

EC-8292. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Model BD-700-1A10 and BD-700-1A11 Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2010-0548)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8293. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Custer and Onekama, Michigan)” (MB Docket No. 08-86) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8294. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Maritime Administration for fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

H.R. 5758. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2 Government Center in Fall River, Massachusetts, as the “Sergeant Robert Barrett Post Office Building”.

H.R. 6118. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, in Washington, D.C., as the “Dorothy I. Height Post Office”.

H.R. 6237. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1351 2nd Street in Napa, California, as the “Tom Kongsgaard Post Office Building”.

H.R. 6387. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 337 West Clark Street in Eureka, California, as the “Sam Sacco Post Office Building”.

By Mr. DORGAN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with amendments:

S. 2802. A bill to settle land claims within the Fort Hall Reservation.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 3784. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4865 Tallmadge Road in Rootstown, Ohio, as the “Marine Sgt. Jeremy E. Murray Post Office”.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. HARKIN for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

*Robert Anacletus Underwood, of Guam, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Board for Education Sciences for a term expiring November 28, 2012.

*Anthony Bryk, of California, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Board for Education Sciences for a term expiring November 28, 2011.

*Kris D. Gutierrez, of Colorado, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Board for Education Sciences for a term expiring November 28, 2012.

*Sean P. Buckley, of New York, to be Commissioner of Education Statistics for a term expiring June 21, 2015.

*Susan H. Hildreth, of Washington, to be Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

*Allison Blakely, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2016.

By Mr. LEAHY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Susan L. Carney, of Connecticut, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

James E. Graves, Jr., of Mississippi, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

Amy Totenberg, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

James Emanuel Boasberg, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Amy Berman Jackson, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

James E. Shadid, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois.

Sue E. Myerscough, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois.

Paul Kinloch Holmes, III, of Arkansas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas.

Anthony J. Battaglia, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

Edward J. Davila, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

Diana Saldana, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

Michele Marie Leonhart, of California, to be Administrator of Drug Enforcement.

Stacia A. Hylton, of Virginia, to be Director of the United States Marshals Service. Vice John F. Clark, resigned.

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

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 3993. A bill to expand geothermal production, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 3994. A bill to delay the effective date of the mandatory purchase requirement for new flood hazard areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 3995. A bill to direct the Administrator of the General Services Administration to install Wi-Fi hotspots and wireless neutral host systems in all Federal buildings in

order to improve in-building wireless communications coverage and commercial network capacity by offloading wireless traffic onto wireless broadband networks; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG:

S. 3996. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act and the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require additional disclosures and protections for students and cosigners with respect to student loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. CONRAD):

S. 3997. A bill to authorize appropriations for certain Native American programs; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

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

S. 3998. A bill to extend the Child Safety Pilot Program; considered and passed.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 3999. A bill to provide for reductions in the number of employees in Federal departments and agencies, freeze Federal employee compensation, reduce funding to the White House and Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 2747

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor 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. 3934

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3934, a bill to provide tax relief for persons affected by the discharge of oil in connection with the explosion on, and sinking of, the mobile offshore drilling unit Deepwater Horizon.

S. 3950

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3950, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the application of a consistent Medicare part B premium for all Medicare beneficiaries for 2011.

S. 3981

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3981, a bill to provide for a temporary extension of unemployment insurance provisions.

S. 3992

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3992, a bill to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain alien students who are long-term United States residents and who entered the United States as children and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4626

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4626 intended to be proposed to S. 3454, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 3993. A bill to expand geothermal production, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join with my colleagues from Idaho and Oregon, Senator JAMES RISCH, Senator MIKE CRAPO, and Senator JEFF MERKLEY, in introducing the Geothermal Production Expansion Act of 2010. This legislation will amend an already existing law—the Geothermal Steam Act—governing the way the Federal Government leases public lands for the development of geothermal energy projects.

Geothermal energy facilities provide a continuous supply of renewable energy with very few environmental impacts. Although the United States has more geothermal capacity than any other country, this potential has been barely tapped. This shortfall is partly due to the high initial cost and risk involved in locating and developing geothermal resources. Like oil and natural gas exploration, until exploration and production wells are actually drilled, the true energy value of the site is not known nor is the full extent of the underground reservoir or energy source.

This legislation is intended to expand the future production of geothermal energy on federally-owned lands by taking some of the uncertainty and guess work out of the leasing and development process by allowing the Interior Department to issue geothermal leases for adjacent lands on a non-competitive basis, based on fair-market value. This would allow a geothermal developer to expand a successful geothermal lease without being forced into a bidding war with speculators or uncooperative competitors who might threaten project expansion or even prevent the project from reaching commercial scale.

