

EC-3726. A communication from the Program Analyst, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Electronic Stability Control Systems for Heavy Vehicles" (RIN2127-AK97) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3727. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments." (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0783) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3728. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of the Prohibition Against Certain Flights in the Simferopol (UKFV) and Dnipropetrovsk (UKDV) Flight Information Regions" (RIN2120-AK78) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0225) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3729. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments." (RIN2120-AA63) (Docket No. 31048) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3730. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Placida, FL" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2015-2890) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3731. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Van Nuys, CA" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2015-1138) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3732. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revocation of Class E Airspace; Burbank, CA" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2015-1140) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3733. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Agusta S.p.A. Helicopters" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-3969) received in the Office of the President of the

Senate on November 30, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3734. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Limited Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-3620) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3735. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation (Type Certificate Previously Held by Schweizer Aircraft Corporation) Helicopters" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-1008) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3736. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Limited" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-4345) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3737. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; GA 8 Airvan (Pty) Ltd Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-1123) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3738. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-3877) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3739. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0128) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3740. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0574) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3741. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0244) received in the Office of the President of the Senate

on November 30, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3742. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-4211) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3743. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Lockheed Martin Corporation/Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-1425) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3744. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Fiberglas-Technik Rudolf Lindner GmbH and Co. KG Gliders" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-3300) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3745. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Schempp-Hirth Flugzeugbau GmbH Gliders" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-3224) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3746. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Pratt and Whitney Division Turbo-prop Engines" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0787) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3747. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company Turbofan Engines" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-1658) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-109. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan urging the United States Congress to enact legislation for the purpose of enhancing hunting, fishing, recreational shooting, and other outdoor recreational opportunities, as well as strengthen conservation efforts nationwide; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 109

Whereas, To this day, conservation is funded primarily by sportsmen and women. This

American System of Conservation Funding is a user pays-public benefits approach that includes excise taxes on hunting, fishing, and boating equipment. This strategy is widely recognized as the most successful model of fish and wildlife management funding in the world; and

Whereas, Through the pursuit of their outdoor passions, sportsmen and women support hundreds of thousands of jobs and contribute billions to our economy annually through salaries, wages, and product purchases; and

Whereas, The United States Congress has worked on several pieces of legislation over the years to boost a number of key conservation priorities that are supported by millions in the outdoor recreational community; and

Whereas, Currently pending legislation in both the U.S. House and Senate would create or renew several important programs that are vital to the continued conservation of our natural resources, the health of America's local economies, and the enhancement and protection of our time-honored outdoor pastimes. Known as the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) Act (H.R. 2406) and the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act (S. 405), these bills contain a broad array of bipartisan measures, including the Recreational Fishing and Hunting Opportunities Act; the Hunting, Fishing, and Recreational Shooting Protection Act; the Target Practice and Marksmanship & Training Support Act; and the Recreational Lands Self-Defense Act; and

Whereas, A complementary piece of sportsmen legislation also exists in the U.S. House, called the Sportsmen's Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Enhancement (SCORE) Act (H.R. 3173). It shares several similar titles with the SHARE Act and Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act. Provisions in the SCORE Act include: the National Fish Habitat Initiative Sense of Congress, the Federal Lands Transaction Facilitation Act reauthorization, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act reauthorization, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation reauthorization, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act reauthorization, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Act reauthorization, and the Making Public Lands Public authorization; and

Whereas, By renewing or creating these programs, these bills will enhance opportunities for hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and other outdoor recreation enthusiasts, improve access to public lands, and help boost the outdoor recreation economy. Conserving our fish and wildlife resources and their habitats and ensuring that future generations have access to public lands and continued recreational opportunities are of great importance and are bipartisan issues: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate,* That we urge the United States Congress to enact legislation for the purpose of enhancing hunting, fishing, recreational shooting, and other outdoor recreational opportunities, as well as strengthen conservation efforts nationwide; and be it further

*Resolved,* That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-110. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to support the National Breast Cancer Coalition's goal of knowing how to end breast cancer by 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 144

Whereas, Michigan Breast Cancer Coalition and breast cancer prevention advocates across the country are joining their collective voices in the call for an end to breast cancer. State level advocates in conjunction with the National Breast Cancer Coalition (NBCC) are undertaking the challenge referred to as Breast Cancer Deadline 2020; and

