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#### TRIBUTE TO RACHEL SCHMIDT

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Rachel Schmidt, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Rachel is a graduate of Marion High School, in Marion, SD. Currently, she is attending the University of South Dakota, where she is studying prelaw. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Rachel for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

#### REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13338 OF MAY 11, 2004, WITH RESPECT TO THE BLOCKING OF PROPERTY OF CERTAIN PERSONS AND PROHIBITION OF EXPORTATION AND RE-EXPORTATION OF CERTAIN GOODS TO SYRIA—PM 47

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency, unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the actions of the Government of Syria declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004, as modified in scope and relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13399 of April 25, 2006, Executive Order 13460 of February 13, 2008, Executive Order 13572 of April 29, 2011, Executive Order 13573 of May 18, 2011, Executive Order 13582 of August 17, 2011, Executive Order 13606 of April 22, 2012, and Executive Order 13608 of May 1, 2012, is to continue in effect beyond May 11, 2012.

While the Syrian regime has reduced the number of foreign fighters bound for Iraq, the regime's own brutality

and repression of its citizens who have been calling for freedom and a representative government endangers not only the Syrian people themselves, but could yield greater instability throughout the region. The Syrian regime's actions and policies, including obstructing the Lebanese government's ability to function effectively, pursuing chemical and biological weapons, and supporting terrorist organizations, continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue in effect the national emergency declared with respect to this threat and to maintain in force the sanctions to address this national emergency.

In addition, the United States condemns the Asad regime's use of brutal violence and human rights abuses and calls on the Asad regime to step aside and immediately begin a transition in Syria to a political process that will forge a credible path to a future of greater freedom, democracy, opportunity, and justice. The United States will consider changes in the composition, policies, and actions of the Government of Syria in determining whether to continue or terminate this national emergency in the future.

BARACK OBAMA.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 9, 2012.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

##### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 1:32 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 1302. An act to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Tracy, California, to the City of Tracy.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

At 6:08 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2072. An act to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2072. An act to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with

accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6004. A communication from the Administrator, Rural Housing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Community Facility Loans" (RIN0575-AC78) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6005. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, (3) three reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Agriculture received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 4, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6006. A communication from the Director, Office of Procurement and Property Management, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guidelines for the Transfer of Excess Computers or Other Technical Equipment Pursuant to Section 14220 of the 2008 Farm Bill" (RIN0599-AA13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 7, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6007. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "1-Naphthaleneacetic acid; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9346-9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6008. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Ametocetradin; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9339-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6009. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "a-(p-Nonylphenol)-w-hydroxypoly(oxyethylene) Sulfate and Phosphate Esters; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9340-2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6010. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "a-[p-(1,1,3,3-Tetramethylbutyl)phenyl]-u-hydroxypoly(oxyethylene); Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9340-1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6011. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Order of Application for Modifications" (RIN0750-AH56) (DFARS Case 2012-D002) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2012; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6012. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of two (2) officers authorized to wear the insignia of

the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6013. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of five (5) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of major general and brigadier general, as indicated, in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6014. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a quarterly report entitled, "Acceptance of Contributions for Defense Programs, Projects, and Activities; Defense Cooperation Account"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6015. A communication from the Secretary of the Navy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Program Acquisition Unit Cost and the AIM-9X program exceeding the Acquisition Program Baseline values; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6016. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals and accompanying reports relative to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6017. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting a legislative proposal entitled "Leadership, Education, Accountability and Discipline on Sexual Assault Prevention Act of 2012"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6018. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals and accompanying reports relative to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6019. A communication from the Member of the U.S. House of Representatives for the 10th District of Virginia, transmitting, a letter sent to the Secretary of Defense relative to the establishment of an Afghanistan-Pakistan Study Group; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6020. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the issuance of an Executive Order to take additional steps with respect to the national emergency originally declared on March 15, 1995 in Executive Order 12957 with respect to Iran; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6021. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2012-0003)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6022. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Community Planning and Development, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "State Community Development Block Grant Program: Administrative Rule Changes" (RIN2506-AC22) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6023. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the continuation

of a national emergency declared in Executive Order 13222 with respect to the lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6024. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13413 with respect to blocking the property of persons contributing to the conflict taking place in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6025. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the continuation of the national emergency relative to the actions and policies of the Government of Sudan as declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6026. A communication from the Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to material violations or suspected material violations of regulations relating to Treasury auctions and other Treasury securities offerings for the period of January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6027. A communication from the Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report for the period of January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 relative to any exceptions granted by the Secretary of the Treasury to the prohibition against favored treatment of a government securities broker or government securities dealer; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6028. A communication from the Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report for the period of January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 relative to significant modifications to the auction process for issuing United States Treasury obligations; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LAUTENBERG:

S. 3032. A bill to extend temporary suspension of duty on 1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethene, oxidized, polymerized; to the Committee on Finance

By Mr. LAUTENBERG:

S. 3033. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on ethene, tetrafluoro, oxidized, polymerized reduced, methyl esters, reduced; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CANTWELL:

S. 3034. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Linuron; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CANTWELL:

S. 3035. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Terbacil; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CANTWELL:

S. 3036. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on certain men's footwear, not covering the ankle, designed to be worn in lieu of, but not over, other footwear as a protection against water,

oil, grease, or chemicals or cold or inclement weather; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CANTWELL:

S. 3037. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on certain men's footwear, covering the ankle, designed to be worn in lieu of, but not over, other footwear as a protection against water, oil, grease, or chemicals or cold or inclement weather; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CANTWELL:

S. 3038. A bill to extend and modify the temporary suspension of duty on certain men's footwear, not covering the ankle, designed to be worn in lieu of, but not over, other footwear as a protection against water, oil, grease, or chemicals or cold or inclement weather; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CANTWELL:

S. 3039. A bill to extend and modify the temporary suspension of duty on certain men's footwear, covering the ankle, designed to be worn in lieu of, but not over, other footwear as a protection against water, oil, grease, or chemicals or cold or inclement weather; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CANTWELL:

S. 3040. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on certain women's footwear designed to be worn in lieu of, but not over, other footwear as a protection against water, oil, grease, or chemicals or cold or inclement weather; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CANTWELL:

S. 3041. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on certain men's footwear designed to be worn in lieu of, but not over, other footwear as a protection against water, oil, grease, or chemicals or cold or inclement weather; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CANTWELL:

S. 3042. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on certain men's footwear whose height from the bottom of the outer sole to the top of the upper does not exceed 8 inches and designed to be worn in lieu of, but not over, other footwear as a protection against water, oil, grease, or chemicals or cold or inclement weather; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CANTWELL:

S. 3043. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on certain women's footwear, covering the ankle, whose height from the bottom of the outer sole to the top of the upper does not exceed 8 inches, designed to be worn in lieu of, but not over, other footwear as a protection against water, oil, grease, or chemicals or cold or inclement weather; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CANTWELL:

S. 3044. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain suspension system stabilizer bars; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CANTWELL:

S. 3045. A bill to extend and modify the temporary suspension of duty on certain cases or containers to be used for electronic drawing toys, electronic games, or educational toys or devices; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CANTWELL:

S. 3046. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain injection-molded ABS or PP cases or containers to be used for electronic drawing toys or electronic games; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 3047. A bill to encourage responsible homeowners to refinance mortgages, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio (for himself and Mr. HARKIN):