

LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS FACILITIES

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to engage in a colloquy with my colleague from Rhode Island, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and my colleague from West Virginia, Mr. ROCKEFELLER.

Mr. President, I want to thank the chairman of the Commerce Committee for his leadership in advancing this bill. As he, Senator WHITEHOUSE, and I have discussed, there is significant concern with respect to the safety and security of proposed liquefied natural gas, LNG, facilities throughout the country. Given the Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, we know that no system for handling volatile substances is fool-proof.

Over the last several years, the people of Rhode Island have been greatly concerned about proposals to develop LNG facilities on or in close proximity to Rhode Island's shores, as well as proposals to transit LNG traffic through our waterways. I have come to the floor on many occasions to express my deep concerns about the wisdom of these projects; not as a matter of reflexive opposition to LNG but as a matter of the appropriateness of siting these facilities with little State control.

This includes a proposal in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that will have significant impact on the State of Rhode Island, as it calls for vessels to transit through Narragansett Bay and off-load at an offshore berth in Mount Hope Bay just outside of Rhode Island waters. Over the years, members of the Rhode Island and Massachusetts delegations have raised concerns about this project, but the most severe impacts of the vessel traffic and related safety and security measures will be on Rhode Island, which has very little authority to influence the process. The Coast Guard has the responsibility of issuing so-called Letters of Recommendation to establish the suitability of a waterway to accommodate this type of vessel traffic and operation. Its determination is critical in the siting LNG facilities. Unfortunately, Rhode Island, like other states, has little recourse to object to the findings or conditions laid out by the Coast Guard, even though the bulk of the vessel activity will take place in its state waters. I believe the state should have a say about the appropriateness of activities in its waterways and should be consulted, especially about the broader impacts of LNG facilities and vessel traffic on other waterway users and on communities.

Although the underlying House bill includes a port security title, the substitute does not. While I recognize that and that the Committee will be dealing with port security legislation later this year, I think that it is critical that we act on this issue as soon as possible. I would like to work with the Chairman in crafting that bill, but I would also ask for his commitment to work to address the issues related to LNG facilities during conference with the House

on the Coast Guard Reauthorization bill.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. Chairman, I share the sentiments of the senior Senator from Rhode Island, Mr. REED.

Rhode Islanders are strongly opposed to this project. Furthermore, the process for siting the LNG facility has afforded us too few opportunities to address the impacts it will have on our state's economy, safety, and environment.

The Coast Guard is charged with the narrow task of determining whether LNG tankers can safely transit Rhode Island waters on their way to an offshore berthing station just on the other side of the state line in Massachusetts. However, the safe transit of these tankers is only one of the many important considerations that can, and should, be taken into account in determining the suitability of such a project. Narragansett Bay is the backbone of the Rhode Island economy, as it sustains our fishing, recreation, and tourism sectors. The proposed LNG facility in Fall River threatens to undermine these pillars of our economy.

I am not opposed to LNG as a fuel source. However, I have serious concerns with the proposal under consideration. The LNG tankers transiting Rhode Island waters must pass through heavily populated communities, under the presence of heavy security. The Coast Guard admits that this will likely displace other users of the bay and disrupt traffic on the bridges the tankers must travel beneath. This is too high a burden for Rhode Island to carry for a facility that is located in a neighboring state—and I am not convinced this burden is worth the marginal benefits of the proposed LNG facility.

I thank the Chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, Senator ROCKEFELLER, for his willingness to work with us on an issue critical to the State of Rhode Island.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. I am aware of both Senators' concerns and I will work with each of you related to LNG facilities during conference with the House on the Coast Guard Reauthorization bill.

Mr. REED. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to this issue being addressed in the final Coast Guard Reauthorization bill.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the Cantwell substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be considered and agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements be printed in the RECORD without further intervening action or debate.

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

The amendment (No. 3912) was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill (H.R. 3619) was read the third time and passed.

CONDEMNING THE CONTINUED DETENTION OF DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 480.

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. 480) condemning the continued detention of Burmese democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and calling on the military regime in Burma to permit a credible and fair election process and the transition to civilian, democratic rule.

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the amendment at the desk be agreed to; the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 3913) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the resolving clause)

On page 2, beginning on line 7, strike "the National League for Democracy and other opposition groups," and insert "all political groups and individuals dedicated to democratic ideals."

On page 3, beginning on line 9, strike "(including the People's Republic of China, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and the United Nations Security Council)" and insert ", as appropriate, in order".

