

Whereas, according to the American Farm Bureau Federation, the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement would increase sales of agricultural products produced in the United States by \$910,000,000 each year;

Whereas, according to the Department of Agriculture, more than half of agricultural products exported from the United States to Colombia will enter Colombia duty-free as soon as the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement enters into force and all remaining tariffs on such products will be phased out over time;

Whereas the United States and Panama, after 10 rounds of negotiations, signed the United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement on December 16, 2006;

Whereas the United States values its long-standing bilateral relationship with Panama;

Whereas the National Assembly of Panama ratified the United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement by a vote of 58 to 4 on July 11, 2007;

Whereas 88 percent of United States commercial and industrial exports will enter Panama duty-free immediately after the United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement enters into force and all remaining tariffs on such exports will be phased out over 10 years;

Whereas more than 60 percent of exports of agricultural products from the United States will enter Panama duty-free immediately after the United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement enters into force and all remaining tariffs on agricultural products will be phased out over 20 years;

Whereas, according to the United States International Trade Commission, the primary effect of the implementation of the United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement will be to increase exports from the United States to Panama because 96 percent of imports from Panama already enter the United States duty-free; and

Whereas concerns about Panama's alleged position as a "tax haven" have been addressed with the November 30, 2010, signing of a United States-Panama Tax Information Exchange Agreement, which permits the competent authorities of the United States and Panama to request information on most taxes to better increase transparency in an attempt to combat illegal financial transactions, including those linked to drug smuggling and money laundering: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate recognizes that the implementation of the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement, the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement, and the United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement will—

(A) create jobs in the United States;

(B) increase export opportunities for businesses and agricultural producers in the United States; and

(C) further develop cross-cultural business relationships between the United States and South Korea, Colombia, and Panama, respectively; and

(2) it is the sense of the Senate that it is in the security, economic, and diplomatic interests of the United States to enhance relationships with South Korea, Colombia, and Panama, respectively, by immediately approving the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement, the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement, and the United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement.

SENATE RESOLUTION 21—TO AMEND THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE TO PROVIDE PROCEDURES FOR EXTENDED DEBATE

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico) submitted the following resolution; which was submitted and read:

S. RES. 21

Resolved,

SECTION 1. EXTENDED DEBATE.

Paragraph 2 of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended—

(1) designating the first 3 undesignated paragraphs as subparagraphs (a), (b), and (d), respectively;

(2) in subparagraph (d), as designated by paragraph (1), by striking "Thereafter" and inserting "If the Senate agrees to bring debate to a close under paragraphs 2 or 3, thereafter"; and

(3) inserting after subparagraph (b), as designated by paragraph (1), the following:

"(c)(1) If the Senate has voted against closing debate on a measure, motion, or other matter under subparagraph (b), but a majority of senators present and voting have voted to bring debate to a close, then the procedures under this subparagraph shall be in order at any time, so long as that measure, motion or other matter has continued as the only pending business subsequent to the vote against closing debate.

"(2) Under the circumstances described in clause (1), it shall be in order for the Majority Leader or his designee to move to bring debate on the pending measure, motion, or other matter to a close on the grounds that no Senator seeks recognition to debate the matter. Immediately after the motion is made and before putting the question thereon, the Presiding Officer shall immediately inquire whether any Senator seeks recognition for the purpose of debating the measure, motion or other matter on which the Senate had previously voted against closing debate under subparagraph (b). If a Senator seeks recognition for that purpose, the Presiding Officer shall announce that the Senate is proceeding under extended debate, and shall recognize a Senator who seeks recognition for debate. After the Presiding Officer's announcement under the preceding sentence the Senate shall continue to proceed under extended debate subject to the conditions provided in clause (3). Notwithstanding rule XIX, Senators may speak more than twice on a question during extended debate.

"(3)(A) If the Senate enters into extended debate under this clause, no dilatory motions, motions to suspend any rule or any part thereof, nor dilatory quorum calls shall be entertained.

"(B) If during extended debate the proceedings described in either subclause (C), (D), or (E) occur and unless the Majority Leader or his designee withdraws the motion made under clause (2), the Senate shall proceed immediately to vote on that motion or to vote at a time designated by the Majority Leader or his designee within the next 4 calendar days of Senate session. When voted on, that motion shall be decided by a majority of Senators chosen and sworn.

"(C) If, at any point during extended debate when no Senator is recognized, no Senator seeks recognition, the Presiding Officer shall renew the inquiry as to whether a Senator seeks recognition and shall recognize a Senator who seeks recognition for the purpose of debate. If no Senator then seeks recognition (or if no Senator sought recognition in response to the Presiding Officer's inquiry under clause (2)), the Senate shall dispose of

the motion of the Majority Leader (or his designee) to bring debate to a close pursuant to clause (2), in the manner specified in subclause (B).

"(D)(i) If, at any point during extended debate, a Senator raises a question of the presence of a quorum, the Presiding Officer shall renew the inquiry as to whether a Senator seeks recognition, and shall recognize a Senator who seeks recognition for debate.

