

My legislation would end this arbitrary and unfair practice that strips the finest men and women of this country of their right to bear arms. This legislation would require a judicial authority to determine that an individual is a danger to themselves or others before their Second Amendment rights are taken away.

I am not here to ask that we put guns in the hands of dangerous people. I am here to ask that we treat our veterans fairly and we take the rights of our veterans seriously.

No matter where my colleagues fall on the gun issue, I hope we can all agree that we need a process that is consistent and fair. Our veterans took an oath to uphold the Constitution. They deserve to enjoy the rights they fought so hard to protect.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. DODD, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 3170. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to modify the conditions for the release of products from the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve Account, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on a bill I am introducing with my colleague, Senator SNOWE, to amend the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve program. I want to thank Senator SNOWE for her tremendous leadership on the problem this bill is designed to address, which is a critically important issue for our region that we have worked together on for many years. That issue is the skyrocketing price of heating oil, which millions of families in the Northeast are dependent on to heat their homes through our long, cold winters.

According to the Department of Energy's Energy Information Agency, EIA, 6.2 million of the 8 million households in the U.S. that use heating oil to heat their homes are in the Northeast, or approximately 78 percent. As crude oil and gasoline prices have risen higher and higher, the cost of heating oil has risen as well. Currently, heating oil is far and away the costliest method of heating homes, costing families an average of nearly \$2000 per year, and much more in the coldest areas. Overall, heating a home with heating oil costs twice the national average of all fuels combined, yet most families in the Northeast have little choice. Even in some of our region's cities, there are no natural gas lines or other sources of home heating available to residents.

This dependence on heating oil is stretching many families' budgets to the breaking point. Where once low and moderate income families could struggle through the winter, soaring heating oil prices are forcing people to choose between heating their homes, driving their cars to and from work, and putting food on the table for their families. The EIA estimated that this year, it will cost \$1,962 to heat a home with oil, a 33 percent increase from last year

and a 117 percent increase since 2004. In just 4 short years, the cost of heating a home with oil has gone up more than \$1000 dollars! Many families and seniors living on fixed incomes simply cannot bear this burden.

That is why Senator SNOWE and I are proposing a price trigger to provide for oil to be released from the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve. This is a 2-million barrel reserve I originally worked to create in 2000, along with my colleague from Maine and other Senators from the Northeast, to protect the residents of the region from severe price shocks to the heating oil market. Given the record heating oil prices we are experiencing today, we believe it would be reasonable to use this reserve to try to cushion those dependent on heating oil to get through the winter. From November through March, the Secretary of Energy would conduct a survey to determine the price of a gallon of heating oil on the first of each month. If the price meets or exceeds \$4 per gallon, this would trigger an immediate release of 20 percent of the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve. This oil would then be sold on the open market to lower the price of heating oil in the region.

The revenue raised by the sale would then be devoted to the Weatherization Assistance Program to help low income heating oil customers increase the energy efficiency of their homes. Experience has shown that properly weatherizing homes can increase their energy efficiency by 20-30 percent, reducing energy consumption and lowering monthly utility bills. However, most low and middle income families cannot afford the upfront investment necessary to reap these benefits. The Weatherization Assistance Program is an enormously successful program designed to help families make that initial investment.

This bill will not solve our Nation's energy crisis, nor will this alone solve the problem of high heating oil prices in the Northeast. As the Senator from Maine well knows, we need to devote far more money to programs like the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, and we need to take a serious look at restructuring our Nation's comprehensive energy policy. But this legislation is a very good first step toward easing the pain so many residents of the Northeast and my State of Connecticut are feeling. I urge my colleagues to support us in this effort.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 596—CONGRATULATING THE BOSTON CELTICS ON WINNING THE 2008 NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. REED, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. DODD, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. GREGG) sub-

mitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

Whereas on June 17, 2008, the Boston Celtics won the 2008 National Basketball Association Championship (referred to in this preamble as the "2008 Championship") in 6 games over the Los Angeles Lakers;

Whereas the 2008 Championship was the 17th world championship won by the Celtics, the most in the history of the National Basketball Association (referred to in this preamble as the "NBA");

Whereas the 2008 Championship marked the culmination of the greatest single season turnaround in the history of the NBA, as the Celtics improved from a record of 24-58 during the 2007-2008 season to a league-best 66-16 mark during the 2007-2008 campaign;

Whereas the 2008 Celtics NBA Championship team, like all great Celtics champions of the past, epitomized team work, selflessness, character, effort, camaraderie, toughness, and determination;

Whereas the 2008 Celtics honored the rich legacy of their franchise, which was—

(1) established by a legion of all-time greats, including Bill Russell, Larry Bird, John Havlicek, Bob Cousy, Tom Heinsohn, K.C. Jones, Sam Jones, Jo Jo White, Dave Cowens, Kevin McHale, Robert Parish, Dennis Johnson, and Tom "Satch" Sanders; and

