

By Mr. ROUNDS:

S. 1289. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the inclusion of certain contractor personnel in matters on the defense acquisition workforce in the annual strategic workforce plan of the Department of Defense; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ROUNDS:

S. 1290. A bill to ensure the ability of covered beneficiaries under the TRICARE program to access care under a health plan under such program in each TRICARE program region, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. FISCHER:

S. 1291. A bill to authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 1292. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to treat certain qualified disaster areas as HUBZones and to extend the period for HUBZone treatment for certain base closure areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 1293. A bill to establish the Department of Energy as the lead agency for coordinating all requirements under Federal law with respect to eligible clean coal and advanced coal technology generating projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 1294. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Agriculture to collaborate in promoting the development of efficient, economical, and environmentally sustainable thermally led wood energy systems; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. GARDNER):

S. 1295. A bill to adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. FISCHER:

S. 1296. A bill to establish the American Infrastructure Bank to offer States the option for more flexibility in financing and funding infrastructure projects; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PETERS, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. GARDNER):

S. 1297. A bill to update the Commercial Space Launch Act by amending title 51, United States Code, to promote competitiveness of the U.S. commercial space sector, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GARDNER, and Mr. ALEXANDER):

S. 1298. A bill to provide nationally consistent measures of performance of the Nation's ports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. UDALL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. COONS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. REID):

S. 1299. A bill to revise and extend provisions under the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. CORKER):

S. 1300. A bill to amend the section 221 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide relief for adoptive families from immigrant visa feeds in certain situations; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 1301. A bill to amend title IV of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 to restore Medicaid coverage for citizens of the Freely Associated States lawfully residing in the United States under the Compacts of Free Association between the Government of the United States and the Governments of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. COONS, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 1302. A bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to provide leave because of the death of a son or daughter; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 1303. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the enrollment of veterans in certain courses of education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. CANTWELL:

S. 1304. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a pilot competitive grant program for the development of a skilled energy workforce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BARRASSO:

S. 1305. A bill to amend the Colorado River Storage Project Act to authorize the use of the active capacity of the Fontenelle Reservoir; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 1306. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to use existing funding available to further projects that would improve energy efficiency and reduce emissions; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 1307. A bill to amend section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, to require that the annual budget submissions of the Presidents include the total dollar amount requested for intelligence or intelligence related activities of each element of the Government engaged in such activities; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 1308. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to more comprehensively address the interstate transportation of firearms or ammunition; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 1309. A bill to provide for the removal of default information from a borrower's credit report with respect to certain rehabilitated education loans; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 1310. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior from issuing new oil or natural gas production leases in the Gulf of Mexico under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to a person that does not renegotiate its existing leases in order to require royalty pay-

ments if oil and natural gas prices are greater than or equal to specified price thresholds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 1311. A bill to amend the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982 and the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to modify certain penalties to deter oil spills; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. CORKER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. FLAKE, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 1312. A bill to modernize Federal policies regarding the supply and distribution of energy in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. Res. 178. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Nurses Week from May 6, 2015, through May 12, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 36

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 36, a bill to address the continued threat posed by dangerous synthetic drugs by amending the Controlled Substances Act relating to controlled substance analogues.

S. 122

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 122, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to allow for the personal importation of safe and affordable drugs from approved pharmacies in Canada.

S. 170

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 170, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum age for children eligible for medical care under the CHAMPVA program, and for other purposes.

S. 183

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 183, a bill to repeal the annual fee on health insurance providers enacted by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 299

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 299, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 330

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 330, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions, and for other purposes.

S. 370

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 370, a bill to require breast density reporting to physicians and patients by facilities that perform mammograms, and for other purposes.

S. 389

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 389, a bill to amend section 1111(h)(1)(C)(i) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require that annual State report cards reflect the same race groups as the decennial census of population.

S. 488

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 488, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists to supervise cardiac, intensive cardiac, and pulmonary rehabilitation programs.

S. 677

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 677, a bill to prohibit the application of certain restrictive eligibility requirements to foreign nongovernmental organizations with respect to the provision of assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

S. 713

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 713, a bill to prevent international violence against women, and for other purposes.

S. 798

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 798, a bill to provide for notice to, and input by, State insurance commissioners when requiring an insurance company to serve as a source of financial strength or when the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation places a lien against an insurance company's assets, and for other purposes.

S. 806

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin

(Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 806, a bill to amend section 31306 of title 49, United States Code, to recognize hair as an alternative specimen for preemployment and random controlled substances testing of commercial motor vehicle drivers and for other purposes.

S. 824

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 824, a bill to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 860

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 860, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes, and for other purposes.

S. 911

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 911, a bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue an order with respect to secondary cockpit barriers, and for other purposes.

S. 1013

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1013, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage and payment for complex rehabilitation technology items under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1049

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1049, a bill to allow the financing by United States persons of sales of agricultural commodities to Cuba.

S. 1119

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1119, a bill to establish the National Criminal Justice Commission.

S. 1121

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1121, 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. 1133

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1133, a bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration.

S. 1141

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1141, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for small businesses.

S. 1170

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1170, a bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research, and for other purposes.

S. 1199

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1199, a bill to authorize Federal agencies to provide alternative fuel to Federal employees on a reimbursable basis, and for other purposes.

S. 1236

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1236, a bill to amend the Federal Power Act to modify certain requirements relating to trial-type hearings with respect to certain license applications before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and for other purposes.

S. 1253

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1253, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage of certain disposable medical technologies under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1282

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1282, a bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the Secretary of Energy to consider the objective of improving the conversion, use, and storage of carbon dioxide produced from fossil fuels in carrying out research and development programs under that Act.

S. RES. 143

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 143, a resolution supporting efforts to ensure that students have access to debt-free higher education.

S. RES. 148

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 148, a resolution condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

S. RES. 174

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 174, a resolution recognizing May 2015 as "Jewish American Heritage Month" and honoring the contributions of Jewish Americans to the United States of America.

S. RES. 177

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 177, a resolution designating the week of May 10 through May 16, 2015, as "National Police Week".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 1294. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Agriculture to collaborate in promoting the development of efficient, economical, and environmentally sustainable thermally led wood energy systems; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I am proud to introduce the Bioenergy Act of 2015.

Managed in an environmentally responsible way, woody biomass presents a carbon-neutral alternative to fossil fuels for heating and powering homes, schools and businesses. Much of the woody biomass in the U.S. that could be used for energy production is either waste from the forest products industry, or small trees that contribute to the overcrowding of forests and wildfires. In 2013, wildfires burned 4.3 million acres of American forests and rangeland, and the Federal Government spent \$1.7 billion to fight them. Additionally, about 2 billion metric tons, or 30 percent, of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions came from fossil fuel use in space heating, water heating or electricity generation for American homes and businesses. Using woody biomass for heat and power can help fund wildfire risk reduction and forest restoration, all while creating low-carbon energy and a stable source of jobs in rural economies across the country.

Despite this potential, the U.S. Department of Energy, DOE, has not invested in biomass heat, bioheat, and power, biopower, projects and research. This bill introduces modest steps to develop this resource, learn more about its full potential, and improve inter-agency coordination between DOE and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA, Forest Service on this topic.

Specifically, the bill will establish a competitive cost-share grant program at the Department of Energy to improve technologies for processing woody biomass and bringing down transportation costs, as well as innovative technologies for using biomass for heat and power—from new power plant designs, to neighborhood heating systems called "district energy" systems.

The bill also creates a cost-share grant program through the U.S. Forest Service to support proven biomass technologies, like combined heat and power, CHP. To assist with financing, the bill expands a loan program run by the USDA Rural Utilities Service to include bioheat and biopower, and establishes a new loan program for projects that are not located in a rural utility service territory. Finally, the bill would support continued research into the environmental sustainability and economics of using biomass for heat and power, and would establish a collaborative platform for directing this research across the Departments of Energy and Agriculture.

