

By Mr. REID (for Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 792. A bill to strengthen the enforcement of background checks with respect to the use of explosive materials; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. BROWN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. WARNER, and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. Res. 105. A resolution designating April 2013 as "Financial Literacy Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. CHAMBLISS):

S. Res. 106. A resolution commending rehabilitation counselors and supporting the goals and ideals of National Rehabilitation Counselors Appreciation Day; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. PRYOR, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. WARNER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. CHAMBLISS):

S. Res. 107. A resolution honoring military children during the National Month of the Military Child; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. BURR):

S. Res. 108. A resolution designating April 2013 as "National 9-1-1 Education Month"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 258

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 258, a bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to improve the management of grazing leases and permits, and for other purposes.

S. 327

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) were added as cosponsors of S. 327, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements with State foresters authorizing State foresters to provide certain forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration and protection services.

S. 345

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 345, a bill to reform the Federal sugar program, and for other purposes.

S. 369

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Pennsyl-

vania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 369, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.

S. 403

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 403, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to address and take action to prevent bullying and harassment of students.

S. 462

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 462, a bill to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel.

S. 471

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 471, a bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to require the inclusion of credit scores with free annual credit reports provided to consumers, and for other purposes.

S. 486

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 486, a bill to authorize pedestrian and motorized vehicular access in Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area, and for other purposes.

S. 545

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 545, a bill to improve hydropower, and for other purposes.

S. 571

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 571, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a deadline for restricting sewage dumping into the Great Lakes and to fund programs and activities for improving wastewater discharges into the Great Lakes.

S. 603

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 603, a bill to repeal the annual fee on health insurance providers enacted by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 633

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 633, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for coverage under the beneficiary travel program of

the Department of Veterans Affairs of certain disabled veterans for travel in connection with certain special disabilities rehabilitation, and for other purposes.

S. 635

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 635, a bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement.

S. 687

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 687, a bill to prohibit the closing of air traffic control towers, and for other purposes.

S. 695

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 695, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the authorization of appropriations for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay a monthly assistance allowance to disabled veterans training or competing for the Paralympic Team and the authorization of appropriations for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide assistance to United States Paralympics, Inc., and for other purposes.

S. 724

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) were added as cosponsors of S. 724, a bill to provide flexibility to agencies on determining what employees are essential personnel in implementing the sequester.

S. 728

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 728, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion from gross income for employer-provided health coverage for employees' spouses and dependent children to coverage provided to other eligible designated beneficiaries of employees.

S. 731

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 731, a bill to require the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency to conduct an empirical impact study on proposed rules relating to the International Basel III agreement on general risk-based capital requirements, as they apply to community banks.

S. 742

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr.

BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 742, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 743

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 743, a bill to restore States' sovereign rights to enforce State and local sales and use tax laws, and for other purposes.

S. 751

At the request of Mr. COATS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 751, a bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to authorize producers on a farm to produce fruits and vegetables for processing on the base acres of the farm.

S. 758

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 758, a bill to establish a comprehensive literacy program.

S. 759

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 759, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for amounts paid by a spouse of a member of the Armed Forces for a new State license or certification required by reason of a permanent change in the duty station of such member to another State.

S. 767

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 767, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for Congressional oversight and approval of totalization agreements.

S. RES. 65

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 65, a resolution strongly supporting the full implementation of United States and international sanctions on Iran and urging the President to continue to strengthen enforcement of sanctions legislation.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 783. A bill to amend the Helium Act to improve helium stewardship, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today Senator MURKOWSKI and I are introducing the Helium Stewardship Act of

2013. This legislation is designed to establish a responsible management strategy for the Federal Helium Reserve that will prevent the disruption of the entire helium supply chain that impacts major parts of the U.S. economy.

Helium is a valuable national resource that is used for a wide range of applications such as a coolant for magnetic resonance imaging machines, semiconductor manufacturing, military aviation, aerospace, and Federal R&D; pressurizing and purging systems; leak detection; welding; and breathing mixtures. Helium uses are diverse. Substitutes are often unavailable. The current global supply is constrained.

