

on the west coast. We call this PADD 5, short for Petroleum Administration for Defense District 5. PADD 5 is important because it consumes 17 percent of the Nation's gasoline, 13 percent of its diesel fuel, and 30 percent of its jet fuel.

At the same time, PADD 5 is geographically isolated, according to the Energy Information Administration. The approximately 30 refineries operating on the west coast are responsible for supplying nearly all of its petroleum products.

The argument for a product reserve is relatively straightforward. Because PADD 5 is separated from the rest of the country by the Rocky Mountains and from the world by the Pacific Ocean, a stockpile of refined fuel should be established. That is the argument that is out there. I don't oppose a study of this concept, but I can see the pitfalls out there. PADD 5 imports over 1 million barrels of crude oil and petroleum products each day, suggesting that it really is not cut off from the world in the first place. And bear in mind the size of the district that we are talking about. Any stockpile would have to be really enormous to have significant impact.

Finally, would Federal gasoline reserves supplement or replace commercial stocks? That is a question that needs to be asked.

So perhaps the solution is not a refined product reserve at all but instead a return to basics, and that basic is crude oil. After all, there are reasons we chose crude oil instead of the products when we first created the Reserve. By and large, that rationale hasn't changed. First, oil is better suited, chemically and economically, for long-term storage underground, we don't have seasonal specifications on oil as we do on gasoline, and oil can be processed into an array of products while gasoline cannot.

Very quickly, taking this back to Alaska, a gasoline reserve on the west coast of any size would be small potatoes when compared to the incredible resource base we have in Alaska. For decades now, tankers have shipped North Slope crude to the line of refineries that stretch from Anacortes, WA, down to Los Angeles. Drivers up and down the coast fuel their cars with gasoline that is refined from this Alaskan oil every day.

Alaska North Slope crude oil is chemically similar to the kinds of oil stored in the SPR. In fact, according to the Department of Energy, over 30 million barrels of Alaskan oil have been stored in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. West coast refineries are optimized to run Alaskan crude. The Trans-Alaska Pipeline System is only pumping about 500,000 barrels per day, down from 2 million barrels per day at its peak. So there is plenty of room in our already built, already operating pipeline. The problem is—and you have heard me say this before—the Federal Government controls some 60 percent

of the land in our State. More than 10 billion barrels of oil are buried under our onshore Federal lands alone, to say nothing of what is held in our offshore waters but remain almost universally inaccessible to American explorers and producers. That includes about 10 billion barrels in the nonwilderness portion of ANWR, where we are asking for permission to develop 2,000 acres or 0.01 percent of the surface of the refuge. That is all we are asking to access. Beyond our ANWR resources, we have at least another 900 million barrels in our National Petroleum Reserve, which is an area that is specifically reserved for development. The estimate on the 900 million barrels there is that it is likely far too low.

For the record, I would add that Alaskans overwhelmingly support development of both of these areas. More than 70 percent of Alaskans want development, understanding the significant economic benefits it will bring and the strong record of environmental stewardship we have in the State.

We have an opportunity. We have an opportunity to develop our resources in order to create jobs, generate revenues, and bolster our Nation's security and competitiveness. By doing this, we can actually address not just one but two threats: First, the Trans-Alaska Pipeline is just one-third full; in large part because of the anti-energy decisions made by this administration and the west coast is more vulnerable to supply disruptions as a result of falling production.

You think about a crisis situation in the Middle East. The west coast will need more oil. Its refineries are ready to run Alaskan crude and Alaskans are ready to ship it, but there is nothing to ship because the oil is still in the ground and there is no way to transport it from the North Slope to the terminals along the southern coast of the State.

I am not talking about keeping our oil in pristine condition, never to be used. Energy is not fine china that you keep up on a shelf. The Strategic Petroleum Reserve is not a petroleum preserve. Our strategic stocks, barrels ready to go, should rarely be tapped, but Alaskan resources are already part of the daily life of Californians, Hawaiians. The resource must be accessible, though, but first they need to be accessed.

Opening Alaska's resources now would ensure that more oil is transported through TAPS. A healthy pipeline would ensure that oil can be shipped from Alaska to fuel the west coast refineries when they need it and help ensure that energy remains affordable for the west coast.