(2) masterminded by one of the legendary coaches of all sports, Arnold "red" Auerbach;

Whereas Celtics managing partner Wyc Grousbeck and the entire Celtics ownership group never wavered from paying the price to raise "Banner #17" to the Garden rafters;

Whereas the 2008 Celtics were brought together by a former Celtics player, Danny Ainge, whose off-season acquisitions of NBA All-Stars Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen earned him the 2008 NBA Executive of the Year Award;

Whereas the Celtics were led by Doc Rivers, who—

(1) oversaw the smooth integration of new superstars and untested young players into the Celtics lineup; and

(2) assembled, and ensured the execution of, a masterful NBA Finals game plan;

Whereas the Celtics featured a 21st Century "Big Three" comprised of Paul Pierce, Kevin Garnett, and Ray Allen, 3 veteran players who worked together and never allowed their personal ambition or pursuit of individual statistics to interfere with the goal of the team to win a championship;

Whereas a group of talented young players contributed pivotal roles in the march of the Celtics to the 2008 Championship, including point guard Rajon Rondo, center Kendrick Perkins, forward Leon Powe, guard Tony Allen, and forward Glen "Big Baby" Davis;

Whereas the valuable bench of the Celtics was stocked with veteran role players who made significant contributions during the season, including forward James Posey, guard Eddie House, guard Sam Cassell, forward P.J. Brown, forward Brian Scalabrine, and center Scott Pollard;

Whereas the 2008 Celtics team demonstrated remarkable poise and gained invaluable playoff experience in defeating the Atlanta Hawks, the Cleveland Cavaliers, and the Detroit Pistons in hard-fought series during which every possession counted at both the offensive and defensive ends of the floor;

Whereas, after 26 playoff games, the Celtics ultimately secured the 17th NBA Championship of the franchise in one of the most dominating performances in NBA history, a 39-point rout of the Lakers in front of a raucous Garden crowd; and

Whereas the Celtics fans in the State of Massachusetts, in New England, and throughout the world never gave up hope that the franchise would someday return to glory and give a new generation of Celtics fans the opportunity to celebrate a championship: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates—

(A) the Boston Celtics for winning the 2008 National Basketball Association Championship, including the players, head coach, coaches, support staff, and team owners and executives whose ability, hard work, dedication, and spirit made the season possible; and

(B) the Los Angeles Lakers for their success during the 2008 season and winning the National Basketball Association Western Conference Championship; and

(2) directs the Enrolling Clerk of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the 2008 Boston Celtics team;

(B) Celtics head coach Doc Rivers;

(C) Celtics general manager Danny Ainge; and

(D) Celtics managing partner Wyc Grousbeck.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4983. Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY)) proposed an amendment 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.

SA 4984. Mrs. DOLE (for herself and Mr. BURR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4983 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY)) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra.

SA 4985. Mr. BOND (for himself and Mr. BARRASSO) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4983 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY)) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra.

SA 4986. Mr. BOND proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4983 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY)) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra.

SA 4987. Mr. BOND proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4983 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY)) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra.

SA 4988. Mr. KOHL (for himself, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4983 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY)) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra.

SA 4989. Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. CHAMBLISS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4983 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY)) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4990. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4983 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY)) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4991. Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. DOMENICI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4983 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY)) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4992. Mr. ALLARD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4983 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY)) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4993. Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4983 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY)) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4994. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4995. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4996. Mr. DORGAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4983 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY)) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4997. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4983 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY)) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4998. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4983 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY)) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4999. Mr. SUNUNU (for himself and Ms. SNOWE) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4983 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY)) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra.

SA 5000. Mr. SUNUNU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5001. Mr. CORKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4983 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY)) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5002. Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. ENZI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5003. Mr. CRAPO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5004. Mr. NELSON, of Florida (for himself and Mr. COLEMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4983 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY)) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5005. Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. CORKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4983 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY)) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5006. Mr. VITTER (for himself and Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5007. Mr. BUNNING submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4983 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY)) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5008. Mr. CHAMBLISS (for himself and Mr. CORKER) submitted an amendment in-

tended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5009. Mr. CRAPO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4983 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY)) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5010. Mr. CRAPO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4983 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY)) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5011. Mr. BOND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5012. Mr. KERRY (for Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. KERRY)) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. KERRY to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5013. Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. ENZI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4983 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY)) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5014. Mr. DODD (for Mr. INOUE (for himself and Mr. STEVENS)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2607, to make a technical correction to section 3009 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005.

SA 5015. Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2159, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

SA 5016. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4983 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY)) 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.

SA 5017. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5018. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5019. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4983 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY)) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4983. Mr. REID (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY)) proposed an amendment 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