

in section 102 of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (43 U.S.C. 1331 note; Public Law 109-432);

(2) the area that is also known as the "Joint Gulf Range Complex" or the "Gulf of Mexico Range"; and

(3) any military or national security agency operations, training, or testing area that is used by a military or national security agency of the United States.

(b) **PREREQUISITE.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior shall not issue any permit for oil and gas leasing or extraction in an area described in subsection (a) unless and until the President certifies (after receiving advice from the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Navy, the Secretary of the Air Force, and the head of each appropriate national security agency of the United States) that in balancing the national security interests of the United States—

(1) the advantages of oil or gas extraction in the area; outweigh

(2) the military and national security missions being conducted in the area.

SA 5627. Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3001, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1233. ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS ON COUNTER-NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES IN BI-ANNUAL REPORTS ON PROGRESS TOWARD SECURITY AND STABILITY IN AFGHANISTAN.

(a) **RECURRING ELEMENTS.**—Section 1230(c)(4) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181; 122 Stat. 387) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E); and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following new subparagraph (D):

“(D) An assessment of the coordination between United States and NATO ISAF military forces on the one hand and the Government of Afghanistan on the other hand to better coordinate and de-conflict operations relating to or in support of the counter-narcotics activities of the national and provincial governments of Afghanistan and of other departments and agencies of the United States and other member countries of NATO ISAF.”

(b) **ADDITIONAL ELEMENT IN FIRST REPORT AFTER ENACTMENT.**—The first report under section 1230 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, as amended by subsection (a), that is submitted after the date of the enactment of this Act shall, in addition to any other matters required by such section (as so amended), also identify which offices in the military headquarters of United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan are responsible for coordinating counter-narcotics operations in Afghanistan.

SA 5628. Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. THUNE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5519 submitted by Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. THUNE, and Ms. STABENOW) and intended to be pro-

posed to the bill S. 3001, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 3, line 20, strike “subsection.” and insert “subsection.”

“(4) **MAXIMUM AMOUNT FOR CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICTS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a local educational agency that is formed at any time after September 30, 2003, by the consolidation of 2 or more former school districts, of which at least 1 former district was eligible for assistance under this section for the fiscal year preceding the year of the consolidation, shall not be eligible under this section for an amount that is more than the total of the maximum amount calculated under paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (b) for each former eligible district of the local educational agency for such fiscal year.”

SA 5629. Mrs. CLINTON (for herself and Mr. ENSIGN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3001, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 342, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

SEC. 1208. SUPPORT FOR AN IRAQ OIL TRUST.

(a) **STATEMENT OF POLICY.**—It is the policy of the United States that—

(1) the people of Iraq should benefit directly from a share of the revenues generated by the hydrocarbon resources of their country; and

(2) the United States Government should present a plan and provide capacity and economic assistance for the implementation of an Iraq oil trust.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the future of Iraq's oil reserves remains at the heart of political reconciliation in Iraq;

(2) ensuring that individual Iraqis benefit directly from hydrocarbon revenues is critical to promoting reconciliation and facilitating sustainable stability in Iraq;

(3) the development and implementation of an oil trust could provide significant benefits to Iraq and its citizens, including by—

(A) helping to demonstrate the values at the heart of democratic governance by giving Iraqi citizens a direct stake in the responsible and transparent management of the hydrocarbon resources of Iraq and the use and distribution of hydrocarbon revenues;

(B) helping to diffuse the degree and concentration of control of the revenues generated from hydrocarbon resources, thereby reducing the opportunity for and magnitude of corruption;

(C) facilitating “bottom-up” private sector development, which will be critical to Iraq's future prosperity and economic diversity, by putting revenues from the oil resources of Iraq directly in the hands of its citizens;

(D) helping to alleviate the incentive for smuggling or sabotage by providing individual citizens a direct stake in the amount of Iraqi oil that is legally produced and sold;

(E) contributing to sustainable security by providing individuals monetary-resource alternatives to cooperating with militias, extremists, and other extra-legal entities;

(F) providing additional income directly to individual citizens, thereby stimulating entrepreneurship and reducing the reliance on the ability of the central and provincial governments to deliver basic services and execute their budgets; and

(G) serving as a model for revenue distribution to other resource-rich countries in the Middle East; and

(4) the United States should provide assistance to Iraq for implementation of an oil trust.

(c) **CERTIFICATION.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall certify to the appropriate congressional committees that representatives of the United States Government have presented to Government of Iraq representatives an oil trust plan that includes—

(1) background on oil trusts, including those currently used by sovereign nations or territories and states within nations;

(2) options for different types of oil trusts that could be implemented in Iraq; and

(3) a discussion on the steps necessary to implement an oil trust.