Under current law, the Department of Interior is charged with issuing geothermal energy leases through a competitive lease sale. There are, however, several situations where the Department is allowed to issue non-competitive leases, for example, if there were no competitive bids offered, or where there is an already existing mining

claim, or where the geothermal energy will be used directly on site for heating or other uses and not sold as electricity. This legislation would add an additional category of non-competitive leases for lands that are immediately adjacent to an existing, competitively-awarded, geothermal lease where there is an identified, validated geothermal energy discovery. They would not just be given away to an existing lease holder. These non-competitive leases would be made at fair-market value as independently determined by the Department of Interior. They could also not be taken away from any existing lease holder, if they were already leased, nor could they be removed from competitive leasing if they had already been nominated to be competitively leased.

These safeguards are intended to insure that this new non-competitive lease authority is a limited exception to the general policy of competitive leasing for geothermal resources on our public lands. At the same time, this new authority will help ensure that when and where a geothermal resource has been discovered, the project developer will be able to tap that resource and turn it into a viable, commercial energy business and provide clean, renewable energy for our country.

This bill is a companion to bipartisan legislation sponsored by Representative JAY INSLEE in the House of Representatives. The House Committee on Natural Resources held hearings on the underlying House bill, H.R. 3709, in February of this year. The legislation Sen. RISCH and I are introducing today incorporates changes resulting from those hearings, primarily making it clear that any non-competitive leases issued under this authority would be at fair-market value.

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

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

S. 3993

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 “Geothermal Production Expansion Act of 2010”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) it is in the best interest of the United States to develop clean renewable geothermal energy;

(2) development of that energy should be promoted on appropriate Federal land;

(3) under the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801 et seq.), the Bureau of Land Management is authorized to issue 3 different types of noncompetitive leases for production of geothermal energy on Federal land, including—

(A) noncompetitive geothermal leases to mining claim holders that have a valid operating plan;

(B) direct use leases; and

(C) leases on parcels that do not sell at a competitive auction;

(4) Federal geothermal energy leasing activity should be directed towards persons

seeking to develop the land as opposed to persons seeking to speculate on geothermal resources and artificially raising the cost of legitimate geothermal energy development;

(5) developers of geothermal energy on Federal land that have invested substantial capital and made high risk investments should be allowed to secure a discovery of geothermal energy resources; and

(6) successful geothermal development on Federal land will provide increased revenue to the Federal Government, with the payment of production royalties over decades.

SEC. 3. NONCOMPETITIVE LEASING OF ADJOINING AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES.

Section 4(b) of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1003(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) ADJOINING LAND.—

“(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

“(i) FAIR MARKET VALUE PER ACRE.—The term ‘fair market value per acre’ means a dollar amount per acre that—

“(I) except as provided in this clause, shall be equal to the market value per acre as determined by the Secretary under regulations issued under this paragraph;

“(II) shall be determined by the Secretary with respect to a lease under this paragraph, by not later than the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date the Secretary receives an application for the lease; and

“(III) shall be not less than the greater of—

“(aa) 4 times the median amount paid per acre for all land leased under this Act during the preceding year; or

“(bb) \$50.

“(ii) INDUSTRY STANDARDS.—The term ‘industry standards’ means the standards by which a qualified geothermal professional assesses whether downhole or flowing temperature measurements with indications of permeability are sufficient to produce energy from geothermal resources, as determined through flow or injection testing or measurement of lost circulation while drilling.

“(iii) QUALIFIED FEDERAL LAND.—The term ‘qualified Federal land’ means land that is otherwise available for leasing under this Act.

“(iv) QUALIFIED GEOTHERMAL PROFESSIONAL.—The term ‘qualified geothermal professional’ means an individual who is an engineer or geoscientist in good professional standing with at least 5 years of experience in geothermal exploration, development, or project assessment.

“(v) QUALIFIED LESSEE.—The term ‘qualified lessee’ means a person that may hold a geothermal lease under part 3202.10 of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of enactment of the Geothermal Production Expansion Act of 2010.

“(vi) VALID DISCOVERY.—The term ‘valid discovery’ means a discovery of a geothermal resource by a new or existing slim hole or production well, that exhibits downhole or flowing temperature measurements with indications of permeability that are sufficient to meet industry standards.

“(B) AUTHORITY.—An area of qualified Federal land that adjoins other land for which a qualified lessee holds a legal right to develop geothermal resources may be available for a noncompetitive lease under this section to the qualified lessee at the fair market value per acre, if—

“(i) the area of qualified Federal land—

“(I) consists of not less than 1 acre and not more than 640 acres; and

“(II) is not already leased under this Act or nominated to be leased under subsection (a);

“(ii) the qualified lessee has not previously received a noncompetitive lease under this paragraph in connection with the valid discovery for which data has been submitted under clause (iii)(I); and