Whereas, Breast Cancer Deadline 2020, created by the NBCC has set the goal and developed a strategic plan to know how to end breast cancer by January 1, 2020. NBCC developed a blueprint that involves research, access and influence. This includes leveraging financial resources, ensuring individuals at risk have access to information and medical care; and harnessing the influence of leaders in government and industry; and

Whereas, Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed non-skin cancer in women in the United States. Michigan counties have some of the highest incidences of breast cancer in the country. This disease affects women of all ages, claimin 'yes of thousands each year; and

Whereas, The advancement of the NBCC strategic plan for eradicating this disease is imperative. This plan focuses on prevention, including how to prevent the often fatal metastasis of cancer once it is detected. All elements of the NBCC strategic plan are necessary to find an end to this disease: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives,* That we urge the President and the Congress of the United States to support the National Breast Cancer Coalition's goal of knowing how to end breast cancer by 2020; and be it further

*Resolved,* That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-111. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan encouraging the United States Forest Service to issue the owners of privately held hunting camps on leased acres within the Ottawa National Forest special use authorization under the Recreation Residence Program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 79

Whereas, Starting in the late 1950s, Michigan residents were offered an opportunity to lease privately-owned land from the Upper Peninsula Power Company (UPPCO) to build recreational hunting camps. In 1991, the UPPCO announced intentions to sell the land currently under lease to an intermediary who would simultaneously sell the land to the United States Forest Service (USFS). Existing leaseholders were offered an option to sign a 25-year, nonrenewable lease on the land that was to be sold or to immediately vacate the property. The leases were signed in March of 1992 and the United States Forest Service (USFS) took control of the land in June 1992. The land currently under private lease accounts for less than 1,100 acres in the Ottawa National Forest; and

Whereas, Hundreds of people have experienced the wonders of Michigan's great outdoors at these hunting camps. The Ottawa National Forest is almost one million acres of rolling hills, lakes, rivers, waterfalls, and abundant wildlife. Those who lease land in the forest have built outdoor recreational traditions with their families. The hunting camps allow them to experience the seclusion and isolated environment of the Ottawa National Forest while engaging in varied

recreational activities, including hunting, fishing, canoeing, and snowshoeing; and

Whereas, The USFS has informed leaseholders that leases will not be renewed at the end of 2016 because it is national policy not to lease national forest land to individuals. The holders of the active leases will have 90 days after the leases expire to remove the hunting cabins and return the land to its natural state; and

Whereas, The expiration of the leases will hurt local economies in Ontonagon and Gogebic Counties. It will result in over \$35,000 in lost lease fee revenue to the townships and almost \$10,000 in tax revenue to the counties. Even a greater loss will be realized by local businesses, including gas stations, grocery stores, hardware stores, and restaurants that benefit from the patronage of the camp families; and

Whereas, The expiration of the leases will eliminate refuge for people from the occasionally harsh and unexpected shifts in weather conditions. The Ottawa National Forest covers a large area in the western Upper Peninsula. Camp owners often leave their cabins or outbuildings unlocked to the relief of individuals stranded in the woods who have sought shelter. A Boy Scout troop once sheltered at the Twin Pines camp after being caught in a storm, and a group of snowmobilers is known to regularly rest at one of the camps; and

Whereas, The USFS Recreation Residence Program provides private citizens an opportunity to own single-family cabins in designated areas of national forests. Currently, 15,570 recreation residences occupy national forest system lands throughout the country; and

Whereas, Although the National Forest Service placed a moratorium on the establishment of new tracts under the Recreation Residence program in 1968, the authority to issue special use authorization under the Recreation Residence program remains in federal regulations (36 CFR Part 251). Therefore, lifting that moratorium for the limited purpose of establishing a Recreation Residence tract in the Ottawa National Forest and issuing special use authorization permits is possible and would allow the many families currently leasing in the Ottawa National Forest an opportunity that is provided to thousands of people elsewhere in the country; and