(d) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SA 5630. Mr. SANDERS (for Mr. FEINGOLD) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 643, calling for greater dialogue between the Dalai Lama and the Government of China regarding rights for the people of Tibet, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike the fifteenth and sixteenth whereas clauses of the preamble.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. CARDIN. 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, September 17, 2008, at 10:30 a.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. CARDIN. 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, September 17, 2008 at 10 a.m. in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 17, 2008, at 10 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled "401(k) Fee Disclosure: Helping Workers Save for Retirement" on Wednesday, September 17, 2008. The hearing will commence at 10 a.m. in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. CARDIN. 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, September 17, 2008, at 10 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. CARDIN. 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 Federal Bureau of Investigation" on Wednesday, September 17, 2008, at 9:30 a.m., in room SH-216 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 17, 2008. The Committee will meet in 418 Russell Senate Office Building, beginning at 10 a.m.

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 17, 2008 from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in Dirksen 562 for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

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

EXTENDING AUTHORITY OF
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 6889, which was received from the House.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6889) to extend the authority of the Secretary of Education to purchase guaranteed student loans for an additional year, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 6889) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CALLING FOR GREATER DIALOGUE
BETWEEN THE DALAI LAMA AND
CHINA

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 643 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 643) calling for greater dialogue between the Dalai Lama and the government of China regarding rights for the people of Tibet, and other purposes.

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

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the amendment which is at the desk be agreed to, the preamble, as amended, be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 643) was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 5630) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

Strike the fifteenth and sixteenth whereas clauses of the preamble.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 643

Whereas, on April 25, 2008, China's official news agency Xinhua expressed the willingness of the Government of China to meet with envoys of the Dalai Lama;

Whereas, on May 4, 2008, Special Envoy of His Holiness the Dalai Lama Lodi Gyari and Envoy Kelsang Gyaltsen met with Chinese Executive Vice Minister Zhu Weiqun and Executive Vice Minister Sithar for one day of talks, in which the Government of China alleged that the Dalai Lama instigated the March 2008 unrest in autonomous Tibetan

areas of China, and was sabotaging the Olympic Games;

Whereas Hu Jintao, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China, released a statement after this meeting saying that his Government of China was committed to a "serious" dialogue with the Dalai Lama;

Whereas, at the United States-European Union (EU) Summit on June 10, 2008, the United States and the European Union issued a joint statement welcoming the decision by the Government of China to hold talks with representatives of the Dalai Lama, and urged "both parties to move forward with a substantive, constructive and results-oriented dialogue at an early date";

Whereas the Envoys of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Kelsang Gyaltsen and Lodi Gyari visited Beijing from June 30 to July 3, 2008, to conduct the seventh round of the Tibetan-Chinese dialogue;

Whereas, during these talks, the Government of China issued a new set of demands, including that the Dalai Lama prove that he does not support Tibetan independence or disruption of the Olympic Games in Beijing;

Whereas the Dalai Lama has stated multiple times he does not favor the independence of Tibet and is instead seeking negotiations to address the legitimate grievances of, and provide genuine autonomy for, the Tibetan people within the People's Republic of China, and is committed to non-violence;

Whereas the Dalai Lama has repeatedly and publicly declared his support for the Olympic Games in China, as well as his intention to attend the opening ceremony, if invited;

Whereas, at the conclusion of the July round of talks, officials of the Government of China did not accept a proposal by the representatives of the Dalai Lama to agree to a joint statement supporting a continuation of the dialogue process;

Whereas Special Envoy Lodi Gyari said on July 5, 2008, that the talks with the Government of China, called for by the international community, were "disappointing and difficult";

Whereas, in contrast to the opinion of Special Envoy Lodi Gyari, President George W. Bush said on July 6, 2008, that "it looks like there's some progress, at least in the talks with the Dalai Lama";

Whereas officials of the Government of China subsequently stated that the talks with the Dalai Lama's envoys are only about the Dalai Lama's personal future, rather than about the future of Tibet;

Whereas the Office of the Dalai Lama on July 17, 2008, restated its position that the talks are about "the future of 6,000,000 Tibetans in Tibet and not His Holiness the Dalai Lama";

Whereas, on July 11, 2008, the European Parliament adopted a resolution that "welcomes the resumption of contacts, after the events of March 2008 in Lhasa, between the representatives of the Dalai Lama and the Chinese authorities" and "encourages the two parties to intensify these contacts so as to establish the bases for mutual trust, without which it will be impossible to arrive at a mutually acceptable political solution";

Whereas China's People's Armed Police troops have been sent to monasteries in Tibetan areas to give monks "relevant information" about the Olympics, and Chinese authorities have stepped up "patriotic education" campaigns designed to conform the religious practices of Tibetan Buddhists to Communist Party rules, including forcing monks and nuns to denounce the Dalai Lama: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—