

the business from his uncle, Roland Hemond, making note of textures and tastes, but, most critically, realizing that the key to award-winning products is time, patience, and diligence. The Patrys ensure that all their ingredients come from local farmers so as to maintain the integrity and freshness of their world-class dairy.

After generations of making the butter for friends and family, Mr. Patry decided to share this creamy spread with the world. The same process for making butter that was used in 1900 is still employed today, further proving Kate's Homemade Butter's commitment to quality over quantity. In 2006, the Patry family's hard work was rewarded when Kate's Homemade Butter won the first of its two gold medals from the World Dairy Expo, beating out thousands of entrants from around the world!

Winning their first gold medal in 2006 helped put Kate's Homemade Butter on the map in the eyes of national producers and highly esteemed culinary circles, including Food & Wine Magazine and Down East Magazine. In a move rarely seen at the World Dairy Expo, Kate's won again in 2008, achieving a very improbable score of 98.8 out of a possible 100. This accomplishment was described as a David versus Goliath moment by the Professor Emeritus in the Department of Food Studies at the University of Wisconsin, Dr. Robert Bradley, who is widely regarded as a pre-eminent industry authority. Dr. Bradley noted, "Here you have this relatively small producer in Maine, who, literally, makes his butter just in time to give his customers the absolute freshest product possible. He comes into the Expo arena this year, going up against the biggest names in the business—the largest manufacturers in the entire industry—and walks away with a near-perfect score. The finished product is his passion."

So, thank you, Daniel Patry for your passion and commitment to excellence at Kate's Homemade Butter and congratulations to you and your family on your award-winning product at the World Dairy Expo.●

TRIBUTE TO DONALD AND ELEANOR BUNN

● Mr. THUNE, Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Donald and Eleanor Bunn of Colorado Springs, CO. Donald and Eleanor will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this year on December 23.

Donald and Eleanor first met in 1947 while on a double date to a drive-in movie; however, at the time the two of them were on the date with other people. Following this meeting, they began dating sporadically until Don finished his active duty in the Navy. After Don's service in the Navy, their courtship resumed in full, and Donald and Eleanor were married on December 23, 1958 at the Virginia Avenue Baptist Church in Bristol, TN. The service was

performed by Reverend Haynes with Don's father, Silas Clifton Bunn, and Eleanor's sister, Anne Blevins Helms, as their witnesses. Eventually, Don and Eleanor made their home in Garden Grove, CA, where they raised their only daughter, Sharada.

I offer my congratulations to Donald and Eleanor on their 50th wedding anniversary and wish them many years of continued happiness.●

FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As 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 nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of November 17, 2008, the following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 3526. A bill to enhance drug trafficking interdiction by creating a Federal felony relating to operating or embarking in a submersible or semi-submersible vessel without nationality and on an international voyage.

S. 3535. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to index certain assets for purposes of determining gain or loss.

S. 3646. A bill to authorize and expedite lease sales within the outer Continental Shelf, and for other purposes.

S. 3688. A bill to provide for additional emergency unemployment compensation, to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to authorize loans to automobile manufacturers and component suppliers, and for other purposes.

S. 3689. A bill making supplemental appropriations for job creation and preservation, infrastructure investment, and economic and energy assistance for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6842. To restore Second Amendment rights in the District of Columbia.

H.R. 6867. An act to provide for additional emergency unemployment compensation.

H.R. 6899. An act to advance the national security interests of the United States by reducing its dependency on oil through renewable and clean, alternative fuel technologies while building a bridge to the future through expanded access to Federal oil and natural gas resources, revising the relationship between the oil and gas industry and the consumers who own those resources and deserve a fair return from the development of publicly owned oil and gas, ending tax subsidies for large oil and gas companies, and facilitating energy efficiencies in the building, housing, and transportation sectors, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7110. An act making supplemental appropriations for job creation and preservation, infrastructure investment, and eco-

nomic and energy assistance for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

