

not with more government spending, but enabling the private investment to go forward by taking the bureaucratic delays out of the way, by reducing the regulatory burden, by green-lighting projects like Keystone XL, which has been under study for more than 3 years.

Back to one of these earlier charts. In my home State of North Dakota, we now produce more than 500,000 barrels of oil a day. We need to put 100,000 barrels a day into this pipeline so we can get it to market, so we can get it to consumers and companies throughout this country. That is 100,000 barrels a day right now that we have to move through other means, such as truck or rail. That is equal to 500 truckloads a day, or 17 million truck miles a year. Think of the toll on our roads, think of the traffic fatalities that result when that product should be going through pipeline. And at the same time that we have less traffic safety, tremendous wear and tear on our roads, we suffer a discount. Our companies, our mineral owners, our people suffer a discount because it is more expensive to transport that product by rail and by truck. Those are the realities of getting our economy going.

Again, I go back to the national security concern: 830,000 barrels a day that we have got to get from the Middle East.

With these kinds of developments, with this kind of infrastructure, together with Canada and some oil that we get from Mexico, by building Keystone XL Pipeline we can produce more than 80 percent of the oil we consume right here in our country. That means we don't have to get it from the Middle East. And look what is going on in the Middle East. Look at Iran, threatening to blockade the Strait of Hormuz. That is a fundamental national security issue.

Unions across this country have said, Hey, we need these jobs. We support this project. We want to move forward with this and other infrastructure projects. But it is not just about the jobs and the economy, although that is vitally important to all the people who are out of work; it is a vital and national security issue, and it is going to continue to be a more important national security issue as we continue to see gas prices rise and as we continue to see instability in the Middle East.

Again, back to the environmental issues. This oil will be produced. It is either going to China or it is coming here. If we bring it here, we have better environmental stewardship because it goes in a pipeline to refineries that have the lowest emission standards. If we don't, the pipeline goes to the west coast. They load it on tankers. You have to haul it to places such as China where it is refined in refineries with higher emissions. And then, guess what. We have to ship oil from the Middle East—generating more emissions—to bring to our refineries. Again, it makes no sense. It is time to move forward.

There is clear precedence and clear authority. Article 1, section 8 of the Constitution gives Congress the constitutional authority to act under the commerce clause. Congress exercised that authority in 1973 for the Alaskan pipeline. It is time for Congress to exercise its authority again for the good of our economy and for the good of our country.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 356—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE OF TIBET

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. WEBB, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 356

Whereas Tibet is the center of Tibetan Buddhism, and His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, is the most revered figure in Tibetan Buddhism;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to enforce policies that infringe on fundamental freedoms of Tibetans, including punitive security measures against monasteries, mass arrests, and restrictions on freedom to practice religion;

Whereas both the Dalai Lama and the Kalon Tripa, Dr. Lobsang Sangay, the prime minister democratically elected by the Tibetan exile community, have specifically stated that they do not seek independence for Tibet from China;

Whereas, in his inaugural address on August 8, 2011, Kalon Tripa Sangay stated that he will "continue the Middle-Way policy, which seeks genuine autonomy for Tibet within the People's Republic of China";

Whereas, according to the Department of State's 2011 Report on Tibet Negotiations, since 2002, nine rounds of talks between the Government of the People's Republic of China and envoys of the Dalai Lama "have not borne concrete results";

Whereas, despite persistent efforts by the Dalai Lama and his representatives, the Government of the People's Republic of China and envoys of the Dalai Lama have not held any formal dialogue since January 2010;

Whereas, since March 2011, at least 16 Tibetans have set themselves on fire, and at least 12 have died;

Whereas the repressive policies of the Government of the People's Republic of China have created an environment of despair, hopelessness, and frustration among many Tibetans;

Whereas, on November 1, 2011, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Heiner Bielefeldt, expressed concern over "restrictive measures" implemented by the Government of the People's Republic of China in Tibetan monasteries, stating that such measures "not only curtail the right to freedom of religion or belief, but further exacerbate the existing tensions, and are counterproductive" and affirming that "the right of members of the monastic community, and the wider community to freely practice their religion, should be fully respected and guaranteed by the Chinese Government";

Whereas, on January 24, 2012, Maria Otero, Under Secretary for Civilian Security, De-

mocracy and Human Rights, and United States Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues, issued a statement expressing concern about "reports of violence and continuing heightened tensions in Tibetan areas of China, including reports of security forces in Sichuan province opening fire on protesters, killing some and injuring others";

