

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio:

S. 2500. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on 3-methyl-4-(2,6,6-trimethylcyclohex-2-enyl)but-3-en-2-one (Methylionone); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio:

S. 2501. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on mixtures of (acetato)pentammine cobalt dinitrate with a polymeric or paraffinic carrier; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio:

S. 2502. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on benzene, polypropene derivatives; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio:

S. 2503. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on 1,3-Bis(4-aminophenoxy)benzene (RODA); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio:

S. 2504. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on D-Galacto-D-mannan, 2-hydroxy-3-(trimethylammonio)propyl ether, chloride (83589-59-7), 1-Propanaminium, 2,3-dihydroxy-N,N,N-trimethyl-, chloride (34004-36-9) and water; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio:

S. 2505. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on mixtures of benzenesulfonic acid, dodecyl-, with 2-aminoethanol and Poly (oxy-1,2-ethanediyl), a-[1-oxo-9- octadecenyl]- w-hydroxy-, (9Z); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio:

S. 2506. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on D-Galacto-D-mannan; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio:

S. 2507. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on parts of frames and mountings for spectacles, goggles, or the like; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. REID, Mr. BENNET, Mr. AKAKA, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mrs. HUTCHISON):

S. Res. 440. A resolution recognizing the historic significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PRYOR, and Mr. THUNE):

S. Res. 441. A resolution expressing support for the designation of May 2012 as National Youth Traffic Safety Month; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. JOHANNIS (for himself and Mr. NELSON of Nebraska):

S. Res. 442. A resolution celebrating the 140th anniversary of Arbor Day; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. Res. 443. A resolution honoring the life and legacy of Auxiliary Bishop Agustin Roman; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. THUNE):

S. Res. 444. A resolution designating the week of May 1 through May 7, 2012, as "National Physical Education and Sport Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. Res. 445. A resolution expressing support for the designation of May 1, 2012, as "Silver

Star Service Banner Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. JOHANNIS, and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. Res. 446. A resolution expressing the Senate of the Senate that the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations should not be allowed to exercise control over the Internet; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. Con. Res. 42. A concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2013, revising the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2012, and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2013 through 2022; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. REID:

S. Con. Res. 43. A concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 207

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 207, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to enhance the COPS ON THE BEAT grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 250

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 250, a bill to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA samples collected from crime scenes and convicted offenders, to improve and expand the DNA testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new DNA testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of DNA evidence, to provide post conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, and for other purposes.

S. 434

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 434, a bill to improve and expand geographic literacy among kindergarten through grade 12 students in the United States by improving professional development programs for kindergarten through grade 12 teachers offered through institutions of higher education.

S. 491

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) 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. 722

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota

(Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 722, a bill to strengthen and protect Medicare hospice programs.

S. 750

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 750, a bill to reform the financing of Senate elections, and for other purposes.

S. 889

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 889, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of Mother's Day.

S. 1133

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1133, a bill to prevent the evasion of antidumping and countervailing duty orders, and for other purposes.

S. 1162

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1162, a bill to authorize the International Trade Commission to develop and recommend legislation for temporarily suspending duties, and for other purposes.

S. 1202

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1202, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to reaffirm the United States' historic commitment to protecting refugees who are fleeing persecution or torture.

S. 1301

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 1301, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2012 through 2015 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, to enhance measures to combat trafficking in persons, and for other purposes.

S. 1718

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1718, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to the application of Medicare secondary payer rules for certain claims.

S. 1773

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1773, a bill to promote local and

regional farm and food systems, and for other purposes.

S. 1872

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1872, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1946

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1946, a bill to require foreign manufacturers of products imported into the United States to establish registered agents in the United States who are authorized to accept service of process against such manufacturers.

S. 1989

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1989, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the minimum low-income housing tax credit rate for unsubsidized buildings and to provide a minimum 4 percent credit rate for existing buildings.

