

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

Michael O. Leavitt, United States Secretary of Health and Human Services; the Honorable Michael Chertoff, United States Secretary of Homeland Security; the Honorable Condoleezza Rice, United States Secretary of State; the Honorable Mary E. Peters, United States Secretary of Transportation; the Honorable Henry M. Paulson, Jr., United States Secretary of the Treasury; the Honorable Robert S. Mueller, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Honorable Mike Mullen, Chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Honorable Mike McConnell, Director of National Intelligence; and the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

POM-449. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania memorializing the Congress of the United States to urge the Comptroller of the Currency for the United States Treasury to add the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area as a new Community Reinvestment Act assessment area for Bank of America; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 789

Whereas, Congress passed the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) in 1977, which states that "regulated financial institutions have continuing and affirmative obligations to help meet the credit needs of the local communities in which they are chartered"; and

Whereas, the original act established a regulatory mechanism for monitoring the level of lending, investments and services in low-income and moderate-income neighborhoods, traditionally underserved by lending institutions; and

Whereas, in the spring of 1995, the Federal regulatory agencies released new CRA regulations that outlined how Federal agencies are to assess the activities of lending institutions in traditionally underserved neighborhoods; and

Whereas, the regulations, which became effective in January 1996, established three different tests for lending institutions, involving the lending, investment and service records of banks and provided a strategic plan option in lieu of a regulator evaluation; and

Whereas, examiners rate lending institutions as either "outstanding," "satisfactory," "needs to improve" or "substantial noncompliance"; and

Whereas, scores falling within the categories of "needs to improve" or "substantial noncompliance" can result in delays or denials of mergers, acquisitions or expansion of services; and

Whereas, Countrywide Home Loans currently issues the most single-family home loans in the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical area at 4,763 loans and maintains 8.98% of the market share; and

Whereas, Bank of America is ranked tenth in the number of single-family home loans issued in the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area at 888 loans, or 1.67% of the market share; and

Whereas, the total market share of home loans in the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area is likely to be 11.38% after the merger of Countrywide Home Loans and Bank of America; and

Whereas, the most recent examination under the Community Reinvestment Act did not include the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or the Pittsburgh region as an official assessment area for Bank of America; and

Whereas, an analysis of fair lending practices conducted by the National Community

Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC) reflected that Countrywide Home Loans provided African Americans with only 2.3% of total prime loans issued, although they represented 7.4% of all households in the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area and lagged behind all lenders as a group; and

Whereas, the analysis further reflected that Countrywide Home Loans lagged behind all lenders in the Pittsburgh region in the proportion of both prime and subprime loans to residents of low-income and moderate-income tracts, and borrowers in minority tracts received a disproportionately small share of prime loans at 0.99%; and

Whereas, Bank of America also provided African Americans with a disproportionately small share of prime loans issued, 1.65%, as compared to representing 7.4% of Pittsburgh's population; and

Whereas, the NCRC's analysis further reflected that while low-income and moderate-income borrowers comprised 40.4% of the households in the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area in 2006, they received a disproportionately small number of the bank's prime loans, 30.6%, and a larger share of subprime loans, 72.2%; and

Whereas, a merger of these institutions would make Bank of America the largest lender in the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area; and

Whereas, without oversight under the Community Reinvestment Act, the credit needs of the local community could be disproportionately affected and impact the level of lending, investments and services in Pittsburgh's underserved populations; therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the Congress of the United States to urge the Comptroller of the Currency for the United States Treasury to add the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area as a new Community Reinvestment Act assessment area for Bank of America; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group in appreciation and recognition of its efforts in providing economic justice, equitable investment practices and sufficient financial resources to revitalize communities throughout Allegheny County; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Comptroller of the Currency for the United States Treasury and the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM-450. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan memorializing the United States Congress and the President of the United States to support additional funding to expand Amtrak's capacity and routes in Michigan; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 200

Whereas, ridership has increased 47 percent on all three Michigan Amtrak routes in the last six years. The Wolverine route, from Pontiac through Detroit to Chicago, increased its passenger load 2.5 percent in 2007 alone. The state-supported Blue Water route between Port Huron and Chicago saw increased ridership of 3 percent in 2007. Ridership on the state-supported Pere Marquette route between Grand Rapids and Chicago increased 2.8 percent. All three corridors experienced sold-out trains in 2007, some on a regular basis, which may have limited their true earning potential. The trains contributed \$500,000 of unanticipated ticket income to the state of Michigan; and

Whereas, the trend of increasing passenger numbers continues in 2008. Over the first ten months of the fiscal year, Pere Marquette ridership is up 9.8 percent and Blue Water ridership has increased 6.5 percent. Revenues have grown as well, from 4.5 to 9.2 percent. These trends over the last six years suggest continued record numbers of passengers but less than potential revenue because of limited capacity, as witnessed by frequent sold-out conditions; and

Whereas, Amtrak employs 114 Michigan residents and pays over \$6.6 million annually in salaries and wages. Amtrak contracts with Michigan businesses for more than \$5.7 million in goods and services.

Whereas, Michigan residents continue to face increasing fuel prices, traffic congestion, and limited access to public transportation. We believe the time has come to generate additional economic growth and public transportation alternatives for Michigan and its residents by increasing passenger rail capacity and service; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize Congress and the President to support additional funding for passenger rail cars on Michigan's three train routes, to consider increasing capacity and routes in Michigan, and to consider the restoration of a second, mid-day passenger train from Chicago to Grand Rapids; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, the Governor of Michigan, the Surface Transportation Board, the United States Department of Transportation, the Michigan Department of Transportation, and Amtrak.

POM-451. A resolution adopted by the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts relative to recommendations resulting from the New Bedford Fisheries Summit; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, on May 28, 2008, a fisheries summit was convened in New Bedford with the purpose of sharing concerns regarding the conservation of stocks and maintenance and survival of fishing communities with our congressional delegation; and

Whereas, as a result of this summit, a set of recommendations was compiled to be forwarded to our congressional delegation regarding the regulations of the fishing industry; and

Whereas, the recommendations were as follows:

A) There should be a one-year delay in implementation of Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan to properly align the amendment with the 2010 deadlines set forth in the Magnuson Stevens Reauthorization Act and until better scientific data is available; and

B) The costs and benefits of management should be evaluated taking into account the failure to maintain optimum yield and discards; and

C) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration approach to management needs to be revised, considering and taking into account the advice from the fishing industry while maintaining the conservation of stocks; and

Whereas, under the leadership of our New England coastal congressional members, these recommendations are being advocated for; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Massachusetts General Court respectfully urges the members of the Massachusetts congressional delegation and

the leaders of the Congress of the United States to advocate for the recommendations set forth regarding the regulations of the fishing industry; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded by the clerk of the House of Representatives to the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and the members of the Massachusetts congressional delegation.