Whereas, Converting to the Recreation Residence Program would maintain a tax base for local governments, provide continuing support for the local economy, and ensure that hunting and recreational traditions held so dear by Michigan residents continue to be experienced in the Ottawa National Forest: Now therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate,* That we encourage the United States Forest Service to issue the owners of privately-held camps on leased acres within the Ottawa National Forest special use authorization under the Recreation Residence Program; and be it further

*Resolved,* That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Chief of the United States Forest Service and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-112. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan urging the United States Senate to concur with the United States House of Representatives and repeal the country-of-origin labeling regulations; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 87

Whereas, The United States and Canada have the largest trading relationship in the world, with bilateral trade valued at \$759 billion in 2014, an association that benefits the

economies of both countries. Michigan's merchandise exports to Canada in 2014 were valued at \$25.4 billion, and 259,000 Michigan jobs depend on trade and investment with Canada; and

Whereas, The U.S. has implemented mandatory country-of-origin labeling (COOL) rules requiring meats sold at retail stores to be labeled with information on the source of the meat. The World Trade Organization (WTO) has repeatedly ruled that COOL discriminates against imported livestock and is not compliant with international trade obligations. Due to the WTO rulings, the U.S. may be subject to \$3.6 billion in retaliatory tariffs sought by Canada and Mexico; and

Whereas, COOL regulations also jeopardize the viability of the U.S. packing and feeding industries. The additional \$500 million in annual compliance costs could lead to significant job losses and plant closures with potentially devastating impacts to local and state economies. All this for an issue the United States Department of Agriculture has clearly indicated is not about food safety; and

Whereas, The U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 2393 to repeal the mandatory labeling for certain meats in June 2015 with 300 votes, showing a strong recognition across party lines, as well as regionally, that COOL must be repealed. However, the U.S. Senate appears less inclined to repeal the COOL requirement, risking the American economy to billions of dollars in retaliatory tariffs: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate,* That we urge the United States Senate to concur with the United States House of Representatives and repeal the country-of-origin labeling regulations; and be it further

*Resolved,* That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-113. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to support legislation which will provide a comprehensive solution to allow banks and credit unions to perform financial services for cannabis businesses without federal retribution; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

#### ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 25

Whereas, Cannabis use for medical purposes is legal in 23 states and is legal for recreational purpose in four states and in the District of Columbia. The expansion of cannabis businesses across the United States requires action from Congress and the federal government; and

Whereas, While many states have laws permitting various degrees of commercial activity using cannabis, it remains illegal under federal law. The conflict between federal and state laws has left financial institutions serving cannabis-related businesses on uncertain legal ground. Banks and credit unions are concerned that providing financial services for businesses selling a product that is illegal under federal law exposes them to possible charges of money laundering and drug trafficking; and

Whereas, Federal laws, including the Controlled Substances Act, the Bank Secrecy Act, and the Annunzio-Wylie Anti-Money Laundering Act, prohibit financial institutions from providing financial services to cannabis and hemp businesses. Directives from federal regulatory agencies such as the Federal Reserve, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the National Credit Union Administration, and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency also prohibit bankers

from accepting deposits from cannabis or hemp businesses; and

Whereas, In February 2014, the United States Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, or FinCEN, in coordination with the United States Department of Justice, also issued a memo outlining expectations for compliance with the Bank Secrecy Act. Despite this progress, remaining uncertainties under current federal as still prevent banks and credit unions from accepting cannabis-based businesses as customers; and

Whereas, The medical, retail, and hemp agricultural businesses are unable to accept credit or debit cards from customers because electronic payments are handled through the banking system. Therefore, transactions must be conducted in cash. Further, these businesses cannot deposit cash from sales into financial institutions. This is a major problem in California as many businesses now have hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash at their locations, which poses a public safety risk to businesses, employees, and customers; and

Whereas, The lack of financial services makes paying taxes to local governments and the California State Board of Equalization a challenge because tax payments must be made in cash by cannabis-related businesses, leading to hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash being brought directly into government offices. It is difficult for the State Board of Equalization to audit cash-based businesses, especially when records of wholesale transactions are not available; and

