

(6) 150th anniversary of the enactment of the Act of July 1, 1862 (12 Stat. 489, chapter 120), which promoted the construction of the transcontinental railroad;

Whereas section 102 of title 36, United States Code, officially designates May as Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month and requests the President to issue each year a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities;

Whereas the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, a bicameral caucus of Members of Congress advocating on behalf of Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders, is composed of a record high 41 Members in 2012;

Whereas today, Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders are serving in State legislatures across the United States, in States as diverse as Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Utah, and Washington;

Whereas the commitment of the United States to diversity in the judiciary has been demonstrated by the nominations of high-caliber Asian-American and other minority jurists at all levels of the Federal bench;

Whereas there still remains much to be done to ensure that Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders have access to resources, a voice in the Federal Government, and continue to advance in the political landscape of the United States; and

Whereas celebrating May 2012 as Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month provides the people of the United States with an opportunity to recognize the achievements, contributions, and history of, and address the challenges faced by, Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes—

(1) the significance of May 2012 as Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders to the history of the United States; and

(2) that the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community enhances the rich diversity of, and strengthens, the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 475—RELATING TO THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE E. JAMES ABDNOR, FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR AND CONGRESSMAN FROM THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. REID of Nevada, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELLER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KIRK,

Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIBERMAN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. McCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED of Rhode Island, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 475

Whereas James Abdnor was born in Kennebec, South Dakota, on February 13, 1923, and was the son of an immigrant from Lebanon who peddled and homesteaded in Lyman County, South Dakota;

Whereas James Abdnor enlisted in the United States Army during World War II, farmed in Kennebec after graduating from the University of Nebraska in 1945, and later taught and coached in neighboring Presho;

Whereas James Abdnor served as Chairman of the Lyman County Young Republicans in 1950, Chairman of the State Young Republicans from 1950 to 1952, and Farm Chairman of the Young Republican National Federation from 1953 to 1955;

Whereas James Abdnor served as the First Assistant Chief Clerk of the South Dakota House of Representatives during the legislative sessions of 1951, 1953, and 1955;

Whereas James Abdnor was elected to the South Dakota Senate in 1956, where he served until his election as the 30th Lieutenant Governor of the State of South Dakota, a position he served in from 1969 through 1971;

Whereas James Abdnor was elected to the United States House of Representatives for the 93rd United States Congress in 1972 and served a total of 4 consecutive terms, representing the Second Congressional District of South Dakota;

Whereas James Abdnor served on the Committee on Public Works of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Select Committee on Aging of the House of Representatives;

Whereas James Abdnor was elected to the United States Senate for the 97th United States Congress in 1980 and was appointed Chairman of 3 subcommittees on his first day, including the Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Subcommittee on Water Resources of the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, and the Subcommittee on Agriculture and Transportation of the Joint Economic Committee;

Whereas James Abdnor was appointed Vice Chairman of the Joint Economic Committee and served on the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate;

Whereas James Abdnor was a voice for the rural United States in Congress, where he advocated for family farms and small business, rural water systems and electrification, a balanced budget, and small-town values;

Whereas James Abdnor was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to serve as the Administrator of the United States Small Business Administration from 1987 to 1989 fol-

lowing his service in the United States Congress;

Whereas James Abdnor will be remembered for his humble service to his constituents, dedication to the youth of South Dakota, and defining influence on South Dakota politics; and

Whereas the hallmarks of James Abdnor's public service were his integrity, kindness, respect for the common man, and love for South Dakota: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate expresses profound sorrow and deep regret regarding the death of the Honorable James Abdnor, former member of the United States Senate and House of Representatives for the State of South Dakota, on May 16, 2012;

(2) the Senate respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of the deceased; and

(3) when the Senate adjourns today, the Senate stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable James Abdnor.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2153. Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. COATS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HELLER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mr. HOEVEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2343, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend the reduced interest rate for Federal Direct Stafford Loans, and for other purposes.

SA 2154. Mr. REID (for Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5740, to extend the National Flood Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

SA 2155. Mr. REID (for Mr. LEVIN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 739, to authorize the Architect of the Capitol to establish battery recharging stations for privately owned vehicles in parking areas under the jurisdiction of the Senate at no net cost to the Federal Government.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2153. Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. COATS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HELLER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mr. HOEVEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2343, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend the reduced interest rate for Federal Direct Stafford Loans, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Interest Rate Reduction Act”.

SEC. 2. INTEREST RATE EXTENSION.