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-8686. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Dairy Forward Pricing Program" (RIN0581-AC86) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-8687. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Addition of Russia and Azerbaijan to the List of Regions Where African Swine Fever Exists" (Docket No. APHIS-2008-0107) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-8688. A communication from the Administrator, Livestock and Seed Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Beef Promotion and Research; Reappointment" (Doc. No. LS-07-0141) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-8689. A communication from the Assistant Director of the Directives and Regulations Branch, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clarification for the Appropriate Use of a Criminal or a Civil Citation to Enforce Mineral Regulations" (RIN0596-AC38) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-8690. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress: Regarding the Accuracy of the Do Not Call Registry"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8691. A communication from the Deputy Chief Counsel for Regulations, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rail Transportation Security" (RIN1652-AA51) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8692. A communication from the Trial Attorney, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Electronically Controlled Pneumatic Brake Systems" (RIN2130-AB84) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8693. A communication from the Staff Assistant, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Seating Systems, Occupant Crash Protection, Seat Belt Assembly Anchorages, School Bus Passenger Seating and Crash Protection" (RIN2127-AK09)

received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8694. A communication from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan" (RIN0648-XF96) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8695. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan" (RIN0648-XF27) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8696. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan" (RIN0648-XG33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8697. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan" (RIN0648-XF58) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8698. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan" (RIN0648-XF17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8699. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sea Turtle Conservation; Shrimp Trawling Requirements" (RIN0648-XK78) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8700. A communication from the Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 in the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XL22) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8701. A communication from the Attorney of the Office of Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulatory Law, Of-

fice of the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Incentive Program" (RIN1901-AB25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-8702. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "New Mexico Regulatory Program" (SATS No. NM-047-FOR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-8703. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Abandoned Mine Land Program" (RIN1029-AC56) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-8704. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Regulation: Areas of the National Park System, National Capital Region" (RIN1024-AD71) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-8705. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Park System Units in Alaska" (RIN1024-AD69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-8706. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Land and Minerals Management, Minerals Management Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Royalty Relief - Ultra-Deep Gas Wells and Deep Gas Wells on Leases in the Gulf of Mexico; Extension of Royalty Relief Provisions to Leases Offshore of Alaska" (RIN1010-AD33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-8707. A communication from the Acting Division Chief of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oil Shale Management - General" (RIN1004-AD90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-8708. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Avermectin; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions" ((EPA-HQ-OPP-2008-0175)(FRL-8387-8)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-8709. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Inert Ingredient: Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance for (S,S)-Ethylenediaminedisuccinic Acid" ((EPA-HQ-OPP-2008-0250)(FRL-8362-4)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-8710. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "MCPB; Pesticide Tolerances" ((EPA-HQ-OPP-2007-0945)(FRL-8387-1)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-8711. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Stay of Effectiveness of Control Measure Regulating Dust Emissions at the Four Corners Power Plant; Navajo Nation" ((EPA-R09-OAR-2006-0184)(FRL-8739-7)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-8712. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tetraconazole; Pesticide Tolerances" ((EPA-HQ-OPP-2007-1161)(FRL-8386-7)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-8713. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Attorney General, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Program for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-8714. A communication from the Deputy Director, Office of Regulations, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technical Revisions to Overpayment Rules" (RIN0960-AG02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-8715. A communication from the Regulation Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Revisions to the Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug Benefit Programs: Clarification of Compensation Plans" (RIN0938-AP52) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-8716. A communication from the Program Manager of the Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicaid Program; Clarification of Outpatient Hospital Facility (Including Outpatient Hospital Clinic) Services Definition" (RIN0938-AO17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-8717. 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 "Information Reporting on Employer-Owned Life Insurance Contracts" (RIN1545-BG58) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-8718. 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 to Expense Certain Refineries" (RIN1545-BF06) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-8719. 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 "2008 Base Period T-Bill Rate" (Rev. Rul. 2008-51) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-8720. A communication from Director of the Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Toll-Free Number for Reporting Adverse Events on Labeling for Human Drug Products" (RIN0910-AC35) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-8721. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8722. A communication from the President, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Corporation's audit and investigative activities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8723. A communication from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the six-month period ending September 30, 2008 and the Office of Inspector General's compendium of unimplemented recommendations; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8724. A communication from the Chief of the Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Advance Information on Private Aircraft Arriving and Departing the United States" (RIN1651-AA41) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8725. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-536, "Firearms Control Temporary Amendment Act of 2008" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8726. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-537, "Chief Financial Officer Approval of Payment of Goods and Services Temporary Amendment Act of 2008" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8727. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-538, "Franklin Shelter Closing Requirements Temporary Act of 2008" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8728. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-550, "Public Space Rental Fees Amendment Act of 2008" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8729. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-551, "Workforce Housing Production Program Amendment Act of 2008" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8730. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-552, "District's Opportunity to Purchase Amendment Act of 2008" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8731. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-553, "Consolidated Mt. Pleasant, Ward 2, and Ward 6 Single Sales Moratorium Act of 2008" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8732. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-554, "Targeted Ward 4 Single Sales Moratorium Temporary Act of 2008" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8733. A communication from the Regulatory and Policy Specialist, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Indian Trust Management Reform" (RIN1076-AE59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-8734. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Hart-Scott-Rodino Annual Report Fiscal Year 2007"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-8735. A communication from the Staff Director, U.S. Sentencing Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the compliance of federal district courts with documentation submission requirements; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-448. A joint resolution adopted by the Alaska State Legislature relative to security and defense matters; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 40 AM

