

the session of the Senate in order to conduct a hearing on Wednesday, February 13, 2008, at 9:45 a.m., in room SD366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. At this hearing, the committee will hear testimony regarding the President's fiscal year 2009 budget request for the Department of the Interior.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 13, 2008, at 10 a.m. in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to hear testimony on "Selling to Seniors: The Need for Accountability and Oversight of Marketing and Sales by Medicare Private Plans, Part Two."

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 13, 2008, at 10 a.m. in order to hold a hearing on the President's foreign affairs budget.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 13, 2008, at 2:30 p.m. in order to hold a committee coffee with His Excellency Salam Fayyad, Prime Minister of the Palestinian National Authority.

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. KENNEDY. 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, February 13, 2008, at 10 a.m. in order to conduct a hearing entitled "The Defense Department's Homeland Security Role: How the Military Can and Should Contribute."

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, in order to conduct a hearing entitled "Examining the State Secrets Privilege: Protecting National Security While Preserving Accountability" on Wednesday, February 13, 2008, at 10 a.m. in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Witness list

Carl Nichols, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, U.S. Department of

Justice, Civil Division, Washington, DC; The Honorable Patricia M. Wald, Former Chief Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, Washington, DC; Louis Fisher, Specialist in Constitutional Law, Law Library of the Library of Congress, Washington, DC; Robert M. Chesney, Associate Professor, Wake Forest University School of Law, Winston-Salem, NC; and Michael Vatis, Partner, Steptoe & Johnson LLP, New York, NY.

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for the Committee on Veterans' Affairs to be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 13, in order to conduct a hearing on the FY 2009 Budget for Veterans Programs. The Committee will meet in room 418 of the Russell Senate Office Building, at 9:30 a.m.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 13, 2008, at 2:30 p.m. in order to hold a closed business meeting.

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet on Wednesday, February 13, 2008 from 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. in Dirksen 628 for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, Subcommittee on Children and Families, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, in order to conduct a hearing on the Family and Medical Leave Act on Wednesday, February 13, 2008. The hearing will commence at 3 p.m. in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BOND. Madam President, first, I ask unanimous consent that Senator MCCAIN's legislative fellow, Navy Commander Scott Butler, be granted floor privileges during the second session of the 110th Congress.

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

AIRPORT AND AIRWAY EXTENSION ACT OF 2008

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 5270, 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. 5270) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Madam President, I rise today to support a short-term extension of the Federal Aviation Administration's contract authority and its collection and expenditure authority through to June 30, 2008. Because of the urgent need to extend the current aviation taxes and related budget provisions, I am supporting this legislation.

But I am becoming convinced that Congress cannot pass S. 1300, the Aviation Investment and Modernization Act, authored by then-Senator Lott and myself. I believe that Congress should pass a long-term extension of the existing aviation taxes in order to give the FAA the funding stability it needs while Congress moves forward with a comprehensive review of how the agency is funded. I cannot support the current funding regime, as it will not provide the agency with the resources it needs to build the Next Generation Air Traffic Control System. In lieu of a long-term extension, I would have preferred an extension until the end of this fiscal year, September 30, 2008, as it would have given the FAA and our Nation's airports a greater degree of reassurance that they will receive the full \$3.5 billion in airport funding that Congress approved last year.

The short-term extension before us today is not only crucial to the ongoing functioning of the FAA, it is necessary because without it the agency faces a potential crisis. Without adopting this legislation, the FAA would not be able to pay 4,000 employees after February 29, 2008. And that is an unacceptable action. The last thing the agency needs right now is to endure a potentially debilitating staffing crisis. To preserve these jobs this short-term extension must be passed today.

This country's aviation system is the safest in the world. However, in remaining vigilant to maintain this standard we must ensure the FAA has the resources to continue its efforts in modernizing our air traffic control system and in updating the more antiquated parts of our aviation infrastructure. The passing of this extension today will allow these vital investments to continue.

I look forward to working with my friend and distinguished colleague, Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, and members of the Senate's Finance and

Commerce Committees in making sure the FAA has the resources and tools it needs to continue making our aviation system the safest in the world. It is crucial we work together to provide the FAA with the certainty it needs in these challenging times for the aviation sector. This will not only benefit the FAA but the industry generally and the many millions of Americans it serves each year.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote for a short-term extension of FAA collection, expenditure authority, and Airport Improvement Program, or AIP, contract authority through June 30, 2008.

The previous extension was scheduled to expire on February 29, 2008. Short of congressional action, hundreds of airports across the Nation were at risk of losing an entire construction season and hindering much needed improvements to our aviation system. In addition, the FAA was at risk of not being able to fund this year's planned critical investments in the Next Generation Air Traffic Control System, NEXTGEN. Now, because of our efforts, those improvements can continue as planned.

