

training and public relations. Its research efforts are helping the Department of Defense develop water filtration technology to protect service-members from harm, and helping develop new treatments for Parkinson's disease. CMU's efforts to educate the next generation and conduct research that improves lives embody the school's motto, "Sapientia, Virtus, Amicitia"—wisdom, virtue, friendship.

So Sunday's game will be a great reminder to all who are watching of what Central Michigan University and its students have accomplished. And in addition to cheers for the Packers and Steelers, I hope we will hear a few cries of "Fire Up, Chips!"

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MISSOURI RIVER RELIEF

• Mrs. McCASKILL. Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me in honoring the 10th anniversary of Missouri River Relief and their dedication to preserving Missouri rivers.

As a lifelong Missourian, I have visited and enjoyed the natural beauty and recreational opportunities along the Missouri River. These riverbanks and waterways are treasured attractions throughout Missouri. The Missouri River enjoys over 1 million visitors from across the Nation each year who have the opportunity to experience the splendor and excitement these natural resources provide for our state. That is why I am so thrilled to acknowledge the work of the Missouri River Relief program.

Founded in 2001, Missouri River Relief began with just a few Missouri River enthusiasts dedicated to cleaning up our State waters. Ten years later, 12,000 Missourians have joined their communities in fighting for this cause, removing over 1 million pounds of trash and debris, making our waters safer for all to enjoy. In 2010 alone, over 1,100 student and teacher volunteers helped clean over 70 miles of river.

Missouri River Relief has contributed to promoting river education throughout the State. By sponsoring recreational activities and festivals that incorporate the arts alongside river education, this organization has made it their mission to teach Missouri families about our local rivers and how the rivers contribute to our environment.

This project has received an outpouring of State and corporate sponsorships that have made this growing cause a reality. Neighboring States have also included their support, cleaning up almost 400 miles of the Missouri River. The trash gathered from these clean ups have included recyclable and environmental friendly particles that have been turned into useful resources.

Working to preserve one of our country's most affluent and beautiful rivers, this organization deserves our gratitude and commemoration. Mis-

souri River Relief is committed to water safety and education and its service to the community stands as an inspiration to all Missourians and a strong signal of our State's continued growth and success.

Mr. President, I ask that the Senate join me in recognizing the 10th anniversary of the Missouri River Relief.●

NORTHEAST ORGANIC FARMING ASSOCIATION OF VERMONT

• Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, today I honor the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont. NOFA Vermont is a nonprofit association of farmers, gardeners, and consumers working to promote an economically viable and ecologically sound Vermont food system for the benefit of current and future generations. This year it celebrates its 40th anniversary of helping farms thrive, making locally grown and organic foods available to all, and increasing consumer access at farmers markets across our Green Mountain State.

NOFA Vermont was founded in Putney in 1971, making it one of the oldest organic farming associations in the United States. Today, they are proud to have more than 1,200 members throughout the State and to certify over 525 farms and processors to the USDA national organic program standards. They are passionate about increasing the acreage of certified organic land in Vermont, while also increasing access to local organic food by all Vermonters. The entirety of their programs strives to meet these goals, whether it involves working with schools to bring local foods into the cafeteria, or providing business planning services to farmers to ensure their businesses stay viable.

With a vision that consists of small farms and agriculturally based businesses that are improving the ecology of Vermont foodscapes, where organic farms and gardens supply food to all members of their communities and where everyone knows their farmers, I see NOFA-VT as an exemplary national leader for the USDA campaign "Know your Farmer, Know your Food."

Executive director, Enid Wonnacott, has led this exceptional organization for the past 30 years. She and her dedicated team offer technical assistance and revolving loan funds; and supply information on energy management, apprenticeships, and educational and electronic resources. They have built direct markets between farmers and consumers through the VT Farmers Market Association and have sponsored outstanding conferences yearly. This year they expect more than 1,500 farmers to attend their winter conference, which is extremely well-run, worthwhile, and fun. They provide knowledgeable speakers, workshops brimming with information and healthy attitudes for the 21st century of farming.

Finally, I have been very impressed with their commitment to Vermont's

future and our children as NOFA-VT has been a significant partner in the advancement of the Vermont Food and Farm Education program, FEED. This critical program provides schools, farmers, food service directors, and community partners with technical assistance, training, and professional development to advance student achievement, improve childhood nutrition, and create community-based farm to school programs. It is through programs such as these that children are able to connect with the farm in their community, understand where their food comes from, and have the opportunity to eat local healthy food in their school meal programs.

