

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. BYRD, Mr. CORKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. GREGG, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SPECTER, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. ALLARD):

S. Res. 583. A resolution designating June 20, 2008, as "American Eagle Day", and celebrating the recovery and restoration of the bald eagle, the national symbol of the United States; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 388

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 388, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a national standard in accordance with which nonresidents of a State may carry concealed firearms in the State.

S. 803

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 803, a bill to repeal a provision enacted to end Federal matching of State spending of child support incentive payments.

S. 899

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 899, a bill to amend section 401(b)(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 regarding the Federal Pell Grant maximum amount.

S. 937

At the request of Mr. CASEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 937, a bill to improve support and services for individuals with autism and their families.

S. 1003

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1003, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to emergency medical services and the quality and efficiency of care furnished in emergency departments of hospitals and critical access hospitals by establishing a bipartisan commission to examine factors that affect the effective delivery of such services, by providing for additional payments for certain physician services furnished in such emergency departments, and by establishing a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Working Group, and for other purposes.

S. 1437

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1437, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the semicentennial of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

S. 1661

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1661, a bill to communicate United States travel policies and improve marketing and other activities designed to increase travel in the United States from abroad.

S. 2453

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2453, a bill to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to clarify requirements relating to non-discrimination on the basis of national origin.

S. 2498

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2498, a bill to authorize the minting of a coin to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the founding of Santa Fe, New Mexico, to occur in 2010.

S. 2606

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2606, a bill to reauthorize the United States Fire Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 2618

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2618, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for research with respect to various forms of muscular dystrophy, including Becker, congenital, distal, Duchenne, Emery-Dreifuss Facioscapulohumeral, limb-girdle, myotonic, and oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophies.

S. 2619

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2619, a bill to protect innocent Americans from violent crime in national parks.

S. 2668

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2668, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove cell phones from listed property under section 280F.

S. 2723

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2723, a bill to expand the dental workforce and improve dental access, prevention, and data reporting, and for other purposes.

S. 2883

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2883, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of Mother's Day.

S. 2938

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2938, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to improve educational assistance for members of the Armed Forces and veterans in order to enhance recruitment and retention for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 2942

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) were added as cosponsors of S. 2942, a bill to authorize funding for the National Advocacy Center.

S. 2955

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2955, a bill to authorize funds to the Local Initiatives Support Corporation to carry out its Community Safety Initiative.

S. 2957

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2957, a bill to modernize credit union net worth standards, advance credit union efforts to promote economic growth, and modify credit union regularity standards and reduce burdens, and for other purposes.

S. 2991

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2991, a bill to provide energy price relief and hold oil companies and other entities accountable for their actions with regard to high energy prices, and for other purposes.

S. 2994

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2994, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide for the remediation of sediment contamination in areas of concern.

S. 3044

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) were added as cosponsors of S. 3044, a bill to provide energy price relief and hold oil companies and other entities accountable for their actions with regard to high energy prices, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 24

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 24, a joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

S. CON. RES. 82

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 82, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

S. RES. 580

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE), the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 580, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability.

AMENDMENT NO. 4822

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4822 intended to be proposed to S. 3036, a bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a program to decrease emissions of greenhouse gases, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. GREGG, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. ALLARD, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 3080. A bill to ensure parity between the temporary duty imposed on ethanol and tax credits provided on ethanol; to the Committee on Finance.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Imported Ethanol Parity Act of 2008.

This legislation is cosponsored by Senators GREGG, CANTWELL, ALLARD and COLLINS.

First, let me explain what this bill does. The Imported Ethanol Parity Act instructs the President to lower the ethanol import tariff, so that it is no higher than the subsidy for blending ethanol into gasoline.

This legislation is necessary because the Farm Bill extended the tariff for two more years at \$0.54 per gallon, even though the Farm Bill reduced the ethanol blending subsidy to \$0.45 per gallon.

In effect, the Farm Bill has turned the tariff from an “offset” into a true trade barrier of at least \$0.09 per gallon.

The Ethanol tariff poses many problems.

It increases the cost of Gasoline in the United States by making ethanol more expensive.

It prevents Americans from importing ethanol made from sugarcane. Sugar ethanol is the only available transportation fuel that works in today's cars and emits considerably less lifecycle greenhouse gas than gasoline;

It taxes imports from our friends in Brazil, India, and Australia, while oil and gasoline imports from OPEC enter the United States tax free.

