

the Senate on December 7, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-8563. A communication from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Competitive Sourcing Report for fiscal year 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-8564. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Leave-Based Donation Programs to Aid Victims of Hurricane Sandy" (Notice 2012-69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-8565. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fees on Health Insurance Policies and Self-Insured Plans for the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Trust Fund" ((RIN1545-BK59) (TD 9602)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-8566. A communication from the Chief of the Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technical Corrections to U.S. Customs and Border Protection Regulations" (CBP Dec. 12-21) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-8567. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) Mandated Evaluation of Express Lane Eligibility: First Year Findings"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-8568. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 12-157, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible affects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-8569. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 12-167, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible affects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-8570. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, certification of proposed issuance of an export license pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No. DDTC 12-095); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-8571. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, certification of proposed issuance of an export license pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No. DDTC 12-126); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-8572. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, certification of proposed issuance of an export license pursuant

to sections 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No. DDTC 12-156); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-8573. A communication from the Program Manager, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Opioid Drugs in Maintenance and Detoxification Treatment of Opiate Addiction; Proposed Modification of Dispensing Restrictions for Buprenorphine and Buprenorphine Combination as Used in Approved Opioid Treatment Medications" (RIN0930-AA14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-8574. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Health Information Technology: Revisions to the 2014 Edition Electronic Health Record Certification Criteria; and Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Revisions to the Electronic Health Record Incentive Program" (RIN0938-AR71; RIN0991-AB89) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-8575. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Secondary Direct Food Additives Permitted in Food for Human Consumption; Sodium Dodecylbenzenesulfonate" (Docket No. FDA-2011-F-0853) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-8576. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Fiscal Year 2012 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8577. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report to Congress on Audit Follow-up for the period of April 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8578. A communication from the Chief Operating Officer/Acting Executive Director, U.S. Election Assistance Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8579. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semi-Annual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012 and the Semi-Annual Report of the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8580. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Residential, Business, and Wind and Solar Resource Leases on Indian Land" (RIN1076-AE73) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2012; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-8581. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, National Indian Gaming

Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Enforcement Actions" (RIN3141-AA50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2012; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-8582. A communication from the Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technical Revisions to Part 53—State Veterans Homes" (RIN2900-AO54) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 10, 2012; to the Committee on Veterans' 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. TOOMEY:

S. 3670. A bill to prohibit the use of fiscal year 2013 funds for United States participation in joint military exercises with Egypt if the Government of Egypt abrogates, terminates, or withdraws from the 1979 Egypt-Israel peace treaty; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. 3671. A bill to provide certain assistance to North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 3672. A bill to clarify the collateral requirement for certain loans under section 7(d) of the Small Business Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. CORKER:

S. 3673. A bill to provide a comprehensive deficit reduction plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 3674. A bill to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to provide certain exemptions relating to the taking of migratory game birds; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 3675. A bill to expand the HUBZone program for communities affected by base realignment and closure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 3676. A bill to promote high-quality, cost-efficient, and effective administrative support services to agencies overseas; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself and Mr. SHELBY):

S. 3677. A bill to make a technical correction to the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973; considered and passed.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. Res. 614. A resolution celebrating the World Peace Corps Mission and the World Peace Prize; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BURR (for himself, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mrs. HAGAN):

S. Res. 615. A resolution congratulating the recipients of the 2012 Nobel Prize in Chemistry; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 2212

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2212, a bill to clarify the exception to foreign sovereign immunity set forth in section 1605(a)(3) title 28, United States Code.

S. 2347

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2347, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure the continued access of Medicare beneficiaries to diagnostic imaging services.

S. 3231

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3231, a bill to provide for the issuance and sale of a semipostal by the United States Postal Service to support effective programs targeted at improving permanency outcomes for youth in foster care.

S. 3237

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3237, a bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission to Accelerate the End of Breast Cancer.

S. 3275

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3275, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the publicly traded partnership ownership structure to energy power generation projects and transportation fuels, and for other purposes.

S. 3460

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3460, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for startup businesses to use a portion of the research and development credit to offset payroll taxes.

S. 3616

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3616, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the expansion of tax benefits for adoption enacted in 2001 and to permanently reinstate the expansion of tax benefits for adoption enacted in 2010, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3311

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas

(Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3311 intended to be proposed to S. 3637, a bill to temporarily extend the transaction account guarantee program, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3319

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3319 intended to be proposed to S. 3637, a bill to temporarily extend the transaction account guarantee program, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3320

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3320 intended to be proposed to S. 3637, a bill to temporarily extend the transaction account guarantee program, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3323

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3323 intended to be proposed to S. 3637, a bill to temporarily extend the transaction account guarantee program, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3324

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3324 intended to be proposed to S. 3637, a bill to temporarily extend the transaction account guarantee program, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. 3671. A bill to provide certain assistance to North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Liquefied Natural Gas, LNG, for NATO Act.

The United States is in possession of vast resources that could directly contribute to the energy security of our closest NATO allies, who face over-reliance on Russian and Iranian gas sources. In 2009, the United States overtook Russia as the world's largest natural gas producer due to vast unconventional reserves. At current U.S. consumption rates, the United States possesses perhaps a century of gas supply. This development has caused U.S. natural gas prices to fall to nearly a half to a third of gas prices in other key European and Asian markets and has prompted numerous applications for export licenses of U.S. liquefied natural gas exports.

Pursuant to Section 3 of the Natural Gas Act, gas exports are subject to approval by the Department of Energy's Office of Fossil Energy and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which must certify that a particular export is

in the U.S. public interest. For destination countries with which the United States has a free trade agreement, a presumption is created that the export is in the public interest, and the license is automatic. For non-free trade agreement nations, a study must be conducted to determine the public interest, entailing a notice and comment period. Several companies have submitted applications to retrofit U.S. LNG import terminals for regasification and export; to construct new LNG export terminals; and to export cryogenic natural gas to Latin America by rail and ship. After approving one application, the Obama administration deferred others until at least 2013, pending a study completed last week. This study found that under any scenario, LNG exports will be a net benefit for the U.S. economy. Moreover, continued development of unconventional gas suppliers is an important source of job creation in the United States.

U.S. shale gas reserves are already transforming European natural gas markets since LNG previously destined for the United States has now been made available for Europe. The United States can do much more to both use LNG exports to benefit NATO allies facing energy insecurity in Europe and to promote economic growth in the United States.

Turkey currently relies on Iran for 20 percent of its gas imports, which could come under increased pressure when the European Council's decision of October 15, 2012 to prohibit the "purchase, import or transport of natural gas from Iran" is implemented. Moreover, several allies and partners in Central and Southeastern Europe, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Greece, the Czech Republic, and Moldova, will see their long-term contracts with Gazprom expire in the coming years. For these countries, targeted U.S. LNG exports, along with infrastructure investment and other policy responses, could help alleviate energy insecurity. It is possible that several other NATO allies and partners may opt for U.S. natural gas imports, and even paying a reliability premium for them, if the opportunity existed.

Meanwhile, European nations are ramping up capacity to import LNG. At present, Europe imports LNG primarily from Algeria, Egypt, Oman, and Qatar to meet about 26 percent of its gas needs, due in large part to a lack of LNG import terminals, which are mostly located in Western Europe, as well as underdeveloped onward interconnectors and storage capacity in Europe. However, numerous European countries, some with financing from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, EBRD, are considering construction of additional LNG import terminals, including Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Turkey, and Ukraine. In light of these dynamics, the United States is well-positioned to