

affordable power including renewable energy development. There are also economic benefits to tribes, beyond what a water right alone can achieve. The legislation sets up an economic development fund for the Klamath Tribes so they can create tribal jobs while sustainably managing their natural resources. By modifying some parties' interests for the greater good, the basin can move beyond years of polarizing debate and create a stable future from which to plan and prosper.

These historic agreements didn't happen by osmosis. They represent years of hard work among parties who have stood up to incredible pressures and made very real sacrifices to better their communities and the associations they represent. I have thanked many parties for their dedication over the course of these agreements and want to again express my deepest thanks to the members of the task force and those who went before them to tee up the work for Congress. With this bill, it is now time for Congress to step up and deliver on this package of agreements. The spirit of compromise on these thorny water issues has a message for not just Congress, but provides an example of how other vexing water situations across the Nation can sit down to work out their differences.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 2380. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to improve the national freight policy of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Freight Priorities Act, which takes an all-of-the-above approach to addressing our Nation's freight needs. We must improve the movement of freight and strengthen our economic competitiveness by examining a comprehensive, multimodal, national network that includes not just our major highways, but our rail, seaports, local roads and intermodal facilities. This bill would authorize the Department of Transportation to broaden our approach to freight policy, set goals for reducing air pollution, and creates a pilot program to study the disproportionate impacts on urban communities that can be caused by the movement of freight.

In 2011, 17.6 billion tons of goods were transported throughout the United States, valued at more than \$16.8 trillion. The Federal Highway Administration estimates there will be a 60 percent increase of freight being moved over the next 30 years.

In New Jersey, hundreds of millions of tons of freight are annually shipped through our ports, by rail, and highways. The port of New York and New Jersey, as of 2012, supported over 296,000 jobs and 28.9 billion in business income. This major economic engine drives New Jersey's economy and boosts U.S. economic competitiveness. However, too often, our lack of invest-

ment and our limited focus on the highway network causes our freight to get stuck in congested, heavily trafficked urban areas. Extended truck, rail and ship idling negatively impacts the health and air quality of local urban communities. With a slight adjustment of our priorities and a strong national commitment to investing in our infrastructure, we can dramatically reduce congestion, improve the health of American communities, make sure goods get where they need to go faster and cheaper, strengthen our economy and create jobs.

The Freight Priorities Act sets goals for increasing efficiencies. It outlines goals to reduce air pollution and congestion, and requires the inclusion of port authorities in freight infrastructure investment decisions. The bill requires DOT to meet performance measures for all modes of freight movement, and establishes a pilot program that will help find ways to reduce the impact on local communities and help create access to jobs at ports and other multimodal facilities.

By refocusing our priorities, we will ensure that the smartest, most-cost effective projects secure funding. In New Jersey this could mean investing in the Raritan intermodal hub project in Essex, Union and Middlesex counties, which would create a direct connection for freight cars to access the port of New York and New Jersey. The project would relieve congestion on the roads and shift freight off of Amtrak's passenger lines. This bill would also prioritize investments that reduce air pollution, such as shore power technology at the port of Newark, which would help reduce emissions by allowing major cargo vessels to plug into the electric grid while at port.

Rather than finding ways to merely skate by on the limited infrastructure funds we have each year, the conversation we should be having in Congress is how we can dramatically increase investments in our infrastructure and improve the safety and functionality of our entire network that transports both people and goods. This bill is a strong step in that direction. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation, and look forward to working with my colleagues on the Senate Commerce Committee to carry these priorities as we draft our portion of the Surface Transportation Reauthorization bill.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 453—CON-DEMNING THE DEATH SENTENCE AGAINST MERIAM YAHIA IBRAHIM ISHAG, A SUDANESE CHRISTIAN WOMAN ACCUSED OF APOSTASY

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. VITTER, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BOOZ-

MAN, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BURR, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. COBURN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 453

Whereas, on May 15, 2014, a Sudanese court affirmed a sentence of death by hanging for 27-year old Meriam Yahia Ibrahim Ishag, a Christian woman accused of apostasy for refusing to recant her Christian faith, and ordered her to receive 100 lashes for adultery because under Sudan's Shari'ah law such inter-religious marriages are illegal;

Whereas Ibrahim is eight months pregnant and being held in the Omdurman Federal Women's Prison with her 20-month old son;

Whereas the Department of State has designated Sudan as a "Country of Particular Concern" under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-292) based on the government's systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of religious freedom since 1999;

Whereas the Sudanese 1991 Criminal Code allows for death sentences for apostasy, stoning for adultery, cross-amputations for theft, prison sentences for blasphemy, and floggings for undefined acts of "indecentcy";

Whereas, according to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), the Government of Sudan, led by President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, continues to engage in systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of religious freedom or belief, imposes a restrictive interpretation of Shari'ah law on Muslims and non-Muslims alike and, along with other National Congress Party leaders, President al-Bashir has stated that Sudan's new constitution, when drafted, will be based on its interpretation of Shari'ah;

Whereas, according to USCIRF, since South Sudan's independence from Sudan in 2011, the number and severity of harsh Shari'ah-based judicial decisions in Sudan has increased, including sentences of amputation for theft and sentences of stoning for adultery;

Whereas the United States Government has designated Sudan as a State Sponsor of Terrorism since August 12, 1993, for repeatedly providing support for acts of international terrorism;