POM-452. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania memorializing the Congress of the United States to oppose the New York/New Jersey/Pennsylvania metropolitan airspace redesign proposals; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 673

Whereas, the basic air traffic structure of the New York/New Jersey/Philadelphia metropolitan area airspace was designed and implemented in the 1960s and was last modified in 1987 with the Expanded East Coast Plan (EECP); and

Whereas, the EECP proved inadequate in addressing the changes in volume and type of aircraft used by the National Airspace System and also caused major noise problems that resulted in a congressional mandate in the Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990, requiring the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to perform an environmental impact study of the EECP and mitigate the noise; and

Whereas, in the 1995 final environmental impact study, the FAA committed to mitigate noise in a follow-up regional study; and

Whereas, in 2001, the FAA determined that aircraft noise pollution was the strongest and most widespread concern raised by the public, however, the FAA failed to include the reduction of aircraft noise as a formal goal of its regional redesign project; and

Whereas, on December 20, 2005, the FAA issued a draft environmental impact statement containing several proposals to redesign the New York/New Jersey/Philadelphia metropolitan airspace; and

Whereas, the airspace redesign involves a 31,000 square mile, five-state area with a population of 29 million residents and 21 airports, with particular focus placed on air traffic operations at five major airports, including the Philadelphia International Airport in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, the FAA began implementation of the airspace redesign in December 2007; and

Whereas, the FAA did not conduct proper environmental reviews or seek proper input from the public and air traffic controllers at Philadelphia International Airport; and

Whereas, the FAA has shunned additional public hearing requests made by Federal and State legislators representing affected areas; and

Whereas, since southeastern Pennsylvania does not have a regional airport authority, it lacks the ability to coordinate airport planning and operations, ensuring underuse of regional airports and the overuse of the Philadelphia International Airport; and

Whereas, the Commonwealth should not appropriate State money for improvements to the infrastructure of the Philadelphia International Airport until such time as the FAA fully addresses the safety and environmental impact of the airspace redesign plan and offers a modified plan that incorporates the use of regional airports; and

Whereas, the New Jersey Coalition Against Aircraft Noise and the Citizens Coalition Against Noise Pollution oppose these proposals, arguing that the interests of the citi-

zens of affected areas have not been considered and that the proposals no longer promote aircraft noise reduction; and

Whereas, it is in the best interest of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to oppose the FAA's proposal to redesign the New York/New Jersey/Philadelphia metropolitan airspace; therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania call upon the Congress of the United States to immediately suspend the FAA's implementation of the New York/New Jersey/Philadelphia metropolitan airspace redesign and hold additional hearings seeking the input of elected officials and concerned citizens; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration and each member of the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation now serving in the United States Senate and House of Representatives.

POM-453. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania relative to the Susquehanna Flood Forecasting and Warning System; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 929

Whereas, the United States Army Corps of Engineers has fiscal year 2009-2010 operation and maintenance funding for six or seven stream gauges between the New York border and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, that are a part of the Cooperative Streamgauging Network in the Susquehanna River Basin, necessitating stopgap measures to allow the United States Geological Survey to continue ongoing operation and maintenance of the gauges; and

Whereas, Congress has reduced the appropriation and not made available the entire \$2 million necessary for the Susquehanna Flood Forecasting and Warning System, which includes the operation and maintenance of the stream gauges; and

Whereas, the real time data provided by the stream gauges is of critical importance to water managers and others for a host of water management programs such as flood forecasting and warning, drought monitoring, water quality monitoring, regulatory purposes and recreational uses; and

Whereas, the Susquehanna River Basin is one of the most flood-prone watersheds in the United States, with average annual flood damages of nearly \$150 million; and

Whereas, real time data are of particular importance for timely and accurate flood forecasts and warning activities in the Susquehanna River Basin, where the Susquehanna Flood Forecasting and Warning System has helped to prevent injury and loss of life, to reduce flood damages by tens of millions of dollars and to deliver a benefit-to-cost ratio of 20:1; and

Whereas, these water resource management programs are inextricably linked to the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Susquehanna River Basin; and

Whereas, given the above considerations, there is a long-term, ongoing need for the operation and maintenance of stream gauges for these various purposes and for sustainable sources of funding to allow that need to be met in the future; and

Whereas, in the interest of avoiding duplication of effort, maximizing available resources and promoting good government, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission plays an important coordinative role with Federal and State agencies through the Susquehanna Flood Forecasting and Warning System and also provides important technical assistance and public information services to the system; therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United States to restore full funding for fiscal year 2009-2010 and provide sufficient funding in the Federal fiscal year 2010-2011 budget and beyond for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to fully fund at \$2 million the Susquehanna Flood Forecasting and Warning System to enable timely and accurate flood forecasts and warnings to be issued by the National Weather Service for the Susquehanna River Basin; and be it further

Resolved, That the administrator of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration be urged to discontinue withholding funds that are used for administrative purposes, are critically needed for program implementation and are appropriated for the Susquehanna Flood Forecasting Warning System; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States; the Director of the Office of Management and Budget; to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of the Congress from Pennsylvania; the administrators of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to the United States Geological Survey; the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works; the Commander, United States Army Corps of Engineers North Atlantic Division; the District Engineer, United States Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District; the Secretary of Environmental Protection, the Secretary of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Secretary of Community and Economic Development of Pennsylvania; the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency; the directors of all county emergency management agencies in the Pennsylvania portion of the Susquehanna River Basin; and the Executive Director of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission.

POM-454. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Pennsylvania relative to the natural gas market and energy policy; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 375

Whereas, the Natural Gas Policy Act (NGPA) of 1978 authorizes the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to oversee the natural gas market; and

Whereas, the United States Supreme Court has ruled that state regulatory agencies, such as the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, have no authority over interstate gas pipelines; and

Whereas, the NGPA also continues the authority of natural gas companies to acquire private and public property through eminent domain; and

Whereas, these various Federal public policy decisions and rulings have resulted in a proliferation of interstate natural gas pipelines over which state and local governments have no authority; and

Whereas, the FERC natural gas certification process does not properly protect the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's natural resources; and

Whereas, the FERC natural gas certification process also fails to properly take into account the interests and values of property owners; and

Whereas, some property owners state that they were not properly notified of a project in their neighborhood, and the Natural Gas Act of 1938 does not statutorily require that FERC hold a public hearing in the locality affected by a proposed gas pipeline; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate of Pennsylvania recognize fully the energy and environmental challenges facing the Commonwealth

of Pennsylvania in general and the United States in particular; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate believe that the demand for energy continues to be a concern nationwide and that an effective national energy policy must include increased emphasis on conservation, renewable energy, demand-side management, as well as increased production, and an emphasis on siting power generation near demand; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate recognize that an effective energy policy must be addressed nationally but should reflect traditional State and local authority over environmental and energy matters; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate urge the members of the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation to support legislation to amend section 7(e) of the Natural Gas Act of 1938 to require that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission hold a public hearing in localities prior to authorization if so requested; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate urge the members of the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation to further amend the Natural Gas Act of 1938 so as to preserve the fundamental rights of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and its local governments and its citizens to determine the future of land-use policies; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM-455. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania urging the Congress of the United States relative to gas and energy prices; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 546

Whereas, coal, oil and natural gas currently provide more than 85% of all the energy consumed in the United States, which accounts for nearly two-thirds of our electricity consumption and virtually all of our transportation fuels; and

Whereas, even with aggressive development and deployment of new renewable and nuclear technologies, it is likely that this nation's burgeoning and debilitating dependence on foreign oil will surely increase over at least the next two decades; and