Whereas the Constitution of the United States imposes on the national government a duty to provide for the common defense, and the states and the national government work together toward the security of each state; and

Whereas the Congressionally mandated Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States from Electromagnetic Pulse Attack found, in its report delivered July 2004, that an enemy using a low-yield nuclear weapon detonated at a high altitude above the United States, delivered by even a relatively unsophisticated short-range or medium-range ballistic missile, could make an electromagnetic pulse attack against the

United States, and that an electromagnetic pulse attack has the potential to place our society at risk and to defeat our military forces; and

Whereas the Alaska State Legislature views with growing concern the development of nuclear weapons technology worldwide and the proliferation of ballistic missile delivery systems that are controlled by unstable and potentially hostile foreign regimes; and

Whereas the threat from nuclear-armed ballistic missile attack has been reduced but not eliminated by the initial limited deployments of ground-based interceptors in Alaska and California; and

Whereas the Cold War doctrine of mutually assured destruction no longer represents a plausible security strategy because of the proliferation of ballistic missiles around the world; and

Whereas the testing of ballistic missiles launched from ships by enemies of the United States could indicate the intention of those enemies to use a platform off the coast of Alaska to employ short-range or medium-range missiles for a nuclear-generated electromagnetic pulse attack on American citizens; and

Whereas, in 1997, the Alaska State Legislature was the first of many state legislatures to petition the federal government to develop and deploy a robust and layered missile defense system that includes the most effective combination of land-based, sea-based, air-based, and space-based architectures; and

Be it Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States to work with the State of Alaska to ensure that the state is prepared to respond to and recover from an electromagnetic pulse attack; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States to expand its ballistic missile defense system, and also to develop other methods, to defend against electromagnetic pulse attacks delivered by ballistic missiles, including missiles launched at American cities from ships off the coast of Alaska; and be it further

Resolved, That it is the policy of the state to include in its preparedness planning defense against electromagnetic pulse attacks, as those attacks intersect with the full range of risks, threats, and hazards confronting the state; and be it further

Resolved, That it is the policy of the state to educate Alaskans about the threat of electromagnetic pulse attacks causing massive losses of electric power and disruption to telecommunications and other vital services, including health, public safety, food, and transportation services that depend on reliable electric power; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature encourages municipalities and private industry in the state to examine critical vulnerabilities in their infrastructures and to prepare for massive disruptions that could be caused by electromagnetic pulse attacks.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States; the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Steny H. Hoyer, Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable John Boehner, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Robert M. Gates, United States Secretary of Defense; the Honorable Samuel W. Bodman, United States Secretary of Energy; the Honorable