I offer my sincerest congratulations to NOFA-VT on the occasion of their 40th anniversary of service to our great State of Vermont and wish them many more years of continued success.●

RECOGNIZING NORTH EAST WIPERS

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, America is home to millions of innovative and forward-thinking small businesses, which is critical to our future. And, as President Obama said in this State of the Union Address, "We need to out-innovate the . . . rest of the world" to maintain our position of global economic power. As such, I rise today to recognize a small company from my home State of Maine that represents a shining example of America's ingenuity and innovative spirit.

North East Wipers got its start a little over a year ago after a conversation between two long-time friends. Gerard Dubois, the owner of Pioneer Transport in Waterville, told his friend Ray Lawrence, a machinist with 25 years experience, about an idea to create mini wiper blades that can be affixed to rearview mirrors on big rig trucks, so that the driver would not have to stop every few minutes during inclement weather to clear off snow or remove dirt and salt. Not only was this a commonsense idea, it was a matter of safety for truckers who are often forced to drive in unforgiving weather conditions to deliver timely goods on which the American people rely.

As a result of the conversation, Ray and Gerard gathered \$10,000 in startup costs and set to work on creating a number of prototypes. They eventually coalesced around a simple yet durable model that attaches to mirror mounts without using electrical or motorized parts that cannot clog or freeze. Once affixed to the mirror, all the driver has to do is push a button for the wipers to work. Even more appealing is that the system costs \$500, roughly the amount it costs to fill a tractor trailer with diesel fuel.

While originally designed for logging trucks facing difficult conditions on roads across Maine and other snow-plagued States, Gerard Dubois and Ray

Lawrence are seeking to make their invention available to other major commercial vehicles on the road. Recognizing the merits of North East Wipers product, the Maine Technology Institute recently announced it will be providing the company with a seed grant to support further development and commercialization of the wiper blades. Such capital is critical for the success of a project like this, and it recognizes the value and practicality of this unique invention. Gerard and Ray's ultimate goal is to work with a truck manufacturer on making the wipers standard equipment for its big rigs.

Maine is home to scores of groundbreaking entrepreneurs and creative thinkers, and clearly Gerard Dubois and Ray Lawrence fit that bill. I am extremely proud of the ingenuity they have demonstrated and the dedication they have shown in making their product a reality. I thank them for their inventiveness, and wish them much success in the future.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following bill was discharged from the Committee on Rules and Administration, and referred as indicated:

S. 126. A bill to reduce the amount of financial assistance provided to the Government of Mexico in response to the illegal border crossings from Mexico into the United States, which serve to dissipate the political discontent with the higher unemployment rate within Mexico; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

The following bill was discharged from the Committee on Finance, and referred as indicated:

S. 109. A bill to amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 to require congressional approval of agreements for peaceful nuclear cooperation with foreign countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

S. 289. A bill to extend expiring provisions of the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005, the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, and the FISA Amendments Act of 2008

until December 31, 2013, and for other purposes.

S. 290. A bill to extend the sunset of certain provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act, and for other purposes.

S. 291. A bill to repeal the sunset provisions in the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005 and other related provisions and permanently reauthorize the USA PATRIOT Act.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-417. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64)(Docket No. FEMA-2011-0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-418. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Television Broadcasting Services; Huntsville, AL" (MB Docket No. 08-194, DA 11-27) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-419. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Preserving the Open Internet; Broadband Industry Practices" (FCC 10-201)(GN Docket No. 09-191) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-420. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Sculpins, Sharks, Squid, and Octopus in the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XA156) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-421. A communication from the Attorney, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Passenger Weight and Inspected Vessel Stability Requirements" ((RIN1625-AB20)(Docket No. USCG-2007-0030)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-422. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-651 "Closing and Dedication of Portions of a Public Alley in Square 5260, S.O. 10-13494, Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-423. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-652 "Corrupt Election Practices Amendment Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-424. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report

on D.C. Act 18-653 "Sustainability Energy Utility Amendment Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-425. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-654 "Thelma Jones Way Designation Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-426. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-655 "Closing of Public Streets, Dedication of Land for Street Purposes, and the Elimination of Highway Plan Encumbrances, in and abutting Squares 3655, 3656, and 3657, S.O. 09-10589, Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-427. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-656 "District of Columbia Housing Authority Board of Commissioners Amendment Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-428. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-679 "Prohibition on Government Employee Engagement in Political Activity Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-429. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-680 "Human and Environmental Health Protection Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-430. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-681 "Private Fire Hydrant Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-431. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-682 "Health and Safety 911 Abuse Prevention Amendment Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-432. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-683 "Adams Morgan Main Street Group Clarification Amendment Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-433. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-684 "Transportation Infrastructure Amendment Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-434. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-685 "Returning Citizen Public Employment Inclusion Amendment Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-435. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-686 "Ballpark Fee Clarification Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-436. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report