

Thank you for your support of small business and we urge you to cosponsor the Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2011, H.R. 527.

Sincerely,

Alabama Restaurant Association; American Architectural Manufacturers Association; American Beverage Association; American Coatings Association; American Composites Manufacturers Association; American Council of Engineering Companies; American Farm Bureau Federation; American Fiber Manufacturers Association; American Foundry Society; American Home Furnishings Alliance; American Hotel & Lodging Association; American Institute for International Steel; American Nursery and Landscape Association; American Sportfishing Association; American Trucking Associations; AR State Chamber of Commerce/Associated Industries of AR; Arizona Nursery Association; Arkansas Hospitality Association; Associated Builders & Contractors, Inc.; Associated General Contractors of America; Associated Industries of Massachusetts; Association For Hose and Accessories Distribution; Association of Washington Business Brick Industry Association; Business Council of Alabama; Business Council of New York State; California Manufacturers & Technology Association; California Restaurant Association; Carpet and Rug Institute; Colorado Association of Commerce & Industry; Colorado Restaurant Association; Connecticut Restaurant Association; Edison Electric Institute; European-American Business Council; Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association; Food Marketing Institute; Forging Industry Association; Georgia Restaurant Association; Golf Course Superintendents Association of America; Greeting Card Association; Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association; Idaho Lodging & Restaurant Association; Idaho Retailers Association; Illinois Manufacturers' Association; Illinois Retail Merchants Association; Independent Electrical Contractors, Inc.; Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association; Indiana Chamber of Commerce; Indiana Hotel & Lodging Association; Indiana Manufacturers Association; Industrial Fasteners Institute; Industrial Minerals Association—North America; Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute; International Council of Shopping Centers; International Sign Association; Iowa Restaurant Association; IPC—Association Connecting Electronics Industries; Kansas Restaurant & Hospitality Association; Kentucky Restaurant Association; Kentucky Retail Federation; Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association; Louisiana Association of Business and Industry; Louisiana Restaurant Association; Louisiana Retailers Association; Maine Merchants Association; Maine Restaurant Association; Manufacturers Association of Florida; Maryland Retailers Association; Maryland Retailers Association; Massachusetts Restaurant Association; Michigan Restaurant Association; Minnesota Restaurant Association; Minnesota Retailers Association; Mississippi Hospitality and Restaurant Association; Missouri Association of Manufacturers; Montana Chamber of Commerce; Montana Restaurant Association; Montana Retail Association; Motor and Equipment Manufacturers Association; National Association for the Self-Employed; National Association of Convenience Stores; National Association of Home Builders; National Association of Manufacturers; National Association of REALTORS; National Association of the Remodeling Industry; National Automatic Merchandising Association; National Black Chamber of Commerce; National Club Association; National Community Pharmacists Association; National Council of Chain Restaurants; National Federation of Independent Business; National

Grocers Association; National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association; National Marine Manufacturers Association; National On-site Testing Associates; National Restaurant Association; National Retail Federation; National Roofing Contractors Association; National Shooting Sports Foundation; Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry; Nevada Manufacturers Association; Nevada Restaurant Association; New Mexico Restaurant Association; Non-Ferrous Founders' Society; North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers; North American Die Casting Association; North Dakota Hospitality Association; Northeast Pennsylvania Manufacturers and Employers Association; NPES The Association for Suppliers of Printing, Publishing and Converting Technologies; Ohio Restaurant Association; Oklahoma Restaurant Association; Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association; Pennsylvania Manufacturers' Association; Pennsylvania Restaurant Association; Pennsylvania Retailers Association; Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors—National Association; Precision Machined Products Association; Printing Industries of America; Puerto Rico Manufacturers Association; Resilient Floor Covering Institute; Restaurant Association of Maryland; Retailers Association of Massachusetts; Rhode Island Hospitality Association; Security Industry Association; Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council; Snack Food Association; Society of American Florists; Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates; Society of Glass & Ceramic Decorators Products; South Carolina Hospitality Association; South Dakota Retailers Association; Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association; Specialty Equipment Market Association; SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association; Tennessee Hospitality Association; Texas Association of Business; Texas Restaurant Association; Textile Care Allied Trades Association; The Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce; Treated Wood Council; Tree Care Industry Association; U.S. Chamber of Commerce; U.S. Travel Association; Utah Food Industry Association; Utah Manufacturers Association; Utah Restaurant Association; Utah Retail Merchants Association; Ventura County Agricultural Association; Virginia Hospitality & Travel Association; Washington Restaurant Association; Washington Retail Association; West Virginia Manufacturers Association; Window & Door Manufacturers Association; Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce; Wisconsin Restaurant Association; Wood Machinery Manufacturers of America; Wyoming Lodging and Restaurant Association.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 342—HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LAURA POLLÁN

Mr. RUBIO submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 342

Whereas Laura Pollán founded the Ladies in White (Damas de Blanco) movement to protest the mass arrest of peaceful dissidents in Cuba;

Whereas the Ladies in White is composed of wives and female relatives of imprisoned political prisoners, prisoners of conscience, and peaceful dissidents in Cuba;

Whereas every Sunday, Laura Pollán led the Ladies in White on peaceful marches to attend Mass;

Whereas Laura Pollán was often subjected to physical and verbal assaults during her weekly peaceful marches;

Whereas Laura Pollán brought international attention to the human- and civil-rights abuses in Cuba; and

Whereas Laura Pollán passed away on October 14, 2011: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and honors Laura Pollán for her peaceful struggle to bring human rights and democracy to Cuba;

