

Contributions, Amount, Date, and Donee:

1. Self: None.
2. Spouse: n/a.
3. Children and Spouses: n/a.
4. Parents: John M. Sanderson, None; Patricia M. Sanderson, (deceased).
5. Grandparents: Emil and Marjorie Budde (deceased); Gail and John Sanderson (deceased).
6. Brothers and Spouses: Michael Sanderson and Michelle McMahon, None.
7. Sisters and Spouses: n/a.

*James D. McGee, of Florida, to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Union of Comoros.
Nominee: James David McGee.
Post: Union of Comoros.

The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.

Contributions, Amount, Date, and Donee:

1. Self: None.
2. Spouse: None.
3. Children and Spouses: n/a.
4. Parents: Ruby Mae McGee, none; and Jewel L. McGee (deceased), n/a.
5. Grandparents: James West Senior (deceased), n/a; Malvena West (deceased), n/a; David McGee (deceased), n/a; and Mary McGee (deceased), n/a.
6. Brothers and Spouses: Ronald N. McGee, none; Kathy McGee, none.
7. Sisters and Spouses: Mary Ann Dillahunt, none; Tyrone Dillahunt, none.

*Gary A. Grappo, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman.

Nominee: Gary A. Grappo.

Post: Muscat, Oman.

The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.

Contributions, Amount, Date, and Donee:

1. Self: none.
2. Spouse: none.
3. Children and Spouses: Michelle (21), Alexander (19) & Kristina (17) Grappo; none.
4. Parents: Anthony and Viola Grappo, none.
5. Grandparents: Severio & Maria Marchese, and Alexander & Louise Grappo (deceased); none.
6. Brothers and Spouses: Anthony P. & Deb Grappo; \$2,000, 12/2001, Outback Steakhouse PAC; \$4,995, 11/2002, Outback Steakhouse PAC; \$5,000, 12/2003, Outback Steakhouse PAC; and \$5,000, 12/2004, Outback Steakhouse PAC.
7. Sisters and Spouses: none.

*Patricia A. Butenis, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Nominee: Patricia A. Butenis.

The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.

Contributions, Amount, Date, and Donee:

1. Self: none.
2. Spouse: n/a.
3. Children and Spouses: n/a.
4. Parents: Hafsa Butenis, none; Charles P. Butenis (deceased).
5. Grandparents: Alexander Michalezka (deceased); Anastasia Michalezka (deceased);

Casimir Butenis (deceased); Petronella Leszinski (deceased).

6. Brothers and Spouses: n/a.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Linda Butenis Vorsa, none; Nicholi Vorsa, none; Donna Butenis Mulraney, none; Andrew Mulraney, none.

*Donald T. Bliss, of Maryland, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America on the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization.

*Claudia A. McMurray, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.

*Bradford R. Higgins, of Connecticut, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Resource Management).

*Bradford R. Higgins, of Connecticut, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of State.

*Jackie Wolcott Sanders, of Virginia, to be Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador.

*Jackie Wolcott Sanders, of Virginia, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations.

*Michael W. Michalak, of Michigan, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as United States Senior Official to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum.

*Ben S. Bernanke, of New Jersey, to be United States Alternate Governor of the International Monetary Fund for a term of five years.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, for the Committee on Foreign Relations 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.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Anne Elizabeth Linnee and ending with Kathleen Anne Yu, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on December 13, 2005.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Lisa M. Anderson and ending with Gregory C. Yemm, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on December 14, 2005.

*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 Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. LOTT):

S. 2287. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase and permanently extend the expensing of certain depreciable business assets for small businesses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 2288. A bill to modernize water resources planning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BUNNING:

S. 2289. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase the per resident payment floor for direct graduate medical education payments under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. TALENT):

S. 2290. A bill to provide for affordable natural gas by rebalancing domestic supply and demand and to promote the production of natural gas from domestic resources; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 2291. A bill to provide for the establishment of a biodefense injury compensation program and to provide indemnification for producers of countermeasures; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2292. A bill to provide relief for the Federal judiciary from excessive rent charges; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ALLEN:

S. J. Res. 31. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to require a balancing of the budget; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 241

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 241, a bill to amend section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 to provide that funds received as universal service contributions and the universal service support programs established pursuant to that section are not subject to certain provisions of title 31, United States Code, commonly known as the Antideficiency Act.

S. 267

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 267, a bill to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, and for other purposes.

S. 548

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 548, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to encourage owners and operators of privately-held

farm, ranch, and forest land to voluntarily make their land available for access by the public under programs administered by States and tribal governments.

S. 577

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 577, a bill to promote health care coverage for individuals participating in legal recreational activities or legal transportation activities.

S. 829

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 829, a bill to allow media coverage of court proceedings.

