

also return 50 percent of all revenues to the Federal Government, rather than the 10 percent allowed under current law. At approximately \$100 per barrel, and given the Coastal Plain's estimate of over 10 billion barrels, there is a trillion dollars' worth of oil locked up beneath this small area in northern Alaska.

As we continue to struggle with high long-term unemployment and unsustainable national debt, we need to pursue development opportunities more than ever. The shale oil and gas boom on state and private lands in the Lower 48 has been the one shining light as our economy struggles to recover from the recession. My bills offer us a chance to produce more of our own energy, for the good of the American people, in an environmentally-friendly way. With oil hovering near \$100 a barrel, with so many of our fellow citizens out of work, and with the U.S. nation still about 40 percent dependent on foreign oil—it would be foolish to once again ignore our most promising prospect for new development.

For decades, Alaskans, whom polls show overwhelmingly support development of the coastal plain, have been asking permission to explore and develop the resources located there. Technology has advanced so that it is possible to develop oil and gas from the refuge with little or no impact on the area and its wildlife.

I hope this Congress will have the common sense to allow America to help itself by developing the coastal plain's substantial resources. This is critical to my State and the nation as a whole. With this in mind, I will work to educate the members of this chamber about the opportunity we have and the tremendous benefits it would provide. I will show why such development should occur—why it must occur—and how it can benefit all of us at a time when we so desperately need good economic news.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 455—DESIGNATING MAY 2014 AS “OLDER AMERICANS MONTH”

Mr. NELSON (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 455

Whereas President John F. Kennedy first designated May as “Senior Citizens Month” in 1963;

Whereas in 1963, only 17,000,000 individuals living in the United States were age 65 or older, approximately 1/3 of such individuals lived in poverty, and few programs existed to meet the needs of older individuals in the United States;

Whereas in 2014, there are more than 43,000,000 individuals age 65 or older in the United States, and such individuals account for 13.7 percent of the total population of the United States;

Whereas in 2014, more than 9,600,000 veterans of the Armed Forces are age 65 or older;

Whereas older individuals in the United States rely on Federal programs, such as Social Security, the Medicare program, the Medicaid program, for financial security and high-quality affordable health care;

Whereas the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) provides supportive services to help individuals of the United States who are age 60 or older maintain maximum independence in their homes and communities;

Whereas the Older Americans Act of 1965 provides funding for programs, including nutrition services, transportation, and care management, to assist more than 11,000,000 older individuals in the United States each year;

Whereas compared to older individuals in the United States in past generations, older individuals in the United States in 2014 are working longer, living longer, and enjoying healthier, more active, and more independent lifestyles;

Whereas more than 4,300,000 individuals in the United States age 65 or older continue to work as full-time, year-round employees;

Whereas older individuals in the United States play an important role in society by continuing to contribute their experience, knowledge, wisdom, and accomplishments;

Whereas older individuals in the United States play vital roles in their communities and remain involved in volunteer work, mentoring activities, the arts, cultural activities, and civic engagement; and

Whereas a society that recognizes the success of older individuals and continues to enhance their access to quality and affordable health care will encourage the ongoing participation and heightened independence of such individuals and will ensure the continued safety and well-being of such individuals:

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 2014 as “Older Americans Month”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to provide opportunities for older individuals to continue to flourish by—

(A) emphasizing the importance and leadership of older individuals through public recognition of their ongoing achievements;

(B) presenting opportunities for older individuals to share their wisdom, experience, and skills with younger generations; and

(C) recognizing older individuals as valuable assets in strengthening communities across the United States.

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 456—RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE CHALLENGES OF CHILDREN IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM, AND ENCOURAGING CONGRESS TO IMPLEMENT POLICY TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF CHILDREN IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM

Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. HAGAN, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mrs. BOXER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 456

Whereas National Foster Care Month was established more than 20 years ago to—

(1) bring foster care issues to the forefront;

(2) highlight the importance of permanency for every child; and

(3) recognize the essential role that foster parents, social workers, and advocates have in the lives of children in foster care throughout the United States;

Whereas all children deserve a safe, loving, and permanent home;

Whereas the primary goal of the foster care system is to ensure the safety and well-being of children while working to provide a safe, loving, and permanent home for each child;

Whereas there are approximately 400,000 children living in foster care;

