

through 498. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcalls 489, 490, 494, 495, 497 and 498. I would have voted “nay” on rollcalls 487, 488, 491, 492, 493 and 496.

CONGRATULATING DIAMOND
DIXON

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2012

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Diamond Dixon who will be representing our nation as a member of the Olympic track and field team in London this year. She will compete, as one of our nation's best athletes, in the 4x400m relay. This young woman is not only an amazing competitor, but serves as an inspiration to a generation of young athletes throughout the nation.

Diamond was born El Paso, Texas, the district that I represent, and grew up in Houston. She is currently a student athlete at the University of Kansas and a member of the track and field team.

Running was Diamond's way to escape, the place she could go to forget about her problems and clear her mind. By her junior year at Westside High School in Houston, she had already begun to showcase her athletic talent. On a recruiting trip to see one of Westside High School's male stars, University of Kansas coach Stanley Redwine was very impressed with Dixon's performance at the meet, noting that “her determination and will to win is just unbelievable.”

After racing 21 times during her sophomore collegiate season, Dixon turned in a solid performance on tired legs at the Olympic Trials. She finished third in her opening round and semifinal round heats of the 400m before running a personal-best 50.88, finishing fifth in the final. With the top four finishers automatically in the relay pool, Dixon's efforts impressed Coach Amy Deem enough to earn one of her discretionary selections.

The Olympic Games this summer will be her first call-up to the senior national team. Dixon's strong international relay experience on the junior level Team USA will prove to be a valuable asset to her teammates racing with her in London. In 2010, she led off the U.S. 4x400m that won gold in 3:31.20 at the World Junior Championships in Moncton, Canada. Last summer, she anchored the U.S. to victory in 3:34.71 at the Pan American Junior Championships in Miramar, Florida. In July, Dixon anchored the U.S. to victory in 3:28.64 at the North American, Central American and Caribbean Championships in Irapuato, Mexico.

I am extremely proud of Ms. Diamond Dixon and wish her the best competing in the Summer Olympics. Ms. Dixon's story is the embodiment of the American dream, her motivation

and success were derived from her drive to become the best. This reminds us all that with hard work and spirit, we can accomplish great things.

VOTER PROTECTION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there is an unprecedented effort by the GOP to deprive millions of Americans of their right to vote. Proponents of these efforts to suppress the electorate continue to grossly exaggerate the threat of voter fraud, in hopes of excluding select groups of eligible voters from the polls, and thus swaying the election in their favor.

In 2002, President Bush launched an aggressive 5-year campaign to crack down on voter fraud. The end result was a mere 86 convictions out of the 122 million people who voted during the 2004 Presidential election. There is no evidence to suggest that these facts have changed, and certainly not to the degree in which it is being touted by the Republicans. It is clear that the only reason why overly burdensome voter laws are being adopted is to exclude the elderly, our youth, minorities, and the poor from casting their ballots.

Nationally, an estimated 21 million American citizens do not possess a government-issued photo ID. Under these restrictive laws, that is potentially 21 million Americans who will be excluded from the democratic process. In states like Texas, where millions of individuals live in rural areas and without easy access to ID-issuing offices, the costs are even higher. Millions more stand to be excluded, as voter suppression continues far beyond requiring specific forms of identification.

Mr. Speaker, we must prevent these regressive policies from becoming law if we are to preserve the integrity of the electoral process for all Americans. Fourteen states have already passed restrictive voting laws. This deceptive practice has already gone too far, and I refuse to allow history to repeat itself in what is a direct attack on our democracy, and the American people.

NATIONAL STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL MINERALS PROTECTION ACT, H.R. 4402

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2012

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4402, the National

Strategic and Critical Minerals Protection Act. This bill is yet another Republican giveaway to the mining industry.

H.R. 4402 elevates the narrow special interest of the mining industry above the interests of the American public. For example, this bill gives mining on public lands priority over all other uses—replacing current law that requires public lands to be managed for multiple uses. The White House warns this provision “has the potential to threaten hunting, fishing, recreation and other activities which create jobs and sustain local economies across the country.”

Moreover, H.R. 4402 exempts hardrock mining operations from key provisions of the nation's most important environmental laws, including the Clean Water Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. These weakened environmental safeguards would govern mining operations in every region because H.R. 4402 deceptively defines “strategic and critical minerals” so broadly as to include sand and gravel. This means families and businesses all across the country would have less ability to resist new mining operations that threaten to pollute their community's air and water.