Subparagraph (D) of section 455(b)(7) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(b)(7)(D)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “2012” and inserting “2013”; and

(2) in clause (v), by striking “2012” and inserting “2013”.

SEC. 3. REPEALING PREVENTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4002 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 300u-11) is repealed.

(b) RESCISSION OF UNOBLIGATED FUNDS.—Of the funds made available by such section 4002, the unobligated balance is rescinded.

SEC. 4. COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY PAY-AS-YOU-GO ACT OF 2010.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

SA 2154. Mr. REID (for Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5740, to extend the National Flood Insurance Program, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM.

(a) PROGRAM EXTENSION.—Section 1319 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4026) is amended by striking “the earlier of the date of the enactment into law of an Act that specifically amends the date specified in this section or May 31, 2012” and inserting “July 31, 2012”.

(b) FINANCING.—Section 1309(a) of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4016(a)) is amended by striking “the earlier of the date of the enactment into law of an Act that specifically amends the date specified in this section or May 31, 2012” and inserting “July 31, 2012”.

SEC. 2. EXCLUSION OF VACATION HOMES AND SECOND HOMES FROM RECEIVING SUBSIDIZED PREMIUM RATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1307(a)(2) of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4014(a)(2)) is amended by inserting before “; and” the following: “, except that the Administrator shall not estimate rates under this paragraph for any residential property which is not the primary residence of an individual”.

(b) PHASE-OUT OF SUBSIDIZED PREMIUM RATES.—Section 1308(e) of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4015(e)) is amended—

(1) by striking “under this title for any properties within any single” and inserting the following: “under this title for—

“(1) any properties within any single”; and
(2) by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: “; and

“(2) any residential properties which are not the primary residence of an individual, as described in section 1307(a)(2), shall be increased by 25 percent each year, until the average risk premium rate for such properties is equal to the average of the risk premium rates for properties described under paragraph (1)...”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The first increase in chargeable risk premium rates for residential properties which are not the primary residence of an individual under section 1308(e)(2) of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as added by this Act, shall take effect on July 1, 2012, and the chargeable risk premium rates for such properties shall be increased by 25 percent each year thereafter, as provided in such section 1308(e)(2).

SEC. 3. COMPLIANCE WITH PAYGO.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be deter-

mined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

SA 2155. Mr. REID (for Mr. LEVIN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 739, to authorize the Architect of the Capitol to establish battery recharging stations for privately owned vehicles in parking areas under the jurisdiction of the Senate at no net cost to the Federal Government; as follows:

On page 4, strike lines 14 through 19, and insert the following:

(e) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal year, the Architect of the Capitol shall submit a report on the financial administration and cost recovery of activities under this section with respect to that fiscal year to the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

(2) AVOIDING SUBSIDY.—

(A) DETERMINATION.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act and every 3 years thereafter, the Architect of the Capitol shall submit a report to the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate determining whether Senators and covered employees using battery charging stations as authorized by this Act are receiving a subsidy from the taxpayers.

(B) MODIFICATION OF RATES AND FEES.—If a determination is made under subparagraph (A) that a subsidy is being received, the Architect of the Capitol shall submit a plan to the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate on how to update the program to ensure no subsidy is being received. If the committee does not act on the plan within 60 days, the Architect of the Capitol shall take appropriate steps to increase rates or fees to ensure reimbursement for the cost of the program consistent with an appropriate schedule for amortization, to be charged to those using the charging stations.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY**

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 24, 2012, at 2 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 24, 2012, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 24, 2012, at 10 a.m., to conduct a committee hearing entitled “The Responsible Homeowner Refinancing Act of 2012.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 24, 2012, at 10:30 a.m., to hold a hearing entitled, “Ivory and Insecurity: The Global Implications of Poaching in Africa.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN RELATIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 24, 2012, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:15 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Programs and Services for Native Veterans.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 24, 2012, at 10 a.m., in SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION, FEDERAL SERVICES, AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs’ Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 24, 2012, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled, “Innovating with Less: Examining Efforts to Reform Information Technology Spending.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IRAN THREAT REDUCTION ACT OF 2011

On Monday, May 21, 2012, the Senate passed H.R. 1905, as amended as follows:

H.R. 1905

Resolved, That the bill from the House of Representatives (H.R. 1905) entitled “An Act to strengthen Iran sanctions laws for the purpose of compelling Iran to abandon its pursuit of nuclear weapons and other threatening activities, and for other purposes.”, do pass with the following amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Human Rights Act of 2012”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.