DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 39, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that stable and affordable housing is an essential component of an effective strategy for the prevention, treatment, and care of human immunodeficiency virus, and that the United States should make a commitment to providing adequate funding for the development of housing as a response to the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome pandemic.

AMENDMENT NO. 4302

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4302 proposed to H.R. 4213, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4304

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4304 proposed to H.R. 4213, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4311

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4311 proposed to H.R. 4213, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4312

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4312 proposed to H.R. 4213, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts):

S. 3465. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15 South Main Street in Sharon, Massachusetts, as the ''Michael C. Rothberg Post Office''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I am proud to introduce legislation to designate the United States Postal Service in Sharon, Massachusetts, as the Michael C. Rothberg Post Office.

Michael Craig Rothberg was born and raised in Sharon. Upon graduation from Sharon High School, Michael earned both undergraduate and master's degree in math and computer science from McGill University in Montreal. Unfortunately, Michael Rothberg's life was tragically cut short on the morning of September 11, 2001, at age 39, while working in his Cantor Fitzgerald office on the 104th floor of the World Trade Center.

During his lifetime, Michael Rothberg created much more than a successful professional life. He used his resources generously contributing not only financial support, but also his time and energy for causes he believed in. He worked hard for causes such as the Dana Farber Cancer Institute's Jimmy Fund, the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation, and Mutual Funds against Cancer. His spirit is remembered through many contributions to the Town of Sharon through the Michael C. Rothberg Memorial Scholarship and other notable charitable contributions to students, athletes and the community of Sharon, Massachusetts.

The people of Sharon, Massachusetts are very proud of Michael and the example he set. It is fitting then that when people go to or pass by the post office in Sharon, they will be reminded of a local man who understood how important it is to give back to causes that touch your heart.

By Mr. LEAHY:

S. 3466. A bill to require restitution for victims of criminal violations of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, I introduce the Environmental Crimes Enforcement Act, ECEA, common sense legislation that will ensure that those who destroy the lives and livelihoods of Americans through environmental crime are held accountable.

It has been 50 days since the collapse of British Petroleum's Deepwater Horizon Oil Rig, which killed 11 men. Oil continues to gush into the Gulf of Mexico, and deadly contaminants are washing up on the shores and wetlands of Gulf Coast States. This catastrophe threatens the livelihood of many thousands of people throughout the region, as well as precious natural resources and habitats. The people responsible for this catastrophe must be held accountable; they, not the American taxpayers, should pay for the damage and the recovery. The bill I introduce today aims to deter environmental crime, protect and compensate its victims, and encourage accountability among corporate actors.

First, ECEA will deter schemes by Big Oil and other corporations and industries that damage our environment and hurt hardworking Americans by increasing sentences for environmental crimes. All too often, corporations treat fines and monetary penalties as merely a cost of doing business to be factored against profits. To deter criminal behavior by corporations, it is important to have laws resulting in prison time. In that light, this bill directs the United States Sentencing Commission to amend the sentencing guidelines for environmental crimes to reflect the seriousness of these crimes.

Criminal penalties for Clean Water Act violations are not as severe as for other white-collar crimes, despite the widespread harm such crimes can cause. As the current crisis makes clear, Clean Water Act offenses can have serious consequences on people's lives and livelihoods, which should be reflected in the sentences given to the criminals who commit them. This bill takes a reasonable approach, asking the Sentencing Commission to study the issue and raise sentencing guidelines appropriately, and it will have a real deterrent effect.

This bill also aims to help victims of environmental crime—the people who lose their livelihoods, their communities, and even their loved ones—reclaim their natural and economic resources. To do that, ECEA makes restitution mandatory for criminal Clean Water Act violations.

Currently, restitution in environmental crimes—even crimes that result in death—is discretionary, and only available under limited circumstances. Under this bill, those who commit Clean Water Act offenses would have to compensate the victims of these offense for their losses. That restitution will help the people of the Gulf Coast rebuild their coastline and wetlands, their fisheries, and their livelihoods should criminal liability be found.

Importantly, this bill will allow the families of those killed to be compensated for criminal wrongdoing. As we have seen in the BP case, arbitrary laws prevent those killed in tragedies like this one from bringing civil lawsuits for compensation. This bill would ensure that, when a crime is committed, the criminal justice system can provide for restitution to victims, providing some small measure of security for the families of those killed.

This bill takes two common sense steps—well-reasoned increases in sentences and mandatory restitution for environmental crime. These measures are tough, but fair. They are important steps toward deterring criminal conduct that can cause environmental and economic disaster and toward helping those who have suffered so much from the wrongdoing of Big Oil and other large corporations. I hope all Senators will join me in supporting this important reform.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3466

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Environmental Crimes Enforcement Act of 2010''.

SEC. 2. ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES.

(a) SENTENCING GUIDELINES.—

(1) DIRECTIVE.—Pursuant to its authority under section 994 of title 28, United States Code, and in accordance with this subsection, the United States Sentencing Commission shall review and amend the Federal Sentencing Guidelines and policy statements applicable to persons convicted of offenses under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), in order to reflect the intent of Congress that penalties for the offenses be increased in comparison to those provided on the date of enactment of this Act under the guidelines and policy statements, and appropriately account for the actual harm to the public and the environment from the offenses.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In amending the Federal Sentencing Guidelines and policy statements under paragraph (1), the United States Sentencing Commission shall—

(A) ensure that the guidelines and policy statements, including section 2Q1.2 of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines (and any successor thereto), reflect—

(i) the serious nature of the offenses described in paragraph (1);

(ii) the need for an effective deterrent and appropriate punishment to prevent the offenses; and

(iii) the effectiveness of incarceration in furthering the objectives described in clauses (i) and (ii);

(B) consider the extent to which the guidelines appropriately account for the actual harm to public and the environment resulting from the offenses;

(C) ensure reasonable consistency with other relevant directives and guidelines and Federal statutes;

(D) make any necessary conforming changes to guidelines; and

(E) ensure that the guidelines relating to offenses under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) adequately meet the purposes of sentencing, as set forth in section 3553(a)(2) of title 18, United States Code.

