

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. DODD, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 3239. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior from issuing new Federal oil and gas leases to holders of existing leases who do not diligently develop the land subject to the existing leases or relinquish the leases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 3240. A bill to promote energy production and security in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MARTINEZ (for himself and Mr. NELSON of Florida):

S. 3241. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1717 Orange Avenue in Fort Pierce, Florida, as the "CecCee Ross Lyles Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 3242. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on digital-to-analog converter boxes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself and Mr. DEMINT):

S. 3243. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow expenses relating to all home schools to be qualified education expenses for purposes of a Coverdell education savings account; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 3244. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the Coverdell education savings accounts to allow home school education expenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 3245. A bill to increase public confidence in the justice system and address any unwarranted racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal process; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 3246. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to set the standard mileage rate for use of a passenger automobile for purposes of the charitable contributions deduction; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 3247. A bill to provide for the designation of the River Raisin National Battlefield Park in the State of Michigan; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 3248. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to clarify the treatment of purchases of certain commodity futures contracts and financial instruments with respect to limits established by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission relating to excessive speculation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 3249. A bill to restrict any State or local jurisdiction from imposing a new discriminatory tax on mobile wireless communications services, providers, or property; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 3250. A bill to disqualify any individual who engages in or is convicted of human smuggling from operating a commercial motor vehicle or holding a commercial driv-

er's license and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 3251. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act and the Trade Act of 1974 to authorize advance payments under the supplemental revenue assistance program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. REED, Mr. TESTER, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. CASEY, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 3252. A bill to amend the Consumer Credit Protection Act, to ban abusive credit practices, enhance consumer disclosures, protect underage consumers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 3253. A bill to provide for the administration of Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 609

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 609, a bill to amend section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 to provide that funds received as universal service contributions and the universal service support programs established pursuant to that section are not subject to certain provisions of title 31, United States Code, commonly known as the Antideficiency Act.

S. 1689

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1689, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income amounts received on account of claims based on certain unlawful discrimination and to allow income averaging for backpay and frontpay awards received on account of such claims, and for other purposes.

S. 2204

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2204, a bill to assist wildlife populations and wildlife habitats in adapting to and surviving the effects of global warming, and for other purposes.

S. 2630

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2630, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a Federal grant program to provide increased health care coverage to and access for uninsured and underinsured workers and families in the commercial fishing industry, and for other purposes.

S. 2667

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr.

MARTINEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2667, a bill to direct the Attorney General to make an annual grant to the A Child Is Missing Alert and Recovery Center to assist law enforcement agencies in the rapid recovery of missing children, and for other purposes.

S. 2681

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) were added as cosponsors of S. 2681, a bill to require the issuance of medals to recognize the dedication and valor of Native American code talkers.

S. 2731

At the request of Mrs. DOLE, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2731, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to provide assistance to foreign countries to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, and for other purposes.

S. 2838

At the request of Mr. MARTINEZ, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2838, a bill to amend chapter 1 of title 9 of United States Code with respect to arbitration.

S. 2851

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2851, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the penalty on the understatement of taxpayer's liability by tax return preparers.

S. 3089

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3089, a bill to designate certain land in the State of Oregon as wilderness, to provide for the exchange of certain Federal land and non-Federal land, and for other purposes.

S. 3116

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3116, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to stabilize and modernize the provision of partial hospitalization services under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 3118

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3118, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to preserve beneficiary access to care by preventing a reduction in the Medicare physician fee schedule, to improve the quality of care by advancing value based purchasing, electronic health records, and electronic prescribing, and to maintain and improve access to care in rural areas, and for other purposes.

S. 3140

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S.

3140, a bill to provide that 4 of the 12 weeks of parental leave made available to a Federal employee shall be paid leave, and for other purposes.

S. 3185

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3185, a bill to provide for regulation of certain transactions involving energy commodities, to strengthen the enforcement authorities of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission under the Natural Gas Act and the Federal Power Act, and for other purposes.