"(ii) If no Senator then seeks recognition for debate—

"(I) the Presiding Officer shall direct the Clerk to call the roll;

"(II) upon the establishment of a quorum, the Senate shall dispose of the motion of the Majority Leader (or his designee) to bring debate to a close pursuant to clause (2) in the manner specified in subclause (B); and

"(III) if the Senate adjourns for lack of a quorum and when the Senate next convenes and the morning hour or any period for morning business is expired or is deemed to be expired, the Senate shall dispose of the motion of the Majority Leader (or his designee) made to bring debate to a close pursuant to clause (2) in the manner specified in subclause (B).

"(E)(i) If, at any point during extended debate, a Senator having been recognized moves to adjourn, recess, postpone the pending matter, or proceed to other business, then unless the motion is made or seconded by the Majority Leader or his designee, the Presiding Officer shall renew the inquiry as to whether a Senator seeks recognition, and shall recognize a Senator who seeks recognition for debate, and said motion shall be considered withdrawn. If no Senator then seeks recognition for debate, then the Presiding Officer shall immediately put the question on the motion offered, unless the vote is delayed as provided in item (ii). If the Senate agrees to a motion to adjourn or recess it shall resume consideration of the pending measure, motion or other matter pending at the time of adjournment or recess when it first takes up business after it next reconvenes, and the Senate shall still be in a period of extended debate. Upon the negative disposition of the motion to adjourn, recess, postpone, or proceed to other business, unless such motion was made by the majority leader or his designee, the Senate shall dispose of the motion of the Majority Leader (or his designee) to bring debate to a close pursuant to clause (2) in the manner specified in subclause (B).

"(F) During a period of extended debate, the Majority Leader or his designee may delay any vote until a designated time within the next 4 calendar days of Senate session, and any votes ordered or occurring thereafter shall likewise be delayed.

"(4) If the motion of the Majority Leader to bring debate to a close pursuant to clause (3)(B) is agreed to by a majority of Senators chosen and sworn, the Presiding Officer shall announce that extended debate is ended and that the measure, motion, or other matter pending before the Senate shall be the unfinished business to the exclusion of all other business until disposed of and further proceedings on the measure, motion or other matter shall occur in accordance with subparagraph (d). If the Majority Leader withdraws the motion to bring debate to a close pursuant to clause (3)(B) or that motion is not agreed to by a majority of Senators chosen and sworn the Presiding Officer shall announce that extended debate is ended.

"(5) If extended debate on a measure, motion or other matter is ended under this subparagraph, other than by agreement to the motion made by the Majority Leader under clause (4), further consideration of the measure, motion or other matter shall occur as otherwise provided by the rules, except that

if the Senate subsequently again votes against closing debate under subparagraph (b), the procedures under this subparagraph shall apply.”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 22—CON-DEMNING THE NEW YEAR’S DAY ATTACK ON THE COPTIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT AND URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT TO FULLY INVESTIGATE AND PROSECUTE THE PERPETRATORS OF THIS HEINOUS ACT

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. KYL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 22

Whereas Coptic Christians are a native Egyptian population and the Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria was founded by the Evangelist Saint Mark the Apostle in approximately 42 A.D. and is the oldest Christian church in Africa;

Whereas Copts in Egypt constitute the largest Christian community in the Middle East and the largest Christian minority group in the region;

Whereas Coptic Christians account for at least 9 percent of Egypt’s population of 80,000,000 and number more than 3,000,000 outside of Egypt, including 1,000,000 in the United States;

Whereas, on New Year’s Day 2011, a suicide bomber targeting Coptic Christians blew himself up in front of the Saint George and Bishop Peter Church in Alexandria, Egypt killing at least 21 people and injuring almost 100 others;

Whereas President Barack Obama and other world leaders have condemned the attack and called for its perpetrators to “be brought to justice for this barbaric and heinous act”;

Whereas the head of Egypt’s Coptic Christian community, Pope Shenouda III, has called on President of Egypt Hosni Mubarak to increase security for the Coptic Christian community and to reach agreements over the building and repairing of churches, including the adoption of a single law applicable to both churches and mosques; and

Whereas the freedom of religion is central to the ability of people to live together and must be upheld by the laws and practices of every democratic nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the New Year’s Day 2011 attack on the Saint George and Bishop Peter Church in Alexandria, Egypt;

(2) expresses its deep condolences to the Coptic Christian community who suffered from this attack and lost their loved ones and to all Egyptians who have suffered from terrorist attacks;

(3) calls on President Hosni Mubarak and the Government of Egypt to continue to fully investigate the bomb attack and to lawfully prosecute the perpetrators of this heinous act;

(4) calls on President Hosni Mubarak and the Government of Egypt to continue to enhance security for the Coptic Christian community and to work to ensure in law and practice religious freedom and equality of treatment for all people in Egypt;

(5) calls on the President to work with the Government of Egypt to identify the perpetrators of the New Year’s Day attack; and

(6) calls on the Secretary of State to address the issues of religious freedom and equality of treatment for all people in Egypt with the Government of Egypt.

