

Section 1. The St. Charles County Council hereby enacts this Resolution to offer its support in favor of passage of House Concurrent Resolution 13.

Section 2. A copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the respective Clerks of the Missouri Senate and the House of Representatives.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. LIEBERMAN for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

*John Morton, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.

*William Craig Fugate, of Florida, to be Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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 Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 899. A bill to establish an assistance program for the construction of digital TV translators to fill coverage gaps that are created from the transition from analog to digital signals; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 900. A bill to require the establishment of a credit card safety star rating system for the benefit of consumers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 901. A bill to establish the Oregon Task Force on Sustainable Revenue for Counties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. REED, and Mr. INOUE):

S. 902. A bill to provide grants to establish veteran's treatment courts; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. Res. 114. A resolution expressing support for designation of April 27, 2009, as "National Healthy Schools Day"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 46

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S.

46, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 182

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 182, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 211

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 211, a bill to facilitate nationwide availability of 2-1-1 telephone service for information and referral on human services and volunteer services, and for other purposes.

S. 229

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 229, a bill to empower women in Afghanistan, and for other purposes.

S. 235

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 235, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes.

S. 386

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. BURRIS), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) were added as cosponsors of S. 386, a bill to improve enforcement of mortgage fraud, securities fraud, financial institution fraud, and other frauds related to federal assistance and relief programs, for the recovery of funds lost to these frauds, and for other purposes.

S. 414

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 414, a bill to amend the Consumer Credit Protection Act, to ban abusive credit practices, enhance consumer disclosures, protect underage consumers, and for other purposes.

S. 423

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 423, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize advance appropriations for certain medical care accounts of the Department of Vet-

erans Affairs by providing two-fiscal year budget authority, and for other purposes.

S. 427

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 427, a bill to amend title XVI of the Social Security Act to clarify that the value of certain funeral and burial arrangements are not to be considered available resources under the supplemental security income program.

S. 433

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 433, a bill to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to establish a renewable electricity standard, and for other purposes.

S. 454

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 454, a bill to improve the organization and procedures of the Department of Defense for the acquisition of major weapon systems, and for other purposes.

S. 461

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 461, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 468

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 468, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to emergency medical services and the quality and efficiency of care furnished in emergency departments of hospitals and critical access hospitals by establishing a bipartisan commission to examine factors that affect the effective delivery of such services, by providing for additional payments for certain physician services furnished in such emergency departments, and by establishing a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Working Group, and for other purposes.

S. 475

At the request of Mr. BURR, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of S. 475, a bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to guarantee the equity of spouses of military personnel with regard to matters of residency, and for other purposes.

S. 476

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 476, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to reduce the minimum distance of travel necessary for reimbursement of covered beneficiaries of the military health care system for travel for specialty health care.

S. 482

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 482, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 487

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 487, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for human embryonic stem cell research.

S. 491

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 491, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 500

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 500, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish a national usury rate for consumer credit transactions.

S. 559

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 559, a bill to provide benefits under the Post-Deployment/Mobilization Respite Absence program for certain periods before the implementation of the program.

S. 614

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 614, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Women Airforce Service Pilots ("WASP").

S. 634

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 634, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve standards for physical education.

S. 693

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 693, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants for the training of graduate medical residents in preventive medicine.

S. 700

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 700, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to phase out the 24-month waiting period for disabled individuals to become eligible for Medicare benefits, to eliminate the waiting period for individuals with life-threatening conditions, and for other purposes.

S. 701

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 701, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access of Medicare beneficiaries to intravenous immune globulins (IVIG).

S. 738

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 738, a bill to amend the Consumer Credit Protection Act to assure meaningful disclosures of the terms of rental-purchase agreements, including disclosures of all costs to consumers under such agreements, to provide certain substantive rights to consumers under such agreements, and for other purposes.

S. 775

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 775, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize the availability of appropriated funds for international partnership contact activities conducted by the National Guard, and for other purposes.

S. 781

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 781, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants.

S. 787

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. KAUFMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 787, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify the jurisdiction of the United States over waters of the United States.

S. 797

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 797, a bill to amend the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act, the Indian Tribal Justice Act, the Indian Tribal Justice Technical and Legal Assistance Act of 2000, and the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to improve the prosecution of, and response to, crimes in Indian country, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 11

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr.

MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 11, a resolution to authorize production of documents to the Department of Defense Inspector General.

S. RES. 89

At the request of Mr. BAYH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 89, a resolution expressing support for designation of a "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 899. A bill to establish an assistance program for the construction of digital TV translators to fill coverage gaps that are created from the transition from analog to digital signals; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, on June 12, television broadcasters will finally transition from analog TV signals to an all-digital system and in doing so begin a new chapter of innovation. In addition to providing higher quality video and sound, the DTV Transition will allow broadcasters to offer new services such as interactive TV and content multicasting.

The benefits consumers will reap will be significant so we must make sure that they are clearly aware of this transition and the steps necessary to be prepared. Delaying the switchover till June has afforded us the opportunity to improve these efforts. However, there are several geographic areas across this nation that will be plagued by a particular problem that isn't a result of lack of consumer awareness or availability of converter boxes but because they will receive a weak digital signal or no signal at all.

The DTV "cliff effect" occurs when the broadcast signal is so weak that all that appears on a viewer's TV is a blank screen. Unlike an analog broadcast, where a weak signal means a viewer would receive a grainy or snowy picture, a weak digital broadcast would mean no picture at all—you either get it or you don't.

The DTV cliff effect occurs because of the different propagation characteristics that the new digital broadcast signals have compared to traditional analog signals. The terrain, distance from the broadcast tower, and the sensitivity of existing antennas, and even the weather all play a part in the strength of a broadcast signal and contribute to the cliff effect.

Recently, a market-research firm estimated that more than 9 million households could experience some digital TV reception problems. In addition, many households in Wilmington, North Carolina, which participated in a DTV Transition trial run last fall, and about a thousand homes in Hawaii, which transitioned early, experienced reception and cliff effect problems, so this is a very real threat that will disrupt a significant number of households.