

paper which is commonly recycled does not constitute a qualified energy resource under the section 45 credit for renewable electricity production.

S. 2160

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2160, a bill to improve the examination of depository institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2165

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2165, a bill to enhance strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 2179

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2179, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve oversight of educational assistance provided under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 2239

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2239, a bill to direct the head of each agency to treat relevant military training as sufficient to satisfy training or certification requirements for Federal licenses.

S. 2241

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2241, a bill to ensure that veterans have the information and protections they require to make informed decisions regarding use of Post-9/11 Educational Assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 2244

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2244, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to assist in the identification of unclaimed and abandoned human remains to determine if any such remains are eligible for burial in a national cemetery, and for other purposes.

S. 2299

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2299, a bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act and title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of civil relief to members of the uniformed services and to improve the enforcement of employment and reemployment rights of such members, and for other purposes.

S. 2320

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) were added as cosponsors 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 Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2325, a bill to authorize further assistance to Israel for the Iron Dome anti-missile defense system.

S. 2343

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) 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. 2364

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2364, a bill to extend the availability of low-interest refinancing under the local development business loan program of the Small Business Administration.

S. RES. 429

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 429, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of World Malaria Day.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2515. A bill to promote the use of clean cookstoves and fuels to save lives, improve livelihoods, empower women, and combat harmful pollution by creating a thriving global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce The Clean Cookstoves Support Act, which addresses a serious global environmental and public health issue. I am pleased to be joined in this effort by my friend and colleague, Senator DURBIN.

Nearly half the world's population cooks food over open fires or inefficient, polluting, and unsafe cookstoves, using firewood, dung, or coal as fuel. Smoke from these traditional cook-

stoves and open fires is associated with a number of chronic and acute diseases, with women and young children affected disproportionately. The World Health Organization estimates cookstove smoke to be one of the top five threats to public health in poor, developing countries. This smoke may account for nearly two million deaths annually in the developing world, which is more than the deaths from malaria, tuberculosis, or HIV.

Traditional cookstoves also create serious environmental impacts. The amount of biomass cooking fuel required each year can reach up to two tons per family, and local environmental degradation can result where demand for fuel outstrips the natural regrowth of resources. Recent studies show that emissions of black carbon, or common soot, from biomass cookstoves significantly contribute to climate change, second only to carbon dioxide in impact.

These stoves should be replaced with modern alternatives to reverse these alarming health and environmental trends. Fortunately, modern stoves, designed to burn fuel efficiently, can eliminate up to 90 percent of the black carbon produced during cooking and home heating. This would be relatively inexpensive and could be done quickly it is what scientists call the "low-hanging fruit" of environmental fixes.

Through the leadership of Secretary of State Hilary Clinton and the United Nations Foundation, the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves was formed in 2010. Recognizing the severity of the global health and environmental issues, this public-private partnership aims to save lives, improve livelihoods, empower women, and combat pollution by creating a thriving global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions. The Alliance partners are working to help overcome the market barriers that currently impede the production, deployment, and use of clean cookstoves in the developing world.

To assist in this important endeavor, several Federal agencies the Departments of State, Energy, and Health and Human Services, including NIH and CDC, the United States Agency for International Development, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation have committed to contribute to the Alliance in three key areas.

First: support for research and development to improve design, lower costs, and develop global industry standards and testing protocols for cookstoves. Second: diplomatic engagement to encourage a commercial market for clean stoves and promote several strategies, including reducing trade barriers, promoting consumer awareness, and improving access to financing. Third: the launch of international development projects to distribute the clean stoves to targeted areas, including refugee camps, disaster relief efforts, and long-term aid programs, as well as projects

aimed at women and girls. These contributions will assist the Alliance in reaching its goal of spurring the adoption of clean cookstoves in 100 million households by 2020.

Our legislation reinforces the commitment these U.S. agencies have made to the Alliance and requires the Secretary of State in consultation with the relevant Federal agencies, and in coordination with relevant international nongovernmental organizations and private and governmental entities to work to advance the goals of the Alliance. In addition, our bill formally authorizes the agency's funding commitments to ensure that these crucial pledges toward preventing unnecessary illness and reducing pollution around the globe are met.

By supporting the work of the Alliance to replace primitive stoves with modern versions that emit far less soot, this legislation would directly benefit some of the world's poorest people and reduce harmful pollution that affects us all.

This measure addresses an important global pollutant and alleviates a serious public health and environmental concern affecting developing nations. I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting The Clean Cookstoves Support Act.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. COONS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. KOHL, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2554. A bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I am proud to introduce a bill to reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act.

I am pleased that Senator COONS, Senator WHITEHOUSE, and Senator SCHUMER have joined me in this effort. When enacted, this legislation will continue for another five years the lifesaving grant program that Senator Campbell and I authored in 1998. This measure will continue Congress' strong commitment to the safety and security of our Nation's law enforcement officers.

The Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program, administered by the Department of Justice, provides financial assistance to State law enforcement agencies to help purchase bulletproof vests. This program is an important part of the Federal Government's overall policy to assist and support State and local law enforcement partners around the country.

In February, the Judiciary Committee held a hearing on this program and the need for reauthorization to emphasize just how important and effective this program has been. At that hearing, a representative from the Government Accountability Office testified

that since 1987, data shows that body armor has saved the lives of 3,000 law enforcement officers. That is 3,000 men and women who may not otherwise have made it home to their families and loved ones. The BVP Program has assisted State and local jurisdictions with the purchase of nearly one million bulletproof vests since 1999. That is a measure of success all Senators should be proud of. I hope we can support the continuation of this program unanimously, as the Senate did most recently in 2008.

Despite the progress that has been made in the improvement of lifesaving equipment and training, there is much work to be done. The year 2011 was an especially tragic one for the law enforcement community. Last year, 163 State and Federal law enforcement officers lost their lives and thousands were injured or disabled in the line of duty. This is an increase from 2010 and a grim reminder of the sacrifices far too many individuals make in the service of their communities and fellow citizens. The Senate should continue to do its part to help reverse the trend of the last several years.

The safety and support of law enforcement officers across the United States should be something on which we can all agree. As we look toward National Police Week this month, Senators have an opportunity with this legislation to help make a difference and to show the thousands of law enforcement officers and their family members who will be in Washington that the Senate stands with them. I encourage their support and I look forward to the enactment of this legislation.

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. 2554

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 "Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 2012".

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 1001(a)(23) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3793(a)(23)) is amended by striking "2012" and inserting "2017".

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, May 10, 2012, at 10 a.m. in SD 430 Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "Beyond Mother's Day: Helping the Middle Class Balance Work and Family."

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact the committee 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 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Thursday, May 10, 2012, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on S. 2374, The Helium Stewardship Act of 2012.

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, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510 6150, or by email to Abigail_Campbell@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Kelly Kryc at (202) 224 0537, or Abigail Campbell at (202) 224 1219.

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 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Thursday, May 17, 2012, at 9:30 a.m. in room SD 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on S. 2146, the Clean Energy Standard Act of 2012.

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, United States Senate, room 304 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510 6150, or by email to Meagan_Gins@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Kevin Rennert at (202) 224 7826 or Meagan Gins at (202) 224 0883.

NOTICE: PUBLIC FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORTS

The filing date for the 2011 Public Financial Disclosure reports is Tuesday, May 15, 2012. Senators, political fund designees and staff members whose salaries exceed 120% of the GS 15 pay scale must file reports.

Public Financial Disclosure reports should be submitted to the Senate Office of Public Records, 232 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510.

The Public Records office will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the filing date to accept these filings. For further information, please contact the Public Records office at (202) 224 0322.