

on the amount excluded from the gross estate with respect to land subject to a qualified conservation easement; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 3641. A bill to create the National Endowment for the Oceans to promote the protection and conservation of United States ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 3642. A bill to ensure that the underwriting standards of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac facilitate the use of property assessed clean energy programs to finance the installation of renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. McCONNELL (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. THUNE):

S. 3643. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to reform the management of energy and mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf, to improve oil spill compensation, to terminate the moratorium on deepwater drilling, and for other purposes; read the first time.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. Res. 592. A resolution designating the week of September 13–19, 2010, as “Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week”, and supporting the goals and ideals of Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week to raise awareness and understanding of polycystic kidney disease and the impact the disease has on patients now and for future generations until it can be cured; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. Res. 593. A resolution expressing support for designation of October 7, 2010, as “Jumpstart’s Read for the Record Day”; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REID:

S. Res. 594. A resolution to constitute the majority party’s membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Eleventh Congress, or until their successors are chosen; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 28

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 28, a bill to ensure that the courts of the United States may provide an impartial forum for claims brought by United States citizens and others against any railroad organized as a separate legal entity, arising from the deportation of United States citizens and others to Nazi concentration camps on trains owned or operated by such railroad, and by the heirs and survivors of such persons.

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin

(Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 28, *supra*.

S. 493

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 493, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the establishment of ABLE accounts for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 653

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Florida (Mr. LEMIEUX) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 653, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the bicentennial of the writing of the Star-Spangled Banner, and for other purposes.

S. 828

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 828, a bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to provide loan guarantees for projects to construct renewable fuel pipelines, and for other purposes.

S. 850

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 850, a bill to amend the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to improve the conservation of sharks.

S. 941

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 941, a bill to reform the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, modernize firearm laws and regulations, protect the community from criminals, and for other purposes.

S. 1112

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1112, a bill to make effective the proposed rule of the Food and Drug Administration relating to sunscreen drug products, and for other purposes.

S. 1553

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1553, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the National Future Farmers of America

Organization and the 85th anniversary of the founding of the National Future Farmers of America Organization.

S. 1674

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1674, a bill to provide for an exclusion under the Supplemental Security Income program and the Medicaid program for compensation provided to individuals who participate in clinical trials for rare diseases or conditions.

S. 1859

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1859, a bill to reinstate Federal matching of State spending of child support incentive payments.

S. 2747

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2747, a bill to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the land and water conservation fund to maximize the effectiveness of the fund for future generations, and for other purposes.

S. 3034

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. BURRIS), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) were added as cosponsors of S. 3034, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to strike medals in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States and the establishment of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum at the World Trade Center.

S. 3079

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3079, a bill to assist in the creation of new jobs by providing financial incentives for owners of commercial buildings and multifamily residential buildings to retrofit their buildings with energy efficient building equipment and materials and for other purposes.

S. 3084

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3084, a bill to increase the competitiveness of United States businesses, particularly small and medium-sized manufacturing firms, in

interstate and global commerce, foster job creation in the United States, and assist United States businesses in developing or expanding commercial activities in interstate and global commerce by expanding the ambit of the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program and the Technology Innovation Program to include projects that have potential for commercial exploitation in nondomestic markets, providing for an increase in related resources of the Department of Commerce, and for other purposes.

S. 3297

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3297, a bill to update United States policy and authorities to help advance a genuine transition to democracy and to promote recovery in Zimbabwe.

S. 3397

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3397, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide for take-back disposal of controlled substances in certain instances, and for other purposes.

S. 3434

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3434, a bill to provide for the establishment of a Home Star Retrofit Rebate Program, and for other purposes.

S. 3508

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3508, a bill to strengthen the capacity of the United States to lead the international community in reversing renewable natural resource degradation trends around the world that threaten to undermine global prosperity and security and eliminate the diversity of life on Earth, and for other purposes.

S. 3513

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3513, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend for one year the special depreciation allowances for certain property.

S. 3578

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3578, a bill to repeal the expansion of information reporting requirements for payments of \$600 or more to corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 3597

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3597, a bill to improve the ability of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Coast Guard, and coastal States to sustain

healthy ocean and coastal ecosystems by maintaining and sustaining their capabilities relating to oil spill preparedness, prevention, response, restoration, and research, and for other purposes.

S. 3619

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3619, a bill to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to improve geothermal energy technology and demonstrate the use of geothermal energy in large scale thermal applications, and for other purposes.

S. 3621

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3621, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion for assistance provided to participants in certain veterinary student loan repayment or forgiveness programs.

S. 3622

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3622, a bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to finalize a proposed rule to amend the spill prevention, control, and countermeasure rule to tailor and streamline the requirements for the dairy industry, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 29

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 29, a joint resolution approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

S. RES. 519

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 519, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the primary safeguard for the well-being and protection of children is the family, and that the primary safeguards for the legal rights of children in the United States are the Constitutions of the United States and the several States, and that, because the use of international treaties to govern policy in the United States on families and children is contrary to principles of self-government and federalism, and that, because the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child undermines traditional principles of law in the United States regarding parents and children, the President should not transmit the Convention to the Senate for its advice and consent.

S. RES. 585

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 585, a resolution designating the week of August 2 through August 8, 2010, as "National Convenient Care Clinic Week", and supporting the

goals and ideals of raising awareness of the need for accessible and cost-effective health care options to complement the traditional health care model.