It hinders the emergence of a global biofuels marketplace through which

countries with a strong biofuel crop could sell fuel to countries that suffered drought or other agricultural difficulties in the same crop year. Such a global market would permit mutually beneficial trade between producing regions and stabilize both fuel and food prices.

It makes us more dependent on the Middle East for fuel when we should be increasing the number of countries from whom we buy fuel. When it comes to energy security for the United States, which has less than 3 percent of proven global oil reserves and 25 percent of demand, we must diversify supply.

Bottom Line: until the tariff is lowered, the United States will tax the only fuel it can import that increases energy security, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and lowers gasoline prices.

In 2006 I introduced legislation to eliminate the ethanol tariff entirely, and in 2007 I cosponsored an amendment to the Energy Bill which would have eliminated the tariff.

The Imported Ethanol Parity Act is a different proposal that I believe addresses the concerns of tariff defenders.

The advocates of the \$0.54 per gallon tariff on ethanol imports have always argued that the tariff is necessary in order to offset the blender subsidy that applies to the use of all ethanol, whether produced domestically or internationally. They argue that the ethanol subsidy exists to support American farmers who produce ethanol at higher cost than foreign producers.

For instance, on May 6, 2006, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee stated on the Senate floor that, “the U.S. tariff on ethanol operates as an offset to an excise tax credit that applies to both domestically produced and imported ethanol.”

On May 9, 2006, the Renewable Fuels Association stated in a press release: “the secondary tariff exists as an offset to the tax incentive gasoline refiners receive for every gallon of ethanol they blend, regardless of the ethanol's origin.”

In a letter to Congress dated June 20, 2007, the American Coalition for Ethanol, the American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Corn Growers Association, the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, the National Sorghum Producers, and the Renewable Fuels Association stated that the “(blender) tax credit is available to refiners regardless of whether the ethanol blended is imported or domestic. To prevent U.S. taxpayers from subsidizing foreign ethanol companies, Congress passed an offset to the tax credit that foreign companies pay in the form of a tariff.”

Just this month, the Renewable Fuels Association's Executive Director asserted that “The tariff is there not so much to protect the industry but the U.S. taxpayer.”

Bottom Line: the tariff cannot be justifiably maintained at \$0.54 per gal-

lon if its intent is to offset a \$0.45 per gallon blender subsidy, and it should be reduced.

Ethanol from Brazil or Australia should not have to overcome a trade barrier that no drop of OPEC oil must face.

Tariff defenders either should support this legislation or explain how a tariff can justifiably be higher than the subsidy it is designed to offset.

Climate Change is the most significant environmental challenge we face, and I believe that lowering the ethanol tariff will make it less expensive for the United States to combat global warming.

The fuel we burn to power our cars is a major source of the greenhouse gas emissions warming our planet. To reduce this impact, we need to increase the fuel efficiency of our vehicles and lower the lifecycle carbon emissions of the fuel itself.

For this reason, in March 2007, I introduced the Clean Fuels and Vehicles Act with Senators OLYMPIA SNOWE and SUSAN COLLINS.

The legislation proposed a “Low Carbon Fuels Standard,” which would require each major oil company selling gasoline in the United States to reduce the average lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions per unit of energy in their gasoline by 3 percent by 2015 and by 3 percent more in 2020.

The legislation was modeled on the state of California's Low Carbon Fuels Standard, which also requires a reduction in the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions from transportation fuels.

This concept became a major aspect of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, in which Congress required oil companies to use an increasing quantity of “advanced biofuels” that produce at least 50 percent less lifecycle greenhouse gas than gasoline.

Unfortunately the ethanol tariff puts a trade barrier in front of the lowest carbon fuel available, making it considerably more expensive for the United States to lower the lifecycle carbon emissions of transportation fuel.

The lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions of ethanol vary depending on production methods and feedstocks, and these differences will impact the degree to which ethanol may be used to meet “low-carbon” fuel requirements under California law and the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

For instance, sugar cane ethanol plants use biomass from sugar stalks as process energy, resulting in less fossil fuel input compared to current corn-to-ethanol processes. By comparison, researchers at the University of California concluded that “only 5 to 26 percent of the energy content (in corn ethanol) is renewable. The rest is primarily natural gas and coal,” which are used in the production process.

The 2007 California Energy Commission Report entitled Full Fuel Cycle Assessment: Well-to-Wheels Energy Inputs, Emissions, and Water Impacts