Whereas the Constitution of the People's Republic of China guarantees freedom of religious belief for all citizens, but the July-December 2010 International Religious Freedom Report of the Department of State states that "the [Chinese] government's repression of religious freedom remained severe in the Tibet Autonomous Region and other Tibetan areas";

Whereas, on March 10, 2011, His Holiness the Dalai Lama announced that he would relinquish his last remaining governmental duties in the Central Tibetan Administration, and would turn over political authority to the leadership democratically elected by Tibetans in exile;

Whereas, on March 20, 2011, the Tibetan government in exile conducted competitive democratic elections that were monitored by international observers and deemed free, fair, and consistent with international standards;

Whereas nearly 50,000 people in over 30 countries, more than half of all the eligible Tibetan exiles voters, participated in the March 20, 2011 elections;

Whereas Dr. Lobsang Sangay was elected Kalon Tripa, or prime minister, of the Central Tibetan Administration after receiving 55 percent of votes in the March 20, 2011, election and was inaugurated on August 8, 2011;

Whereas Kalon Tripa Sangay was selected to study in the United States under the Department of State's Tibetan Scholarship Program, earning a doctorate in law from Harvard University, and served as a Senior Fellow at the East Asian Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School;

Whereas Kalon Tripa Sangay, while at Harvard University, promoted dialogue among Tibetan exiles and Chinese students and visiting Chinese scholars to enhance mutual understanding and advance the prospects for reconciliation; and

Whereas it is the objective of the United States Government, consistent across administrations of different political parties and as articulated in the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 (subtitle B of title VI of Public Law 107-228; 22 U.S.C. 6901 note) to promote a substantive dialogue between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Dalai Lama or his representatives in order to secure genuine autonomy for the Tibetan people within China: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) mourns the death of Tibetans who have self-immolated and deplores the repressive policies targeting Tibetans;

(2) calls on the Government of the People's Republic of China to suspend implementation of religious control regulations, reassess religious and security policies implemented since 2008 in Tibet, and resume a dialogue with Tibetan Buddhist leaders, including the Dalai Lama or his representatives, to resolve underlying grievances;

(3) calls on the Government of the People's Republic of China to release all persons that have been arbitrarily detained; to cease the intimidation, harassment and detention of peaceful protestors; and to allow unrestricted access to journalists, foreign diplomats, and international organizations to Tibet;

(4) calls on the Secretary of State to seek from the Government of the People's Republic of China a full accounting of the forcible

removal of monks from Kirti Monastery, including an explanation of the pretext or conditions under which monks were removed and their current whereabouts;

(5) commends His Holiness the Dalai Lama for his decision to devolve his political power in favor of a democratic system;

(6) congratulates Tibetans living in exile for holding, on March 20, 2011, a competitive, multi-candidate election that was free, fair, and met international electoral standards;

(7) reaffirms the unwavering friendship between the people of the United States and the people of Tibet; and

(8) both—

(A) calls on the Department of State to fully implement the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 (subtitle B of title VI of Public Law 107-228; 22 U.S.C. 6901 note), including the stipulation that the Secretary of State seek “to establish an office in Lhasa, Tibet, to monitor political, economic, and cultural developments in Tibet”, and also to provide consular protection and citizen services in emergencies; and

(B) urges that the agreement to permit China to open further diplomatic missions in the United States should be contingent upon the establishment of a United States Government consulate in Lhasa, Tibet.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today with Senators LIEBERMAN, RUBIO, BOXER, DURBIN, MCCAIN, WEBB, and MARK UDALL to submit a resolution expressing our deep concern about the current situation in Tibet and our steadfast support for the Tibetan people.

Once again, we have seen how harsh and counterproductive Chinese policies have heightened tensions and led to deadly violence.

According to press reports and the International Campaign for Tibet, since the beginning of the Chinese New Year on Monday, security forces in Sichuan province have opened fire three times on Tibetans who gathered peacefully to protest Chinese policies on Tibet.

At least six Tibetans have been killed and many more wounded.

These attacks come on top of a recent spate of self-immolations mostly by Tibetan monks and nuns.

Since March 2011, at least 16 Tibetans, including four this month alone, have set themselves on fire and at least 12 have died.

I know I join my colleagues in mourning these tragic deaths and the death of Tibetans in this latest round of unrest.

In addition, I call on Chinese security forces to exercise maximum restraint and stop targeting Tibetan protesters.

Violence is not the answer to the legitimate grievances of the Tibetan people.

We must raise our voice with this resolution to call on Beijing to respect the right of Tibetans to practice their own religion freely and preserve their distinct cultural and linguistic identity.