Whereas, Cannabis businesses cannot easily comply with California tax laws, which has led to a significant underpayment of revenue owed the state. In response, the State Board of Equalization launched the Cannabis Compliance Pilot Project in January 2015 to help determine both the degree of non-compliance with state tax law and the amount of lost tax revenue. However, state efforts alone cannot solve the problem: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly,* That the Legislature respectfully urges the President and Congress to support legislation which will provide a comprehensive solution to allow banks and credit unions to perform financial services for cannabis businesses without federal retribution. The current system that requires cash-based transactions poses a risk to public safety and leads to reduced collection of taxes; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to the Minority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-114. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the United States Congress to permanently reauthorize and fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27

Whereas, The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was created by Congress in 1965 as a bipartisan commitment for protection of natural areas, water resources, cultural heritage, and outdoor recreational opportunities throughout the country; and

Whereas, Over the 50 years since the LWCF was created, billions of dollars in funding have been provided to protect valuable land and water resources, including, but not limited to, parks, forests, rivers, lakes, wildlife

habitat, and recreational opportunities. These investments have resulted in the permanent protection of nearly five million acres of public lands and working landscapes; and

Whereas, Despite being chronically underfunded, the LWCF has had several positive conservation and recreation impacts throughout the country, has protected lands in each state, and has supported over 41,000 state and local park projects; and

Whereas, Since its inception, the LWCF has delivered over \$2 billion to California, and has provided hundreds of millions of dollars more for projects through its matching fund program; and

Whereas, The LWCF has helped conserve some of California's most treasured and iconic natural resources in each region of the state, including, but not limited to, Lake Tahoe, the Mojave Desert, Point Reyes National Seashore, the Headwaters Forest Reserve, the San Diego and Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuges, working forests in the Sierra Nevada, and Central Valley wetlands; and

Whereas, The LWCF has provided funding for outdoor recreational and park programs benefitting underserved youth and others in urban and rural communities throughout the state, and has established a critical federal partnership with state and local parks and communities; and

Whereas, Forest Legacy Program grants are also funded through the LWCF to protect working forests, which support jobs and sustainable forest operations and enhance wildlife habitat, water quality, and recreation. The Forest Legacy Program grants have provided \$12 million in federal funds, which along with matching funds have provided a total of \$62 million in investments in California forests; and

Whereas, The LWCF is critical to the quality of life in California. The LWCF protects watersheds and drinking water supplies; provides sustainable jobs in urban and rural communities; protects the economic asset that federal, state, and local public lands represent; conserves natural areas, wildlife habitats, and open space from urban parks to large landscapes; improves access for sportsmen, sportswomen, and recreationists to natural lands; stimulates local economies and jobs that support tourism and outdoor recreation sectors; preserves wetlands, forests, and watersheds; and provides state and local grants to support healthy communities; and

Whereas, According to the Outdoor Industry Association, active outdoor recreation supports \$85.4 billion of consumer spending and 723,000 jobs in California, which annually generates \$27 billion in wages and salaries and \$6.7 billion in state and local tax revenue; and

Whereas, The United States Census Bureau reports that each year 7.4 million people engage in outdoor recreation in California, which contributes over \$8 billion of wildlife-related recreation spending to the state economy; and

Whereas, Despite the LWCF's successes, many more lands and resources remain vulnerable and in critical need of investment, and many urban and rural populations remain underserved; and

Whereas, The LWCF will expire if not reauthorized by Congress before September 30, 2015: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly,* That the Legislature urges Congress to permanently reauthorize and fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of

the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

POM-115. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan urging the United States Congress to restore Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding to \$300 million for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 42

Whereas, The Great Lakes are a critical resource for our nation, supporting the economy and a way of life in Michigan and the other seven states within the Great Lakes region. The Great Lakes hold 20 percent of the world's surface freshwater and 95 percent of the United States' surface freshwater. This globally significant freshwater resource provides drinking water for more than 30 million people and is an economic driver that supports jobs, commerce, agriculture, transportation, and tourism throughout the region; and

Whereas, The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) provides essential funding to restore and protect the Great Lakes. This funding has supported long overdue efforts to clean up toxic pollution, reduce runoff from cities and farms, combat invasive species like the Asian carp, and restore fish and wildlife habitat. Since 2010, the federal government has invested nearly \$2 billion in more than 2,000 projects through the GLRI. Over its first five years, the GLRI has provided more than \$280 million for 580 projects in Michigan alone; and

