

APPOINTMENT AUTHORIZATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

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

VESSEL HULL DESIGN PROTECTION AMENDMENTS OF 2007

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 404, S. 1640.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1640) to amend chapter 13 of title 17, United States Code (relating to the vessel hull design protection), to clarify the definition of a hull and a deck.

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

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today the Senate will pass S. 1640, the Vessel Hull Design Protection Act Amendments of 2007, after the Judiciary Committee voted unanimously to send it to the floor. This is a small but important piece of legislation, and I thank my cosponsors, Senator CORNYN, Senator KOHL, and Senator WHITEHOUSE, for all their hard work. Last year, this bill was passed by the Judiciary Committee and by the full Senate, but unfortunately the House held it hostage to an unrelated bill at the end of the session. I don't want that to happen again this year.

In 1998, Congress passed the Vessel Hull Design Protection Act to recognize the significant time, effort, and innovation that figure into ship design. Recent courtroom experience has made it clear that in order to be effective, this law needs to be clarified and refined. Our bill does exactly this, and no more, by clarifying the definition of "hull" and "deck." This ensures that the intellectual property rights of vessel hull designers will be protected.

I look forward to this bill becoming law.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time, and passed; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 1640) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1640

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

SECTION 1. VESSEL HULL DESIGN PROTECTION.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the "Vessel Hull Design Protection Amendments of 2007".

(b) DESIGNS PROTECTED.—Section 1301(a) of title 17, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

"(2) VESSEL FEATURES.—The design of a vessel hull, deck, or combination of a hull and deck, including a plug or mold, is subject to protection under this chapter, notwithstanding section 1302(4)."

(c) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1301(b) of title 17, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking "vessel hull, including a plug or mold," and inserting "vessel hull or deck, including a plug or mold,";

(2) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

"(4) A 'hull' is the exterior frame or body of a vessel, exclusive of the deck, superstructure, masts, sails, yards, rigging, hardware, fixtures, and other attachments."; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(7) A 'deck' is the horizontal surface of a vessel that covers the hull, including exterior cabin and cockpit surfaces, and exclusive of masts, sails, yards, rigging, hardware, fixtures, and other attachments.".

COMMENDING THE GOVERNMENT OF GERMANY FOR PREVENTING A LARGE-SCALE TERRORIST ATTACK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 344, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 344) commending the government of Germany for preventing a large-scale terrorist attack in September 2007, and supporting future cooperation to prevent terrorism.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 344) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 344

Whereas, on September 4, 2007, police in Germany arrested 3 individuals for planning large-scale terrorist attacks against locations in Germany, including sites frequented by United States citizens;

Whereas possible targets included Ramstein Air Base, which serves as headquarters for United States Air Forces in Europe and is also a North Atlantic Treaty Organization installation, and Frankfurt Airport, one of the largest airports in Europe;

Whereas, according to German authorities, the 3 suspects belonged to a German cell of Islamic Jihad Union, a radical Sunni group based in Central Asia with links to Al Qaeda;

Whereas 300 police and other law enforcement officials were involved in the investigation and 41 homes across Germany were raided in a highly successful operation;

Whereas United States intelligence agencies reportedly provided critical information that alerted their counterparts in Germany as to the travels of the suspects between Germany and Pakistan and the suspects' affiliation with the Islamic Jihad Union;

Whereas German authorities acted swiftly and decisively to prevent an attack that could have come within days of the arrests;

Whereas the successful collaborative action by United States and German authorities prevented the possible deaths of many innocent people;

Whereas Germany and the United States have been close allies in the fight against terrorism;

Whereas the law enforcement, intelligence, diplomatic, and military organizations in Germany and the United States continue to work together to combat the terrorist threat and prevent future attacks; and

Whereas victory in the fight against terrorism is critical to preserve the liberty and ensure the safety of all people: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the efforts of law enforcement authorities in Germany in preventing a large-scale terrorist attack on numerous targets in Germany, including sites frequented by United States citizens;

(2) recognizes the role of United States intelligence agencies in providing critical information to German authorities in their investigation and apprehension of the suspected terrorists and notes the continuing importance of such United States intelligence cooperation with Germany;

(3) commends the intelligence community of Germany for its outstanding work in identifying the individuals suspected of seeking to carry out this terrorist plot;

(4) condemns those individuals who would use acts of violence against innocent civilians to spread a message of hate and intolerance;

(5) urges the allies of the United States to remain steadfast in their efforts to defeat international terrorism; and

(6) expresses its readiness to provide necessary assistance to the Government of Germany in its counterterrorism effort to bring to justice those individuals involved in this terrorist plot.

AGREEMENT FOR MANAGING MIGRATORY AND TRANSBOUNDARY FISH STOCKS

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ROAD CRASH VICTIMS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed, en bloc, to the consideration of Calendar No. 407, S.J. Res. 17; and Calendar No. 408, S. Con. Res. 39.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 17) directing the United States to initiate international discussions and take necessary steps with other nations to negotiate an agreement for managing migratory and transboundary fish stocks in the Arctic Ocean.

