

Arizona; Tucson Air Planning Area" (FRL No. 8982-4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 15, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4131. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "National Coverage Determinations"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4132. A communication from the Chief of the Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Countries Whose Pleasure Vessels May Be Issued Cruising Licenses" (CPB Dec. 08-27) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 15, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4133. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Permitted Disparity in Employer-Provided Contributions or Benefits" (Rev. Rul. 2009-40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 10, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4134. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Unpaid Loss Discount Factors for 2009" (Rev. Proc. 2009-55) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 10, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4135. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on Head Start Efforts to Prevent and Reduce Obesity in Children"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4136. A communication from the Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the inventory of activities for fiscal year 2009 under the FAIR Act; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4137. A communication from the Inspector General, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the General Services Administration's Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the period of April 1, 2009 through September 30, 2009; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4138. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the period of April 1, 2009 through September 30, 2009; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4139. A communication from the Staff Director, United States Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the appointment of members to the Iowa Advisory Committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4140. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Border Security Regulations Branch, Office of the Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Administrative Process for Seizures and Forfeitures Under the Immigration and Nationality Act and Other Authorities" (RIN1651-AA58) received on December 15, 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4141. A communication from the Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the transfer of detainees (OSS Control No. 2009-2057); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4142. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Fourth Quarterly Report from the Attorney General to Congress; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4143. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Federal Trade Commission Report to Congress on The U.S. SAFE WEB Act: The First Three Years"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

H.R. 2188. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to conduct a Joint Venture Program to protect, restore, enhance, and manage migratory bird populations, their habitats, and the ecosystems they rely on, through voluntary actions on public and private lands, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 111-111).

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 2918. A bill to make improvements to certain loan programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. SNOWE, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. COLLINS, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2919. A bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to advance the ability of credit unions to promote small business growth and economic development opportunities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico):

S. 2920. A bill to amend chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code, to condition the receipt of certain highway funding by States on the enactment and enforcement by States of certain laws to prevent repeat intoxicated driving; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2921. A bill to provide for the conservation, enhanced recreation opportunities, and development of renewable energy in the California Desert Conservation Area, to require the Secretary of the Interior to designate certain offices to serve as Renewable Energy Coordination Offices for coordination of Federal permits for renewable energy projects and transmission lines to integrate renewable energy development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. BROWNBACK):

S. Res. 382. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of observing the National Slavery and Trafficking Prevention Month from January 1 through February 1, 2010, to raise awareness of, and opposition to, modern slavery; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BURR, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. Res. 383. A resolution designating January 2010 as "National Mentoring Month"; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 583

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 583, a bill to provide grants and loan guarantees for the development and construction of science parks to promote the clustering of innovation through high technology activities.

S. 619

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 619, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to preserve the effectiveness of medically important antibiotics used in the treatment of human and animal diseases.

S. 1798

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1798, a bill to provide for the automatic enrollment of demobilizing members of the National Guard and Reserve in health care and dental care programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 1810

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1810, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to publish physical activity guidelines for the general public, and for other purposes.

S. 2736

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2736, a bill to reduce the rape kit backlog and for other purposes.

S. 2781

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2781, a bill to change references in Federal law to mental retardation to references to an intellectual disability, and to change references to a mentally retarded individual to references to an individual with an intellectual disability.

S. 2796

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2796, a bill to extend the authority of the Secretary of Education to purchase guaranteed student loans for an additional year, and for other purposes.

S. 2917

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2917, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the penalty for failure to disclose certain reportable transactions and the penalty for submitting a bad check to the Internal Revenue Service, to modify certain rules relating to Federal vendors, and for other purposes.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 2918. A bill to make improvements to certain loan programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to introduce the Helping Small Business Succeed Act of 2009. My legislation will make it easier for small businesses to access credit, credit which they desperately need to be able to cover their costs, grow their businesses, and create jobs.

Small businesses are the engine of economic growth in this country, responsible for 60 percent of new jobs created. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania alone has 978,831 small businesses, which bring economic opportunities to diverse groups of people, innovate new technologies, and provide valuable services to their communities. Of these small businesses, 236,775 are small employers who represent 98.4 percent of Pennsylvania's employers and 49.9 percent of its private-sector employment. It is not an understatement to say that small businesses and their ability to grow are vital to the health of Pennsylvania and of the Nation.

Earlier this month, the Labor Department released jobs figures indicating that unemployment has dropped from 10.2 percent in October to 10 percent in November, and that the economy shed only 11,000 jobs, which was well below analysts' expectations. While these numbers are encouraging, leading economists such as Joseph Stiglitz have stated that recovery will be slow unless we continue to take strong measures.