S. RES. 586

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 586, a resolution supporting democracy, human rights, and civil liberties in Egypt.

S. RES. 591

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. BURRIS), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. KAUFMAN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 591, a resolution recognizing and honoring the 20th anniversary of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 591, supra.

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 591, supra.

AMENDMENT NO. 4433

At the request of Mr. BOND, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4433 intended to be proposed to H.R. 5297, an act to create the Small Business Lending Fund Program to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to make capital investments in eligible institutions in order to increase the availability of credit for small businesses, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives

for small business job creation, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4476

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4476 intended to be proposed to H.R. 5297, an act to create the Small Business Lending Fund Program to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to make capital investments in eligible institutions in order to increase the availability of credit for small businesses, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for small business job creation, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4494

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4494 intended to be proposed to H.R. 5297, an act to create the Small Business Lending Fund Program to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to make capital investments in eligible institutions in order to increase the availability of credit for small businesses, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for small business job creation, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4499

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4499 proposed to H.R. 5297, an act to create the Small Business Lending Fund Program to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to make capital investments in eligible institutions in order to increase the availability of credit for small businesses, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for small business job creation, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4500

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4500 proposed to H.R. 5297, an act to create the Small Business Lending Fund Program to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to make capital investments in eligible institutions in order to increase the availability of credit for small businesses, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for small business job creation, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KOHL (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. INOUE):

S. 3637. A bill to authorize appropriations for the Housing Assistance Council; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Housing Assistance Council Authorization Act. This legislation will re-authorize appropria-

tions for the Housing Assistance Council, HAC, which has been committed to developing affordable housing in rural communities for over 35 years.

HAC was originally given a three-year authorization through the Farm Bill in 2008. During the past three years HAC made \$46.1 million in grants and loans to help build 3,878 homes throughout rural America. The program has leveraged its funding with over \$360 million in other financing and has provided essential technical assistance to local non-profits throughout the country in the form of capacity building grants. These critical services help local organizations, rural communities and cities develop safe and affordable housing.

Throughout the country, approximately 1/5 of the Nation's population lives in rural communities. About 7.5 million of the rural population is living in poverty and 2.5 million of them are children. Nearly 3.6 million rural households pay more than 30 percent of their income in housing costs. While housing costs are generally lower in rural counties, wages are dramatically outpaced by the cost of housing. Additionally, the housing conditions are often substandard and there are many families doubled up due to lack of housing. Rural areas lack both affordable rental units and homeownership opportunities needed to serve the population.

There are several federal programs that are aimed at developing affordable housing and economic opportunities in rural communities in both the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Agriculture. However, rural housing programs have traditionally been underfunded. The administration's fiscal year 2011 budget request zeroed two programs that were devoted to helping rural communities: Rural Innovation Fund, and the Self Help Homeownership Program, SHOP. In many regions, federal funding might be the only assistance available for housing and economic development. The Housing Assistance Council is yet another tool that rural communities can utilize when trying to develop affordable housing.

The presence of the HAC in Wisconsin has made a huge impact on rural housing development in Wisconsin and other rural communities across the country. In Wisconsin, HAC has provided close to \$5.2 million in grants and loans to 17 non-profit housing organizations and helped develop 825 units of housing.

Tony Romo, the current quarterback for the Dallas Cowboys, grew up in a HAC-supported self-help home in Burlington, WI. His parents built the home as part of Southeastern Wisconsin Housing Corporation's sweat equity, self-help homeownership program. There are countless examples linking a child's future success to the stability in their childhood home. Tony Romo's story provides one such example of how

a child raised in safe, stable homeownership may go on to later success.

I am very honored to work with Senators SNOWE and INOUE on this legislation. Its passage will allow every state to better serve the needs of the people living in rural areas. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure the adoption of this bill.

By Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. GREGG, Mr. BENNET and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3640. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the limitations on the amount excluded from the gross estate with respect to land subject to a qualified conservation easement; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, today I am introducing, along with my friend and colleague Senator CRAPO, legislation to encourage further protection of our treasured lands, ranches and family farms. The American Family Farm and Ranchland Protection Act is a bipartisan piece of legislation that rewards those who protect these lands through conservation easements by increasing their exemption from the estate tax. Put simply, we strongly support conservation efforts and believe we need to do more to give Americans a real incentive to protect our nation's land. It is a companion bill to similar bipartisan legislation in the House of Representatives introduced by Congressman BLUMENAUER.

I have long made conservation of America's natural resources a core component of my public service. In my role as chair of the National Parks Subcommittee, I am continuously focused on preserving our public lands and waters, because we owe it to future generations to leave them a sustainable environment. We did not inherit the land from our parents, we are borrowing it from our children.

However, the Government can only do so much, and many of our most important landscapes are privately owned property. If we are serious about conservation, we must acknowledge the important role that private land owners play in the overall effort to preserve our natural resources for generations to come.

Estate taxes can compromise Americans' ability to conserve private property. After the death of a loved one, families are often forced to subdivide a property and sell it for development to pay the costs of estate taxes. This situation could become more common starting in 2011 when the estate tax is set to revert back to the 2001 level of 55 percent above a \$1 million per spouse exemption. Nearly 15 years ago, in an effort to provide some relief and encourage conservation of family farms and ranches, Congress created an exemption from the estate tax of up to 40 percent of the value of the land, capped at \$500,000, for land permanently protected by a conservation easement.