

Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Residential Furnace Fans" (RIN1904-AC21) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 6, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4276. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Alternative Efficiency Determination Methods, Basic Model Definition, and Compliance for Commercial HVAC, Refrigeration, and WH Equipment" (RIN1904-AC46) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4277. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Inflation Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties" (RIN1904-AA43) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 3, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4278. A communication from the General Counsel, Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director of the Peace Corps, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4279. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report of the Attorney General to the Congress of the United States on the Administration of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, for the six months ending December 31, 2012"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4280. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report from the Attorney General to Congress relative to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-4281. A communication from the Co-Chief Privacy Officers, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Privacy Report for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-4282. 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 "Removal of Penalty for Breaking Points" (RIN2900-AO51) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2014; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4283. 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 "Community Residential Care" (RIN2900-AO62) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2014; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4284. 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 "Duty Periods for Establishing Eligibility for Health Care"

(RIN2900-AO25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2013; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4285. A communication from the Deputy 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 "Copayments for Medications in 2014" (RIN2900-AO91) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 27, 2013; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. CARPER for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

\*William Ward Nooter, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

\*Suzanne Eleanor Spaulding, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary, Department of Homeland Security.

\*John Roth, of Michigan, to be Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

#### 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. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. PAUL):

S. 1916. A bill to amend the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to provide for an application process for interested parties to apply for a county to be designated as a rural area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 1917. A bill to provide for additional enhancements of the sexual assault prevention and response activities of the Armed Forces; read the first time.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 1918. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a special change in status rule for employees who become eligible for TRICARE; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. LEE, Mr. FISTER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 1919. A bill to repeal the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 1920. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the research and development credit to encourage innovation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 1921. A bill to require a Federal agency to include language in certain educational and advertising materials indicating that such materials are produced and disseminated at taxpayer expense; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 1922. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to prevent the illegal trafficking of supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits by requiring all program beneficiaries to show valid photo identification when purchasing items with program benefits; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. VITTER):

S. 1923. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to exempt from registration brokers performing services in connection with the transfer of ownership of smaller privately held companies; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. VITTER, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. JOHANNES):

S. 1924. A bill to require a report on INF Treaty compliance information sharing; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. HATCH, Mr. KING, Mr. BENNET, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mr. THUNE):

S. 1925. A bill to limit the retrieval of data from vehicle event data recorders; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 1926. A bill to delay the implementation of certain provisions of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 and to reform the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers, and for other purposes; read the first time.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 204

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 204, a bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

S. 569

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 569, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count a period of receipt of outpatient observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare.

S. 1174

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1174, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th

Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers.

S. 1406

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1406, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1476

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1476, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the denial of deduction for certain excessive employee remuneration, and for other purposes.

S. 1533

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1533, a bill to end offshore tax abuses, to preserve our national defense and protect American families and businesses from devastating cuts, and for other purposes.

S. 1590

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1590, a bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to require transparency in the operation of American Health Benefit Exchanges.

S. 1697

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1697, a bill to support early learning.

S. 1726

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1726, a bill to prevent a taxpayer bailout of health insurance issuers.

S. 1737

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1737, a bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

S. 1739

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1739, a bill to modify the efficiency standards for grid-enabled water heaters.

S. 1846

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1846, a bill to delay the imple-

mentation of certain provisions of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, and for other purposes.

S. 1848

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1848, a bill to amend section 1303(b)(3) of Public Law 111-148 concerning the notice requirements regarding the extent of health plan coverage of abortion and abortion premium surcharges.

S. 1853

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1853, a bill to amend the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 to provide for Scientific Advisory Board member qualifications, public participation, and for other purposes.

S. 1875

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1875, a bill to provide for wildfire suppression operations, and for other purposes.

S. 1902

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors of S. 1902, a bill to require notification of individuals of breaches of personally identifiable information through Exchanges under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 1907

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1907, a bill to amend a provision of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 regarding prohibitions on investments in certain funds to clarify that such provision shall not be construed to require the divestiture of certain collateralized debt obligations backed by trust-preferred securities or debt securities of collateralized loan obligations.

S. 1915

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1915, a bill to permit health insurance issuers to offer additional plan options to individuals.

S. RES. 330

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 330, a resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of "Smoking and Health: Report of the Advisory Committee to the Surgeon General of the United States" and the significant progress in reducing the public health burden of tobacco use, and supporting an end to tobacco-related death and disease.

AMENDMENT NO. 2603

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2603 intended to be proposed to S. 1845, a bill to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. PAUL):

S. 1916. A bill to amend the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to provide for an application process for interested parties to apply for a county to be designated as a rural area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have spoken often on the floor about the challenges and opportunities for the future that the people of eastern Kentucky and rural parts of the Commonwealth face. Many of these challenges stem from this administration's regulatory overreach, whether it is a war on coal, ObamaCare or Dodd-Frank. Too many people are out of work, which has placed a drastic burden on the coal mining industry, and harshly cut the number of jobs available in the coal mining industry and related industries.

In spite of the challenges the people of eastern Kentucky face, I have great confidence we can overcome that and succeed. I was pleased to be able to assist the Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation in receiving a Promise Zone designation, which was awarded just last week. That is why I wrote the administration in support of this designation last year. This economic initiative is just one way to help jumpstart the region's journey out of economic distress.

But we need more than that. My friend and colleague in the other Chamber, Representative HAL ROGERS, is leading an effort to identify ways to lift Appalachia out of the cycle of poverty and unemployment through the SOAR Initiative, and I applaud his efforts.

To offer yet another possibility for eastern Kentucky, my friend and colleague Senator RAND PAUL and I introduced the Economic Freedom Zones Act, to further enable eastern Kentucky to lift the burdens of some of the poorest families in the country. Our legislation would roll back government regulations and tax barriers to spur job creation and reform failed educational systems to aid disadvantaged children.

So continuing my efforts to find ways to assist these rural counties and give these communities a voice, I am pleased to introduce today, along with Senator PAUL, the Helping Expand Lending Practices in Rural Communities Act or simply the HELP Rural