Whereas, with continued strife in the Middle East and unrest in other oil-producing regions, the price and supply of gas and energy have grown increasingly unstable in today's complex, globalized economy; and

Whereas, the Department of Energy forecasts a sharp and definite spike in gas and energy prices over the winter months, further crippling consumers of this nation, especially those living in the northeast; and

Whereas, more than 50% of this Commonwealth's citizens and 58% of this nation's households utilize natural gas, forcing families with low income to spend 10% of their annual incomes on energy costs; and

Whereas, America's economic viability, national security and citizens' welfare depend on the continued availability of reliable and affordable fossil fuels; and

Whereas, the economic duress of this nation is further exacerbated by increasing energy prices, thus depressing consumer spending, which accounts for two-thirds of economic activity in the United States; and

Whereas, the lack of oversight and inquiry by Congress into the energy policy of this nation resulted in the five largest United States refineries earning \$228 billion in profits from 2001 to 2005; and

Whereas, these unscrupulous and inordinate profits were procured on the backs of hard-working Americans who struggle just to fill their gas tanks and heat their homes; therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United States to exercise due diligence on behalf of the citizens of this Commonwealth and of this nation by implementing oversight, inquiry and investigation into gas and energy prices to ensure that these exceedingly high prices are both necessary and ethically ascertained.

POM-456. A joint resolution adopted by the Alaska State Legislature relative to revenue generated from oil and gas development on the outer continental shelf; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 17

Whereas, under the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920, the federal government shares with the states 50 percent of revenue from mineral production on federal land within each state's boundaries; and

Whereas, the shared mineral production revenue is distributed to the states automatically, outside of the budget process, and is not subject to appropriation; and

Whereas, there is not a similar authority for the federal government to share federal oil and gas revenue generated on the outer continental shelf with adjacent coastal states, despite the vital contribution made by those states to our nation's energy, economic, and national security needs in support of production from the outer continental shelf; and

Whereas, the states that sustain this critical energy production and development deserve a share of the revenue generated because they provide infrastructure to support offshore operations and because of the environmental effects and other risks associated with oil and gas development on the outer continental shelf; and

Whereas, under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006, the federal government recognized the contributions made by Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas to national security and agreed to give them 37.5 percent of revenue from oil and gas development in newly leased federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico; and

Whereas, other coastal states, including Alaska and California, also support and should receive, on a regular and ongoing basis, a fair share of revenue generated through development on the outer continental shelf as compensation and reward for their contributions to the nation's energy supply, security, and economy; and

Whereas, there are presently 263 active oil and gas leases off Alaska's coast, covering more than 550,000 hectares; and

Whereas, since statehood, oil and gas production from the outer continental shelf off Alaska's coast has generated millions of dollars in revenue for the federal government; and

Whereas, the February 2008 lease sale in the Chukchi Sea generated an additional \$2,600,000,000 in revenue for the federal government;

Be it *Resolved*, that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to provide a means for consistently sharing, on an ongoing basis, revenue generated from oil and gas development on the outer continental shelf with all coastal energy-producing states to ensure that those states develop, support, and maintain necessary infrastructure and preserve environmental integrity.

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 Dirk Kempthorne, United States Secretary of the Interior; 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 John Boehner, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Jeff Bingaman, Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 110th United States Congress.

POM-457. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania endorsing the request for Federal funding to address vitally important water resource needs; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 719

Whereas, the water resources of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are vitally important for domestic purposes, production of food and fiber, power generation, industrial and commercial purposes and recreational uses; and

Whereas, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is a member of several interstate river basin commissions, including the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, the Delaware River Basin Commission and the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, hereinafter referred to as the "Mid-Atlantic Commissions"; and

Whereas, the jurisdiction of the Mid-Atlantic Commissions encompasses approximately two-thirds of the land area of this Commonwealth and approximately two-thirds of the stream miles in the State; and

Whereas, the Mid-Atlantic Commissions provide invaluable water resource functions, including planning and management activities to avoid conflicts between states sharing the same watersheds and among water users; and

Whereas, the Mid-Atlantic Commissions were established by legislation enacted by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the other member jurisdictions to each of the compacts, including the Federal Government; and

Whereas, the interstate compacts that were created as a result of this legislation require their member jurisdictions, including the Federal Government, to provide equitable shares of funding in support of the Mid-Atlantic Commissions' annual expense budgets; and

Whereas, the Federal Government has provided no direct funding to the Mid-Atlantic Commissions for the past decade in fulfillment of its interstate compact obligations, resulting in the burden of financial responsibility being shifted to the member states of the Mid-Atlantic Commissions, including the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, the President of the United States did not request funding in his budget request for fiscal year 2009 to fulfill the Federal Government's equitable share of funding in support of the Mid-Atlantic Commissions' annual expense budgets for fiscal year 2009; and

Whereas, the 110th Congress of the United States, in its first session, enacted the Water Resources Development Act of 2007; and

Whereas, section 5019(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 requires the Secretary of the Army to allocate funds to the Mid-Atlantic Commissions to fulfill the equitable funding requirements of the respective interstate compacts; and

Whereas, the Mid-Atlantic Commissions have officially requested that funding be included in the fiscal year 2009 Energy and

Water Development Appropriations Bill in the amount of \$1 million for the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, \$715,000 for the Delaware River Basin Commission and \$650,000 for the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin; and

Whereas, Federal funding is needed for the Mid-Atlantic Commissions to address vitally important water resource needs, among them the establishment of flow targets to guide the Susquehanna River Basin Commission's management of major withdrawals in the Susquehanna River Basin, the initiation of flood mitigation activities in the Delaware River Basin and the coordination with community leaders on drinking water source water protection activities; therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania wholeheartedly endorse the request of the Mid-Atlantic Commissions for funding from the Federal Government in fiscal year 2009; and be it further

Resolved, That all members of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Congressional Delegation are strongly encouraged to actively support the funding request of the Mid-Atlantic Commissions; and be it further

Resolved, That the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittees on Energy and Water Development be urged to place a high priority on the request of the Mid-Atlantic Commissions and to include said request in the fiscal year 2009 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill; and be it further

Resolved, That pursuant to the requirements of section 5019(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, the Secretary of the Army be urged to recommend funds for the Mid-Atlantic Commissions in the fiscal year 2010 budget it submits to the Office of Management and Budget; and be it further

Resolved, That pursuant to the requirements of the interstate compacts of the Mid-Atlantic Commissions, the President of the United States be urged to include funds for the Federal Government's equitable share of funding in support of the Mid-Atlantic Commissions' 2010 budget in the President's 2010 budget request; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the governors and general assemblies of the other member states of the Mid-Atlantic Commissions be urged to consider the adoption of similar resolutions; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the chairmen and ranking members of the United States Senate and United States House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittees for Energy and Water Development, the Secretary of the Army, the director of the Office of Management and Budget, each member of Congress from Pennsylvania and the governors and general assemblies of New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, New York, Virginia and West Virginia.