S. 1112

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1112, a bill to make permanent the enhanced educational savings provisions for qualified tuition programs enacted as part of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001.

S. 1262

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1262, a bill to reduce healthcare costs, improve efficiency, and improve healthcare quality through the development of a nationwide interoperable health information technology system, and for other purposes.

S. 1568

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1568, a bill to enhance the ability of community banks to foster economic growth and serve their communities, and for other purposes.

S. 2123

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2123, a bill to modernize the manufactured housing loan insurance program under title I of the National Housing Act.

S. 2172

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2172, a bill to provide for response to Hurricane Katrina by establishing a Louisiana Recovery Corporation, providing for housing and community rebuilding, and for other purposes.

S. 2283

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2283, a bill to establish a congressional commemorative medal for organ donors and their families.

S. RES. 372

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from California

(Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 372, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that oil and gas companies should not be provided outer Continental Shelf royalty relief when energy prices are at historic highs.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. LOTT):

S. 2287. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase and permanently extend the expensing of certain depreciable business assets for small businesses; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation that allows small businesses to expense more of their equipment and business assets, which will create incentives to invest in new technology, expand their operations, and most important, create jobs. Small businesses are the engine that drives our Nation's economy and I believe this bill strengthens their ability to lead the way. I am pleased to join my colleague from Mississippi, Senator TRENT LOTT, as we work to move this important initiative for small businesses from legislation to law.

As the Chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I drafted this bill in response to the repeated requests from small businesses in my State of Maine and from across the Nation to allow them to expense more of their investments like the purchase of essential new equipment. The bill modifies the Internal Revenue Code and would double the amount a small business can expense from \$100,000 to \$200,000, and make the provision permanent as President Bush also proposed this change in his fiscal year 2007 tax proposals. With small businesses representing 99 percent of all employers, creating 75 percent of net new jobs and contributing 51 percent of private-sector output, their size is the only 'small' aspect about them.

By doubling and making permanent the current expensing limit and indexing these amounts for inflation, this bill will achieve two important objectives. First, qualifying businesses will be able to write off more of the equipment purchases today, instead of waiting five, seven or more years to recover their costs through depreciation. That represents substantial savings both in dollars and in the time small businesses would otherwise have to spend complying with complex and confusing depreciation rules. Moreover, new equipment will contribute to continued productivity growth in the business community, which economic experts have repeatedly stressed is essential to the long-term vitality of our economy.

Second, as a result of this bill, more businesses will qualify for this benefit because the phase-out limit will be increased to \$800,000 in new assets pur-

chases. At the same time, small business capital investment will be pumping more money into the economy. Accordingly, this is a win-win for small business and the economy as a whole.

This legislation is a tremendous opportunity to help small enterprises succeed by providing an incentive for reinvestment and leaving them more of their earnings to do just that. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this vital legislation as we work with the President to enact this investment incentive into law.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2287

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

SECTION 1. INCREASE AND PERMANENT EXTENSION FOR EXPENSING FOR SMALL BUSINESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 179(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to dollar limitation) is amended by striking "\$25,000 (\$100,000 in the case of taxable years beginning after 2002 and before 2008)" and inserting "\$200,000".

(b) INCREASE IN QUALIFYING INVESTMENT AT WHICH PHASEOUT BEGINS.—Paragraph (2) of section 179(b) of such Code (relating to reduction in limitation) is amended by striking "\$200,000 (\$400,000 in the case of taxable years beginning after 2002 and before 2008)" and inserting "\$800,000".

(c) INFLATION ADJUSTMENTS.—Section 179(b)(5)(A) of such Code (relating to inflation adjustments) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(A) by striking "after 2003 and before 2008" and inserting "after 2007", and

(B) by striking "the \$100,000 and \$400,000 amounts" and inserting "the \$200,000 and \$800,000 amounts", and

(2) in clause (ii), by striking "calendar year 2002" and inserting "calendar year 2006".

(d) REVOCATION OF ELECTION.—Section 179(c)(2) of such Code (relating to election irrevocable) is amended to read as follows:

"(2) REVOCABILITY OF ELECTION.—Any election made under this section, and any specification contained in any such election, may be revoked by the taxpayer with respect to any property, and such revocation, once made, shall be irrevocable."

(e) OFF-THE-SHELF COMPUTER SOFTWARE.—Section 179(d)(1)(A)(ii) of such Code (relating to section 179 property) is amended by striking "and before 2008".

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2006.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 2288. A bill to modernize water resources planning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I introduce the Water Resources Planning and Modernization Act of 2006, a bill that will bring our water resources policy into the 21st century. I am pleased to be joined in this legislation by the senior Senator from Arizona, Mr. MCCAIN. We have worked together for some time to modernize the Army