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 39) supporting the goals and ideals of a world day of remembrance for road crash victims.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the joint resolution be read the third time, and passed; that the preambles be agreed to, en bloc, and the motions to reconsider laid upon the table; that consideration of these items appear separately in the Record; and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 39) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 39

Whereas 40,000 people in the United States, and 1,200,000 people globally, die in road crashes each year;

Whereas another 20,000,000 to 50,000,000 people globally are injured each year as a result of speeding motor vehicles, the increasing use of motor vehicles, and rapid urbanization;

Whereas the World Health Organization has predicted that by the year 2020 the annual number of deaths from motor vehicle crashes is likely to surpass the annual number of deaths from AIDS;

Whereas the current estimated cost of motor vehicle crashes worldwide is \$518,000,000,000 annually, representing between 3 and 5 percent of the gross domestic product of each nation;

Whereas over 90 percent of motor vehicle-related deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries;

Whereas, according to the World Health Organization, motor vehicle-related deaths and costs continue to rise in these countries due to a lack of appropriate road engineering and injury prevention programs in public health sectors; and

Whereas the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution designating the third Sunday of November as a day of remembrance for road crash victims and their families, and called on nations globally to improve road safety: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of a world day of remembrance for road crash victims; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to commemorate a world day of remembrance for road crash victims with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and other activities.

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 17) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

The preamble was agreed to.

The joint resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S.J. RES. 17

Whereas the decline of several commercially valuable fish stocks throughout the world's oceans highlights the need for fishing nations to conserve fish stocks and develop management systems that promote fisheries sustainability;

Whereas fish stocks are migratory throughout their habitats, and changing ocean conditions can restructure marine habitats and redistribute the species dependent on those habitats;

Whereas changing global climate regimes may increase ocean water temperature, creating suitable new habitats in areas pre-

viously too cold to support certain fish stocks, such as the Arctic Ocean;

Whereas habitat expansion and migration of fish stocks into the Arctic Ocean and the potential for vessel docking and navigation in the Arctic Ocean could create conditions favorable for establishing and expanding commercial fisheries in the future;

Whereas commercial fishing has occurred in several regions of the Arctic Ocean, including the Barents Sea, Kara Sea, Beaufort Sea, Chukchi Sea, and Greenland Sea, although fisheries scientists have only limited data on current and projected future fish stock abundance and distribution patterns throughout the Arctic Ocean;

Whereas remote indigenous communities in all nations that border the Arctic Ocean engage in limited, small scale subsistence fishing and must maintain access to and sustainability of this fishing in order to survive;

Whereas many of these communities depend on a variety of other marine life for social, cultural and subsistence purposes, including marine mammals and seabirds that may be adversely affected by climate change, and emerging fisheries in the Arctic should take into account the social, economic, cultural and subsistence needs of these small coastal communities;

Whereas managing for fisheries sustainability requires that all commercial fishing be conducted in accordance with science-based limits on harvest, timely and accurate reporting of catch data, equitable allocation and access systems, and effective monitoring and enforcement systems;

Whereas migratory fish stocks traverse international boundaries between the exclusive economic zones of fishing nations and the high seas, and ensuring sustainability of fisheries targeting these stocks requires management systems based on international coordination and cooperation;

Whereas international fishing treaties and agreements provide a framework for establishing rules to guide sustainable fishing activities among those nations that are parties to the agreement, and regional fisheries management organizations provide international fora for implementing these agreements and facilitating international cooperation and collaboration;

Whereas under its authorities in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council has proposed that the United States close all Federal waters in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas to commercial fishing until a fisheries management plan is fully developed; and

Whereas future commercial fishing and fisheries management activities in the Arctic Ocean should be developed through a coordinated international framework, as provided by international treaties or regional fisheries management organizations, and this framework should be implemented before significant commercial fishing activity expands to the high seas: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That—

(1) the United States should initiate international discussions and take necessary steps with other Arctic nations to negotiate an agreement or agreements for managing migratory, transboundary, and straddling fish stocks in the Arctic Ocean and establishing a new international fisheries management organization or organizations for the region;

(2) the agreement or agreements negotiated pursuant to paragraph (1) should conform to the requirements of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement and contain mechanisms, inter alia, for establishing

catch and bycatch limits, harvest allocations, observers, monitoring, data collection and reporting, enforcement, and other elements necessary for sustaining future Arctic fish stocks;

(3) as international fisheries agreements are negotiated and implemented, the United States should consult with the North Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council and Alaska Native subsistence communities of the Arctic; and

(4) until the agreement or agreements negotiated pursuant to paragraph (1) come into force and measures consistent with the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement are in effect, the United States should support international efforts to halt the expansion of commercial fishing activities in the high seas of the Arctic Ocean.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2152 and H.R. 2740

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there are two bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bills by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2152) to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 2740) to require accountability for contractors and contract personnel under Federal contracts, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the pro forma session of the Senate on Friday, October 5, the bills be considered to have received a second reading and placed on the calendar.

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

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2007, AND MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2007

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 9:30 a.m. Friday, October 5; that on Friday, the Senate conduct a pro forma session only, with no business conducted; that at the close of the pro forma session, the Senate stand adjourned under the provisions of S. Con. Res. 49 until 2 p.m., Monday, October 15; that on Monday, October 15, following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and there then be a period for the transaction of morning business until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each and the time equally divided and controlled between the majority and minority; that at the close of morning business, the Senate then resume consideration of H.R. 3093, the Departments of Commerce and Justice and Science appropriations bill.

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