S. 1993

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1993, a bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Lena Horne in recognition of her achievements and contributions to American culture and the civil rights movement.

S. 2010

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2010, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 2050

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2050, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain provisions of the Creating Small Business Jobs Act of 2010, and for other purposes.

S. 2069

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2069, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to speed American innovation in research and drug development for the leading causes of death that are the most costly chronic conditions for our Nation, to save American families and the Federal and State governments money, and to help family caregivers.

S. 2112

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2112, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize space-available travel on military aircraft for members of the reserve components, a member or former member of a reserve component who is eligible for retired pay but for age, widows and widowers of retired members, and dependents.

S. 2121

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2121, a bill to modify the Department of Defense Program Guidance relating to the award of Post-Deployment/Mobilization Respite Absence administrative absence days to members of the reserve components to exempt any member whose qualified mobilization commenced before October 1, 2011, and continued on or after that date, from the changes to the program guidance that took effect on that date.

S. 2165

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2165, a bill to enhance strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 2173

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2173, a bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

S. 2219

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2219, a bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for additional disclosure requirements for corporations, labor organizations, Super PACs and other entities, and for other purposes.

S. 2237

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2237, a bill to provide a temporary income tax credit for increased payroll and extend bonus depreciation for an additional year, and for other purposes.

S. 2255

At the request of Mr. BURR, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 2255, a bill to amend chapter 1 of title 36, United States Code, to add Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day as a patriotic and National observance.

S. 2320

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2320, a bill to direct the American Battle Monuments Commission to provide for the ongoing maintenance of Clark Veterans Cemetery in the Republic of the Philippines, and for other purposes.

S. 2325

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2325, a bill to authorize further assistance to Israel for the Iron Dome anti-missile defense system.

S. 2338

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2338, a bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994.

S. 2343

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2343, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend the reduced interest rate for Federal Direct Stafford Loans, and for other purposes.

S. 2344

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2344, a bill to extend the National Flood Insurance Program until December 31, 2012.

S. 2366

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2366, a bill to extend student loan interest rates for undergraduate Federal Direct Stafford Loans.

S. RES. 227

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor

of S. Res. 227, a resolution calling for the protection of the Mekong River Basin and increased United States support for delaying the construction of mainstream dams along the Mekong River.

S. RES. 380

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 380, a resolution to express the sense of the Senate regarding the importance of preventing the Government of Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons capability.

S. RES. 419

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 419, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the United States during Public Service Recognition week.

S. RES. 436

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 436, a resolution designating the week of April 22 through 28, 2012, as the "Week of the Young Child".

S. RES. 439

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 439, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Village Voice Media Holdings, LLC should eliminate the "adult entertainment" section of the classified advertising website Backpage.com.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. ENZI:

S. 2374. A bill to amend the Helium Act to ensure the expedient and responsible draw-down of the Federal Helium Reserve in a manner that protects the interests of private industry, the scientific, medical, and industrial communities, commercial users, and Federal agencies, and for other purposes: to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce the Helium Stewardship Act of 2012, along with my cosponsors, Senators BARRASSO, WYDEN, and ENZI. This bipartisan bill addresses the need for ongoing stewardship of the nation's helium reserve in Amarillo, Texas. The helium reserve is not only a domestic treasure, but it also provides nearly 30 percent of the world's helium.

Helium is a commodity that is frequently overlooked and often only considered when you are going to the florist to purchase party balloons for your child's birthday party. I want to take a moment and highlight the importance of this commodity, as well as the importance of the U.S. helium reserve in the world's helium market.

Helium is critical to a wide range of industrial, scientific, and medical markets, including medical devices such as MRIs, industrial welding, high tech manufacturing of microchips and fiber optic cables, manufacturing magnets for wind turbines, space exploration at NASA, and other important scientific research that is conducted at national laboratories like those in my State.