(b) RESTITUTION.—Section 3663A(c)(1) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in clause (ii), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in clause (iii), by striking ''and'' at the end and inserting ''or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(iv) an offense under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.); and''.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. CORKER):

S. 3470. A bill to designate as wilderness certain public land in the Cherokee National Forest in the State of Tennessee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator CORKER and myself, I rise to introduce the Tennessee Wilderness Act of 2010. The legislation will implement an important next step in conservation for some of the wildest, most beautiful and pristine areas in east Tennessee near where I live. To say that these are among the wildest, most pristine and beautiful areas sets a very high bar since the region is home to the Appalachian Mountains, and our Nation's most visited national park, a World Heritage site—in fact, one of the most visited sites in the world—the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, much of which is managed as if it were a wilderness area.

From growing up in these mountains and my many years of hiking the quiet trails of the Cherokee National Forest, I can attest that the wilderness areas we protected there are something very special. Congress began protecting wilderness areas in the Cherokee National Forest in 1975, with additional wilderness areas being established by the Tennessee Wilderness Act of 1984 and the Tennessee Wilderness Act of 1986. I was Governor of Tennessee during that time. I remember testifying on behalf of and strongly supporting our congressional delegation as we did that. I know sometimes our western friends are surprised to see Tennessee Republicans advocating wilderness, bragging about the fact that the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is managed in large extent as if it were a wilderness area and adding certain sections of the Cherokee National Forest to wilderness.

The Federal Government doesn't own very much of our land, but we have lots of visitors. Two or three times as many people visited the Great Smokies as visit Yellowstone. We have lots of visitors but very little Federal land. We like to protect it. We like to have clean air. We like to enjoy it ourselves.

We like the Cherokee National Forest because it gives us an opportunity to do some things we can't do in the national park. We can hunt, fish, ride horses, camp, do things in a great many ways. I believe this legislation, the Tennessee Wilderness Act of 2010, will create for Tennessee families and especially Tennessee youngsters, who need to be outdoors and away from the computer screens and television screens, an even more attractive opportunity to enjoy this beautiful part of our natural heritage.

I emphasize that the lands that will be designated as wilderness by this legislation are already Federal lands. They are part of the Cherokee National Forest. The areas covered were recommended for wilderness by the U.S. Forest Service in the development of its comprehensive 2004 forest plan which included extensive opportunities for public comment. Those areas have been managed as if they were wilderness areas since that time.

This new bill will officially designate as wilderness nearly 20,000 acres as recommended by the Forest Service. The bill establishes one new wilderness area, the 9,038 acre Upper Bald River Wilderness in Monroe County. This new area complements the existing Bald River Gorge Wilderness. It lies just south of that existing area, separated only by the Bald River Road, which will, of course, remain an open public road.

By protecting the Upper Bald River Wilderness as well as the existing wilderness area, we will be protecting most of the Bald River watershed. Excellent trails traverse the Upper Bald River area, including the Benton MacKaye Trail, offering excellent hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding, as well as access for hunters and fishermen.

The rest of the lands designated as wilderness in this legislation are relatively small but important additions to some of the areas Congress established in 1975, 1984 and 1986. They have the effect of better protecting not only ecosystems and watersheds but also the diverse recreational value of these areas.

At the southern end of the Cherokee National Forest is one of the largest national forest wilderness complexes in the Southeastern United States. It comprises the Cohutta Wilderness, most of which lies in Georgia, and the Big Frog Wilderness in Polk County, TN. The new legislation makes a small but important addition of 348 acres to the Big Frog Wilderness. The Big Frog-Cohutta combination, with adjacent primitive areas, creates the largest track of wilderness on national forest lands in the Eastern United States.

In the same way, the new legislation makes two small but important additions to the Little Frog Mountain Wilderness, also in Polk County. These additions, totaling 966 acres, were recommended by the Forest Service to give more logical boundaries to the Little Frog Mountain Wilderness and protect the corridor for the Benton MacKaye Trail.

In upper east Tennessee, in Unicoi and Washington Counties, this new legislation would add 2,922 acres to the Sampson Mountain Wilderness. This is at the heart of a marvelous scenic region of our State. Along these scenic trails, visitors can see flame azalea, mountain laurel, rhododendron, trailing arbutus, crested dwarf iris, mayapple, bloodroot, toothwort, magnolia, dogwood, redbud, and many other flowering plants, shrubs, and trees. The last 2 or 3 months have been the time of year to visit that area with its many species of shrubs and trees.

The 1986 Tennessee Wilderness Act established the Big Laurel Branch Wilderness in Carter and Johnson Counties at the furthest upper east Tennessee end of our State. The new legislation proposes to add 4,446 acres, including some 4.5 miles of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. The addition lies along the slopes of Iron Mountain just north of Watauga Lake, one of the cleanest lakes in America.

The final element of the new legislation is an important addition to the Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness. Here visitors will find perhaps the most impressive stands of virgin eastern forest in the United States. The 1,836-acre addition includes remnant old-growth forest. The Benton MacKaye Trail passes through this area, making it a

popular destination for horseback riders and hikers.

This is a simple bill, but it will make a significant contribution for these wild and pristine areas of the Cherokee National Forest.

I thank and salute the Cherokee National Forest staff and the many citizens of Tennessee who worked to define these proposals and to build grassroots support. These proposals have broad support from outdoors clubs, trail maintenance groups, local businesses, and conservation organizations.