On page 3, line 17, strike "the National League for Democracy and"

The resolution (S. Res. 480), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

S. RES. 480

Whereas the military regime in Burma, headed by General Than Shwe and the State Peace and Development Council, continues to persecute Burmese democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her supporters in the National League for Democracy, and ordinary citizens of Burma, including ethnic minorities, who publically and courageously speak out against the regime's many injustices;

Whereas Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has been imprisoned in Burma for 14 of the last 19 years and many members of the National League for Democracy have been similarly jailed, tortured, or killed;

Whereas the Constitution adopted in 2008 and the election laws recently promulgated effectively prohibit the National League for Democracy, Buddhist monks, ethnic minority leaders, and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from participating in upcoming elections, and do not leave much opportunity for domestic dialogue among key stakeholders; and

Whereas the persecution of the people of Burma has continued even though the Department of State has pursued a policy of engagement with the military regime designed to secure the release of political prisoners,

foster national reconciliation, and facilitate peaceful transition to civilian, democratic rule: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the continued detention of Burmese democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all prisoners of conscience in Burma, and calls for their immediate and unconditional release;

(2) calls on the military regime in Burma to engage in dialogue with all political groups and individuals dedicated to democratic ideals, as well as with ethnic minorities, to broaden political participation in an environment free from fear and intimidation;

(3) calls upon the Secretary of State to assess the effectiveness of the policy of engagement with the military regime in Burma in furthering United States interests, and to maintain, and consider strengthening, sanctions against Burma if the military regime continues its systematic violation of human rights and fails to embrace the democratic aspirations of the people of Burma;

(4) calls upon the Secretary of State to engage regional governments and multilateral organizations, as appropriate, in order to push for the establishment of an environment in Burma that encourages the full and unfettered participation of the people of Burma in a democratic transition to civilian rule; and

(5) calls on the Secretary of State to support the people of Burma in calling for significant constitutional and election reforms by the military regime, which will broaden political participation, further democracy, accountability, and responsive governance, and improve human rights in Burma.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 247 which was received from the House and is at the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 247) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 247) was agreed to.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 263, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (H. Con. Res. 263) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run.

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table without any intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 263) was agreed to.

ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the judiciary committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 503 and 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 assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 503) designating May 21, 2010 as "Endangered Species Day."

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 503) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 503

Whereas in the United States and around the world, more than 1,000 species are officially designated as at risk of extinction and thousands more also face a heightened risk of extinction;

Whereas the actual and potential benefits that may be derived from many species have not yet been fully discovered and would be permanently lost if not for conservation efforts;

Whereas recovery efforts for species such as the whooping crane, Kirtland's warbler, the peregrine falcon, the gray wolf, the gray whale, the grizzly bear, and others have resulted in great improvements in the viability of such species;

Whereas saving a species requires a combination of sound research, careful coordination, and intensive management of conservation efforts, along with increased public awareness and education;

Whereas ⅓ of endangered or threatened species reside on private lands;

Whereas voluntary cooperative conservation programs have proven to be critical to habitat restoration and species recovery; and

Whereas education and increasing public awareness are the first steps in effectively informing the public about endangered species and species restoration efforts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 21, 2010, as "Endangered Species Day";

(2) encourages schools to spend at least 30 minutes on Endangered Species Day teaching and informing students about—

(A) threats to endangered species around the world; and

(B) efforts to restore endangered species, including the essential role of private landowners and private stewardship in the protection and recovery of species;

(3) encourages organizations, businesses, private landowners, and agencies with a shared interest in conserving endangered species to collaborate in developing educational information for use in schools; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) to become educated about, and aware of, threats to species, success stories in species recovery, and opportunities to promote species conservation worldwide; and

(B) to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

NATIONAL PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT WEEK

RECOGNIZING AMERICORPS

NATIONAL TRAIN DAY

NATIONAL NURSING HOME WEEK

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 515, S. Res. 516, S. Res. 517, S. Res. 518.

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, and that any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

The resolutions, with their preambles, read as follows:

S. RES. 515

Whereas the week beginning May 2, 2010, is observed as National Physical Education and Sport Week;

Whereas a decline in physical activity has contributed to an unprecedented epidemic of childhood obesity in the United States, which has more than tripled since 1980;

Whereas regular physical activity is necessary to support normal and healthy growth in children and is essential to their continued health and well-being;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, overweight adolescents have a 70 to 80 percent chance of becoming overweight adults, increasing their risk for chronic disease, disability, and death;

Whereas physical activity reduces the risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, and certain types of cancers;

Whereas type 2 diabetes can no longer be referred to as "late in life" or "adult onset" diabetes because it occurs in children as young as 10 years old;