POM-458. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct an in-depth study of the subject of developments of regional significance and impact; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 845

Whereas, on September 19, 2006, a massive landslide occurred in Kilbuck Township, Allegheny County; and

Whereas, on October 24, 2006, the House of Representatives adopted House Resolution 897, which directed the Joint State Government Commission to conduct an in-depth investigation into the September 19, 2006, landslide and compile a report on its findings and recommendations; and

Whereas, House Resolution 897 authorized the appointment of a four-member legislative task force and an advisory committee to assist the task force in this undertaking; and

Whereas, the advisory committee established under House Resolution 897 represented a broad range of expertise and interests and included attorneys, geologists, engineers, land use planners, representatives of local and county governments, representatives of community development organizations, environmental advocates, representatives of Communities First!, the executive director of the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee, a representative from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, a representative from the Department of Environmental Protection and a representative from the Department of Transportation; and

Whereas, the task force and advisory committee noted that possible issues contributing to the Kilbuck landslide included geologically hazardous conditions at the site, inadequate coordination among regulatory decisionmakers and lack of capacity by some municipalities, particularly with respect to approvals of large, complex developments; and

Whereas, the task force and advisory committee agreed to address the following seven subject areas that could help prevent the occurrence of such landslides:

- (1) revisions to the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code;
- (2) regional planning and review;
- (3) resources to local governments;
- (4) the permitting and inspection process;
- (5) coordination of agencies' actions;
- (6) standing and jurisdiction; and
- (7) disclosure of geologic concerns; and

Whereas, the task force and advisory committee reached consensus on findings and recommendations as contemplated by House Resolution 897; and

Whereas, on June 9, 2008, the task force authorized the release of the report of the task force and advisory committee and the introduction of the legislation contained in the report; and

Whereas, as part of the findings and recommendations contained in the report, the task force and advisory committee acknowledged that further consideration, discussion and analysis should be given to the subject of developments of regional significance and impact, which was addressed only briefly in the report; and

Whereas, the members of the task force and advisory committee desired to continue their work regarding the subject of development of regional significance and impact; and

Whereas, the task force recommended that further consideration, discussion and analysis regarding the subject of developments of regional significance and impact should be authorized by a new resolution; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Joint State Government Commission be authorized to reconstitute the task force and advisory committee established under House Resolution 897 to conduct an in-depth study of the subject of developments of regional significance and impact; and be it further

Resolved, That the composition of the reconstituted advisory committee be modified as necessary and that additional persons may be appointed as members of the advisory committee; and be it further

Resolved, That the Joint State Government Commission compile a report based on the findings and recommendations of the reconstituted task force and advisory committee and submit the report to the House of Representatives as soon as possible but no later than two years following the adoption of this resolution.

POM-459. A joint resolution adopted by the Alaska State Legislature opposing the enactment of the Protect America's Wildlife Act of 2007 that intends to prohibit aerial hunting of wildlife; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

CSHJR 31(RES)

Whereas the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has experienced and knowledgeable biologists familiar with Alaska wildlife; and

Whereas the Alaska Board of Game openly discusses game management at board meetings and makes decisions based on scientific data; and

Whereas Alaska is a sovereign government within the United States with its own Board of Game responsible for managing the wildlife asset to be utilized, developed, and maintained on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses, under art. VIII, sec. 4, Constitution of the State of Alaska; and

Whereas many areas in Alaska are accessible only by boat or aircraft; and

Whereas Alaska presents unique living and wildlife situations of which many people outside the state might not be aware; and

Whereas there is no shortage of predators in Alaska; and

Whereas predator imbalance will destroy other species that are important to the ecosystem of Alaska; and

Whereas there is legislation before the United States Congress to prevent aerial predator control; and

Whereas the use of aircraft is a necessary tool for managing the asset of game animals to provide for abundance for personal use in Alaska; and

Whereas much of Alaska's wildlife represents a natural food source for many Alaskans; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges all members of the United States Congress to oppose H.R. 3663, the Protect America's Wildlife Act of 2007; and be it further

Resolved, That management of fish and game in Alaska should be left to the experts in state. 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 Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 110th United States Congress.

POM-460. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan memorializing the United States Congress to enact legislation to help revitalize the economy in states with exceptionally high rates of unemployment by the creation of a Recovery State Renaissance Zone Act; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 222

Whereas, our nation, the state of Michigan in particular, is being buffeted by the tumultuous seas of economic change. Global manufacturing shifts have had a disproportionate impact on the Great Lake State's manufacturing sector. Indeed, despite years of diversifying our economy and streamlining our state's governmental operations, Michigan continues to be one of those states trapped in this economic maelstrom; and

Whereas, according to the latest U.S. Department of Labor employment statistics, Michigan continues to lead the nation in the

rate of unemployment. Our average unemployment rate has exceeded the national average by more than 50 percent in each of the past two calendar years, and the state is on track to break this mark again in 2008. This disparity clearly points to the fact that Michigan cannot wait for its long-term economic development initiatives to see fruition. The need for federal assistance in our efforts is immediate and pressing; and

Whereas, Congress must enact a federal law that mirrors Michigan's Renaissance Zone statute to create federal Renaissance Zones. States with average unemployment rates of 50 percent above the national average for at least the past two years must be designated as renaissance states. As renaissance states, they would qualify for two recovery benefits: (1) a statewide 100 percent increase in the federal investment tax credit; and (2) the ability to designate certain areas of the state as exempt from federal corporate taxes with a cap of \$1 billion per year; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to help revitalize the economy in states with exceptionally high rates of unemployment by the creation of a Recovery State Renaissance Zone Act; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-461. A joint resolution adopted by the California Legislature encouraging the President and the Congress of the United States to provide a long-term extension of the investment and production tax credits for all renewable energy technologies; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27

Whereas, a diverse energy portfolio will result in a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, create jobs, stimulate economic growth and investment, and encourage a secure energy future; and

Whereas, a diverse energy portfolio will better position the nation's energy system to respond to new local, regional, and environmental challenges and population growth, and will take advantage of the development of new technologies that will lower the cost of renewable energy; and

Whereas, Congress has shown a multiyear commitment to supporting the development of a diverse energy portfolio by implementing and repeatedly extending federal tax credits for renewable energy; and

Whereas, extending the federal investment and production tax credits will ensure continued robust growth of the renewable energy industry, which will help protect the American economy from energy shortages and price spikes that are harmful to business and consumers and are disruptive to investment; and

Whereas, in 2008, there were over 42,000 megawatts of renewable energy power generation projects under development in 45 states; and

Whereas, the federal investment and production tax credits will provide the market stability and investor confidence that is necessary in the wind, solar, geothermal, small irrigation power, municipal solid waste, non-com ethanol-based closed-loop and open-loop biomass, and small hydropower sectors to encourage increased investment and growth in these technologies; and,

Whereas, extending the federal investment and production tax credits for renewable energy sources will create more than 100,000

jobs, will attract tens of billions of dollars in investment within the next year, and will continue to create thousands of jobs at high, medium, and entry levels; and

Whereas, extending the federal investment and production tax credits for renewable energy sources will foster new business opportunities within California and generate revenue for local economies; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California encourages the President and the Congress of the United States to provide a long-term extension of the investment and production tax credits for all renewable energy technologies; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-462. A joint resolution adopted by the Alaska State Legislature opposing the imposition of the milk tax on Alaskans; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16