I specifically want to thank Will Skelton, a Knoxville lawyer who has been instrumental in conservation for decades in Tennessee. No one has done more to help more families appreciate, enjoy, and hike in the Cherokee National Forest than has Will Skelton. I thank the Tennessee Wild group for their role in this proposal.

Getting out in the woods and mountains of east Tennessee is an ever more popular activity. People go to the wilderness to experience nature most wild, walking a trail to some resting place where the noises are trees creaking, the smells are of wet moss and leaves, the colors are pure, and the world is at peace. That is why these protected wilderness areas have such immense value for our people, and it is why the value will multiply many times as our world grows more crowded.

The foundational statute under which we protect the wilderness areas is the 1964 Wilderness Act. The Congress of that time showed extraordinary prescience about the threats that destroy wilderness:

In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas of the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness.

We need more opportunities for young Americans to get away from the computer screens and into the American outdoors. Eastern Tennessee provides a beautiful place to do that, and this act will provide more opportunities for that as well.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill and support material be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3470

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Tennessee Wilderness Act of 2010''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) MAP.—The term ''Map'' means the map entitled ''Proposed Wilderness Areas and Additions-Cherokee National Forest'' and dated January 20, 2010.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(3) STATE.—The term ''State'' means the State of Tennessee.

SEC. 3. ADDITIONS TO CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST.

(a) DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following Federal lands in the Cherokee National Forest in the State of Tennessee are designated as wilderness and as additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) Certain land comprising approximately 9,038 acres, as generally depicted as the ''Upper Bald River Wilderness'' on the Map and which shall be known as the ''Upper Bald River Wilderness''.

(2) Certain land comprising approximately 348 acres, as generally depicted as the ''Big Frog Addition'' on the Map and which shall be incorporated in, and shall be considered to be a part of, the Big Frog Wilderness.

(3) Certain land comprising approximately 630 acres, as generally depicted as the ''Little Frog Mountain Addition NW'' on the Map and which shall be incorporated in, and shall be considered to be a part of, the Little Frog Mountain Wilderness.

(4) Certain land comprising approximately 336 acres, as generally depicted as the ''Little Frog Mountain Addition NE'' on the Map and which shall be incorporated in, and shall be considered to be a part of, the Little Frog Mountain Wilderness.

(5) Certain land comprising approximately 2,922 acres, as generally depicted as the ''Sampson Mountain Addition'' on the Map and which shall be incorporated in, and shall be considered to be a part of, the Sampson Mountain Wilderness.

(6) Certain land comprising approximately 4,446 acres, as generally depicted as the ''Big Laurel Branch Addition'' on the Map and which shall be incorporated in, and shall be considered to be a part of, the Big Laurel Branch Wilderness.

(7) Certain land comprising approximately 1,836 acres, as generally depicted as the ''Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Addition'' on the Map and which shall be incorporated in, and shall be considered to be a part of, the Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness.

(b) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file maps and legal descriptions of the wilderness areas designated by subsection (a) with the appropriate committees of Congress.

(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The maps and legal descriptions filed under paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Chief of the Forest Service and the office of the Supervisor of the Cherokee National Forest.

(3) FORCE OF LAW.—The maps and legal descriptions filed under paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct typographical errors in the maps and descriptions.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Federal lands designated as wilderness by subsection (a) shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), except that any reference in that Act to the effective date of that Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of the enactment of this Act.

TO PROTECT AND TO PRESERVE

[From the Chattanooga Times Free Press, Sept. 8, 2009]

(Editorial Board)

There seemingly are few exceptions to the paroxysms of partisanship that have paralyzed the nation's capital lately, but there is at last one issue of vital importance where widespread agreement provides immeasurable benefit to the nation. Even in the current political climate, usually antagonistic members of Congress continue to provide broad support for the federal wilderness program. Good for them.

Such bipartisan agreement has been the case since the inception of the Wilderness Act, which was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson 45 years ago this month. At its inception, the program protected 9 million acres in 54 wilderness areas. Today, there are more than 109 million protected acres in 44 states. Expansion efforts, thank goodness, continue unabated.

It is a matter of record that the valuable program has grown continuously under both Democratic and Republican administrations. President Ronald Reagan, a Republican, signed more laws to increase wilderness property than any other president, but Democrat occupants of the White House have done their duty as well.

President Barack Obama is the latest to do so. In March, he signed a bill that established 52 new wilderness areas and that increased acreage at more than two dozen existing wilderness areas. His signature added more than 2 million acres to the protection program.

Every president since Mr. Johnson has now signed legislation to expand wilderness areas. An examination of the record, in fact, shows a steady increase over the years in the number of protected acres regardless of who occupies the White House or which party controls Congress. It's proof that unanimity of purpose in politics is possible if not always procurable.

There are now more than 800 wilderness areas in the United States. They range in size from tiny—the five-acre Rocks and Islands Wilderness in California—to the stagger-the-imagination nine million acres in the Wrangeli-Saint Elias Wilderness in Alaska. The latter state has the most protected acreage with more than 57 million acres. Ohio, with 77 acres, has the least.

Georgia and Tennessee are in the middle of the pack. The former has nearly 500,000 protected wilderness acres and the latter just over 66,000 acres. Those numbers are likely to grow. Efforts to add acreage to protected wilderness areas and to related areas such as the nearby Cherokee National Forest, already the largest tract of public land in Tennessee, are ongoing. All deserve widespread support.

By law, wilderness areas are protected and managed to preserve their natural condition. Use of the land is severely restricted, and properly so, to non-invasive activities such as hiking, backpacking and horseback riding. That's appropriate. Wilderness preservation and protection programs help ensure that future generations can enjoy the nation's patrimony. They also are powerful reminders that we all share an obligation to preserve and to protect such singularly American open spaces.