This bill is good for the environment, good for rural jobs, and good for stopping wildfires before they start. I encourage my colleagues to support it.

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. 1294

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 "Bioenergy Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

- (1) **BIOHEAT.**—The term "bioheat" means the use of woody biomass to generate heat.
- (2) **BIOWOOD.**—The term "biowood" means the use of woody biomass to generate electricity.
- (3) **INITIATIVE.**—The term "Initiative" means the Bioheat and Biopower Initiative established under section 3(a).
- (4) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Energy.
- (5) **STATE WOOD ENERGY TEAM.**—The term "State Wood Energy Team" means a collaborative group of stakeholders that—

(A) carry out activities within a State to identify sustainable energy applications for woody biomass; and

(B) has been designated by the State and Private Forestry organization of the Forest Service as a State Wood Energy Team.

SEC. 3. BIOHEAT AND BIOWOOD INITIATIVE.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary, acting jointly with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall establish a collaborative working group, to be known as the "Bioheat and Biopower Initiative", to carry out the duties described in subsection (c).

(b) **BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Initiative shall be led by a Board of Directors.

(2) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Board of Directors shall consist of—

(A) representatives of the Department of Energy and the Department of Agriculture, who shall serve as cochairpersons of the Board;

(B) a senior officer or employee, each of whom shall have a rank that is equivalent to the departmental rank of a representative described in subparagraph (A), of each of—

- (i) the Department of the Interior;
- (ii) the Environmental Protection Agency;
- (iii) the National Science Foundation; and
- (iv) the Office of Science and Technology Policy; and

(C) at the election of the Secretary and the Secretary of Agriculture, such other mem-

bers as may be appointed by the Secretaries, in consultation with the Board.

(3) **MEETINGS.**—The Board of Directors shall meet not less frequently than once each quarter.

(c) **DUTIES.**—The Initiative shall—

(1) coordinate research and development activities relating to biopower and bioheat projects—

(A) between the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Energy; and

(B) with other Federal departments and agencies;

(2) provide recommendations to the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Energy concerning the administration of this Act; and

(3) ensure that—

(A) solicitations are open and competitive with respect to applicable annual grant awards; and

(B) objectives and evaluation criteria of solicitations for those awards are clearly stated and minimally prescriptive, with no areas of special interest.

SEC. 4. GRANT PROGRAMS.

(a) **DEMONSTRATION GRANTS.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary shall establish, within the Bioenergy Technologies Office, a program under which the Secretary shall provide grants to relevant projects to support innovation and market development in bioheat and biopower.

(2) **APPLICATIONS.**—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, the owner or operator of a relevant project shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(3) **ALLOCATION.**—Of the amounts made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall allocate—

(A) \$15,000,000 to projects that develop innovative techniques for preprocessing biomass for heat and electricity generation, with the goals of—

(i) lowering the costs of—

(I) distributed preprocessing technologies, including technologies designed to promote densification, torrefaction, and the broader commoditization of bioenergy feedstocks; and

(II) transportation and logistics costs; and

(ii) developing technologies and procedures that maximize environmental integrity, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions and local air pollutants and bolstering the health of forest ecosystems and watersheds; and

(B) \$15,000,000 to innovative bioheat and biopower demonstration projects, including—

(i) district energy projects;

(ii) innovation in transportation and logistics; and

(iii) innovative projects addressing the challenges of retrofitting existing coal-fired electricity generation facilities to use biomass.

(4) **REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION.**—In selecting projects to receive grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, diverse geographical distribution among the projects.

(5) **COST SHARE.**—The Federal share of the cost of a project carried out using a grant under this subsection shall be 50 percent.

(6) **DUTIES OF RECIPIENTS.**—As a condition of receiving a grant under this subsection, the owner or operator of a project shall—

(A) participate in the applicable working group under paragraph (7);

(B) submit to the Secretary a report that includes—

(i) a description of the project and any relevant findings; and