

closing ceremony also included prayer, dance, song and remembrances.

The Stowe Weekend of Hope was founded in 2001. Since its inception, the event has grown locally and nationally to continue its focus its mission of support, education and inspiration.

It makes me proud of Vermont.●

#### HONORING SAFE HANDLING, INC.

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate the remarkable achievements of a small Maine company that is doing business in an incredibly forward-thinking way. Safe Handling, Inc., of Auburn, is a cutting-edge transporter of industrial products, and both the firm and its president, Ford Reiche, have earned significant recognition, culminating in Mr. Reiche being named the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2008 Maine Small Business Person of the Year.

Founded in 1989, Safe Handling offers businesses the convenience of both bulk product transportation and logistics, as well as toll processing, to enable them to more efficiently move their goods. Significantly, Safe Handling is responsible for both sensitive and hazardous materials. To safely handle these products, the firm runs the largest rail-to-truck transloading facilities in both New England and western Pennsylvania, where it has an additional transload yard and warehouse. Safe Handling presently manages roughly a half million tons of products every year which translates to nearly 4,000 railcars and 12,000 truckloads of raw materials annually. It also operates the only ethanol terminal in Maine.

Transporting such perilous materials requires Safe Handling to be mindful of many concerns, and the company has risen to the top as a leader in environmental safety by exceeding Federal and State requirements on a regular basis. Most recently, the company became the first Maine-owned business to earn both the ISO14001 and Responsible Care certifications, which address a host of health, safety, environmental, and security concerns. Of all its initiatives, Safe Handling has most visibly led the way in reducing transportation emissions. The company ships dry products that it transfers into liquids, uses tri-axle trucks, provides long-haul rail services, and utilizes biodiesel fuel, all of which reduce discharge. Not surprisingly, the firm placed first in the Governor's Carbon Challenge, by voluntarily reducing its carbon emissions by 75 percent. Safe Handling has additionally instituted an Employee Green Idea Reward Program that gives \$100 to each employee who saves the company money through an environmentally friendly idea.

Because of its innovative practices and proven track record, Safe Handling has garnered three prestigious awards this year alone. In March, *Mainebiz* magazine declared Ford Reiche its Executive of the Year in its large business

category. Less than a month later, the Maine International Trade Center recognized Safe Handling as its Maine Innovative Company of the Year Award for the company's energy saving methods and customer savings. Additionally, the U.S. Small Business Administration presented Mr. Reiche with its prestigious 2008 Maine Small Business Person of the Year for his "business expertise, commitment, creativity and community involvement." Mr. Reiche's dedication and knowledge inspire the nearly 100 employees of Safe Handling, and the company is a better place for his profound leadership skills.

Safe Handling is truly a company of which all Mainers can be proud. Consistently seeking greater energy efficiency while never sacrificing its loyalty to its customers, Safe Handling promises to make the Lewiston-Auburn area—and Maine—a better place in every way. I am particularly impressed with the passion and enthusiasm of Mr. Reiche, who I was fortunate enough to meet with just a few weeks ago. His desire to create jobs and opportunities in Central Maine truly shined through during our time together. I congratulate Ford Reiche and everyone at Safe Handling for their amazing accolades and pioneering enterprises, and wish them more of the success that they have already demonstrated.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

#### TEXT OF A PROPOSED AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY—PM 48

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress, pursuant to sections 123b. and 123d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153(b), (d)) (the "Act"), the text of a proposed Agreement Between the Government of the

United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation for Cooperation in the Field of Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. I am also pleased to transmit my written approval, authorization, and determination concerning the Agreement, and a Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statement (NPAS) concerning the Agreement (in accordance with section 123 of the Act, as amended by title XII of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-277), a classified annex to the NPAS, prepared by the Secretary of State in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, summarizing relevant classified information, will be submitted to the Congress separately). The joint memorandum submitted to me by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Energy and a letter from the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission stating the views of the Commission are also enclosed.

