

SNOWE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. KOHL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. CONRAD, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. ENZI):

S. Res. 386. A resolution calling for free and fair elections in Iran, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. LEVIN):

S. Res. 387. A resolution celebrating Black History Month; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. KERRY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. Res. 388. A resolution commemorating the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 and "The Star Spangled Banner"; and recognizing the historical significance, heroic human endeavor, and sacrifice of the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Revenue Marine Service, and State militias, during the War of 1812; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. ALEXANDER):

S. Con. Res. 35. A concurrent resolution to establish the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies for the inauguration of the President-elect and Vice President-elect of the United States on January 21, 2013; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. ALEXANDER):

S. Con. Res. 36. A concurrent resolution to authorize the use of the rotunda and Emancipation Hall of the Capitol by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies in connection with the proceedings and ceremonies conducted for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 491

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 491, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize the service in the reserve components of the Armed Forces of certain persons by honoring them with status as veterans under law, and for other purposes.

S. 593

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 593, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the tax rate for excise tax on investment income of private foundations.

S. 1086

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1086, a bill to reauthorize the Special Olympics Sport and

Empowerment Act of 2004, to provide assistance to Best Buddies to support the expansion and development of mentoring programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1167

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1167, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the diagnosis and treatment of hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia, and for other purposes.

S. 1544

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1544, a bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to exempt a certain class of securities from such Act.

S. 1616

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1616, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain stock of real estate investment trusts from the tax on foreign investments in United States real property interests, and for other purposes.

S. 1886

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1886, a bill to prevent trafficking in counterfeit drugs.

S. 1930

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1930, a bill to prohibit earmarks.

S. 1935

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1935, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the March of Dimes Foundation.

S. 1980

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1980, a bill to prevent, deter, and eliminate illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing through port State measures.

S. 2032

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2032, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 regarding proprietary institutions of higher education in order to protect students and taxpayers.

S. 2036

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) were

added as cosponsors of S. 2036, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

S. 2057

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2057, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists to supervise cardiac, intensive cardiac, and pulmonary rehabilitation programs.

S. 2100

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2100, a bill to suspend sales of petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve until certain conditions are met.

S. 2103

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2103, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect pain-capable unborn children in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

S. 2118

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2118, a bill to remove unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats from seniors' personal health decisions by repealing the Independent Payment Advisory Board.

S. 2139

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2139, a bill to enhance security, increase accountability, and improve the contracting of the Federal Government for overseas contingency operations, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1538

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1538 intended to be proposed to S. 1813, a bill to reauthorize Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1617

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1617 intended to be proposed to S. 1813, a bill to reauthorize Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1671

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the

Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1671 intended to be proposed to S. 1813, a bill to reauthorize Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1702

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1702 intended to be proposed to S. 1813, a bill to reauthorize Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1743

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1743 intended to be proposed to S. 1813, a bill to reauthorize Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. KERRY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico):

S. 2146. A bill to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to create a market-oriented standard for clean electric energy generation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, let me take a few minutes to describe this legislation for my colleagues and, hopefully, urge them to seriously consider the legislation. It is introduced by me with several cosponsors: Senator WYDEN, Senator SANDERS, Senator MARK UDALL of Colorado, Senator FRANKEN, Senator COONS, Senator KERRY, Senator WHITEHOUSE, and Senator TOM UDALL from my home State of New Mexico. All of those individuals strongly support what we are trying to do in this legislation.

I particularly want to thank the staff of the Senate Energy Committee for the hard work they put into developing this proposal, and particularly Kevin Rennert, who worked very hard on this proposal and got a lot of very useful input from many sectors and many individuals.

This is a simple plan to modernize the power sector and guide it toward a future in which more and more of our electricity is generated with cleaner and cleaner energy. The purpose of the legislation is to make sure that, as we continue to grow and power our economy, we leverage the clean resources we have available today and also pro-

vide a continuing incentive to develop the cheaper, cleaner technologies that will be needed in the future.