While I am pleased with our work today, I am disappointed we could not provide more stability in the system by completing a longer term extension through September 30, 2008, which is the end of the fiscal year.

As legislators, it is our responsibility to create stability and predictability in our infrastructure system. We cannot allow our lack of action to disturb the modernization efforts and the flow of funds to our aviation system.

Thankfully, the extension we passed today will provide immediate funding and spending authority as well as a valuable cushion for the Senate to work on the overarching FAA reauthorization bill.

I am looking forward to working with my friend and distinguished colleague Senator JAY ROCKEFELLER to complete a multi-year FAA reauthorization bill. We have several challenges ahead of us, and we will attempt to come together in a bipartisan way to meet those challenges. The extension we passed today is just the first step in what will be a very important year for aviation policy.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 5270) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

COMMEMORATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAMING OF PITTSBURGH

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 452, submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 452) commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Naming of Pittsburgh as the culmination of the Forbes Campaign across Pennsylvania and the significance this event played in the making of America, in the settlement of the continent, and in spreading the ideals of freedom and democracy throughout the world.

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

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 452) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 452

Whereas the Forks of the Ohio at today's Pittsburgh should forever be remembered as the place where an army of British and Colonial soldiers took control of Fort Duquesne from the French, a turning point in the French and Indian War, the first world war; Whereas the British victory in the French and Indian War sowed the seeds of Colonial discontent with British rule, beginning the chain of events that led to the American Revolution;

Whereas the British Army under the leadership of General John Forbes built the first road across the Allegheny Mountains, thus securing the Gateway to the West for British and later American settlement;

Whereas General Forbes and Colonel George Washington named the location Pittsburgh, in honor of William Pitt the Elder;

Whereas Fort Pitt provided a safe haven for peoples from around the world to follow in Forbes' and Washington's footsteps to travel to Pittsburgh to settle the continent and to pioneer advancements in industry, science, technology, education, the environment, and the arts;

Whereas Pittsburgh went on to become the Crucible of the Industrial Revolution, producing glass, steel, and aluminum that have a place in every skyline in the United States, and perfecting the technologies that made it possible for alternating current to illuminate the Nation;

Whereas the people of the Pittsburgh region pioneered modern philanthropy, implemented the first smoke control regulation, developed the polio vaccine, and conquered rejection of transplanted organs, improving countless lives worldwide;

Whereas Pittsburgh is today a global leader in such emerging fields as materials science, regenerative medicine, nanotechnology, electro-optics, robotics, data storage, computer science, and commercial nuclear power;

Whereas Pittsburgh is home to more than 100 multi-billion dollar global corporations that improve the lives of people around the world;

Whereas Pittsburgh provides a high quality of life to its residents, offering unparalleled arts and cultural opportunities for a city of its size;

Whereas, in 2007 and in 1985, Pittsburgh was named America's Most Livable City, the

only city in the United States to earn that honor twice;

Whereas Pittsburgh is commemorating its naming and its impact on the world with Pittsburgh 250, a year-long celebration involving communities in 14 Pennsylvania counties, parts of 7 States, and the District of Columbia;

Whereas Pittsburgh 250 has connected Washington, DC to Pittsburgh by supporting the completion of the Great Allegheny Passage Trail, the longest hiking and biking trail east of the Mississippi and the most accessible great trail experience in the world, providing an important new outdoor recreational asset to the people of the Mid-Atlantic United States; and

Whereas Pittsburgh has accomplished all of these things with an unparalleled history of public and private partnership: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 250th anniversary of the Naming of Pittsburgh, known as a significant event in United States history;

(2) recognizes that Pittsburgh 250 is organizing the commemoration on behalf of 14 counties in southwestern Pennsylvania;

(3) encourages participation for all Americans to learn how the Forbes Campaign, the opening of the Gateway to the West, the industrialization of America, and the environmental transformation of Pittsburgh helped to make America; and

(4) commends the contributions of those who have followed trails to Pittsburgh for 250 years to shape the world we live in and the Nation we have become.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 453, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 453) recognizing February 20, 2008, as the 100th anniversary of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

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

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 453) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 453

Whereas the Second District Agricultural and Mechanical School opened its doors for classes on February 20, 1908, with 3 instructors and 27 students;

Whereas the school became a senior college for men, the first in south Georgia, in 1929;

Whereas the school changed its name in 1933 to Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in honor of a Georgia signer of the Constitution of the United States and the first president of the University of Georgia;

Whereas the college recorded its all-time highest enrollment during the 2007 fall semester with 3,665 students from 154 Georgia counties, 12 other States, and 9 countries;