This resolution mourns the death of Tibetans who have self-immolated and deplores the repressive policies targeting Tibetans; calls on the Government of the People's Republic of China to suspend implementation of religious

control regulations, reassess religious and security policies implemented since 2008 in Tibet, and resume a dialogue with Tibetan Buddhist leaders, including the Dalai Lama or his representatives, to resolve underlying grievances; calls on the Government of the People's Republic of China to release all persons that have been arbitrarily detained; to cease the intimidation, harassment and detention of peaceful protestors; and to allow unrestricted access to journalists, foreign diplomats, and international organizations to Tibet.

The resolution commends His Holiness the Dalai Lama for his decision to devolve his political power in favor of a democratic system; congratulates Tibetans living in exile for holding, on March 20, 2011, a competitive, multi-candidate election that was free, fair, and met international electoral standards; and reaffirms the unwavering friendship between the people of the United States and the people of Tibet.

Over the past several years I have been following the situation in Tibet with increasing concern.

I became involved in this issue when I first met His Holiness the Dalai Lama during a trip to India and Nepal in the fall of 1978.

At that time, as Mayor, I invited His Holiness to visit San Francisco and he accepted.

In September 1979, I was delighted to welcome the Dalai Lama to San Francisco to receive his first public recognition in the United States.

He inspired me to act and I have had the privilege to call him a friend for over 30 years.

Over this time, I have come to the view that Chinese policies on Tibet are intended to suppress the Tibetan culture and people.

These policies include punitive security measures including permanently placing Chinese officials in monasteries; surveillance, mass arrests, and detentions; and restrictions on freedom to practice religion including requiring monks to denounce the Dalai Lama.

We have seen how these policies have created an atmosphere of despair, hopelessness, and frustration among many Tibetans.

Despite nine rounds of talks between the United Front Work Department of the Communist Party of China and envoys of His Holiness, a comprehensive solution to the Tibetan issue remains out of reach.

As a friend of China and the Dalai Lama, I am saddened to see the situation in Tibet deteriorate to this point.

The Dalai Lama has been trying to engage the Chinese leadership for over fifty years.

In the 1990s, I carried three letters to President Jiang Zemin from the Dalai Lama requesting a face to face meeting.

In my view, the Dalai Lama's concerns are driven by a strong Tibetan belief and experience that the Chinese

Government continues to suppress the Tibetan culture and way of life.

As my colleagues know, the Dalai Lama has made it clear that he does not support independence for Tibet, but rather meaningful cultural and religious autonomy for the Tibetan people within the People's Republic of China.

Most recently, in his March 2011 statement marking the 52nd anniversary of the peaceful Tibetan uprising he stated:

In our efforts to solve the issue of Tibet, we have consistently pursued the mutually beneficial Middle-Way Approach, which seeks genuine autonomy for the Tibetan people within the [People's Republic of China].

The newly elected prime minister of the Tibetan government-in-exile, Dr. Lobsang Sangay, has affirmed this policy in his inaugural address:

Guided by the wisdom of our forefathers and foremothers, we will continue the Middle-Way policy, which seeks genuine autonomy for Tibet within the People's Republic of China.

Despite these repeated and unequivocal statements, Beijing continues to insist that His Holiness seeks independence for Tibet.

I am stunned that this message has fallen on deaf ears.

Let there be no doubt: the clear goal of His Holiness and the Tibetan people is autonomy within China.

This autonomy can only come about through meaningful dialogue and negotiation, not actions that would undermine Tibetan culture.

As such, I urge the administration to work with our friends and allies in the international community and call on the Chinese Government to begin a substantive dialogue with the Dalai Lama on national reconciliation, respect for the Tibetan culture, and meaningful autonomy for Tibet.

I urge my colleagues to stand up for the Tibetan people and support this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 357—COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF MILL SPRINGS AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BATTLE TO THE CIVIL WAR

Mr. McCONNELL (for himself and Mr. PAUL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 357

Whereas the Battle of Mill Springs, which took place on January 19, 1862, in Pulaski and Wayne Counties in Kentucky, was the first significant victory for the Union Army in the Civil War, according to the National Park Service;

Whereas Confederate General Felix Zollicoffer, who died at the Battle of Mill Springs, was one of the first generals to die in the Civil War;

Whereas the Battle of Mill Springs was the second largest battle to take place in Kentucky during the Civil War, engaging over 10,000 soldiers;

Whereas the outcome of the Battle of Mill Springs opened the path for the Union Army