Instead of constructing an entirely new product reserve, as some are contemplating, perhaps what we should do is preserve the infrastructure we have already built and leverage it to boost our energy security. Why would we want to build a reserve when you can prevent a shortage in the first place by

letting a State that wants to produce oil go ahead and produce the oil? To me that is sound, strategic thinking. That would be a policy that benefits us instead of simply costing more money that we don't have. That is the kind of thinking that I believe our Nation and our future generations should have.

INTERNET SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES USAGE RULES

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I wish to inform all Senators that on November 9, 2015, the Committee on Rules and Administration adopted the U.S. Senate Internet Services and Technology Resources Usage Rules which will supersede and replace the U.S. Senate Internet Services Usage Rules and Policies previously adopted in 2008.

Given the many advances in technology since the last regulations were adopted, an update was required to facilitate the use of modern communication tools. The new regulations modernize our rules so Senate offices can utilize new technologies, such as third-party social networking sites and data analytics, to more effectively communicate with constituents.

While in some cases, outmoded restrictions on these technologies have been eased, certain restrictions necessarily remain in place including prohibitions on campaign content or links on official sites, for example. The regulations should be reviewed carefully to see where new methods have been authorized as well as what restrictions remain.

These rules are effective immediately. I hope Senate offices will be able to make use of the new technologies and methods they authorize to enhance constituent communications.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the rules as adopted be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE INTERNET SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES USAGE RULES ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION ON NOVEMBER 9, 2015

1.0 DEFINITIONS

For purposes of these Rules, the following terms shall have the meaning specified—

- 1.1 *Senate Office*. Means—
 - 1.1.1 A Member or Member office;
 - 1.1.2 A Committee Chair, Committee Ranking Member or Committee office;
 - 1.1.3 Senate Officers; and
 - 1.1.4 Leadership Offices.
- 1.2 *Senate Rules Committee*. Means the U.S. Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.

1.3 *Senate Internet Services*. Include, but are not limited to, the Senate Computer Network, World Wide Web, electronic mail, blogs, Podcasts, and streaming media used for official purposes.

1.4 *Senate Technology Resources*. Include, but are not limited to,—

- 1.4.1 Hardware such as servers, computers, laptops, telephones, cell phones, wireless devices, and software that are owned, managed, maintained, leased, or otherwise provided by the U.S. Senate or a Senate office; and

1.4.2 Handheld communications devices, including tablet computers, and associated information technology services, including dual use devices that meet the limited exception provided by the Senate Select Committee on Ethics.

1.5 *Official Senate Office Website*. Means a website supported by Senate resources and dedicated to official business of the Senate Office.

1.6 *Official Third-Party Website*. A Third-Party Website means any website or online application, profile, or channel residing outside of the Senate.gov domain and available to the general public, including but not limited to social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, etc.). An Official Third-Party Website is a Third-Party Website that a Senate Office uses for official business pursuant to these rules.

1.7 *Official Website*. Means an Official Senate Office Website or Official Third-Party Website.

1.8 *Official Business*. Means activities and duties which directly or indirectly pertain to the legislative process or to any congressional representative functions generally, or to the functioning, working, or operating of the Congress and the performance of official duties in connection therewith, and shall include, but not be limited to, the conveying of information to the public, and the requesting and collection of the views of the public (including through surveys, opinion polls, and web data analytics), or the views and information of other governmental entities, as a guide or a means of assistance in the performance of those functions.

1.9 *Campaign Purposes*. Include, but are not limited to,—

1.9.1 Solicitation of political support for the sender or any other person or political party, or a vote or financial assistance for any candidate for any political office; or

1.9.2 Matter which mentions a Member or a staff member of a Member as a candidate for political office, or which constitutes electioneering, or which advocates the election or defeat of any individuals, or a political party.

1.10 *Commercial Purposes*. Include, but are not limited to, direct or indirect pursuit of private commercial business activities or profit-making ventures or advertising therefor, direct or indirect solicitation of funds or the purchase of goods or services, and identification and solicitation of investors or other sources of capital for for-profit enterprises.

1.11 *Fundraising Purposes*. Include, but are not limited to, direct or indirect solicitation of funds, pledges or other types of contributions, e.g., for political parties or campaigns, nonprofit or charitable organizations, or disaster or humanitarian relief efforts.