The current sales and management structure for the helium reserve is distorting the private helium market and threatening helium supplies for Federal medical and scientific research, and other private commercial applications. The low government sales price is also a barrier to the development of private sources of helium. But more importantly, if Congress does not act, the helium program will disappear altogether in less than three years, leaving our hospitals, national labs, domestic manufacturers, and helium producers high and dry.

This bipartisan bill will address these issues by authorizing prudent helium sales and management beyond 2015 and securing private access to Federal supplies. It will also allow for the continued repayment of the national debt by selling helium at fair market prices—providing a good return on investment to the American taxpayer. This will bolster the private helium sector, and help to create long-term jobs in this American resource sector, as well as ensure the continued success of domestic manufacturers that utilize helium in their manufacturing process.

Finally, this bill will ensure secure access to helium for our national labs, scientific researchers, NASA, medical institutions, and universities, who rely on helium to push the boundaries of science and technology here in the USA. In particular, as the reserve is sold off, a 15 year supply of helium will be set aside exclusively for Federal researchers to guarantee continuity of our research programs as we transition to purely private sources of helium.

The bill is based on stakeholder input of the National Academies of Science, Bureau of Land Management staff, scientific researchers, high-tech manufacturers, and the private helium industry to address the most pressing problems facing Federal helium users and the helium industry today.

I would like to conclude by taking a moment to acknowledge the exceptional efforts of Dr. Marcius Extavour who was the AAAS Science policy fellow and physicist working on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee last year. He worked diligently to help craft this important piece of legislation and I thank him for his efforts.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2374

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Helium Stewardship Act of 2012".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

Section 2 of the Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ";" and inserting a period; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) FEDERAL HELIUM RESERVE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘Federal Helium Reserve’ means helium reserves owned by the United States.

“(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘Federal Helium Reserve’ includes—

“(i) the Cliffside Field helium storage reservoir;

“(ii) the federally owned helium pipeline system; and

“(iii) all associated infrastructure owned, leased, or managed under contract by the Secretary for storage, transportation, withdrawal, purification, or management of helium.

“(5) LOW-BTU GAS.—The term ‘low-Btu gas’ means a fuel gas with a heating value of less than 250 Btu per standard cubic foot measured as the higher heating value resulting from the inclusion of noncombustible gases, including nitrogen, helium, argon, and carbon dioxide.”.

SEC. 3. SALE OF CRUDE HELIUM.

Section 6 of the Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167d) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 6. SALE OF CRUDE HELIUM.

“(a) PHASE A: BUSINESS AS USUAL.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary may offer for sale crude helium for Federal, medical, scientific, and commercial uses in such quantities, at such times, and under such conditions as the Secretary, in consultation with the helium industry, determines necessary to carry out this subsection with minimum market disruption.

“(2) MINIMUM QUANTITY.—The Secretary shall offer for sale during each fiscal year under paragraph (1) a quantity of crude helium that is not less than the quantity of crude helium offered for sale by the Secretary during fiscal year 2012.

“(3) PURCHASE BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Federal agencies, and extramural holders of 1 or more Federal research grants, may purchase refined helium under this subsection for Federal, medical, and scientific uses from persons who have entered into enforceable contracts to purchase an equivalent quantity of crude helium from the Secretary.

“(4) DURATION.—This subsection applies during the period—

“(A) beginning on the date of enactment of the Helium Stewardship Act of 2012; and

“(B) ending on the date on which all amounts required to be repaid to the United States under this Act as of October 1, 1995, are repaid in full.

“(b) PHASE B: MAXIMIZING TOTAL RECOVERY OF HELIUM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may offer for sale crude helium for Federal, medical, scientific, and commercial uses in such quantities, at such times, and under such conditions as the Secretary, in consultation with the helium industry, determines necessary—

“(A) to maximize total recovery of helium from the Federal Helium Reserve over the long term;

“(B) to manage crude helium sales according to the ability of the Secretary to extract and produce helium from the Federal Helium Reserve;

“(C) to respond to helium market supply and demand;