S. 3186

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 3186, a bill to provide funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

S. 3214

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3214, a bill to provide for a program for circulating quarter dollar coins that are emblematic of a national park or other national site in each State, the District of Columbia, and each territory of the United States, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 43

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 43, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to marriage.

S. RES. 580

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) 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.

S. RES. 602

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 602, a bill supporting the goals and ideals of "National Life Insurance Awareness Month".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 3237. A bill to assist volunteer fire companies in coping with the precipitous rise in fuel prices; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation, along with my colleagues Senator SANDERS and Senator MIKULSKI, that will provide immediate assistance to our Nation's volunteer firefighters who have been severely affected by the rising cost of gasoline and diesel fuel. This bill, the Supporting America's Volunteer Emergency Services Act, or SAVES Act, will establish a new grant program at the Department of Housing and Urban Development to help qualifying volunteer fire companies cope with the strain that today's gas and diesel prices have put on their already tight operating budgets. According to the United States Fire Administration, over 22,141 fire companies, 89 percent of all fire companies in the United States, are volunteer or majority volunteer companies. 39 percent of our country's population, some 117 million people, relies on these volunteer forces to protect their homes and businesses. In recent months, I have heard from fire chiefs across Pennsylvania about the effect that high gas and diesel prices are having on their daily operations. Some have expressed serious concerns that fuel costs are preventing them from responding to emergency calls with the amount of equipment recommended by their National Fire Protection Association guidelines. This poses a serious risk to public safety. Congress has an obligation to address this issue, for we simply cannot afford to let high gas prices stand in the way of firefighters' ability to provide local families and businesses with the help they need.

I was lucky to have 6 fire chiefs from York County, Pennsylvania, on hand today to help me bring attention to this issue. These gentlemen, Deputy Chief Barry Emig of the York Area United Fire and Rescue, Deputy Chief Joe Madzalan of the Manchester Township Fire Services, Chief William Carlisle of the Fairview Township Fire Department, Assistant Chief Trever Rentzel of the Manchester Union Fire Company, chief Tony Myers of the Shrewsbury Fire Department, and Chief John Senft of York City Fire and Rescue, have helped me and others understand the impact that high fuel prices have made on each of their departments' bottom line. I want to thank them for going above and beyond the call of duty to help me in this effort.

The program created under the SAVES Act would set a baseline gas and diesel price using 2007 price data. Each year, volunteer companies that

wished to participate would submit their annual fuel receipts. They would then be eligible to receive 75 percent of the difference between how much they paid for gas and diesel that year, and how much that same amount of fuel would have cost at 2007 prices. This straightforward, commonsense approach will help to ensure that volunteer fire companies do not have to restrain their response to emergency calls.

I would like to thank my colleagues Senator SANDERS and Senator MIKULSKI for agreeing to serve as original cosponsors of this important legislation. In addition, I appreciate the leadership of Congressman JASON ALTMIRE in offering companion legislation in the House of Representatives. I hope that my colleagues in the Senate will join me in helping to pass the SAVES Act immediately so that our volunteer fire companies can receive some much-needed relief on their next trip to the pump.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3237

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Supporting America's Volunteer Emergency Services Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) According to the Federal Emergency Management Administration, in 2006 there were—

(A) 807,150 volunteer firefighters, nearly 73 percent of all active firefighters; and

(B) 19,915 all-volunteer fire companies nationwide, servicing 22.6 percent of the population of the United States and 4,105 companies comprised of a majority of volunteers, servicing 16.3 percent of the population of the United States.

(2) These volunteer companies, especially those serving communities of fewer than 5,000 residents, rely heavily upon fund-raising efforts and other potentially unreliable sources of funding for their basic operating expenses.

(3) According to the Energy Information Administration, between June 2003 and June 2008, the price of regular grade gasoline and diesel fuels rose 171 percent and 229 percent, respectively.

(4) These rising costs represent an unavoidable burden, and have placed serious constraints on the ability of volunteer companies to respond to fire emergencies.

SEC. 3. DEFINITION OF QUALIFIED VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT.

In this Act, the term "qualified volunteer fire department" has the same meaning given that term in section 150(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.