OP–ED—SKELTON: NEW AREAS NEED PROTECTION

[From the Knoxville News Sentinel, Oct. 24, 2009]

(By Will Skelton)

On Oct. 30, 1984, President Ronald Reagan signed into law a landmark bill that protected many of the outstandingly scenic portions of the southern Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee from timber harvesting, mining and road building.

Thousands of Tennesseans and Americans have used and enjoyed those areas protected as wilderness in 1984; without that bill, many

such areas would have been clear cut and roads built through them. The areas range from the lofty peaks of the Citico Creek and Big Frog Wildernesses to the waterfalls of the Bald River Wilderness and to the quieter streams of Little Frog Mountain Wilderness.

The bill was called the Tennessee Wilderness Act of 1984 and was supported by then-governor Lamar Alexander, then-U.S. representative John J. Duncan, and both of our senators, Howard Baker and James Sasser. The bill protected 32,606 acres (out of a total of 640,000 acres in the Cherokee) in areas known as Big Frog Mountain, Bald River Gorge, Citico Creek, and Little Frog Mountain.

Such areas were designated as ''wilderness,'' the highest form of protection for our federally owned public lands. It protects forests ''in perpetuity'' from logging, mining and road building while allowing for traditional activities like hiking, hunting, horseback riding, fishing and camping. Wilderness also protects wildlife habitat, ensures clean water supplies, and sequesters carbon.

I was coordinator of the Cherokee National Forest Wilderness Coalition that led the effort to have these areas protected. I edited a guidebook to the Cherokee's trails that was published by University of Tennessee Press (''Hiking Guide to the Cherokee National Forest''), and to which Alexander did the forward for both the first (1992) and second (2005) editions.

It has been 25 years since any additional wilderness has been protected in the Cherokee National Forest, in spite of several qualified candidates. These areas include the wonderful Upper Bald River and several additions to existing wilderness areas. The U.S. Forest Service recommended wilderness protection for most of these areas. However, its recommendations can only become ''wilderness'' if Congress approves under the Wilderness Act of 1964.

A newly formed coalition, Tennessee Wild (*http://tnwild.org/*), is urging the protection of the additional areas recommended by the forest service.

Several points are important to consider regarding this current wilderness proposal:

1. The Cherokee National Forest consists of 640,000 acres, roughly the same as the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, with 340,969 in the northern Cherokee and 298,998 in the southern Cherokee. Only 66,389 acres or 10.37 percent of the forest is designated as wilderness; the areas listed above would add only 17,785 acres, so we are talking about a very modest increase.

2. No land is to be acquired by the forest service, as the land proposed for wilderness is already owned by the government.

3. Pursuant to the forest service's current management plan, the service's recommended areas are currently managed as wilderness. So no additional management or change would be required and, because of the nature of wilderness, its management is extremely low cost.

4. No roads would be closed; nor would any facilities be affected as a result of the forest service's recommendation.

5. Finally, and maybe most important, the areas recommended for wilderness are the best unprotected scenic and natural areas in the southern Cherokee National Forest.

We are hopeful that our current political leaders, especially Rep. John J. Duncan Jr. and Sens. Alexander and Bob Corker, will act to protect these additional areas. Let the words of John Muir, featured recently in the Ken Burns' PBS special on our national parks, inspire us to action: ''Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul.''

By Mr. REID:

S. 3473. A bill to amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 to authorize advances from Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill; considered and passed.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3473

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ADVANCES FROM OIL SPILL LIABILITY TRUST FUND FOR DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL.

Section 6002(b) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2752) is amended in the second sentence—

(1) by inserting ''(1)'' after ''Coast Guard''; and

(2) by inserting before the period at the end the following: ''and (2) in the case of the discharge of oil that began in 2010 in connection with the explosion on, and sinking of, the mobile offshore drilling unit Deepwater Horizon, may, without further appropriation, obtain 1 or more advances from the Fund as needed, up to a maximum of $100,000,000 for each advance, with the total amount of all advances not to exceed the amounts available under section 9509(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and within 7 days of each advance, shall notify Congress of the amount advanced and the facts and circumstances necessitating the advance''.

SEC. 2. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go-Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled ''Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation'' for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. GREGG, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. COBURN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado):

S. 3474. A bill to provide an optional fast-track procedure the President may use when submitting rescission requests, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I am pleased to join with the Senator from Delaware, Mr. CARPER, and the Senator from Arizona, Mr. MCCAIN, and others in introducing the Reduce Unnecessary Spending Act of 2010, a bill which effectively gives the President a line item veto to cancel wasteful spending.

Based on President Obama's proposal, our measure would permit the President to get expedited consideration in both the House and Senate of a package of proposed spending cuts within larger spending bills Congress sends to the President. The President would have 45 days from when the initial spending measure was enacted to submit his proposed cuts, and once that package of cuts is sent to the Hill, Congress would have less than a month to act on them. Any savings produced if Congress enacts these spending cut packages would go directly to reduce the deficit.

Just a few weeks ago, I chaired a hearing of the Senate Judiciary Committee's Constitution Subcommittee at which this proposal and similar proposals were reviewed, and I am pleased to say that the consensus of that hearing is that the bill we are introducing today is clearly constitutional.

When he took office, President Obama was handed perhaps the worst economic and fiscal mess facing any administration since Franklin Roosevelt took office in 1933. The legacy President Obama inherited poses a gigantic challenge.

There is no magic bullet that will solve all our budget problems. Congress has to make some tough decisions, and there will be no avoiding them if we are to get our fiscal house in order. But we can take some steps that will help Congress make the right decisions, and that can sustain the progress we make.

A line-item veto, properly structured and respectful of the constitutionally central role Congress plays, as this legislation is, can help us get back on track.

As I noted before, Mr. President, I am joined in this effort by a number of colleagues, but most notably by Senator CARPER and Senator MCCAIN. I have been privileged to work on a number of critical budget reforms with Senator CARPER. He has long been an advocate of this kind of expedited rescission or line item veto authority, and was the lead author of a similarly structured measure when he served in the other body.