Whereas Alaska residents consume more milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, and other dairy products than Alaska dairy farmers are able to produce, making Alaska a "milk-deficit" state; and

Whereas, because of their milk-deficit status, the United States Congress wisely excluded Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico from the mandatory dairy promotion assessment or "milk tax" of the Dairy Production Stabilization Act of 1983; and

Whereas this exemption was maintained in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002; and

Whereas the National Milk Producers Federation and other dairy interests in the lower 48 states want to extend the milk tax to Alaska dairy farmers; and

Whereas the milk tax would require Alaska dairy farmers to pay into the national dairy promotion program that presently benefits only the lower 48 states and does nothing to help Alaska dairy farmers or consumers; and

Whereas Alaska dairy farmers and consumers cannot benefit from the various dairy promotion, advertising, and research programs funded by the milk tax imposed on milk marketed by dairy farmers in the lower 48 states; and

Whereas the mandatory dairy promotion assessment would constitute an onerous, costly, and unacceptable new milk tax on all Alaskans, including dairy farmers, consumers, school children, day care centers, residents of rural Alaska, Alaska Natives, small businesses, and others who would be forced to pay more for milk and dairy products that already are among the most expensive in the nation; be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature strongly condemns and resolutely opposes imposition of the milk tax on Alaskans.

POM-463. A joint resolution adopted by the Alaska State Legislature urging the United States Congress to enact H.R. 2419, sec. 12801; to the Committee on Finance.

CSHJR No. 14

Whereas it is well documented that the Exxon Valdez oil spill has adversely affected the coastal region of the state and affected the economic status of communities in this region for many years; and

Whereas the state's commercial fishermen, who make up 80 percent of the plaintiffs

seeking to recover damages from the Exxon Valdez oil spill, suffered economically as a result of the oil spill and, as a result, lost the opportunity to establish retirement plans or were limited in their ability to save for retirement; and

Whereas these Alaskans would benefit from the contributions to retirement accounts they could make by using money received from the award of damages; and

Whereas H.R. 2419, sec. 12801, would benefit these commercial fishermen by authorizing increases in the deductions and income caps applicable to traditional individual retirement accounts, Roth IRAs, and other qualified retirement plans to the extent of the amount of the damage award; and

Whereas the bill would authorize individual plaintiffs to average income from the award for tax purposes over the period January 1, 1994, through the end of the year in which the award is made: Therefore be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to enact H.R. 2419, sec. 12801, to provide relief to those individuals who suffered economic damages as a result of the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

POM-464. A joint resolution adopted by the Alaska State Legislature urging the United States Congress to repeal sec. 511 of P.L. 109-222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005); to the Committee on Finance.

CSHJR No. 41

Whereas sec. 511 of P.L. 109-222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005) will require states, cities, counties, and boroughs that spend more than \$100,000,000 each year on goods and services after December 31, 2010, to withhold three percent of their payments to nearly all vendors and contractors for federal income purposes and to report nonwage payments; and

Whereas sec. 511 of P.L. 109-222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005) was added by a congressional conference committee without benefit of any public hearings in either the United States House of Representatives or the United States Senate; and

Whereas, although sec. 511 of P.L. 109-222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005) was inserted into the legislation to save approximately \$7,000,000,000 in federal taxes between 2011 and 2015, the effect of the provision is to increase the burden and costs to state and local governments by making these governments uncompensated and involuntary federal tax collectors because no federal funding is provided to cover the costs of implementing sec. 511 of P.L. 109-222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005); and

Whereas sec. 511 of P.L. 109-222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005) creates another unfunded federal mandate that will add a cost to state and local governments that exceeds the threshold of P.L. 104-04 (Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995), and sec. 511 of P.L. 109-222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005) will therefore short-circuit the public process required by P.L. 104-04 (Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995) and thus violate that Act; and

Whereas the Department of Administration, the University of Alaska, the Municipality of Anchorage, the Fairbanks North Star Borough, and the Anchorage School District, all governmental entities in Alaska that are affected by sec. 511 of P.L. 109-222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005), have expressed serious concerns about it and have urged its repeal; and

Whereas local governmental officials have stated that sec. 511 of P.L. 109-222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of

2005) will be extremely difficult and expensive to implement, requiring major programming changes to financial and accounting systems and the hiring of additional staff; and

Whereas, because of the three percent withholding requirement, local businesses will be discouraged from bidding on state and local governmental contracts for products and services, thereby dampening competitive bidding and driving up the prices to offset the three percent withholding, and this, in turn, is likely to increase the cost of procurement by state and local governments; and

Whereas sec. 511 of P.L. 109-222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005) will pose significant difficulties for the State of Alaska in its efforts to procure goods and services for the state, because

(1) the state accounting system is 23 years old and cannot accommodate mandatory backup withholding;

(2) it would take about a year to make the necessary systemic changes and require substantial additional record keeping to reconcile the amounts paid to vendors and those amounts reported and remitted to the Internal Revenue Service;

(3) obtaining exemptions to sec. 511 of P.L. 109-222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005) would be difficult and costly; and

(4) vendors might inflate their bids to compensate for the tax withheld, resulting in higher prices to the state; and

Whereas the state government accounting system does not currently have the capability to withhold vendor payments, and the state need only report payments for services over \$600 a year to each unincorporated vendor; sec. 511 of P.L. 109-222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005) will increase the accounting burden on the state by

(1) requiring most but not all payments, no matter how small, to be reported, an extremely expensive and burdensome mandate;

(2) requiring payments to all corporations to be reported, significantly increasing the number of vendors for which information reports would have to be submitted to the Internal Revenue Service;

(3) requiring withholding on credit card purchases, a process unknown complexity; and

(4) exempting certain types of payments that will likely require manual intervention, which would drive up the cost of compliance with sec. 511 of P.L. 109-222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005) even further; and

Whereas government agencies will have to obtain employee identification numbers or social security numbers for numerous individual vendors to allow reporting to the Internal Revenue Service, thereby invading those citizens' rights of privacy and exposing them to the dangers of identity theft; and

Whereas complying with sec. 511 of P.L. 109-222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005) will have serious adverse effects on the procurement practices of larger local governments in Alaska; for example, the Municipality of Anchorage, the state's largest city, with a population of about 261,446, which is 42 percent of the State's total population, will incur costs of approximately \$250,000 a year to reprogram municipal computers and financial systems, plus an estimated \$100,000 to \$200,000 a year of additional costs for ongoing operating expenses; the Municipality of Anchorage's financial computer system is not set up for this procedure and will require extensive modifications at a significant cost, including the hiring of at least one full-time municipal employee; the use of procurement cards by

the Municipality of Anchorage may have to be discontinued, and the use of checks, which are slower and more costly, may be re-instituted; the Municipality of Anchorage's online purchasing system will have to be modified and likely will no longer be cost-effective; and

Whereas the additional costs of complying with sec. 511 of P.L. 109-222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005) will place the State of Alaska and Alaska local governments at a competitive disadvantage in the procurement of goods and services; and

Whereas, as a result of these burdens and difficulties, the state and affected local governments believe that sec. 511 of P.L. 109-222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005) will not accomplish its stated goal of closing the budget gap; and

Whereas these concerns were previously expressed by the state to the United States Congress through the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers; and

Whereas S. 777 and H.R. 1023 have been introduced in the 110th United States Congress to repeal sec. 511 of P.L. 109-222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005); Therefore be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to repeal sec. 511 of P.L. 109-222 (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005).

