

(1) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “\$10,000” and inserting “\$12,000”; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$50,000” and inserting “\$60,000”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$10,000” and inserting “\$12,000”.

SA 4385. Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. COCHRAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . STREAMLINING ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVALS FOR CERTAIN EMERGENCY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT.

Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall submit to Congress a joint report on ways to streamline the environmental approval process for community development block grant housing development in areas affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma of 2005.

SA 4386. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following:

TITLE ____—GO ZONE PROPERTY

SEC. ____01. WAIVER OF DEADLINE ON CONSTRUCTION OF GO ZONE PROPERTY ELIGIBLE FOR BONUS DEPRECIATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (B) of section 1400N(d)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(B) without regard to ‘and before January 1, 2005’ in clause (i) thereof.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2007.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 2, 2008, at 2:30 p.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 2, 2008, at 10 a.m. in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to hold a hearing entitled, “Oversight on the Listing Decision for the Polar Bear Under Endangered Species Act.”

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 2, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. to hold a hearing on Iraq.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 2, 2008, at 2:30 p.m. to hold a hearing on Iraq.

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 2, 2008, at 11 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled “Nuclear Terrorism: Assessing the Threat to the Homeland.”

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled “Oversight of the Department of Homeland Security” on Wednesday, April 2, 2008, at 9:30 a.m., in room SH-216 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

Witness list

The Honorable Michael Chertoff, Secretary, United States Department of Homeland Security, Washington, D.C.

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

READINESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 2, 2008, at 2:30 p.m., in open session to receive testimony on Department of Defense contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 2, 2008, at 10 a.m., in open session to receive testimony on the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program; and the proliferation security initiative at the Department of Defense and Nuclear Nonproliferation Programs at the National Nuclear Security Administration in review of the Defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 and the future years Defense program.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Eric Reither from Senator ENSIGN’s office be granted floor privileges for the duration of the debate on H.R. 3221.

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

NATIONAL CUSHING’S SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 498.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 498) designating April 8, 2008, as “National Cushing’s Syndrome Awareness Day.”

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 498) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 498

Whereas Cushing’s Syndrome affects an estimated 10 to 15 people per 1,000,000 people annually, most of those affected are between the ages of 20 and 50;

Whereas Cushing’s Syndrome is an endocrine or hormonal disorder caused by the prolonged exposure of the body’s tissue to high levels of the hormone cortisol;

Whereas exposure to cortisol can occur by overproduction of cortisol in the body or by taking glucocorticoid hormones, which are routinely prescribed for asthma, rheumatoid arthritis, and lupus, or as an immunosuppressant following organ transplants;

Whereas Cushing’s Syndrome may also result from pituitary adenomas, ectopic

adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH) syndrome, adrenal tumors, and Familial Cushing's Syndrome;

Whereas Cushing's Syndrome can cause abnormal weight gain, skin changes, and fatigue and can ultimately lead to diabetes, high blood pressure, depression, osteoporosis, or death;

Whereas Cushing's Syndrome is diagnosed through a series of tests, often requiring x-ray examinations of adrenal or pituitary glands to locate tumors;

Whereas many people who suffer from Cushing's Syndrome are misdiagnosed or go undiagnosed for years because many of the symptoms of Cushing's Syndrome are also indications of milder diseases, and those errors in diagnoses delay the implementation of important treatment options;

Whereas treatments for Cushing's Syndrome include surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, the use of cortisol-inhibiting drugs, and reducing the dosage of glucocorticoid hormones;

Whereas Cushing's Syndrome was discovered by Dr. Harvey Williams Cushing, who was born on April 8, 1869;

Whereas the Dr. Harvey Cushing stamp was part of the United States Postal Service's "Great American" series of stamps, initiated in 1980 to recognize individuals for making significant contributions to the heritage and culture of the United States;

Whereas President Ronald Reagan spoke on April 8, 1987, in the Rose Garden at a White House ceremony to unveil the commemorative stamp honoring Dr. Harvey Cushing;

Whereas, following the ceremony, President Reagan hosted a reception in the State Dining Room for Mrs. John Hay Whitney, Dr. Cushing's daughter, and representatives of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons; and

Whereas the Senate is an institution that can raise awareness of Cushing's Syndrome in the general public and the medical community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 8, 2008, as "National Cushing's Syndrome Awareness Day";

(2) recognizes that all people in the United States should become more informed and aware of Cushing's Syndrome;

(3) calls upon the people of the United States to observe the date with appropriate ceremonies and activities; and

(4) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Cushing's Understanding, Support, and Help Organization.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2807, S. 2808, S. 2809, S. 2810, AND S. 2811

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the titles of the bills. The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2807) to protect the liberty and property of all Americans.

A bill (S. 2808) to require that citizens within a National Heritage Area are informed of the designation and that government officials must receive permission to enter private property.

A bill (S. 2809) to ensure that there are no adverse effects of a National Heritage Area designation to local communities and home owners.

A bill (S. 2810) to require an annual report detailing the amount of property the federal government owns and the cost of government land ownership to taxpayers.

A bill (S. 2811) to require citizens' approval of federal government land grabs.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for a second reading and, in order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bills will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2008

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, April 3; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, the Senate adopt the motion to proceed to H.R. 3221, and after reporting of the bill, Senator DODD or his designee be recognized to offer a substitute amendment to the bill; and that following opening statements by Senators DODD and SHELBY, Senator DURBIN be recognized to offer an amendment relating to bankruptcy.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:26 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, April 3, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JOHN P. HEWKO, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, VICE ANDREW B. STEINBERG.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

JEFFREY F. KUPFER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF ENERGY, VICE JEFFREY CLAY SELL, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RICHARD E. HOAGLAND, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN.

MARIE L. YOVANOVITCH, OF CONNECTICUT, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA.

WILLIAM J. BURNS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE AN UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE (POLITICAL AFFAIRS), VICE R. NICHOLAS BURNS, RESIGNED.

JANICE L. JACOBS, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS), VICE MAURA ANN HARTY, RESIGNED.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LITERACY

ALEXA E. POSNY, OF KANSAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LITERACY ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 25, 2011. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

ELAINE C. DUKE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE PAUL A. SCHNEIDER.

FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY

BRANDON CHAD BUNGARD, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE COLLEEN DUFFY KIKO, RESIGNED.