I have also been pleased to work with Senator MCCAIN on budget matters. He and I have worked together for the past two decades to oppose wasteful earmark spending, and more recently I have been pleased to work with him on line item veto proposals, including this one.

I also thank my colleague from Wisconsin, Congressman PAUL RYAN, for working with me on this issue for several years now. He and I belong to different political parties, and differ on many issues. But we do share at least two things in common—our hometown of Janesville, Wisconsin, and an abiding respect for Wisconsin's tradition of fiscal responsibility. Earlier this year, Congressman RYAN raised this issue with President Obama at a meeting in Baltimore, and I thank him for his efforts to advance this issue.

The bill we introduce today is a significant step forward in our joint efforts to provide the President with the kind of authority needed to cut wasteful spending. As I noted earlier, this legislation is essentially the bill President Obama proposed just a few weeks ago. It provides the President the ability to get quick and definitive congressional action on cuts to individual programs in large spending bills.

Currently, the President must choose between vetoing a bill in its entirety,

or signing it and possibly enacting billions of dollars of wasteful spending. With this bill, the President will have a third option—signing a spending bill, but then submitting a package of proposed cuts from that spending bill to Congress for quick review. The package of cuts proposed by the President will get an up or down vote in the House and, if it passes there, an up or down vote in the Senate.

Our line item veto bill covers earmark discretionary spending as well as broader non-entitlement spending accounts. The measure excludes entitlement spending and tax expenditures from the expedited rescission approach. Spending done through entitlements and tax expenditures make up an enormous amount of the total spending done by the Federal Government. However, unlike the programmatic spending done in discretionary programs, where cuts can be made by zeroing out or reducing a number for a specific account, reducing spending in entitlements or tax expenditures often requires a change in the underlying policy. Indeed, Congress already has a fast-track procedure designed specifically for considering legislation that reduces spending done through entitlements and tax expenditures. It is called reconciliation, and it was used effectively in the 1990s to reduce the deficit.

As I mentioned, a key target of this new line item veto bill is the unauthorized earmark spending that too often finds its way into large appropriations bills. Earmark spending was what Congressman RYAN and I targeted in our line item veto proposal, and it is the example every line-item veto proponent cites when promoting their legislation.

When President Bush asked for this kind of authority, the examples he gave when citing wasteful spending he wanted to target were congressional earmarks. When Members of the House or Senate tout a new line-item veto authority to go after government waste, the examples they give are congressional earmarks. When editorial pages argue for a new line-item veto, they, too, cite congressional earmarks as the reason for granting the President this new authority.

Unauthorized congressional earmarks are a serious problem. We won't solve our budget problems just by addressing earmarks, but if we are to get our fiscal house in order, eliminating earmarks has to be part of the solution. For all the lip service Congress pays to this issue, there are still thousands of earmarked spending provisions enacted every year. Just last year, the Omnibus Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2009 passed in March of 2009 contained more than 8,000 earmarks costing $7 billion, and the Consolidated Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2010 passed in December of 2009 included nearly 5,000 earmarks, costing $3.7 billion.

There is no excuse for a system that allows that kind of wasteful spending year after year. And given the unwillingness of Congress to discipline itself in this regard, it is appropriate to provide the President some additional authority to seek an up or down vote in Congress on proposed cuts in this area of spending.

This is not a cure-all. We will not balance the budget just by passing a line item veto-like authority for the President. Nor will we balance the budget just by eliminating wasteful earmark spending. But we can make real progress in getting our fiscal house in order, and in changing the culture of Washington which over the last 2 decades has seen an explosion of spending done through unauthorized earmarks that circumvent regular congressional review and the scrutiny of the competitive grant process.

Like the measure Congressman RYAN and I introduced, under this proposal, wasteful spending doesn't have anywhere to hide. It's out in the open, so that both Congress and the President have a chance to get rid of wasteful projects before they begin. The taxpayers—who pay the price for these projects—deserve a process that shows some real fiscal discipline, and that is what this legislation promotes.

President Obama recognizes the pernicious effect earmarks have on the entire process. When he asked Congress to take the extraordinary step of sending him a massive economic recovery package, he knew such a large package of spending and tax cuts would naturally attract earmarks. He also recognized that were earmarks to be added to the bill, it would undermine his ability to get it enacted, so he rightly insisted it be free of earmarks.

I am delighted he has stepped forward to propose a new line item veto-like authority, and I am especially pleased to be introducing that proposal with my colleagues today.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3474

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND PURPOSES.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Reduce Unnecessary Spending Act of 2010''.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to create an optional fast-track procedure the President may use when submitting rescission requests, which would lead to an up-or-down vote by Congress on the President's package of rescissions, without amendment.

SEC. 2. RESCISSIONS OF FUNDING.

The Impoundment Control Act of 1974 is amended by striking part C and inserting the following:

''PART C—EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RESCISSIONS

''SEC. 1021. APPLICABILITY AND DISCLAIMER.

''The rules, procedures, requirements, and definitions in this part apply only to executive and legislative actions explicitly taken under this part. They do not apply to actions taken under part B or to other executive and legislative actions not taken under this part.

''SEC. 1022. DEFINITIONS.

''In this part:

''(1) The terms 'appropriations Act', 'budget authority', and 'new budget authority' have the same meanings as in section 3 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

''(2) The terms 'account', '' 'current year' '', 'CBO', and 'OMB' have the same meanings as in section 250 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 as in effect on September 30, 2002.

''(3) The term 'days of session' shall be calculated by excluding weekends and national holidays. Any day during which a chamber of Congress is not in session shall not be counted as a day of session of that chamber. Any day during which neither chamber is in session shall not be counted as a day of session of Congress.