POM-465. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Pennsylvania relative to hydrocephalus; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 406

Whereas, hydrocephalus is a serious neurological condition, characterized by the abnormal buildup of cerebrospinal fluids in the ventricles of the brain; and

Whereas, there is no known cure for hydrocephalus, which affects an estimated one million Americans; and

Whereas, out of every 1,000 babies, one to two are born with hydrocephalus; and

Whereas, more than 375,000 older Americans have hydrocephalus, which often goes undetected or misdiagnosed as dementia, Alzheimer's disease or Parkinson's disease; and

Whereas, with appropriate diagnosis and treatment, people with hydrocephalus are able to live full and productive lives; and

Whereas, the standard treatment for hydrocephalus was developed in 1952 and carries multiple risks, including shunt failure, infection and over drainage; and

Whereas, there are fewer than ten centers in the United States specializing in the treatment of adults with normal pressure hydrocephalus; and

Whereas, each year, the people of the United States spend in excess of \$1 billion to treat hydrocephalus; and

Whereas, a September 2005 conference sponsored by seven institutes of the National Institutes of Health, and entitled, "Hydrocephalus: Myths, New Facts, Clear Directions," resulted in efforts to initiate new, collaborative research and treatment efforts; and

Whereas, the Hydrocephalus Association is one of the nation's oldest and largest patient and research advocacy and support networks for individuals suffering from hydrocephalus; and

Whereas, further research into the epidemiology, pathophysiology, disease burden and improved treatment of hydrocephalus should be conducted or supported; and

Whereas, public awareness and professional education regarding hydrocephalus should increase through partnerships between the

Federal Government and patient advocacy organizations, such as the Hydrocephalus Association; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate urge the Federal Government to collect comprehensive statistical and data regarding the seriousness of hydrocephalus and its impact on American families; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate designate the month of November 2008 as "Hydrocephalus Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania so that Pennsylvanians can become more familiar with hydrocephalus and the individuals dedicated to finding its cure.

POM-466. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania expressing support for National Food Safety Education Month; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 896

Whereas, in 1994, the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation's (NRAEF) International Food Safety Council created "National Food Safety Education Month" as an annual campaign; and

Whereas, the purpose of "National Food Safety Education Month" is to strengthen food safety education and training among persons in the restaurant and food service business and to educate the public on the safe handling and preparation of food; and

Whereas, there are more than 200 known foodborne diseases caused by viruses, toxins and metals and usually stemming from the improper handling, preparation or storage of food; and

Whereas, bacteria are the common cause of the foodborne illness; and

Whereas, foodborne illness costs the United States economy billions of dollars each year in lost productivity, hospitalization, long-term disability and even death; and

Whereas, the United States Department of Agriculture estimated that in 2000, medical costs and losses in productivity resulting from five bacterial foodborne pathogens was \$6.9 billion; and

Whereas, it is estimated that in 2001 the annual cost of salmonellosis caused by the *Salmonella* bacteria was \$2.14 billion, including medical costs, the cost of time lost from work and the cost or value of premature death; and

Whereas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that in the United States, there are 76 million illnesses, 325,000 hospitalizations and 5,000 deaths per year due to consumption of food contaminated with pathogenic microorganisms; and

Whereas, numerous cases have occurred in the United States and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: 2007—*Salmonella* from peanut butter in 44 states, 425 cases; 2006—*E. coli* in eight states from fresh spinach, 205 cases, including 3 deaths; and 2003—hepatitis A from Chi-Chi's sourced green onions in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, up to 2,000 cases of salmonellosis occur each year in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, following four simple steps, consumers can keep food safe from bacteria: clean—wash hands and surfaces often; separate—do not cross-contaminate; cook—cook to proper temperature; and chill—refrigerate promptly; therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania express full and enthusiastic support for "National Food Safety Education Month" in September 2008; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM-467. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan memorializing the Congress and the President of the United States to enact the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 296

Whereas, in spite of progress that has been made in its diagnosis and treatment, breast cancer remains one of the most serious threats to the health of women. Its devastating impact is felt across our country. According to the American Cancer Society, excluding cancers of the skin, breast cancer is the most common cancer among women and accounts for one of every 4 cancers diagnosed. It is estimated that 178,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer were identified in 2007 and that an estimated 40,000 women died; and

Whereas, although the frightening realities of breast cancer can strike any woman, success in combating the disease is, unfortunately, less universal. A patient's chances of survival are increased with early identification of the disease, access to good care at all stages of treatment, and comprehensive monitoring afterwards; and

Whereas, congress is considering legislation that would take a strong step in the effort to combat breast cancer in our country. The Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act, S. 459 and H.R. 758, would require health plans to provide coverage for minimum hospital stays for mastectomies, lumpectomies, and lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer, as well as secondary consultations. Among the legislation's specific provisions is a requirement that a patient undergoing a mastectomy or lumpectomy to treat breast cancer be permitted a hospital stay of no less than 48 hours; and

Whereas, the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act would increase access to a level of care that can save lives and mitigate suffering; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the House of Representatives, that we memorialize the Congress and the President of the United States to enact the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Office of the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-468. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan relative to Agent Orange and Parkinson's disease; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 273

Whereas, Agent Orange was an herbicide used in Vietnam to kill unwanted plants and to remove leaves from trees which otherwise provided cover for the enemy. After its use, it was realized that Agent Orange contained dioxin, which is related to a number of diseases, cancers, and other disorders. Many U.S. veterans are known to have been exposed to significant amounts of Agent Orange while fulfilling their military obligations; and

Whereas, as required by law, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recognizes many diseases as being associated with Agent Orange, including chloracne, acute peripheral neuropathy, and numerous cancers such as Hodgkin's disease, multiple myeloma, and prostate cancer. Veterans who served in Vietnam between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, and who acquire one of the recognized diseases are entitled to VA-fur-

nished hospital care, medical services, and possibly nursing home care; and

Whereas, several studies performed at internationally recognized research institutions, including St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, have linked Parkinson's disease to Agent Orange and other pesticides. Research work at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital linked genetic alterations associated with an increased risk of Parkinson's disease to pesticide exposures; and

Whereas, Parkinson's disease should be added to the VA list of recognized diseases associated with Agent Orange. The Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, has determined in two cases that the Parkinson's disease of veterans could have been caused by their contact with Agent Orange while on active military duty; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize the United States Congress to acknowledge that the neurological disorder known as Parkinson's disease can be caused by exposure to Agent Orange and to require that the United States Department of Veterans Affairs offer assistance to U.S. Military members who, while serving their country, have acquired Parkinson's disease through their exposure to Agent Orange; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

POM-469. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging the Congress of the United States and the United States Department of Agriculture to continue to promote and prioritize the establishment of local farm-to-school initiatives; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 413

Whereas, local farm-to-school initiatives improve child nutrition and promote local farming communities. These programs emphasize the purchase and availability of fresher and more nutritious local foods for consumption in schools. In addition, they provide an opportunity for students to gain a greater appreciation of where their food comes from and enhance markets for local farmers. Strong local markets reduce food costs and fuel use associated with transporting foods long distances and increase food security; and

