and facilities, including the Rincon Annex Post Office and Alameda County Courthouse in California; the Timberline

Lodge in Mt. Hood, Oregon; the Grand Coulee Dam in Washington; the Fort Peck Dam in Montana; the Norris Dam in Tennessee; Greenbelt towns in Maryland, Ohio, and Wisconsin; Red Rocks Amphitheatre in Colorado; Skyline Drive in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia; and airports in New York City, Chicago, and the District of Columbia;

Whereas the Federal programs of the New Deal included projects for art, forest and soil conservation, distribution of food and clothing, education, historical surveys, library and book repair, music, recreation, writing, theater, disaster assistance, and medical, dental, and nursing programs;

Whereas the many cultural programs of the New Deal catalogued and supported the development of distinctive American art and oral histories, and further established the arts as a central and beneficial element of American society;

Whereas the New Deal created important institutions, including Social Security, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Securities Exchange Commission, and the National Labor Relations Board;

Whereas the New Deal illustrates the ability of the Federal Government to act as a positive and instrumental force for change in addressing social and economic crises for the benefit of all people in the United States;

Whereas the current economic crisis, growing income inequality, and the degradation of infrastructure and the environment elicit the need for programs similar to the New Deal, both in spirit and substance; and

(1) recognizes the important social and economic contributions and accomplishments of the New Deal to our Nation on the 75th anniversary of legislation establishing the initial New Deal social and public works programs;

11 (3) encourages the people of the United States
12 to observe National New Deal week.

Attest: LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk.