

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 24, 2011, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled, "Stimulus Contractors Who Cheat on Their Taxes: What Happened?"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 24, 2011, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIRLAND

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Airland of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 24, 2011, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION OPERATIONS,
SAFETY, AND SECURITY

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 24, 2011, at 2:30 p.m. in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The Committee will hold a hearing entitled, "Air Traffic Control Safety Oversight."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME AND TERRORISM

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on May 24, 2011, at 9 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Responding to the Prescription Drug Epidemic: Strategies for Reducing Abuse, Misuse, Diversion, and Fraud."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS
WEEK

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 197 submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 197) honoring the entrepreneurial spirit of small business con-

cerns in the United States during National Small Business Week, which begins on May 15, 2011.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I do not believe small businesses need government assistance to exist. In fact, I believe the best thing our government can do is to shrink the size and cost of the Federal Government. With less government, minimal Federal regulation, and lower taxes, businesses—regardless of size, industry, and location—will innovate in meeting American consumer demands and achieve phenomenal growth.

Instead of encouraging dependence on the Federal Government, I believe politicians should seek to find ways to free businesses to thrive independently. Additionally, with a national debt of almost \$14.3 trillion, Congress should start considering ways to enable sustainable economic growth instead of authorizing or increasing more Federal subsidy programs that more often than not have limited or questionable benefits.

As a former small and large business owner, I know the struggles small businesses face because of unnecessary government regulations and taxes. In fact, the Federal Government's interference in my ability to practice medicine prompted me to first seek office. Small businesses are invaluable to the economic health of our great country and embody the American dream.

While I join the Senate and the President in recognizing the contributions of small businesses all over the country, I would like to join Senator PAUL in opposing a resolution passed by the Senate today that lauds big government and the use of taxpayer dollars to subsidize certain small businesses.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I was a small businessman before I was elected to the Senate. I know well the struggles small businesses face because of government regulations and taxes. I also know that small businesses are a key driver of economic growth and employment. That is why I join the Senate and the President in recognizing the contributions of small businesses all over the country during National Small Business Week.

Unfortunately, this resolution goes a step beyond recognizing the hard-working entrepreneurs who are our small businessmen and businesswomen. The resolution also praises big government and using taxpayer dollars to subsidize small businesses. I do not believe small businesses need government assistance to exist. I do not believe we need an entire agency of the Federal Government to encourage entrepreneurs. Quite the opposite—I believe that with less government, businesses of all sizes will be created, existing businesses will grow, and the American spirit will thrive. That is why I voted against this resolution.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is my understanding we are ready to act on this resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 197) was agreed to.

Mr. DURBIN. I now ask that we act on the preamble.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is on agreeing to the preamble.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 197

Whereas the approximately 27,200,000 small business concerns in the United States are the driving force behind the Nation's economy, creating 2 out of every 3 new jobs and generating more than 50 percent of the Nation's non-farm gross domestic product;

Whereas small businesses are the driving force behind the economic recovery of the United States;

Whereas small businesses represent 99.7 percent of employer firms in the United States;

Whereas small business concerns are the Nation's innovators, serving to advance technology and productivity;

Whereas small business concerns represent 97.6 percent of all exporters and produce 32.8 percent of exported goods;

Whereas Congress established the Small Business Administration in 1953 to aid, counsel, assist, and protect the interests of small business concerns in order to preserve free and competitive enterprise, to ensure that a fair proportion of the total Federal Government purchases, contracts, and subcontracts for property and services are placed with small business concerns, to ensure that a fair proportion of the total sales of government property are made to such small business concerns, and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of the United States;

Whereas every year since 1963, the President has designated a "National Small Business Week" to recognize the contributions of small businesses to the economic well-being of the United States;

Whereas in 2011, National Small Business Week will honor the estimated 27,200,000 small businesses in the United States;

Whereas the Small Business Administration has helped small business concerns by providing access to critical lending opportunities, protecting small business concerns from excessive Federal regulatory enforcement, helping to ensure full and open competition for government contracts, and improving the economic environment in which small business concerns compete;

Whereas for more than 50 years, the Small Business Administration has helped millions of entrepreneurs achieve the American dream of owning a small business concern, and has played a key role in fostering economic growth; and

Whereas the President has designated the week beginning May 15, 2011, as "National Small Business Week": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the entrepreneurial spirit of small business concerns in the United States during National Small Business Week, which begins on May 15, 2011;

(2) applauds the efforts and achievements of the owners and employees of small business concerns, whose hard work and commitment to excellence have made such small business concerns a key part of the economic vitality of the United States;

(3) recognizes the work of the Small Business Administration and its resource partners in providing assistance to entrepreneurs and small business concerns; and

(4) recognizes the importance of ensuring that—

(A) guaranteed loans, including microloans and microloan technical assistance, for start-up and growing small business concerns, and venture capital, are made available to all qualified small business concerns;

(B) the management assistance programs delivered by resource partners on behalf of the Small Business Administration, such as Small Business Development Centers, Women's Business Centers, and the Service Corps of Retired Executives, are provided with the Federal resources necessary to provide invaluable counseling services to entrepreneurs in the United States;

(C) the Small Business Administration continues to provide timely and efficient disaster assistance so that small businesses in areas struck by natural or manmade disasters can quickly return to business to keep local economies alive in the aftermath of such disasters;

(D) affordable broadband Internet access is available to all people in the United States, particularly people in rural and underserved communities, so that small businesses can use the Internet to make their operations more globally competitive while boosting local economies;

(E) regulatory relief is provided to small businesses through the reduction of duplicative or unnecessary regulatory requirements that increase costs for small businesses; and

(F) leveling the playing field for contracting opportunities remains a primary focus, so that small businesses, particularly minority-owned small businesses, can compete for and win more of the \$400,000,000,000 in contracts that the Federal Government enters into each year for goods and services.

CONGRATULATING THE ALASKA ACES HOCKEY TEAM

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Senate resolution 198 submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 198) congratulating the Alaska Aces hockey team on winning the 2011 Kelly Cup and becoming East Coast Hockey League champions for the second time in team history.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 198) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 198

Whereas on Saturday, May 21, 2011, the Alaska Aces won the second Kelly Cup championship in the history of the team with a 5-3 victory over the Kalamazoo Wings;

Whereas the Alaska Aces lost only 1 game throughout the entire 2011 Kelly Cup playoffs;

Whereas the Alaska Aces finished the regular season by winning an impressive 35 of the final 41 games;

Whereas the Alaska Aces won the Brabham Cup with the best record in the East Coast Hockey League regular season;

Whereas head coach Brent Thompson led the Alaska Aces to the Kelly Cup championship in only his second year as head coach and received the John Brophy award as the East Coast Hockey League's Coach of the Year;

Whereas Alaska Aces Captain Scott Burt became the first player in East Coast Hockey League history to win 3 Kelly Cups;

Whereas Alaska Aces forward Scott Howes was named the Most Valuable Player of the Kelly Cup playoffs with 7 goals and 19 points earned during the postseason;

Whereas Alaska Aces forward Wes Goldie was named Most Valuable Player for the 2010-2011 East Coast Hockey League regular season with 83 points;

Whereas Alaska Aces goaltender Gerald Coleman backstopped the Alaska Aces with a record of 11 wins and 1 loss during the Kelly Cup playoffs and was selected as the East Coast Hockey League's Goaltender of the Year;

Whereas the Alaska Aces benefitted from the veteran leadership of center and native Alaskan Brian Swanson;

Whereas the hard work and dedication of the entire team lead the Alaska Aces to victory;

Whereas the East Coast Hockey League has developed some of the greatest hockey players who have later enjoyed successful careers in the National Hockey League and the American Hockey League; and

Whereas Alaskans everywhere are proud of the accomplishments of the Alaska Aces in the 2011 season: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates each member and the coaching staff of the Alaska Aces hockey team on an impressive championship season;

(2) recognizes the achievements of the East Coast Hockey League on another fine season of developing players and promoting ice hockey in North America; and

(3) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the Alaska Aces ownership;

(B) the Commissioner of the East Coast Hockey League, Brian McKenna; and

(C) the Commissioner Emeritus of the East Coast Hockey League, Patrick J. Kelly.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 1057

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1057) to repeal the Volumetric Ethanol Excise Tax Credit.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading and, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2011

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, May 25; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate proceed to a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half; and that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to concur in the House message to accompany S. 990, the legislative vehicle for the PATRIOT Act extension.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the majority leader filed cloture on the motion to concur in the House message to accompany S. 990, the legislative vehicle for the PATRIOT Act extension. Under the rule, a cloture vote on the motion to concur in the House message will occur 1 hour after the Senate convenes on Thursday, May 26.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:50 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, May 25, 2011, at 10 a.m.