The Federal Government has long been in the helium business. In the 1920s, helium was used to float blimps or national defense purposes. Since that time the Federal Government has continued to play a significant role in the production, refining, and storing of helium. This has included establishing a U.S. underground stockpile known as the Federal Helium Reserve located just outside of Amarillo, TX. The Reserve currently supplies 40 percent of the domestic and 30 percent of global helium demand. Eventually, the helium supplies in the Reserve will become too depleted to be used, but for now they provide a critical source of supply.

Current law requires the Federal government to sell off the crude helium remaining in the Federal Helium Reserve in order to repay the U.S. Treasury the \$1.3 billion debt incurred creating it. That debt will be fully repaid this fiscal year. As a result, the helium program will terminate in October absent Congressional action. The result, if Congress does not extend operation of the Reserve, will be significant disruption in sector after sector of economy—everything from medical imaging to semiconductor manufacturing.

We need to act. It is important that we act now.

Our bottom line goal is to keep the Federal Helium Reserve open, until new sources of supply can be developed, and prevent significant disruptions to a number of critical U.S. industries.

This bipartisan bill has two primary objectives; one is to ensure helium market stability for end-users, and to ensure a fair return on this Federal asset to American taxpayers. We believe that it is essential that there be an adequate price discovery mechanism for the sale price of helium to nongovernmental organizations. Our bill would require the Secretary of Interior to establish an auction process to ensure that government prices for helium reflect its value in the marketplace based on an initial auction of 10 percent of supply and increasing that amount by an additional 10 percent a year. But it is also important to keep in mind that the Reserve currently provides major shares of the domestic and global helium supply and we do not

want this legislation to disrupt the many industrial and health care activities that are dependent on helium.

I believe this legislation strikes the right balance. The bill provides for an orderly, gradual transition among three phases, resulting in minimal market disruption to end users. It introduces a price discovery mechanism and transparency measures that will increase the taxpayer return and stimulate investment in private-sector sources. It further gives priority to meeting the needs of Federal users at Federal agencies, national laboratories, and universities. This legislation maintains access to crude helium for Federal users to perform the experiments that lead to the discoveries that drive economic growth, while requiring the development of a long-term plan for Federal helium purchases.

Helium may not be the most high profile natural resources, but it is one resource that is central to our economy. This legislation is urgent, critical, and necessary to ensure that we continue on a trajectory for economic growth that protects the jobs of domestic manufacturers and industrial partners as well as Federal users across the Nation.

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. 783

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 “Helium Stewardship Act of 2013”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

Section 2 of the Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

“In this Act:

“(1) CLIFFSIDE FIELD.—The term ‘Cliffside Field’ means the helium storage reservoir in which the Federal Helium Reserve is stored.

“(2) FEDERAL HELIUM PIPELINE.—The term ‘Federal Helium Pipeline’ means the federally owned pipeline system through which the Federal Helium Reserve may be transported.

“(3) FEDERAL HELIUM RESERVE.—The term ‘Federal Helium Reserve’ means helium reserves owned by the United States.

“(4) FEDERAL HELIUM SYSTEM.—The term ‘Federal Helium System’ means—

“(A) the Federal Helium Reserve;

“(B) the Cliffside Field;

“(C) the Federal Helium Pipeline; and

“(D) all other infrastructure owned, leased, or managed under contract by the Secretary for the storage, transportation, withdrawal, purification, or management of helium.

“(5) FEDERAL USER.—The term ‘Federal user’ means a Federal agency or extramural holder of 1 or more Federal research grants using helium.

“(6) LOW-BTU GAS.—The term ‘low-Btu gas’ means a fuel gas with a heating value of less than 250 Btu per standard cubic foot measured as the higher heating value resulting from the inclusion of noncombustible gases, including nitrogen, helium, argon, and carbon dioxide.

“(7) PERSON.—The term ‘person’ means any individual, corporation, partnership, firm,