The proposed Agreement has been negotiated in accordance with the Act and other applicable law. In my judgment, it meets all applicable statutory requirements and will advance the non-proliferation and other foreign policy interests of the United States.

The proposed Agreement provides a comprehensive framework for peaceful nuclear cooperation with Russia based on a mutual commitment to nuclear non-proliferation. It has a term of 30 years, and permits the transfer of technology, material, equipment (including reactors), and components for nuclear research and nuclear power production. It does not permit transfers of Restricted Data, and permits transfers of sensitive nuclear technology, sensitive nuclear facilities, and major critical components of such facilities by amendment to the Agreement. In the event of termination, key non-proliferation conditions and controls continue with respect to material and equipment subject to the Agreement.

The Russian Federation is a nuclear weapon state party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Like the United States, it has a "voluntary offer" safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). That agreement gives the IAEA the right to apply safeguards on all source or special fissionable material at peaceful nuclear facilities on a Russia-provided list. The Russian Federation is also a party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, which establishes international standards of physical protection for the use, storage, and transport of nuclear material. It is also a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, whose non-legally binding Guidelines set forth standards for the responsible export of nuclear commodities for peaceful use. A more detailed discussion of Russia's domestic civil nuclear program and its nuclear non-proliferation policies and practices, including its nuclear export policies and practices, is provided in the NPAS and

in the classified annex to the NPAS submitted to the Congress separately.

I have considered the views and recommendations of the interested agencies in reviewing the proposed Agreement and have determined that its performance will promote, and will not constitute an unreasonable risk to, the common defense and security. Accordingly, I have approved the Agreement and authorized its execution and urge that the Congress give it favorable consideration.

This transmission shall constitute a submittal for purposes of both sections 123b. and 123d. of the Atomic Energy Act. My Administration is prepared to begin immediately the consultations with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and House Foreign Affairs Committee as provided in section 123b. Upon completion of the 30-day continuous session period provided for in section 123b., the 60-day continuous session period provided for in section 123d. shall commence.

GEORGE W. BUSH.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, *May 12, 2008.*

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

##### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:45 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 2929. An act to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

At 6:37 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to section 1853(a) of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-53), the Minority Leader appoints Mr. Henry Sokoloski of Arlington, Virginia, and Mr. Stephen Rademaker of McLean, Virginia, to the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the title of 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, with amendments, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following joint resolution was read the first time:

S.J. Res. 32. Joint resolution limiting the issuance of a letter of offer with respect to a certain proposed sale of defense articles and defense services to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

#### ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, May 13, 2008, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 2929. An act to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6133. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tebuconazole; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 8364-6) received on May 12, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6134. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interstate Movement of Fruit from Hawaii" (Docket No. APHIS-2007-0050) received on May 7, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6135. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bacillus firmus isolate 1582; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 8362-7) received on May 7, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6136. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Robert D. Bishop, Jr., United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6137. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Christopher A. Kelly, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6138. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Kevin J. Cosgriff, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6139. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Mark J. Edwards, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6140. A communication from the Principal Deputy, Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the use of Aviation Continuation Pay during fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6141. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement, Acquisition Policy, and Strategic Sourcing, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Excessive Pass-Through Charges" (DFARS Case 2006-D057) received on May 12, 2008; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6142. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report on the National Guard Challenge Program for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6143. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Bruce A. Wright, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6144. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's evaluation of the TRICARE Program Fiscal Year 2008 Report; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6145. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the measures that are being taken to successfully complete the mission in Iraq; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6146. A communication from the Acting General Counsel of the Department of Defense, transmitting legislative proposals relative to military spousal benefits; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6147. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Secretary, received on May 12, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6148. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the designation of an acting officer for the position of President of the Government National Mortgage Association, received on May 12, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6149. A communication from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Pemex projects in Mexico; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6150. A communication from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to an export to Mexico; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6151. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6152. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the designation of an acting officer for the position of Secretary, received on May 7, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6153. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management