We want to make sure we drive continued diversity in our energy sources and allow every region of the country to deploy clean energy using the appropriate resources for that region. We want to make sure we do all of this in a way that supports homegrown innovation and manufacturing and that keeps us competitive in the global clean energy economy. The plan we are putting forward with this legislation would implement a clean energy standard, or CES for short.

Let me describe how it works. Starting in 2015, the largest utilities in the country would meet the clean energy standard by showing that a certain percentage of the electricity they sell is produced from clean energy sources. The initial percentage for 2015 is within the capabilities of those utilities today, and each year after 2015 they would be required to sell a little bit more of their electricity from clean sources. They can do so either by making incremental adjustments to their own energy mix to become cleaner and more efficient or by purchasing clean energy from those who provide it at the lowest cost or by purchasing credits on an open and transparent market.

To be considered clean, a generator must either be a zero carbon source of energy, such as, renewables and nuclear power, or a generator must have a lower carbon intensity than a modern, efficient coal plant. By carbon intensity, I mean the amount of carbon dioxide emitted per megawatt hour of electricity generated. Generators with low or no carbon intensity receive credits based on that criterion.

For example, renewables will receive a full credit per megawatt hour. Most natural gas generators would qualify for something around a half credit, and the more efficient natural gas generators would be incentivized compared to less efficient generators. A coal powerplant would receive some credits if it lowered its carbon intensity by installing carbon-capture technologies, by co-firing with renewable biomass.

Accounting for clean in this way means the cleanest resources have the greatest incentive. Also, it means every generator has a continuing incentive to become even more efficient. As the standard increases over time, the generation fleet will transition naturally toward cleaner and cleaner sources to meet it. The clean energy standard sets an overall goal for clean energy, but the optimal and the cheapest set of technologies to use will be determined by the free market. The rate of transition is predictable and it is achievable and the rules of the road are transparent and they are clear.

In addition to driving cleaner electricity generation in the power sector, the clean energy standard also rewards industrial efficiency. Combined heat and power units generate electricity while also capturing and using the heat

for other purposes, and these units are treated as clean generators under this proposal for the clean energy standard. This will help to deploy this kind of efficiency throughout our country and will provide another source of inexpensive clean energy.

Let me also describe what this proposal does not do. The clean energy standard does not put a limit on overall emissions. It does not limit the growth of electricity generation to meet the demands of a growing economy. All that the clean energy standard requires is that the generation we do use in future years and that we add to our fleet gradually becomes cleaner over time.

The clean energy standard does not cost the government anything, and it does not raise money for the government to use either. If any money does come to the Treasury as a result of the program because of refusal to participate or to comply, that money would go directly back to the particular State from which it came to fund energy-efficiency programs.

Finally, the clean energy standard will not hurt the economy. This past fall I asked the Energy Information Administration to analyze a number of clean energy standard policy options. The results of their study showed a properly designed clean energy standard would have almost zero impact on gross domestic product growth and little or no impact on nationally averaged electricity rates for the first decade of the program. The Energy Information Administration analysis did show that a clean energy standard would result in a substantial deployment of new clean energy and carbon reductions between 20 percent and 40 percent in the power sector by 2035, which is the timeframe provided for in the proposal.

I have asked the Energy Information Administration to update their modeling to reflect this final proposal that we are introducing today, and when they have completed that analysis in the next few weeks I plan to hold hearings on the proposal to further explore the benefits and effects of the clean energy standard in the Energy Committee.

The goal of the clean energy standard is ambitious. It is a doubling of clean energy production in this country by 2035. But analysis has shown that the goal is achievable and affordable. Meeting the clean energy standard will yield substantial benefits to our health and to our economy and to our global competitiveness, and, of course, to our environment.

The bill we are introducing today is simple. It sets a national goal for clean energy. It establishes a transparent framework that lets resources compete to achieve that goal based on how clean they are, and then it gets out of the way and lets the market and American ingenuity determine the best path forward.

I think this is a very well thought out proposal and one that deserves the