1.12 *Promotional Purposes*. Include, but are not limited to, publicizing or advertising a product, organization, institution, or venture so as to increase sales or public awareness.

2.0 SCOPE, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND PROHIBITED USES

2.1 *Official Business Use Only*. Use of Senate Internet Services and Senate technology resources is for activities and duties directly connected with the official business of the Senate.

2.2 *Prohibited Uses*. Use of Senate Internet Services and Senate technology resources for campaign, fundraising, commercial, or promotional purposes is prohibited, except for authorized “dual use devices” which, subject to certain restrictions, may be used for both campaign and official business purposes.

2.3 *Use of Official Websites*. Information provided on or through an Official Website must relate to activities and duties directly connected with the official and representational business of the Senate.

2.4 *Oversight of Internet and Information Security*. It is the responsibility of each Senate office to oversee the use of Senate Internet Services and Senate technology resources by that office and to ensure their use is consistent with the requirements of these Rules and applicable laws and regulations. The office has sole responsibility for effectively applying and complying with information security guidelines set out by the Senate Sergeant-At-Arms.

2.5 *Decorum Rule*. Use of Senate Internet Services and Senate technology resources to impute to another Senator or to other Senators any conduct or motive unworthy or unbecoming a Senator, or to refer offensively to any State of the Union, is prohibited.

2.6 *Personal Use*. Senate Internet Services and Senate technology resources are provided for the conduct of official business. Personal use is permitted on a *de minimis* basis only in a manner that does not supersede or contradict these Rules such as the general rule prohibiting the use of Senate Internet Resources and Senate technology resources for campaign, fundraising, commercial and promotional purposes.

3.0 OFFICIAL SENATE OFFICE WEBSITES

3.1 *Host Domain*. An Official Senate Office Website must be located in the “senate.gov” host domain.

3.2 *URL Name*. The URL name of an Official Senate Office Website located in the “senate.gov” domain is limited to one of the following formulations—

3.2.1 *Member Website*. Must contain the Member’s last name.

3.2.2 *Committee or Senate Officer Website*, including a Committee website maintained by the Committee Chair or the Committee Ranking Member. Must contain the name of the Committee or title of the Senate Officer.

3.2.3 *Leadership Offices*. Must contain the name of, or acronym for, the office. For example, the offices of the Senate Majority Leader, Senate Minority Leader, Senate Majority Whip and Senate Minority Whip websites may utilize: Majority Leader, Majority Whip, Minority Leader, Minority Whip, Republican Leader, Republican Whip, Democratic Leader, Democratic Whip, as appropriate, to access the website directly or via a URL redirection. Web domains are to be surrendered in the event of a change in leadership.

3.3 *Task Force, Caucus, and Issue-Oriented Websites*. Use of the “senate.gov” host domain for task force, caucus, or other issue-oriented websites is prohibited. However, this does not prohibit a Member from referencing such issues or a task force on an Official Website.

3.4 *Senate Staff*. Senate staff are prohibited from establishing or maintaining an Official Senate Office Website in their own name in the “senate.gov” domain.

4.0 OFFICIAL THIRD-PARTY WEBSITES AND OFFICIAL ACCOUNTS

4.1 *In General*. A Senate office may maintain an official account or official public profile for each Official Third-Party Website.

4.2 The Senate Rules Committee maintains a non-exhaustive list of approved sites that have a terms-of-service agreement with the Senate. Use of an Official Third-Party Website not on the approved list may be restricted for security reasons and/or for failure to comply with applicable Senate rules and regulations.

4.3 An Official Third-Party Website shall identify itself as follows—

4.3.1 *Member*. The username, display name, or title of the Member’s website must include the title “U.S. Senator” or an abbreviation thereof and the Member’s last name.

4.3.2 *Committee*. The username, display name, or title of the website, including one

maintained by the Committee Chair or the Committee Ranking Member, must include the name of the Committee or an abbreviation thereof, but may not include a Member’s name.

4.3.3 *Senate Officer*. The username, display name, or title of a Senate Officer’s website must include the name of the Office or an abbreviation thereof, but may not include the Officer’s name.

4.3.4 *Leadership Office*. The username, display name, or title of the Leadership Office website must include the name of the Office or an abbreviation thereof.

4.3.5 *Identifying Statement*. The website shall display a statement identifying the account or profile as the “official account of” the Member, Committee, Leadership Office, or Senate Officer, as applicable.