''(4) The term 'entitlement law' means the statutory mandate or requirement of the United States to incur a financial obligation unless that obligation is explicitly conditioned on the appropriation in subsequent legislation of sufficient funds for that purpose, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

''(5) The term 'funding' refers to new budget authority and obligation limits except to the extent that the funding is provided for entitlement law.

''(6) The term 'rescind' means to eliminate or reduce the amount of enacted funding.

''(7) The terms 'withhold' and 'withholding' apply to any executive action or inaction that precludes the obligation of funding at a time when it would otherwise have been available to an agency for obligation. The terms do not include administrative or preparatory actions undertaken prior to obligation in the normal course of implementing budget laws.

''SEC. 1023. TIMING AND PACKAGING OF RESCISSION REQUESTS.

''(a) TIMING.—If the President proposes that Congress rescind funding under the procedures in this part, OMB shall transmit a message to Congress containing the information specified in section 1024, and the message transmitting the proposal shall be sent to Congress not later than 45 calendar days after the date of enactment of the funding.

''(b) PACKAGING AND TRANSMITTAL OF REQUESTED RESCISSIONS.—Except as provided in subsection (c), for each piece of legislation that provides funding, the President shall request at most 1 package of rescissions and the rescissions in that package shall apply only to funding contained in that legislation. OMB shall deliver each message requesting a package of rescissions to the Secretary of the Senate if the Senate is not in session and to the Clerk of the House of Representatives if the House is not in session. OMB shall make a copy of the transmittal message publicly available, and shall publish in the Federal Register a notice of the message and information on how it can be obtained.

''(c) SPECIAL PACKAGING RULES.—After enactment of—

''(1) a joint resolution making continuing appropriations;

''(2) a supplemental appropriations bill; or

''(3) an omnibus appropriations bill;

covering some or all of the activities customarily funded in more than 1 regular appropriations bill, the President may propose as many as 2 packages rescinding funding contained in that legislation, each within the 45-day period specified in subsection (a). OMB shall not include the same rescission in both packages, and, if the President requests the rescission of more than one discrete amount of funding under the jurisdiction of

a single subcommittee, OMB shall include each of those discrete amounts in the same package.

"SEC. 1024. REQUESTS TO RESCIND FUNDING.

''For each request to rescind funding under this part, the transmittal message shall—

''(1) specify—

''(A) the dollar amount to be rescinded;

''(B) the agency, bureau, and account from which the rescission shall occur;

''(C) the program, project, or activity within the account (if applicable) from which the rescission shall occur;

''(D) the amount of funding, if any, that would remain for the account, program, project, or activity if the rescission request is enacted; and

''(E) the reasons the President requests the rescission;

''(2) designate each separate rescission request by number; and

''(3) include proposed legislative language to accomplish the requested rescissions which may not include—

''(A) any changes in existing law, other than the rescission of funding; or

''(B) any supplemental appropriations, transfers, or reprogrammings.

"SEC. 1025. GRANTS OF AND LIMITATIONS ON PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY.

''(a) PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY TO WITHHOLD FUNDING.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law and if the President proposes a rescission of funding under this part, OMB may, subject to the time limits provided in subsection (c), temporarily withhold that funding from obligation.

''(b) EXPEDITED PROCEDURES AVAILABLE ONLY ONCE PER BILL.—The President may not invoke the procedures of this part, or the authority to withhold funding granted by subsection (a), on more than 1 occasion for any Act providing funding.

''(c) TIME LIMITS.—OMB shall make available for obligation any funding withheld under subsection (a) on the earliest of—

''(1) the day on which the President determines that the continued withholding or reduction no longer advances the purpose of legislative consideration of the rescission request;

''(2) starting from the day on which OMB transmitted a message to Congress requesting the rescission of funding, 25 calendar days in which the House of Representatives has been in session or 25 calendar days in which the Senate has been in session, whichever occurs second; or

''(3) the last day after which the obligation of the funding in question can no longer be fully accomplished in a prudent manner before its expiration.

''(d) DEFICIT REDUCTION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds that are rescinded under this part shall be dedicated only to reducing the deficit or increasing the surplus.

''(2) ADJUSTMENT OF LEVELS IN THE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET.—Not later than 5 days after the date of enactment of an approval bill as provided under this part, the chairs of the Committees on the Budget of the Senate and the House of Representatives shall revise allocations and aggregates and other appropriate levels under the appropriate concurrent resolution on the budget to reflect the repeal or cancellation, and the applicable committees shall report revised suballocations pursuant to section 302(b), as appropriate.

"SEC. 1026. CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF RESCISSION REQUESTS.

''(a) PREPARATION OF LEGISLATION TO CONSIDER A PACKAGE OF EXPEDITED RESCISSION REQUESTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—If the House of Representatives receives a package of expedited rescission requests, the Clerk shall prepare a House bill that only rescinds the amounts requested which shall read as follows:

''There are enacted the rescissions numbered [insert number or numbers] as set forth in the Presidential message of [insert date] transmitted under part C of the Impoundment Control Act of 1974 as amended.

''(2) EXCLUSION PROCEDURE.—The Clerk shall include in the bill each numbered rescission request listed in the Presidential package in question, except that the Clerk shall omit a numbered rescission request if the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House, after consulting with the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate, CBO, GAO, and the House and Senate committees that have jurisdiction over the funding, determines that the numbered rescission does not refer to funding or includes matter not permitted under a request to rescind funding.

''(b) INTRODUCTION AND REFERRAL OF LEGISLATION TO ENACT A PACKAGE OF EXPEDITED RESCISSIONS.—The majority leader or the minority leader of the House or Representatives, or a designee, shall (by request) introduce each bill prepared under subsection (a) not later than 4 days of session of the House after its transmittal, or, if no such bill is introduced within that period, any member of the House may introduce the required bill in the required form on the fifth or sixth day of session of the House after its transmittal. If such an expedited rescission bill is introduced in accordance with the preceding sentence, it shall be referred to the House committee of jurisdiction. A copy of the introduced House bill shall be transmitted to the Secretary of the Senate, who shall provide it to the Senate committee of jurisdiction.