Whereas there were approximately 252,000 youth that entered the foster care system in 2012, while nearly 102,000 youth were eligible and awaiting adoption at the end of 2012;

Whereas foster care is intended to be a temporary placement, but children remain in the foster care system for an average of 2 years;

Whereas ethnic minority children are more likely to stay in the foster care system for longer periods of time and are less likely to be reunited with their biological families;

Whereas foster parents are the front-line caregivers for children who cannot safely remain with their biological parents and provide physical care, emotional support, education advocacy, and are the largest single source of families providing permanent homes for children leaving foster care to adoption;

Whereas children in foster care who are placed with relatives, compared to children placed with nonrelatives, have more stability, including fewer changes in placements, have more positive perceptions of their placements, are more likely to be placed with their siblings, and demonstrate fewer behavioral problems;

Whereas some relative caregivers receive less financial assistance and support services than do foster caregivers;

Whereas recent studies show children in foster care are prescribed psychotropic medication at rates up to 11 times higher than other children on Medicaid and in amounts that exceed the Food and Drug Administration's guidelines;

Whereas youth in foster care are much more likely to face educational instability with 34 percent of foster youth ages 17 to 18 experiencing at least 5 changes while in care;

Whereas youth in foster care are often cut off from other youth and face hurdles in participating in activities common to their peers, such as sports or extracurricular activities;

Whereas youth in foster care are more susceptible to being trafficked, and more needs to be done to prevent, identify, and intervene when a child becomes a victim of the crime;

Whereas an increased emphasis on prevention and reunification services is necessary to reduce the number of children that are forced to remain in the foster care system;

Whereas more than 23,400 youth “age out” of foster care annually without a legal permanent connection to an adult or family;

Whereas children who age out of foster care lack the security or support of a biological or adoptive family and frequently struggle to secure affordable housing, obtain health insurance, pursue higher education, and acquire adequate employment;

Whereas nearly half of children in foster care for five or more years experience 7 or more different foster care placements, which often leads to disruption of routines and the need to change schools and move away from siblings, extended families, and familiar surroundings;

Whereas children entering foster care often confront the widespread misperception that children in foster care are disruptive, unruly, and dangerous, even though placement in

foster care is based on the actions of a parent or guardian, not the child;

Whereas States, localities, and communities should be encouraged to invest resources in preventative and reunification services and post-permanency programs to ensure that more children in foster care are provided with safe, loving, and permanent placements;

Whereas Federal legislation over the past three decades, including the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-272), the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-89), the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-351), the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act (Public Law 112-34), and the Uninterrupted Scholars Act (Public Law 112-278) provided new investments and services to improve the outcomes of children in the foster care system;

Whereas the Children's Bureau of the Department of Health and Human Services has designated May as National Foster Care Month under the theme "to help build blocks toward permanent families for foster youth";

Whereas May would be an appropriate month to designate as National Foster Care Month to provide an opportunity to acknowledge the accomplishments of the child-welfare workforce, foster parents, advocacy community, and mentors for their dedication, accomplishments, and positive impact they have on the lives of children; and

Whereas much remains to be done to ensure that all children have a safe, loving, nurturing, and permanent family, regardless of age or special needs: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges that children face in the foster-care system;

(2) encourages Congress to implement policy to improve the lives of children in the foster care system and maximize the number children exiting foster care to the protection of safe, loving, and permanent families;

(3) supports the designation of National Foster Care Month;

(4) acknowledges the unique needs of children in the foster-care system;

(5) recognizes foster youth throughout the United States for their ongoing tenacity, courage, and resilience while facing life challenges;

(6) acknowledges the exceptional alumni of the foster-care system who serve as advocates and role models for youth who remain in care;

(7) honors the commitment and dedication of the individuals who work tirelessly to provide assistance and services to children in the foster-care system; and

(8) reaffirms the need to continue working to improve the outcomes of all children in the foster-care system through parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) and other programs designed to—

(A) support vulnerable families;

(B) invest in prevention and reunification services;

(C) promote guardianship, adoption, and other permanent placement opportunities in cases where reunification is not in the best interests of the child;

(D) adequately serve those children brought into the foster-care system; and

(E) facilitate the successful transition into adulthood for children that "age out" of the foster-care system.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 457—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF MAY 18 THROUGH MAY 24, 2014, AS "NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK"

Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 457

Whereas public works infrastructure, facilities, and services are of vital importance to the health, safety, and well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas the public works infrastructure, facilities, and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of public works professionals, including engineers and administrators, who represent State and local governments throughout the United States;

Whereas public works professionals design, build, operate, and maintain the transportation systems, water infrastructure, sewage and refuse disposal systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities that are vital to the people and communities of the United States; and

Whereas understanding the role that public infrastructure plays in protecting the environment, improving public health and safety, contributing to economic vitality, and enhancing the quality of life of every community of the United States is in the interest of the people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of May 18 through May 24, 2014, as "National Public Works Week";

(2) recognizes and celebrates the important contributions that public works professionals make every day to improve—

(A) the public infrastructure of the United States; and

(B) the communities that public works professionals serve; and

(3) urges individuals and communities throughout the United States to join with representatives of the Federal Government and the American Public Works Association in activities and ceremonies that are designed—

(A) to pay tribute to the public works professionals of the United States; and

(B) to recognize the substantial contributions that public works professionals make to the United States.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 458—RECOGNIZING MAY AS JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AND HONORING HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. NELSON, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 458

Whereas in May of each year, people across the United States recognize and celebrate over 350 years of Jewish contributions to the United States through Jewish American Heritage Month;

Whereas during the Holocaust, the Nazi regime murdered approximately 6,000,000 Jews, in addition to millions of non-Jews, between 1933 and 1945;

Whereas the Nazi regime also imprisoned, persecuted, and tortured hundreds of thou-

sands of Jewish victims who nonetheless survived;

Whereas the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Holocaust Encyclopedia estimates that more than 200,000 persecuted Jews found refuge in the United States between 1933 and 1945, and that approximately 137,000 Jewish refugees settled in the United States after World War II in the years between 1945 and 1952;

Whereas in subsequent decades, Jewish refugees continued to immigrate to the United States from Europe, the Middle East, and the former Soviet Union;

Whereas many survivors of the Holocaust have dedicated their lives to educating future generations about the dangers of bigotry and anti-Semitism and the resiliency of the human spirit; and

Whereas countless survivors of the Holocaust living in the United States have made numerous and substantial contributions to society in the areas of the humanities, science, government, law, history, medicine, military service, philosophy, social justice, technology, and more, including—

(1) a Marylander who bravely led the decades-long fight for reparations from the French rail companies that transported victims to Nazi concentration camps and killing centers;

(2) a former judge on the International Court of Justice and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, who was a member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee, and who is currently a professor specializing in international justice at The George Washington University Law School;

(3) a native of France who survived a series of Nazi concentration camps and became a well-known author, lecturer, and actor who appeared as Corporal Louis LeBeau on the 1960s television series *Hogan's Heroes*;

(4) a native of Poland who spent his childhood in a Nazi labor camp, was educated in the United States, and became a renowned chemist, author, professor, and poet, winning the 1981 Nobel Prize in Chemistry;

(5) a former Member of the House of Representatives and Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and founder of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, who, along with his wife and fellow survivor, devoted his life to championing human rights and freedom around the world;

(6) a Polish-born author, historian, educator, member of the United States Holocaust Commission, and recipient of the 2010 Presidential Medal of Freedom;

(7) an Austrian native, literary scholar, and professor who authored a 1992 autobiography, *Still Alive: A Holocaust Girlhood Remembered*, and numerous scholarly publications on the Holocaust and anti-Semitism;

(8) a Croatian-born survivor who helped produce the movie *Schindler's List* and became an advisor to the USC Shoah Foundation, an archive of testimonies of genocide survivors chaired by Steven Spielberg;

(9) an Illinoisan who created the International Monetary Market, served as chairman of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, and revolutionized markets by creating financial futures after fleeing Holocaust-era Poland as a child;

(10) a Hungarian survivor who served in the United States Army in the Korean War and who was awarded the Medal of Honor in 2005 for his heroic actions while being held in a Chinese POW camp that saved the lives of at least 40 fellow soldiers;

(11) a native of Germany who escaped Nazi Germany as a teenager, served as a corporal in the United States Army, was an interpreter and analyst during the Nuremberg Trials, served in the Foreign Service of the Department of State, and authored a book about a Jewish resistor who assassinated a