4.4 *Use of the Senate Seal*. Use of any likeness of the Seal of the United States Senate on a non-Senate website or application is prohibited.

4.5 *Security*. Use of an Official Third-Party Website determined to pose a possible threat to the security of the Senate computer network shall be discontinued, per the direction of the Senate Rules Committee, until the risk is fully assessed and the risk mitigated to a level acceptable to the Senate Rules Committee.

4.6 *Last Day of a Member’s Term*. A Member’s official account on an Official Third-Party Website cannot be supported by Senate resources beyond the last day of the Member’s term. Official Third-Party Websites must be deactivated or converted at the expiration of the term. Converted third-party websites cannot be supported with Senate resources and may no longer be identified as official.

5.0 LINKS BETWEEN WEBSITES

5.1 The following is prohibited—

5.1.1 Linking or posting from an Official Website to campaign, fundraising, commercial, or promotional sites except as provided for in section 5.3.

5.1.2 Linking or posting from an Official Website to a Member’s campaign or personal website.

5.1.3 Linking or posting from a campaign website controlled by or under the direction of a Member or group of Members to an Official Website.

5.2 The following is permitted—

5.2.1 Linking or posting from an Official Website to another Official Website of the same Member.

5.2.2 Linking or posting from an Official Website to another Member, Committee, Leadership Office, or Senate Officer’s Official Website.

5.2.3 Linking or posting from a Member’s personal website to a Member’s Official Website.

5.2.4 Linking or posting from a Member’s Official Website to an official government website, including an official federal, state, or local government site.

5.3 Linking or posting from an Official Website to non-governmental sites (including commercial and promotional sites) only for official business purposes is permitted, provided the Senate office does not endorse, direct, control, support or discourage action by the non-governmental organization by means of the post or link. Links to fundraising or campaign sites do not fit within this exception and are prohibited.

6.0 SPECIAL RULES FOR 60-DAY MORATORIUM PERIOD

6.1 For purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the meaning specified—

6.1.1 *Moratorium period*. Means the 60 days immediately preceding the date of any primary or general election (whether regular,

special, or runoff) in which the Member is a candidate.

6.1.2 *Uncontested candidate.* When the Senate Rules Committee receives written certification from the appropriate state official that the Member's candidacy may not be contested under state law, that candidate is uncontested. A Member running for re-election in a state that permits write-in votes for the Member's election shall be considered a contested candidate and is subject to the restrictions in this section.

6.1.3 *Mass communication.* Means an electronic communication including, but not limited to, posting to an Official Website, automated telephone calls for events such as Tele-Town Halls, and electronic mail transmission of substantially identical content to 500 or more recipients.

6.2 During the moratorium period, no Member office may seek constituent input or inquiries (such as online petitions or opinion polls) via a mass communication using Senate Internet Services unless the Member is an uncontested candidate. Nor shall a Member do so on behalf of another Member unless the other Member is an uncontested candidate.

6.3 No Member office may transmit an unsolicited mass communication during the moratorium period unless the Member is an uncontested candidate. A mass communication to a subscriber list or a post on an Official Website available to voluntary followers is deemed to be solicited and is therefore permitted during the moratorium period (subject to the limitations of 6.2).

6.4 Communications in the normal course of Senate official business such as in direct response to a constituent, another Member of Congress, or a federal, state or local government official and a news release to the communications media are permitted during the moratorium period.

6.5 A Member subject to the restrictions in this section shall display the following statement on the Member's Official Senate Website homepage: "Pursuant to Senate Policy, petitions, opinion polls and unsolicited mass electronic communications cannot be initiated by this office for the 60-day period immediately before the date of a primary or general election. Subscribers currently receiving electronic communications from this office who wish to unsubscribe may do so [here](#) (link)." The words "Senate Policy" must be hypertext linked to these rules displayed on the Member's home page.

6.6 A Member may not use another Senate office such as a Senate committee to circumvent these Rules.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, on the eve of Veterans Day and the 240th Birthday of the United States Marine Corps, I rise to speak about the fiscal year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act, NDAA.