''(c) HOUSE REPORT AND CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION TO ENACT A PACKAGE OF EXPEDITED RESCISSIONS.—The House committee of jurisdiction shall report without amendment the bill referred to it under subsection (b) not more than 5 days of session of the House after the referral. The committee may order the bill reported favorably, unfavorably, or without recommendation. If the committee has not reported the bill by the end of the 5-day period, the committee shall be automatically discharged from further consideration of the bill and it shall be placed on the appropriate calendar.

''(d) HOUSE MOTION TO PROCEED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—After a bill to enact an expedited rescission package has been reported or the committee of jurisdiction has been discharged under subsection (c), it shall be in order to move to proceed to consider the bill in the House. A Member who wishes to move to proceed to consideration of the bill shall announce that fact, and the motion to proceed shall be in order only during a time designated by the Speaker within the legislative schedule for the next calendar day of legislative session or the one immediately following it.

''(2) FAILURE TO SET TIME.—If the Speaker does not designate a time under paragraph (1), 3 or more calendar days of legislative session after the bill has been reported or discharged, it shall be in order for any Member to move to proceed to consider the bill.

''(3) PROCEDURE.—A motion to proceed under this subsection shall not be in order after the House has disposed of a prior motion to proceed with respect to that package of expedited rescissions. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to proceed, without intervening motion. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion to proceed has been disposed of shall not be in order.

''(4) REMOVAL FROM CALENDAR.—If 5 calendar days of legislative session have passed since the bill was reported or discharged under this subsection and no Member has made a motion to proceed, the bill shall be removed from the calendar.

''(e) HOUSE CONSIDERATION.—

''(1) CONSIDERED AS READ.—A bill consisting of a package of rescissions under this part shall be considered as read.

''(2) POINTS OF ORDER.—All points of order against the bill are waived, except that a point of order may be made that 1 or more numbered rescissions included in the bill would enact language containing matter not requested by the President or not permitted under this part as part of that package. If the Presiding Officer sustains such a point of order, the numbered rescission or rescissions that would enact such language are deemed to be automatically stripped from the bill and consideration proceeds on the bill as modified.

''(3) PREVIOUS QUESTION.—The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to its passage without intervening motion, except that 4 hours of debate equally divided and controlled by a proponent and an opponent are allowed, as well as 1 motion to further limit debate on the bill.

''(4) MOTION TO RECONSIDER.—A motion to reconsider the vote on passage of the bill shall not be in order.

''(f) SENATE CONSIDERATION.—

''(1) REFERRAL.—If the House of Representatives approves a House bill enacting a package of rescissions, that bill as passed by the House shall be sent to the Senate and referred to the Senate committee of jurisdiction.

''(2) COMMITTEE ACTION.—The committee of jurisdiction shall report without amendment the bill referred to it under this subsection not later than 3 days of session of the Senate after the referral. The committee may order the bill reported favorably, unfavorably, or without recommendation.

''(3) DISCHARGE.—If the committee has not reported the bill by the end of the 3-day period, the committee shall be automatically discharged from further consideration of the bill and it shall be placed on the appropriate calendar.

''(4) MOTION TO PROCEED.—On the following day and for 3 subsequent calendar days in which the Senate is in session, it shall be in order for any Senator to move to proceed to consider the bill in the Senate. Upon such a motion being made, it shall be deemed to have been agreed to and the motion to reconsider shall be deemed to have been laid on the table.

''(5) DEBATE.—Debate on the bill in the Senate under this subsection, and all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall not exceed 10 hours, equally divided and controlled in the usual form. Debate in the Senate on any debatable motion or appeal in connection with such a bill shall be limited to not more than 1 hour, to be equally divided and controlled in the usual form. A motion to further limit debate on such a bill is not debatable.

''(6) MOTIONS NOT IN ORDER.—A motion to amend such a bill or strike a provision from it is not in order. A motion to recommit such a bill is not in order.

''(g) SENATE POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order under this part for the Senate to consider a bill approved by the House enacting a package of rescissions under this part if any numbered rescission in the bill would enact matter not requested by the President or not permitted under this Act as part of that package. If a point of order under this subsection is sustained, the bill may not be considered under this part.''.

SEC. 3. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—Section 1(b) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 is amended by striking

the matter for part C of title X and inserting the following:

''PART C—EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RESCISSIONS

''Sec. 1021. Applicability and disclaimer.
''Sec. 1022. Definitions.
''Sec. 1023. Timing and packaging of rescission requests.
''Sec. 1024. Requests to rescind funding.
''Sec. 1025. Grants of and limitations on presidential authority.
''Sec. 1026. Congressional consideration of rescission requests.''.

(b) TEMPORARY WITHHOLDING.—Section 1013(c) of the Impoundment Control Act of 1974 is amended by striking ''section 1012'' and inserting ''section 1012 or section 1025''

(c) RULEMAKING.—

(1) 904(A).—Section 904(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is amended by striking ''and 1017'' and inserting ''1017, and 1026''.

(2) 904(D)(1).—Section 904 (d)(1) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is amended by striking ''1017'' and inserting ''1017 or 1026''.

SEC. 4. AMENDMENTS TO PART A OF THE IMPOUNDMENT CONTROL ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part A of the Impoundment Control Act of 1974 is amended by inserting at the end the following:

''SEC. 1002. SEVERABILITY.

''If the judicial branch of the United States finally determines that 1 or more of the provisions of parts B or C violate the Constitution of the United States, the remaining provisions of those parts shall continue in effect.''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—Section 1(b) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 is amended by inserting at the end of the matter for part A of title X the following:

''Sec. 1002. Severability.''.