Congressman CHIP CRAVAACK, my Minnesota colleague, offered an amendment to H.R. 4402 that would apply these weakened permitting and environmental review provisions to mining proposals that are already in the approval process. This amendment would allow massive sulfide-mining proposals in Northern Minnesota to escape necessary public scrutiny and thorough environmental analysis. The foreign-owned mining corporations advancing these proposals are motivated by short-term profit, not the long-term risks to the people and land of our state. Sulfide mining has never occurred in our state before but has produced a devastating legacy of toxic pollution elsewhere in the country. Minnesotans need and deserve strong federal safeguards to protect the health of our families and communities. The Cravaack amendment to fast-track sulfide mining in Minnesota threatens the environmental integrity of our state's greatest natural treasures, including the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, Lake Superior and the Mississippi River.

I ask my colleagues to join me in opposing H.R. 4402 in order to safeguard the health of America's children, families, and communities.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, July 24, 2012 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 25

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the International Space Station, focusing on research, collaboration, and discovery.

SR-253

Appropriations

Energy and Water Development Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the proper size of the nuclear weapons stockpile to maintain a credible U.S. deterrent.

SD-192

Environment and Public Works

Business meeting to consider S. 847, to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to ensure that risks from chemicals are adequately understood and managed, S. 357, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to identify and declare wildlife disease emergencies and to coordinate rapid response to those emergencies, S. 810, to prohibit the conducting of invasive research on great apes, S. 1494, to reauthorize and amend the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act, S. 2071, to grant the Secretary of the Interior permanent authority to authorize States to issue electronic duck stamps, S. 2156, to amend the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act to permit the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, to set prices for Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps and make limited waivers of stamp requirements for certain users, S. 2282, to extend the authorization of appropriations to carry out approved wetlands conservation projects under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act through fiscal year 2017, S. 3370, to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to the Amy Biehl High School Foundation, S. 2251, to designate the United States courthouse located at 709 West 9th Street, Juneau, Alaska, as the Robert Bochever United States Courthouse, S. 2326, to designate the new United States courthouse in Buffalo,

New York, as the "Robert H. Jackson United States Courthouse", S. 1735, to approve the transfer of Yellow Creek Port properties in Iuka, Mississippi, the nomination of Major General John Peabody, United States Army, to be a Member and President of the Mississippi River Commission, proposed resolutions relating to the General Services Administration, and proposed resolutions in the Corps Study, city of Norfolk, Virginia and Port Fourchon, Louisiana.

SD-406

Finance

To hold hearings to examine education tax incentives and tax reform.

SD-215

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine ensuring judicial independence through civics education.

SH-216

Appropriations

Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the impact of sequestration on education.

SD-124

Foreign Relations

Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Iran's support for terrorism in the Middle East.

SD-419

2 p.m.

Aging

To hold hearings to examine enhancing women's retirement security.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine short-supply prescription drugs.

SR-253

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine assessing grants management practices at Federal agencies.

SD-342

Energy and Natural Resources

Water and Power Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the role of water use efficiency and its impact on energy use.

SD-366

3 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine S. 2215, to create jobs in the United States by increasing United States exports to Africa by at least 200 percent in real dollar value within 10 years, focusing on economic statecraft.

SD-419

JULY 26

9:30 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine S. 3239, to provide for a uniform national standard for the housing and treatment of egg-laying hens.

SR-328A

Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 13, 2006, and Signed by the United

States of America on June 30, 2009 (Treaty Doc 112-7).

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Financial Stability Oversight Council's annual report to Congress.

SD-538

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Children and Families Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) reauthorization, focusing on helping to meet the child care needs of American families.

SD-430

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 225, to permit the disclosure of certain information for the purpose of missing child investigations, S. J.Res. 44, granting the consent of Congress to the State and Province Emergency Management Assistance Memorandum of Understanding, and the nominations of Thomas M. Durkin, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, and Jon S. Tigar, and William H. Orrick, III, of the District of Columbia, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

SD-226

1 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of William Joseph Baer, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice.

SD-226

2:15 p.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the regulation of tribal gaming, focusing on brick and mortar to the internet.

SD-628

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

JULY 31

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 3385, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to use designated funding to pay for construction of authorized rural water projects.

SD-366

AUGUST 1

9 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine MF Global, focusing on accountability in the futures markets.

SR-328A

POSTPONEMENTS

JULY 26

9:30 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Investigations Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine assessing overlap between disability and unemployment benefits.

SD-342