This legislation has taken a circuitous route to get to where it is today. The President correctly vetoed the original bill as it was a flawed product. It was flawed in the sense that it unfairly exempted the defense budget from the same draconian budget caps on nondefense programs by utilizing the overseas contingency operations, OCO. While this approach would have funded the defense bill, it neglected our economic security and left unaddressed important national priorities including law enforcement, education, transpor-

tation and community development, and medical research. A strong economy and strong communities are the backbone of our national security, and we should not divide our country into two Americas—defense on one side and everyone else on the other. That is not the way Congress should be doing business, and that is why our military leaders, led by Secretary of Defense Carter, opposed the earlier versions of this year's NDAA.

The bill, which we passed 91-3 today, comes after passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act, which provides balanced relief from cuts to ensure we have a strong defense and a strong economy. I supported this revised bill. While it was not a perfect bill, it is the result of a bipartisan compromise by the Congress. The fiscal year 2016 NDAA provides the men and women of our Armed Forces with the resources and equipment they need to defend our Nation and protect its interests.

I commend Chairman MCCAIN and Ranking Member REED for their leadership on the Senate Armed Services Committee in creating and shepherding this vital legislation through this chamber. The outstanding and bipartisan efforts of committee members will allow the defense authorization bill to become law for the 54th consecutive year.

I am proud to serve alongside Chairman WICKER as ranking member of the Seapower Subcommittee and want to thank him for leading the subcommittee which helps ensure that our Navy and Marine Corps forces are trained and equipped to conduct the vital missions they are tasked to complete. A strong and prepared Navy and Marines is absolutely essential to our national security strategies in the Asia-Pacific region, and this bill supports those efforts.

This NDAA includes a number of provisions that reaffirm the importance of the rebalance to the Asia-Pacific; support the men and women who serve in our military and the Hawaii National Guard; invest in Hawaii's military bases, schools, and facilities and those that assess the ballistic missile capabilities of rogue nations and the current capacity to defend Hawaii against missile threats.

Our support of the rebalance to the Asia-Pacific is critical. Maintenance of stability in this region cannot be underestimated. Continued engagement and partnership with our friends and allies in the region is invaluable. By extending the State Partnership Program, we not only hone the capabilities and readiness of our National Guard, but we gain the dual benefit of enhancing our partnerships and the capacity of regional neighbors.

However, I do have some concerns with the final bill that I intend to work on going forward.

While my colleagues and I continue to work to reduce redundancy and increase efficiencies with in our military, I would have serious concerns if across-

the-board reductions to headquarters operations were made by the Department of Defense implementing this bill. In talking with military commanders, I know that cuts at command headquarters to include U.S. Pacific Command, U.S. Pacific Fleet, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, U.S. Army Pacific and Pacific Air Forces, which are all based in Hawaii, would impact our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines.

We need to ensure that any reductions are carefully thought out and take into account the assigned missions and right sizing of headquarters to adequately support the demands we place on our operational forces. I will closely monitor the Pentagon's implementation of these provisions going forward.

In addition, I want to ensure that the men and women of the Department who travel for extended periods of time on official business are reimbursed for food and lodging at appropriate levels. Last year the Department changed how these workers are reimbursed, and the bill passed today directs the Government Accountability Office, GAO, to review the issue and report back to Congress. I will be tracking the GAO report on this important issue, as well as the Department's implementation of their extended Temporary Travel Duty, TDY, policy.

While the passage of this legislation is critical, it still contains misguided provisions I have long disagreed with and that negatively affect our security, as well as the men and women who defend this Nation. An area I strongly disagree with is in regard to the restrictions on transferring prisoners from Guantanamo Bay. These harm our security interests and continue to undermine our leadership on human rights. We need to work towards a solution to close this facility.

Despite these concerns, this legislation is a product of a sincere bipartisan and bicameral effort to provide the men and women of our military the tools and resources it needs to defend our great Nation.

OBSERVING VETERANS DAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate Veterans Day and to thank all those who have served our country for their extraordinary bravery and sacrifice.

As many of my colleagues know, President Woodrow Wilson first established this holiday—originally known as Armistice Day—on November 11, 1919, to honor the brave Americans who fought and died in World War I. After the end of World War II, Armistice Day was expanded to honor all veterans of our military services, and the holiday's name was changed to Veterans Day.

My home State of Maryland has a long and proud military tradition dating to the first militiamen who set foot in the Maryland Colony in 1634; to the