SEC. 5. EXPIRATION.

Part C of the Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (as amended by this Act) shall expire on December 31, 2014.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 547—SUPPORTING NATIONAL MEN'S HEALTH WEEK

Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 547

Whereas, despite advances in medical technology and research, men continue to live an average of more than 5 years less than women, and African-American men have the lowest life expectancy;

Whereas 9 of the 10 leading causes of death, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, affect men at a higher percentage than women;

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, between ages 45 and 54, men are over 1½ times more likely than women to die of heart attacks;

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, men die of heart disease at 1½ times the rate of women;

Whereas men die of cancer at almost 1½ times the rate of women;

Whereas testicular cancer is one of the most common cancers in men aged 15 to 34, and, when detected early, has a 96 percent survival rate;

Whereas according to the American Cancer Society, the number of cases of colon cancer among men will reach almost 49,470 in 2010, and nearly 50 percent of men diagnosed with colon cancer will die from the disease;

Whereas the likelihood that a man will develop prostate cancer is 1 in 6;

Whereas according to the American Cancer Society, the number of men developing prostate cancer in 2010 will reach more than 217,730 and an estimated 32,050 of those men will die from the disease

Whereas African-American men in the United States have the highest incidence in the world of prostate cancer;

Whereas significant numbers of health problems that affect men, such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer, colon cancer, and infertility, could be detected and treated if men's awareness of these problems was more pervasive;

Whereas according to the Bureau of the Census, more than ½ of the elderly widows now living in poverty were not poor before the death of their husbands, and by age 100, women outnumber men 4 to 1;

Whereas educating both the public and health care providers about the importance of early detection of male health problems will result in reducing rates of mortality for these diseases;

Whereas appropriate use of tests such as prostate specific antigen (PSA) exams, blood pressure screens, and cholesterol screens, in conjunction with clinical examination and self-testing for problems such as testicular cancer, can result in the detection of many of these problems in their early stages and increase the survival rates to nearly 100 percent;

Whereas women are 2 times more likely than men to visit their doctor for annual examinations and preventive services;

Whereas men are less likely than women to visit their health center or physician for regular screening examinations of male-related problems for a variety of reasons, including fear, lack of health insurance, lack of information, and cost factors;

Whereas Congress established National Men's Health Week in 1994 and urged men and their families to engage in appropriate health behaviors, and the resulting increased awareness has improved health-related education and helped prevent illness;

Whereas the Governors of over 45 States issue proclamations annually declaring Men's Health Week in their States;

Whereas, since 1994, National Men's Health Week has been celebrated each June by dozens of States, cities, localities, public health departments, health care entities, churches, and community organizations throughout the Nation that promote health awareness events focused on men and family;

Whereas the National Men's Health Week Internet website has been established at www.menshealthweek.org and features Governors' proclamations and National Men's Health Week events;

Whereas men who are educated about the value that preventive health can play in prolonging their lifespan and their role as productive family members will be more likely to participate in health screenings;

Whereas men and their families are encouraged to increase their awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle, regular exercise, and medical checkups; and

Whereas June 13 through 20, 2010, is National Men's Health Week, which has the purpose of heightening the awareness of preventable health problems and encouraging early detection and treatment of disease among men and boys: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the annual National Men's Health Week; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States and interested groups to observe National Men's Health Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 548—TO EXPRESS THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT ISRAEL HAS AN UNDENIABLE RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENSE, AND TO CONDEMN THE RECENT DESTABILIZING ACTIONS BY EXTREMISTS ABOARD THE SHIP MAVI MARMARA

Mr. CORNYN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 548

Whereas the State of Israel, since its founding in 1948, has been a strong and steadfast ally of the United States, standing alone in its commitment to democracy, individual liberty, and free-market principles in the Middle East, a region characterized by instability and violence;

Whereas the special bond between the United States and Israel, forged through common values and mutual interests, must never be broken;

Whereas Israel has an undeniable right to defend itself against any threat to its security, as does every nation;

Whereas Hamas is a terrorist group, formally designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the Secretary of State, and similarly designated by the European Union;

Whereas Hamas is committed to the annihilation of Israel and opposes the peaceful resolution of the Israeli–Palestinian conflict;

Whereas Hamas took control of the Gaza Strip in 2007 through violent means and has maintained control ever since;

Whereas Hamas routinely violates the human rights of the residents of Gaza, including attempting to control and intimidate political rivals through extra-judicial killing, torture, severe beatings, maiming, and arbitrary detentions;

Whereas Hamas continues to hold prisoner Israeli Staff Sergeant Gilad Shalit, who was seized on Israeli soil and has been denied basic rights, including contact with the International Red Cross;

Whereas the military build-up of Hamas has been enabled by the smuggling of arms and other materiel into Gaza;

Whereas the Government of Iran has materially aided and supported Hamas by providing extensive funding, weapons, and training;

Whereas, since 2001, Hamas and other Palestinian terrorist organizations have fired more than 10,000 rockets and mortars from Gaza into Israel, killing at least 18 Israelis and wounding dozens more;

Whereas approximately 860,000 Israeli civilians, more than 12 percent of Israel's population, reside within range of rockets fired from Gaza and live in fear of attacks;

Whereas, in 2007, the Government of Israel, out of concern for the safety of its citizens, put in place a legitimate and justified blockade of Gaza, which has been effective in reducing the flow of weapons into Gaza and the firing of rockets from Gaza into southern Israel;

Whereas, at the same time, the Government of Egypt imposed a blockade of Gaza from its land border;

Whereas, according to Michael Oren, the Israeli Ambassador to the United States, ''If the sea lanes are open to Hamas in Gaza . . . they will acquire thousands of rockets that will threaten every single citizen in the state of Israel and also kill the peace process. . . . Hamas armed with thousands of rockets not