Whereas the Sudanese 2005 Interim Constitution states that "[t]he State shall respect the religious rights to (a) worship or assemble in connection with any religion or belief";

Whereas the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which the Government of Sudan has acceded, provides that "everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others, and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice, and teaching.";

Whereas the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life found that, as of 2011, 10 percent of the 198 countries surveyed had apostasy laws which can, and have been, used to punish both Muslims and non-Muslims in countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Morocco, and Sudan; and

Whereas people have the right to practice their faith without fear of death or persecution: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the charge of apostasy and death sentence of Meriam Yahia Ibrahim Ishag and calls for immediate and unconditional release of her and her son;

(2) encourages efforts by the United States Government to support religious freedom within Sudan, including by requiring, before normalizing relations or lifting sanctions under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-292) and the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), that the Government of Sudan abide by international standards of freedom of religion or belief;

(3) urges the Government of Sudan to ensure that, when drafting the country's new constitution, the process is transparent and inclusive of civil society leaders and representatives of all major political parties, to ensure that the new constitution includes protections for freedom of religion or belief, respect for international human rights commitments, and recognition of Sudan as a multireligious, multiethnic, and multicultural nation;

(4) recognizes that every individual regardless of religion should have the opportunity to practice his or her religion without fear of discrimination;

(5) reaffirms the commitment of the United States Government to end religious discrimination and to pursue policies that guarantee the basic human rights of all individuals worldwide; and

(6) encourages the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development to continue their support for initiatives worldwide that support religious freedom.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 454—RECOGNIZING THAT CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE CONTINUES TO BE AN OVERWHELMING THREAT TO WOMEN'S HEALTH AND THE IMPORTANCE OF PROVIDING BASIC, PREVENTIVE HEART SCREENINGS TO WOMEN WHEREVER THEY SEEK PRIMARY CARE

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

##### S. RES. 454

Whereas heart disease remains the leading cause of death for women in the United States, causing 1 in 4 female deaths and more female deaths than all forms of cancer combined;

Whereas since 1984, the number of women who have died from heart disease exceeds the number of men who have died from heart disease;

Whereas the rate of cardiovascular death is increasing by 1 percent each year among women ages 35 to 44;

Whereas heart disease claims the lives of nearly 422,000 women each year;

Whereas almost half of African American women have some form of cardiovascular disease, and African American women are more likely to die from heart disease than white women;

Whereas heart disease and stroke account for \$312,600,000,000 in health care expenditures and lost productivity annually;

Whereas only 54 percent of women recognize that heart disease is the leading cause of death for women, and almost ¾ of women who unexpectedly die of heart disease have no previous symptoms of disease;

Whereas many women, especially younger women, may not be aware of their risk for heart disease because they have never gotten a basic, preventive heart screening and have no symptoms;

Whereas studies show that nearly 1 in 5 women rely solely on their obstetrician and

gynecologist ("OB/GYN") for primary care, yet only 35 percent of women recall having even discussed heart disease with their OB/GYN;

Whereas early identification of cardiovascular disease risk factors such as high blood pressure, smoking, excessive weight and obesity, high cholesterol, and diabetes allows for more effective intervention and treatment, and can dramatically lower a woman's overall risk of heart disease and heart attack;

Whereas the burden of women's heart disease can be reduced in the United States by encouraging primary care providers to offer women basic, preventative heart disease screenings;

Whereas experts recommend and encourage that a basic, preventive heart screening be a routine part of a woman's visit to a primary care practitioner; and

Whereas once women understand their risk, they still need follow-up information, support, and incentives to maintain cardiovascular health and make the most informed decisions: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that, despite improved education and awareness, heart disease remains the number 1 killer of women in the United States;

(2) recognizes the importance of making basic, preventive cardiovascular screening available for women as recommended, so that all women can know the risks they face and what can be done to reduce them;

(3) recognizes that basic, preventive heart disease screenings are recommended to be a routine part of women's health care; and

(4) commits to improving the heart health of all women, tearing down the barriers that prevent women from getting screened for heart disease, ensuring women are provided with personalized lifestyle modification recommendations and support, and ensuring every woman has a healthy heart.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

##### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 21, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

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

##### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 21, 2014, at 2:30 p.m. in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "Delivering Better Health Care Value to Customers: the First Three Years of the Medical Loss Ratio".

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

##### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 21, 2014, at 2 p.m. in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

##### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 21, 2014, at 10 a.m., to hold a hearing entitled "Authorization For Use of Military Force After Iraq And Afghanistan."

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

##### COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 21, 2014, at 10 a.m.

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

##### COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 21, 2014, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Indian Education Series: Ensuring the Bureau of Indian Education has the Tools Necessary to Improve."

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

##### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on May 21, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation."

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

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS AND SUBCOMMITTEE ON EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 21, 2014, at 2:15 p.m., to hold an African Affairs and East Asian and Pacific Affairs subcommittee hearing entitled, "The Escalating International Wildlife Trafficking Crisis: Ecological, Economic and National Security Issues."

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

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 21, 2014, at 10 a.m.

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

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SECURITY, PENSIONS, AND FAMILY POLICY

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Social Security, Pensions, and Family Policy of the Committee on Finance be authorized to