

recreational opportunities that contribute to the local economies with preservation of the natural resources.

This is a two State initiative that will encompass both Rhode Island and Connecticut, and will help protect these resources for future generations to enjoy.

I commend Representatives LANGEVIN and COURTNEY for spearheading this effort in the other body, and I look forward to working with all of my colleagues to initiate the process to study the rivers of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 524—RE-AFFIRMING THE STRONG SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE 2002 DECLARATION OF CONDUCT OF PARTIES IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AMONG THE MEMBER STATES OF ASEAN AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. WEBB, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 524

Whereas the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) plays a key role in strengthening and contributing to peace, stability, and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas the vision of the ASEAN Leaders in their goals set out in the ASEAN Charter to integrate ASEAN economically, politically, and culturally furthers regional peace, stability, and prosperity;

Whereas the United States Government recognizes the importance of a strong, cohesive, and integrated ASEAN as a foundation for effective regional frameworks to promote peace and security and economic growth and to ensure that the Asia-Pacific community develops according to rules and norms agreed upon by all of its members;

Whereas the United States is enhancing political, security and economic cooperation in Southeast Asia through ASEAN, and seeks to continue to enhance its role in partnership with ASEAN and others in the region in addressing transnational issues ranging from climate change to maritime security;

Whereas the United States Government welcomes the development of a peaceful and prosperous China which respects international norms, international laws, international institutions, and international rules, and enhances security and peace, and seeks to advance a "cooperative partnership" between the United States and China;

Whereas ASEAN plays an important role, in partnership with others in the regional and international community, in addressing maritime security issues in the Asia-Pacific region and into the Indian Ocean, including open access to the maritime commons of Asia;

Whereas the South China Sea is a vital part of the maritime commons of Asia, including critical sea lanes of communication and commerce between the Pacific and Indian oceans;

Whereas, in the declaration on the conduct of parties in the South China Sea, the governments of the member states of ASEAN and the Government of the People's Republic of China have affirmed "that the adoption of a code of conduct in the South China Sea would further promote peace and stability in the region" and have agreed to work towards the attainment of a code of conduct;

Whereas, pending the peaceful settlement of territorial and jurisdictional disputes, the member states of ASEAN and the People's Republic of China have committed to "exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and stability, including, among others, refraining from action of inhabiting presently uninhabited islands, reefs, shoals, and other features and to handle their differences in a constructive manner";

Whereas, pending the peaceful settlement of territorial and jurisdictional disputes, the member states of ASEAN and the People's Republic of China affirmed their commitment "to the freedom of navigation in and overflight of the South China Sea provided for by the universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea"; and

Whereas, although not a party to these disputes, the United States has national interests in freedom of navigation, the maintenance of peace and stability, respect for international law, and unimpeded lawful commerce: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms the strong support of the United States for the 2002 declaration of conduct of parties in the South China Sea among the member states of ASEAN and the People's Republic of China;

(2) supports the member states of ASEAN, and the Government of the People's Republic of China, as they seek to adopt a legally-binding code of conduct of parties in the South China Sea, and urges all countries to substantively support ASEAN in its efforts in this regard;

(3) strongly urges that, pending adoption of a code of conduct, all parties, consistent with commitments under the declaration of conduct, "exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and stability, including, among others, refraining from action of inhabiting presently uninhabited islands, reefs, shoals and other features and to handle their differences in a constructive manner";

(4) supports a collaborative diplomatic process by all claimants for resolving outstanding territorial and jurisdictional disputes, allowing parties to peacefully settle claims and disputes using international law;

(5) reaffirms the United States commitment—

(A) to assist the nations of Southeast Asia to remain strong and independent;

(B) to help ensure each nation enjoys peace and stability;

(C) to broaden and deepen economic, political, diplomatic, security, social, and cultural partnership with ASEAN and its member states; and

(D) to promote the institutions of emerging regional architecture and prosperity; and

(6) supports enhanced operations by the United States armed forces in the Western Pacific, including in the South China Sea, including in partnership with the armed forces of others countries in the region, in support of freedom of navigation, the maintenance of peace and stability, respect for international law, including the peaceful resolution of issues of sovereignty, and unimpeded lawful commerce.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2567. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3364, to provide an incentive for businesses to bring jobs back to America; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2567. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3364, to provide an incentive for businesses to bring jobs back to America; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . RIGHT TO WORK.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT.—

(1) RIGHTS OF EMPLOYEES.—Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 157) is amended by striking "except to" and all that follows through "authorized in section 8(a)(3)".

(2) UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES.—Section 8 of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 158) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(3), by striking "Provided, That" and all that follows through "retaining membership";

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (2), by striking "or to discriminate" and all that follows through "retaining membership"; and

(ii) in paragraph (5), by striking "covered by an agreement authorized under subsection (a)(3) of this section"; and

(C) in subsection (f), by striking clause (2) and redesignating clauses (3) and (4) as clauses (2) and (3), respectively.

(b) AMENDMENT TO THE RAILWAY LABOR ACT.—Section 2 of the Railway Labor Act (45 U.S.C. 152) is amended by striking paragraph Eleven.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on July 26, 2012, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:15 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Regulation of Tribal Gaming: From Brick & Mortar to the Internet."

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224-2251.

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 Tuesday, July 31, 2012, at 10 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on S. 3385, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to use designated funding to pay for construction of authorized rural water projects, and for other purposes.

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, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to john_assini@Kenergy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Patricia Beneke (202) 224-5451 or John Assini (202) 224-9313.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 3414 AND H.R. 5872

Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, I understand there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3414) to enhance the security and resiliency of the cyber and communications infrastructure of the United States.

An act (H.R. 5872) to require the President to provide a report detailing the sequester required by the Budget Control Act of 2011 on January 2, 2013.

Mr. CONRAD. On behalf of the majority leader, I object to any further proceedings with respect to these bills en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 3420

Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, I understand there is a bill at the desk and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3420) to permanently extend the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts, to provide for permanent alternative minimum tax relief, and to repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes, and for other purposes.

Mr. CONRAD. I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be read for a second time on the next legislative day.

APPOINTMENTS

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the majority leader and the Republican leader, pursuant to the Public Law 110-298, reappoints the following individual to serve as a member of the Federal Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery Board: Richard Gardner of Nevada.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the majority leader and the Republican leader, pursuant to the Public Law 110-298, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the State and Local Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery Board: Mike Hettich of Kentucky, vice Nick DiMarco of Ohio.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JULY 24, 2012

Mr. CONRAD. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 24; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that the majority leader be recognized; that the first hour be equally divided

and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings; finally, that at 3:40 p.m., the Senate observe a moment of silence in memory of Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Detective John M. Gibson of the U.S. Capitol Police, who were killed 14 years ago in the line of duty defending this Capitol, the people who work here, and its visitors against an armed intruder.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, today the majority leader filed cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 3412, the Middle Class Tax Cut Act. If no agreement is reached, that vote will be on Wednesday.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. CONRAD. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:20 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, July 24, 2012, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate July 23, 2012:

THE JUDICIARY

MICHAEL A. SHIPP, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY.