

TAA has been vitally important in helping Maine workers, and those across the Nation, who have been harmed by trade get the skills and training they need to prepare for jobs in other industries. Reauthorization of trade adjustment assistance programs must be a part of the national trade policy debate, and I am pleased that the Senate recognized the importance of TAA by approving the bipartisan amendment that I authored to the Budget Resolution related to reauthorizing TAA. I urge my colleagues to support the bipartisan Trade Adjustment Assistance Enhancement Act of 2015 to continue crucial investments in the American worker and protect them from unfair trade practices and increased imports.

#### VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE ACT

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I support the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Act. Each year, tax payers across the country utilize accountants, tax software, and lawyers as they prepare their returns. For millions of low-income families, high-cost, high-tech tax assistance is not an option. As a result, the families most in need of tax preparation assistance—low- and moderate-income families, including elderly and disabled taxpayers—will fail to file their taxes or miss out on valuable tax credits.

The IRS created the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, VITA program in 1969 to assist individuals and families in submitting their Federal tax returns. For decades, this program operated predominantly with the resources and facilities of community partners. In 2007, Congress created a demonstration program awarding matching grants to VITA sites to serve additional low-income individuals and families. Since 2008, the VITA grant program has grown to over 200 grant recipients but is still only able to fund about two-thirds of grant applicants.

During the 2014 Federal income tax filing season, VITA programs filed approximately 1.7 million tax returns. Of those 1.7 million returns, more than 551,000 claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit as part of nearly \$2.5 billion in tax refunds that went to VITA tax filers. In addition, VITA programs improve accuracy in the return process and reduce IRS costs by e-filing. In 2014, VITA program tax returns were e-filed 96 percent of the time, compared to 86 percent for the rest of the population.

Funding for the VITA program remains insufficient to meet demand and has not been made permanent. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Act would ensure that volunteers and non-profits across the country can continue to provide essential tax preparation services each spring by creating a permanent matching grant program for VITA sites. The act would also build on the success of the VITA program by

creating a National Center to Promote Quality, Excellence, and Evaluation in Volunteer Income Tax Assistance. Through the center, VITA's many sites would have a mechanism to share best practices and create a more efficient and sustainable program to serve a large number of low- and middle-income families.

I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting working families by cosponsoring the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Act.

#### RECOGNIZING SANOFI'S PENNSYLVANIA EMPLOYEES

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the contributions to global public health by the Pennsylvania employees of Sanofi. Yesterday, at the White House, they were presented with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's Patent for Humanity award, in recognition of the development of a patented chemical and industrial process for producing semi-synthetic artemisinin, which is used in the creation of combination therapies, ACTs, treating malaria.

Malaria is one of the most deadly infectious diseases in the world, with 200 million cases in almost 100 countries. In 2013, an estimated 584,000 people died from malaria. This parasitic infection most significantly burdens countries with the highest rates of poverty. In Africa, where 90 percent of all malaria cases occur, one child dies every minute from the condition.

Artemisinin is an important anti-malarial drug derived from the sweet wormwood plant in Asia and Africa, but weather and other factors can yield an uncertain supply of natural artemisinin, threatening patients' access. Thus, developing semi-synthetic artemisinin will enable a stable supply of high-quality medication at affordable prices on a no-profit, no-loss model, lead to a stronger supply chain, and place more ACTs in the hands of the most vulnerable patients. Sanofi hopes to produce annually an average of 50 to 60 tons of artemisinin, which will produce 80 to 150 million ACT treatments.

This project to produce semi-synthetic artemisinin began in 2007, and involves a partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the University of California Berkeley, the global health charity PATH, Sanofi, and Amiry's. I would like to commend in particular Alain Werner, Robert Sebbag, and Philippe Charreau of Sanofi who led the organization's work on this important project. Sanofi's achievement is only one example of a rich history of dedicating its resources to combat the world's most deadly diseases. Their work on malaria dates back to the 1930s. More recently, Sanofi, which has 112,000 employees and retains core strengths in human vaccines, animal health, consumer healthcare, diabetes, and rare diseases, created its Access to Medicines pro-

gram to improve access to healthcare in the poorest countries.

As the Senate continues to work on legislation to speed the development of therapies, I ask my colleagues keep in mind the important incentives and intellectual property protections that encourage scientists, such as those responsible for this breakthrough, to create lifesaving medicines for patients worldwide.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

#### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

#### PROPOSED AGREEMENT FOR CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA CONCERNING PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY—PM 14

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with accompanying papers; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress, pursuant to subsections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153(b), (d)) (the "Act"), the text of a proposed Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the People's Republic of China Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (the "Agreement"). I am also pleased to transmit my written approval, authorization, and determination concerning the Agreement, and an unclassified Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statement (NPAS) concerning the Agreement. (In accordance with section 123 of the Act, as amended by Title XII of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-277), two classified annexes to the NPAS, prepared by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, summarizing relevant classified information, will be submitted to the Congress separately.) The joint memorandum submitted to me by the Secretaries of State and Energy and a letter from the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission stating the views of the Commission are also enclosed. An addendum to the NPAS containing a comprehensive analysis of China's export control system with respect to nuclear-related matters, including interactions with other countries of proliferation concern and the actual or suspected nuclear, dual-use, or missile-

related transfers to such countries, pursuant to section 102A(w) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(w)), is being submitted separately by the Director of National Intelligence.

The proposed Agreement has been negotiated in accordance with the Act and other applicable law. In my judgment, it meets all applicable statutory requirements and will advance the nonproliferation and other foreign policy interests of the United States.

The proposed Agreement provides a comprehensive framework for peaceful nuclear cooperation with China based on a mutual commitment to nuclear nonproliferation. It would permit the transfer of material, equipment (including reactors), components, information, and technology for nuclear research and nuclear power production. It does not permit transfers of any Restricted Data. Transfers of sensitive nuclear technology, sensitive nuclear facilities, and major critical components of such facilities may only occur if the Agreement is amended to cover such transfers. In the event of termination, key nonproliferation conditions and controls continue with respect to material, equipment, and components subject to the Agreement.

The proposed Agreement would obligate the United States and China to work together to enhance their efforts to familiarize commercial entities in their respective countries about the requirements of the Agreement as well as national export controls and policies applicable to exports and imports subject to the Agreement. It would have a term of 30 years from the date of its entry into force. Either party may terminate the proposed Agreement on at least 1 year's written notice to the other party.

Since the 1980s, China has become a party to several nonproliferation treaties and conventions and worked to bring its domestic export control authorities in line with international standards. China joined the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1992 as a nuclear weapon state, brought into force an Additional Protocol to its International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards agreement in 2002, and joined the Nuclear Suppliers Group in 2004. China is a party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, which establishes international standards of physical protection for use, storage, and transport of nuclear material, and has ratified the 2005 Amendment to the Convention. A more detailed discussion of China's civil nuclear program and its nuclear nonproliferation policies and practices, including its nuclear export policies and practices, is provided in the NPAS and in two classified annexes to the NPAS submitted to you separately. As noted above, the Director of National Intelligence will provide an addendum to the NPAS containing a comprehensive analysis of the export control system of China with respect to nuclear-related matters.

I have considered the views and recommendations of the interested departments and agencies in reviewing the proposed Agreement and have determined that its performance will promote, and will not constitute an unreasonable risk to, the common defense and security. Accordingly, I have approved the proposed Agreement and authorized its execution and urge that the Congress give it favorable consideration.

This transmission shall constitute a submittal for purposes of both sections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Act. My Administration is prepared to begin immediately the consultations with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee as provided in section 123 b. Upon completion of the 30 days of continuous session review provided for in section 123 b., the 60 days of continuous session review provided for in section 123 d. shall commence.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, April 21, 2015.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 1035. A bill to extend authority relating to roving surveillance, access to business records, and individual terrorists as agents of foreign powers under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 and for other purposes.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1306. A communication from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2015; to the Committees on Finance; and Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1307. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Jacksonville Harbor Project in Duval County, Florida, for the purpose of deep draft navigation; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1308. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Lead-based Paint Programs; Extension of Renovator Certifications" ((RIN2070-AK04) (FRL No. 9925-71)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1309. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Idaho; Interstate Transport of Fine Particulate Matter" (FRL No. 9926-52-Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1310. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Alabama: Non-interference Demonstration for Federal Low-Reid Vapor Pressure Requirement for the Birmingham Area" (FRL No. 9926-41-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1311. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Redesignation Request and Associated Maintenance Plan for the Pennsylvania Portion of the Philadelphia-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE Nonattainment Area for the 1997 Annual and 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter Standard" (FRL No. 9926-43-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1312. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Michigan; SO<sub>2</sub> Rules" (FRL No. 9926-31-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1313. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; CO Monitoring" (FRL No. 9926-29-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1314. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Quality Implementation Plan; Florida; Attainment Plan for the Hillsborough Area for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9926-34-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1315. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Delegation of Authority to Oklahoma" (FRL No. 9926-50-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1316. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Rhode Island; Prevention of Significant Deterioration" (FRL No. 9926-51-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 16, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1317. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Vermont: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions" (FRL No. 9926-54-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the