Whereas, the federal government plays a critical role in the success of local farm-to-school initiatives. Federal support can make the difference between a successful farm-to-school program and a failed one. In particular, placing a priority on farm-to-school programs and giving schools flexibility in the use of federal funding received for school meal programs would make a huge difference; and

Whereas, the 2008 federal farm bill (P.L. 110-246) made major strides to remove roadblocks and encourage the establishment of farm-to-school initiatives. Under the enacted bill, schools will now be able to show a preference for locally grown and raised foods without risking the loss of critical funds. In addition, the bill authorizes funding for grants that may be used to make fresh fruits and vegetables available in elementary schools and develop hands-on school vegetable gardening and nutrition education programs at high-poverty schools; and

Whereas, the promise of the 2008 federal farm bill will only be met if Congress and the U.S. Department of Agriculture follow

through and continue to expand on the commitments made. Full funding, regulatory flexibility, and a cooperative and collaborative relationship with the states and local schools are needed to maintain the momentum; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the Congress of the United States and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to continue to promote and prioritize the establishment of local farm-to-school initiatives; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the Secretary of Agriculture.

POM-470. A joint resolution adopted by the California Legislature relative to fibromyalgia; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 25

Whereas, fibromyalgia is defined by the American College of Rheumatology as a disabling pain condition. Fibromyalgia symptoms include chronic pain throughout the body, extreme fatigue, sleep disorders, stiffness, weakness, migraine headaches, and impairment of memory and concentration; and

Whereas, fibromyalgia is a common condition with no known cure that affects women, men, and children of all ethnicities; and

Whereas, an estimated 10 million people in the United States and millions of people worldwide have been diagnosed with fibromyalgia; and

Whereas, there is no test for fibromyalgia, so it often takes an average of five years to receive a diagnosis. Furthermore, medical professionals are frequently inadequately educated on diagnosis and treatment of fibromyalgia; and

Whereas, many fibromyalgia patients find themselves underinsured or uninsured because they are too sick to work or have been denied health care coverage and access to treatments because they have fibromyalgia; and

Whereas, fibromyalgia costs the United States health care system \$20 billion annually and strongly impacts families who experience lost wages and extensive out-of-pocket medical costs; and

Whereas, the California Legislative Women's Caucus recognizes that 80 percent of fibromyalgia patients are women, that hundreds of thousands of those affected by fibromyalgia live in California, and that there is an urgent need to respond to the vast needs of this patient population; and

Whereas, the California Legislative Women's Caucus has taken the National Fibromyalgia Association's Pledge to Care by advocating for improved treatments, expanded research, comprehensive health insurance coverage, and increased awareness of fibromyalgia; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature respectfully urges the Congress of the United States to accelerate the federal investment in fibromyalgia research at the National Institutes of Health, to ensure adequate Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement and coverage of fibromyalgia therapies, and to launch a multifaceted public awareness campaign on fibromyalgia; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-471. A joint resolution adopted by the Alaska State Legislature relative to the funding for special education in public schools; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29

Whereas the Constitution of the State of Alaska and other laws and policies of the state require educational opportunities for all children, including children with disabilities; and

Whereas enactment of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act by the United States Congress transferred from the states to the federal government decisions pertaining to the provision of education and related services to students with disabilities; and

Whereas the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act requires the provision of a "free appropriate public education" for students with disabilities; and

Whereas the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act authorized the federal appropriation of a sum equal to 40 percent of the average per-pupil expenditure for general education students under 34 C.F.R. 300.701(a)(1); and

Whereas the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (P.L. 104-4, March 22, 1995) provides that "the federal government should not shift certain costs to the States, and States should end the practice of shifting costs to local governments"; and

Whereas, according to recent estimates, Alaska received approximately 16 percent of the total cost of providing a free appropriate public education for students with disabilities from the Congress for Part B services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; and

Whereas the lack of adequate federal funding for students with disabilities has forced states and local school districts to make up the difference through payments made for other critical education programs; and

Whereas the lack of adequate federal funding for federally mandated services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act places a tremendous strain on all Alaska public school districts and on the ability of the districts to provide quality education for all students; and

Whereas Alaska shares with every other state a chronic shortage of qualified special education teachers; and

Whereas teacher preparation programs would benefit from full federal funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act by attracting prospective applicants interested in a career of teaching special education; and

Whereas the underfunding of special education programs affects the depth of services provided to students with disabilities; and

Whereas, despite significant strides made in increasing and enhancing public education for students with disabilities, many of those students still do not receive the services and assistance they need to succeed in public schools; and

Whereas the federal No Child Left Behind Act requires that 100 percent of students with disabilities attain proficiency in meeting state education standards by the end of the 2013-2014 school year; and

Whereas improvement in the rate of proficiency of students in meeting state education standards is a primary indicator of school success under the No Child Left Behind Act, creating the need for public school districts to provide greater access to and progress in the general curriculum for students with disabilities; and

Whereas the task of meeting the rising costs associated with attaining proficiency in the general curriculum for students with

disabilities requires a strong partnership between local, state, and federal government agencies; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature strongly urges the President of the United States and the United States Congress to fulfill their obligation to provide adequate funding of educational services for students with disabilities by providing 40 percent of the average per-pupil expenditure for general education students in Alaska as authorized in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

POM-472. A joint resolution adopted by the Alaska State Legislature urging the United States Congress to reauthorize the Debbie Smith DNA backlog grant program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 34

Whereas DNA technology is increasingly vital to ensuring accuracy and fairness in the criminal justice system, but is not yet considered a routine tool for criminal identification by law enforcement; and

Whereas over 50,000 law enforcement investigations have already been aided nationwide because of DNA matches made through the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Combined DNA Index System, bringing justice to victims and removing criminals from the streets; and

Whereas the Innocence Project has used DNA in over 200 cases to exonerate persons who were wrongfully convicted of crimes; and

Whereas Alaska and other states throughout the nation have significantly expanded their DNA programs to include a growing number of convicted and arrested felons to match against unsolved crimes; and

Whereas the demand for DNA testing in both violent and nonviolent crimes has continued to increase as the reliability of this evidence is proven; and

Whereas many laboratories still maintain DNA backlogs of six months or longer and are unable to meet the growing demand for DNA testing, despite funding commitments from state and local governments; and

Whereas the Debbie Smith DNA backlog grant program has permitted state and local governments an opportunity to begin to maximize the full potential of forensic DNA through backlog reduction, but much work remains to be done; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature strongly urges the United States Congress to reauthorize the Debbie Smith DNA backlog grant program at current or increased levels.

POM-473. A joint resolution adopted by the Alaska State Legislature encouraging the repeal of the Real ID Act of 2005; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

RESOLUTION NO. 68

Whereas the federal government has failed to show any measurable evidence that the implementation of the Real ID Act of 2005 will make our borders more secure and better protect our citizens from terrorism; and

Whereas the state, under the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, has always exercised its exclusive power to establish standards and regulations for the issuance of Alaska state driver's licenses and Alaska state identification cards; and

Whereas the federal government imposes a huge fiscal burden on the division of motor vehicles to implement the Real ID Act of 2005; and

Whereas noncompliance with the Real ID Act of 2005 will result in the federal government punishing individual Alaskans for the actions of the state by placing limitations on

Alaska residents' freedom of travel and access to federal facilities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved That the Alaska State Legislature does not believe government should wage the war on terrorism at the expense of states' rights and liberties of citizens protected by the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature does not believe the Real ID Act of 2005 will make the United States measurably safer and encourages the United States Congress to repeal the Real ID Act of 2005.