When I voted for the stimulus, we were facing a recession that could well have developed into a full-fledged depression like we faced in 1929. The stimulus provided \$630 million to the Small Business Administration, SBA, to guarantee private sector loans to small businesses, which allowed the SBA to raise its loan caps, and increased SBA guarantees from 75–80 per-

cent to 90 percent in its two major business loan programs. These provisions have proven effective in providing credit to small business, but more needs to be done. My legislation permanently increases the loan limit from \$2 million to \$5 million on 7(a) loans, from \$1.5 million to \$5.5 million on 504 loans, and from \$35,000 to \$50,000 on microloans.

Simply raising loan limits is not enough, however. Raising the SBA's guarantee will increase commercial lenders' willingness to provide loans because it reduces the risk undertaken by lenders. My legislation raises the maximum loan guarantee percentage to 97.5 percent, which will quickly and efficiently incentivize the existing network of financial institutions to make affordable loans to small business. Additionally, my legislation extends the waivers for the 7(a) borrower fees and the 504 borrower and bank fees, which were enacted as part of the stimulus package, until 2011.

Finally, my legislation authorizes the SBA to declare certain communities "economic disaster areas" and to provide further assistance to small businesses within these areas. The economic situation in many towns across America has risen to emergency levels. Unemployment in some counties in Pennsylvania has risen as high as 12 and 14 percent. My legislation will provide the SBA with greater flexibility to use its funds to target areas of the country where the level of unemployment exceeds the national level and where small businesses have been hit the hardest.

According to the October 2009 Special Inspector General Report to Congress, taxpayers have seen \$73 billion in TARP funds returned so far with a 10 percent return on their investment. As of September 30, 2009, \$9.5 billion in interest, dividends, and other income has had been received by the federal government. My legislation uses this revenue, derived from investments made through TARP, to pay for these urgently needed adjustments.

Small businesses need access to credit and they need it now more than ever, if they are to weather current economic conditions. I look forward to working with my colleagues to provide further assistance to the small business community and to help restore their ability to create jobs and stimulate our economy.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2921. A bill to provide for the conservation, enhanced recreation opportunities, and development of renewable energy in the California Desert Conservation Area, to require the Secretary of the Interior to designate certain offices to serve as Renewable Energy Coordination Offices for coordination of Federal permits for renewable energy projects and transmission lines to integrate renewable energy development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the California Desert Protection Act of 2010.

I strongly believe that conservation, renewable energy development, and recreation can and must coexist in the California Desert—and this legislation strikes a carefully conceived balance between these sometimes competing concerns.

The key provisions of this bill would designate two new national monuments—the Mojave Trails and the Sand to Snow National Monuments.

It would add adjacent lands to the Joshua Tree and Death Valley National Parks and the Mojave National Preserve; designate 5 new BLM wilderness areas and protect 4 important waterways, such as the Amargosa River and Deep Creek, as Wild and Scenic Rivers; improve the process to permit large-scale wind and solar development on suitable public and private lands in the California desert; and enhance recreational opportunities in the desert, while ensuring that the training needs of the military are met.

This bill is the product of painstaking discussions with key stakeholders—including environmental groups, local and State government, off-highway recreation enthusiasts, hunters, cattle ranchers, mining interests, the Department of Defense, wind and solar energy companies, California's public utility companies, and many others. I am grateful for all of their efforts.

The bill is divided into two titles.

The first title primarily covers conservation, recreation, and other purposes.

The second title of the bill covers renewable energy development on suitable lands.

Taken together, this bill will shape the future of the Southern California Desert, and I believe it can serve as a model for future efforts to balance renewable energy development and conservation.

As of today, this bill has been endorsed by: the California Wilderness Coalition; the Wildlands Conservancy; the Wilderness Society; the National Parks Conservation Association; Friends of the River; Cogentrix Energy; Edison International, parent company of Southern California Edison; Friends of Big Morongo Canyon Preserve; Friends of the Desert Mountains; Mojave Desert Land Trust; Desert Protective Council; Amargosa Conservancy; Death Valley Conservancy; the Cities of Barstow, Desert Hot Springs, Hesperia, Indio, Palm Springs, San Bernardino and Yucaipa; Riverside County Supervisor Marion Ashley; San Bernardino County Supervisor Neil Derry; Imperial County Supervisor Wally Leimgruber; Coachella Valley Association of Governments; SummerTree Institute; and Route 66 Preservation Foundation.

The California Desert Protection Act, which was enacted in 1994, was a sweeping piece of legislation aimed at