(2) honors the bravery of Laura Pollán and her dedication to human and civil rights in Cuba;

(3) offers heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and loved ones of Laura Pollán; and

(4) expresses hope that in memory of Laura Pollán, peaceful dissidents in Cuba will no longer be incarcerated or subjected to human-rights abuses.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 33—REORGANIZING THE NEED TO IMPROVE PHYSICAL ACCESS TO MANY FEDERALLY FUNDED FACILITIES FOR ALL PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, PARTICULARLY PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. CON RES. 33

Whereas in 2009, 12 percent of all people in the United States reported having some disability;

Whereas in 2008, 16.9 percent of veterans, amounting to more than 13,000,000 people, reported having a service-related disability to the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Whereas according to the Current Population Survey of the Bureau of the Census, the number of people in the United States that report having a disability is at a 20-year high;

Whereas the Act entitled “An Act to insure that certain buildings financed with Federal funds are so designed and constructed as to be accessible to the physically handicapped”, approved August 12, 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.), referred to in this preamble as the “Architectural Barriers Act of 1968”, was enacted to ensure that certain federally funded facilities are designed and constructed to be accessible to people with disabilities and requires that physically handicapped persons have ready access to, and use of, post offices and other Federal facilities;

Whereas automatic doors, though not mandated by either the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 or the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), provide a greater degree of self-sufficiency and dignity for people with disabilities, and the elderly, who may have limited strength to open a manual door;

Whereas a report commissioned by the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (referred to in this preamble as the “Access Board”), an independent Federal agency created to ensure access to federally funded facilities for people with disabilities, recommends that all new buildings used by the public should have at least 1 automated door at an accessible entrance, except for small buildings where adding such a door may be a financial hardship for the building owners;

Whereas States and municipalities have begun to recognize the importance of automatic doors in improving accessibility;

Whereas the laws of the State of Connecticut require automatic doors in certain shopping malls and retail businesses, the laws of the State of Delaware require an automatic door or calling device for newly constructed places of accommodation, and the laws of the District of Columbia have a similar requirement;

Whereas the Facilities Standards for the Public Buildings Service published by the General Services Administration requires automation of at least 1 exterior door for all newly constructed or renovated facilities managed by the General Services Administration, including post offices;

Whereas from 2006 to 2011, 71 percent of the complaints received by the Access Board regarding the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 concerned a post office or other facility of the United States Postal Service;

Whereas the United States Postal Service employs approximately 596,000 people, making it the second-largest civilian employer in the United States;

Whereas approximately 7,000,000 people per day visit 1 of the more than 36,400 post offices in the United States; and

Whereas the United States was founded on principles of equality and freedom, and these principles require that all people, even those people with disabilities, are able to engage as equal members of society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the immense hardships that people with disabilities in the United States must overcome every day;

(2) reaffirms its support of the Act entitled “An Act to insure that certain buildings financed with Federal funds are so designed and constructed as to be accessible to the physically handicapped”, approved August 12, 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.), commonly known as the “Architectural Barriers Act of 1968” and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), and encourages full compliance with such Acts;

(3) recommends that the United States Postal Service and Federal agencies install power-assisted doors at post offices and other federally funded facilities, as applicable, to ensure equal access for all people of the United States; and

(4) pledges to continue to work to identify and remove the barriers that prevent all people of the United States from having equal access to the services provided by the Federal Government.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1455. Mr. BROWN, of Ohio submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2354, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1456. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. DURBIN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1867, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 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.

SA 1457. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2354, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1455. Mr. BROWN of Ohio submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2354, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 47, line 13, strike “\$237,623,000” and insert “\$227,247,000”.

On page 66, line 13, strike “\$58,024,000” and insert “\$68,400,000”.

SA 1456. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. LEVIN and Mr. DURBIN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1867, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 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; as follows:

On p. 360, between lines 21 and 22, insert the following:

(e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect existing law or authorities, relating to the detention of United States citizens, lawful resident aliens of the United States or any other persons who are captured or arrested in the United States.

SA 1457. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2354, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, add the following:

SEC. ____ . ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF SCHEDULE FOR DISPOSITION OF WEAPONS-USABLE PLUTONIUM AT SAVANNAH RIVER SITE.

Section 4306 of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2566) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “2012” each place it appears and inserting “2013”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “2019” and inserting “2020”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (C), by striking “2012” and inserting “2013”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking “2017” and inserting “2018”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “2012” each place it appears and inserting “2013”; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “2012” and inserting “2013”; and

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking “2014” and inserting “2015”; and

(C) in paragraph (2), by striking “2020” each place it appears and inserting “2021”; and

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “2014” and inserting “2015”; and

(ii) by striking “2019” and inserting “2020”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “2020” each place it appears and inserting “2021”; and

(5) in subsection (e), by striking “2023” and inserting “2024”.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet in open session on Thursday, December 8, 2011, at 9:45 a.m. in SD-106 to conduct a hearing entitled “Tales from the Unemployment Line: Barriers Facing the Long-Term Unemployed.”

For further information regarding this hearing, please contact the committee staff on (202) 224-5441.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Thursday, December 8, 2011, at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this hearing is to consider the nomination of Arunava Majumdar, to be Under Secretary of Energy.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to allison_seyferth@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Sam Fowler at (202) 224-7571 or Allison Seyferth at (202) 224-4905.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 1, 2011 at 10 a.m. in SD-106.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 1, 2011, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Spurring Job Growth Through Capital Formation While Protecting Investors.”

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 1, 2011, at 10 a.m.,