SENATE RESOLUTION 23—TO PROHIBIT UNAUTHORIZED EARMARKS

Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 23

Resolved,

SECTION 1. PROHIBITION ON UNAUTHORIZED EARMARKS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—It shall not be in order to consider a bill, joint resolution, conference report, or amendment that provides an earmark.

(b) SUPERMAJORITY.—

(1) WAIVER.—The provisions of subsection (a) may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by the affirmative vote of three-fourths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(2) APPEAL.—Appeals in the Senate from the decisions of the Chair relating to any provision of this section shall be limited to 1 hour, to be equally divided between, and controlled by, the appellant and the manager of the measure. An affirmative vote of three-fourths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under this section.

(c) EARMARK DEFINED.—In this resolution, the term “earmark” means a provision or report language included primarily at the request of a Senator or Member of the House of Representatives providing or recommending a specific amount of discretionary budget authority, credit authority, or other spending authority for a contract, loan, loan guarantee, grant, loan authority, or other expenditure with or to an entity, or targeted to a specific State, locality, or congressional district unless the provision or language—

(1) is specifically authorized by an appropriate congressional authorizing committee of jurisdiction;

(2) meets funding eligibility criteria established by an appropriate congressional authorizing committee of jurisdiction by statute; or

(3) is awarded through a statutory or administrative formula-driven or competitive award process.

SENATE RESOLUTION 24—TO PROPOSE A STANDING ORDER TO GOVERN EXTENDED DEBATE

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico) submitted the following resolution; which was submitted and read:

S. RES. 24

Resolved,

SECTION 1. STANDING ORDER FOR EXTENDED DEBATE.

(a) STANDING ORDER.—This section shall be a standing order of the Senate.

(b) RULES FOR EXTENDED DEBATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If a question to close debate on a measure, motion, or other matter is decided in the negative and a majority of senators present and voting have voted to bring debate to a close, the extended debate procedures under this section shall be in order at any time if that measure, motion or

other matter has continued as the only pending business subsequent to the vote against closing debate.

(2) CLOSING DEBATE.—Under the circumstances described in paragraph (1), it shall be in order for the Majority Leader or his designee to move to bring debate on the pending measure, motion, or other matter to a close on the grounds that no Senator seeks recognition to debate the matter. Immediately after the motion is made and before putting the question thereon, the Presiding Officer shall immediately inquire whether any Senator seeks recognition for the purpose of debating the matter on which the Senate had previously voted against closing debate. If a Senator seeks recognition for that purpose, the Presiding Officer shall announce that the Senate is proceeding under extended debate and shall recognize a Senator who seeks recognition for debate. After the Presiding Officer’s announcement under the preceding sentence the Senate shall continue to proceed under extended debate subject to paragraph (3).

(3) EXTENDED DEBATE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Senate enters into extended debate under this paragraph, no dilatory motions, motions to suspend any rule or any part thereof, nor dilatory quorum calls shall be entertained.

(B) CONDITIONS FOR ENDING DEBATE.—If during extended debate the proceedings described in either subparagraph (C), (D), or (E) occur and unless the Majority Leader or his designee withdraws the motion made under paragraph (2), the Senate shall proceed immediately to vote on that motion or to vote at a time designated by the Majority Leader or his designee within the next four calendar days of Senate session. When voted on, that motion shall be decided by a majority of Senators chosen and sworn.

(C) DEBATE ENDS.—If, at any point during extended debate when no Senator is recognized, no Senator seeks recognition, the Presiding Officer shall renew the inquiry as to whether a Senator seeks recognition and shall recognize a Senator who seeks recognition for the purpose of debate. If no Senator then seeks recognition (or if no Senator sought recognition in response to the Presiding Officer’s inquiry under paragraph (2), the Senate shall dispose of the motion of the Majority Leader (or his designee) to bring debate to a close pursuant to paragraph (2), in the manner specified in subparagraph (B).

(D) QUORUM CALLS.—

(i) QUESTION.—If, at any point during extended debate, a Senator having been recognized raises a question of the presence of a quorum, the Presiding Officer shall renew the inquiry as to whether a Senator seeks recognition, and shall recognize a Senator who seeks recognition for debate.

(ii) DISPOSITION.—If no Senator then seeks recognition for debate under clause (i)—

(I) the Presiding Officer shall direct the Clerk to call the roll;

(II) upon the establishment of a quorum, the Senate shall dispose of the motion of the Majority Leader (or his designee) to bring debate to a close pursuant to paragraph (2) in the manner specified in subparagraph (B); and

(III) if the Senate adjourns for lack of a quorum, then when the Senate next convenes and the morning hour or any period for morning business is expired or is deemed to be expired, the Senate shall dispose of the motion of the Majority Leader (or his designee) made to bring debate to a close pursuant to paragraph (2) in the manner specified in subparagraph (B).

(E) MOTIONS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If at any point during extended debate a Senator having been recognized moves to adjourn, recess, postpone the