POM-474. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania memorializing Congress to enact H. Res. 111, which establishes a Select Committee on Prisoners of War (POW) and Missing in Action (MIA) Affairs; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 715

Whereas, it is essential to fully investigate unresolved cases involving military personnel who served in the Vietnam Conflict, Korean Conflict, World War II, Cold War and Gulf War and who are missing in action (MIA), otherwise unaccounted for or known to have been prisoners of war (POWs); and

Whereas, H. Res. 111, currently under consideration in Congress, would establish a select committee to be known as the Select Committee on POW and MIA Affairs; and

Whereas, the select committee will conduct a full investigation of all unresolved matters relating to any United States personnel unaccounted for from the Vietnam Conflict, Korean Conflict, World War II, Cold War and Gulf War; and

Whereas, it is appropriate that the select committee be established to conduct this investigation; and

Whereas, many of these POWs and MIAs are citizens of this Commonwealth; therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives memorialize Congress to enact H. Res. 111 and establish a Select Committee on POW and MIA Affairs; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM-475. A joint resolution adopted by the Alaska State Legislature supporting federal funding for veterans' health care and urging the United States Congress to ensure adequate funding for veterans' health care; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11

Whereas the United States Department of Veterans Affairs provides medical care for veterans who have risked their lives to protect the security of the nation; and

Whereas the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has the largest integrated health care system in the United States; and

Whereas the missions of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs include providing health care to veterans, educating and training health care personnel, conducting medical research, serving as backup to the United States Department of Defense, and supporting communities in times of crisis; and

Whereas the United States Department of Veterans Affairs provides a wide range of specialized services to meet the unique needs of veterans, including treatment and care for spinal cord injury, blindness, traumatic brain injury, post traumatic stress disorder, amputation injuries, mental health and substance abuse, and conditions requiring long-term care; and

Whereas federal discretionary funding for veterans' health care is controlled by the executive branch and Congress through the budget and appropriation process; and

Whereas the United States Government Accountability Office report in 2005 highlighted the lack of resources and staffing available to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for processing an increasing backlog of veterans' claims; and

Whereas discretionary funding for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs lags behind both medical inflation and the increased demands for services; for example, the enrollment for veterans' health care increased 134 percent between fiscal years 1996 and 2004, but funding only increased 34 percent during the same period when adjusted to 1996 dollars; and

Whereas former United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony Principi has publicly stated that the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has been struggling to provide health care to the rapidly rising number of veterans who require health care; be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature expresses its profound gratitude for the sacrifices made by veterans who suffer from medical or mental problems resulting from injuries that occurred while serving in the United States Armed Forces; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to ensure adequate funding for veterans' health care.

POM-476. A resolution adopted by the California State Lands Commission supporting the Ocean Conservation, Education, and National Strategy for the 21st Century Act (H.R. 21) and the National Oceans Protection Act of 2008 (S. 3314); to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

POM-477. A resolution adopted by the California State Lands Commission requesting that Congress continue to enact, and the President reinstitute, the moratorium on oil and gas leasing within protected offshore areas; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-478. A resolution adopted by the legislature of the Republic of the Philippines thanking the U.S. Senate for the passage of S. 1315 known as the Veterans' Benefits Enhancement Act of 2007; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment with a preamble:

S. Res. 707. An original resolution authorizing the President of the Senate to certify the facts of the failure of Joshua Bolten, as the Custodian of Records at the White House, to appear before the Committee on the Judiciary and produce documents as required by Committee subpoena (Rept. No. 110-522).

S. Res. 708. An original resolution authorizing the President of the Senate to certify the facts of the failure of Karl Rove to appear and testify before the Committee on the Judiciary and to produce documents as required by Committee subpoena (Rept. No. 110-522).

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

Report to accompany S. 967, a bill to amend chapter 41 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for the establishment and authorization of funding for certain training programs for supervisors of Federal employees (Rept. No. 110-523).

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

Special Report entitled "Activities of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs" (Rept. No. 110-524).

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

Report to accompany S. 3477, a bill to amend title 44, United States Code, to authorize grants for Presidential Centers of Historical Excellence (Rept. No. 110-525).

Report to accompany S. 1000, a bill to enhance the Federal Telework Program (Rept. No. 110-526).

By Mr. KENNEDY, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1695. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a pathway for the licensure of biosimilar biological products, to promote innovation in the life sciences, and for other purposes.

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. COLLINS:

S. 3691. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to require reporting and record-keeping for positions involving credit-default swaps, to grant the Federal Reserve Board authority over investment-bank holding companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 3692. A bill to rescind Treasury Notice 2008-83; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mrs.

LINCOLN, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 3693. A bill to limit the amount of compensation for employees and executives of financial institutions assisted under the Troubled Asset Relief Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 3694. A bill to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act to limit obligations to \$350,000,000,000, absent majority approval by the Congress; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. ENSIGN:

S. 3695. A bill to require a 50-hour workweek for Federal prison inmates, to reform inmate work programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. STEVENS (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3696. A bill to establish a grant program to encourage retooling of entities in the timber industry in Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 3697. A bill to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act to require approval by the Congress for certain expenditures for the Troubled Asset Relief Program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 3698. A bill to prohibit any recipient of emergency Federal economic assistance from using such funds for lobbying expenditures or political contributions, to improve transparency, enhance accountability, encourage responsible corporate governance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 3699. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to reform and improve the HUBZone program for

small business concerns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. INOUE, Mr. BROWN, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DODD, Mr. CASEY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. CARPER):

S. 3700. A bill to encourage and support the development of high-speed passenger rail transportation in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 3701. A bill to provide assistance to Best Buddies to support the expansion and development of mentoring programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 3702. A bill to provide for full and open competition for Federal contracts related to natural disaster reconstruction efforts; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 3703. A bill to ensure efficiency and fairness in the awarding of Federal contracts in connection with natural disaster reconstruction efforts; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

S. 3704. A bill to authorize additional Federal Bureau of Investigation field agents to investigate financial crimes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 3705. A bill to amend the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to stop the small business credit crunch, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. CLINTON:

S. 3706. A bill to amend part D of title IV of the Social Security Act to prohibit States from charging child support recipients for the collection of child support; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. CLINTON:

S. 3707. A bill to recruit, train, and support principals for high-need schools who are effective in improving student academic achievement; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. CLINTON:

S. 3708. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to health professions education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. LEAHY:

S. Res. 707. An original resolution authorizing the President of the Senate to certify the facts of the failure of Joshua Bolten, as the Custodian of Records at the White House, to appear before the Committee on the Judiciary and produce documents as required by Committee subpoena; from the Committee on the Judiciary; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. LEAHY:

S. Res. 708. An original resolution authorizing the President of the Senate to certify