Whereas, GLRI projects are making a significant difference. They have restored more than 115,000 acres of fish and wildlife habitat; opened up fish access to more than 3,400 miles of rivers; helped implement conservation programs on more than 1 million acres of farmland; and accelerated the cleanup of toxic hotspots. In Michigan, GLRI funding has been instrumental in removing contaminated sediments from Muskegon Lake, the River Raisin, and the St. Mary's River; restoring habitat along the St. Clair River, Cass River, Boardman River, and the Keweenaw Peninsula; and developing improved methods for sea lamprey control; and

Whereas, While this is a significant investment, there is still more work to be done with numerous ready-to-go projects that need funding. Toxic algal blooms, beach closings, fish consumption advisories, and the presence of contaminated sediments continue to limit the recreational and commercial use of the Great Lakes. The 2014 shutdown of the city of Toledo's drinking water system due to a toxic algal bloom, forcing more than a half million people to find another source of drinking water, is just one example of how much still needs to be done; and

Whereas, Proposed cuts to GLRI funding would jeopardize the momentum from a decade of unprecedented regional and bipartisan cooperation. The FY 2016 executive budget recommends a \$50 million cut in federal funding to \$250 million. This cut would be a shortsighted, cost-saving measure with long-term implications. Restoration efforts will only become more expensive and more difficult if they are not addressed in the coming years: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate,* That we urge the Congress of the United States to restore Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding to \$300 million for fiscal year 2016; and be it further

*Resolved,* That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the

members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-16. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the President of the United States to encourage the Secretary of Health and Human Services to adopt policies to repeal the current and upcoming discriminatory donor suitability policies of the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regarding blood donations; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16

Whereas, Since 1983, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA), an agency under the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), has prohibited the donation of blood by any man who has had sex with another man (MSM) at any time since 1977; and

Whereas, In December 2014, based on recommendation from the HHS Advisory Committee on Blood and Tissue Safety and Availability, the FDA announced its intent to promulgate regulations to allow an MSM to donate blood only if he has not been sexually active for the past 12 months. Despite these recent steps toward a policy change, a double standard would still exist under the policy as it is proposed to be revised because it would still treat gay and bisexual men differently from heterosexual men; and

Whereas, California law prohibits discrimination against individuals on the basis of actual or perceived sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender-related appearance and behavior; and

Whereas, Spain, Italy, Russia, Mexico, and Portugal have adopted blood donor policies that measure risk against a set of behaviors sexual and otherwise, rather than the sex of a person's sexual partner or partners; and

Whereas, The FDA does not allow gay and bisexual men in committed relationships to donate blood because, while one partner may be monogamous, that individual cannot guarantee that the other partner is monogamous. The FDA does not apply this same logic to heterosexual relationships, which in effect discriminates against gay and bisexual men; and

Whereas, a 12-month deferral policy for gay and bisexual men to donate blood is overly stringent given the scientific evidence, advanced testing methods, and the safety and quality control measures in place within the different FDA-qualified blood donating centers. The techniques can identify within 7 to 10 days with 99.9 percent accuracy whether or not a blood sample is HIV-positive, and the chance of the blood test being inaccurate within the 10-day window is about 1 in 2,000,000; and

Whereas, The General Social Survey conducted by NORC by NORC at the University of Chicago estimates that 8.5 percent of men in the United States have had at least one male sexual partner since 18 years of age, 4.1 percent of men report at least one male sex partner in the last 5 years, and 3.8 percent report a male sex partner in the last 12 months; and

Whereas, An estimated 45.4 percent of men (54 million) in the United States are eligible to donate blood, but only 8.7 percent of eligible men actually do. There are 15.7 million donations of blood per year made by 9.2 million donors, yielding approximately 1.7 donations per donor; and

Whereas, The Williams Institute of the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law estimates that, based on the population of eligible and likely donors among the MSM community, lifting the federal lifetime deferral policy on blood donation by an MSM would result in 4.2 million

newly eligible male donors, of which 360,600 would likely donate, generating 615,300 additional pints of blood. Applying national estimates to the California population, the Institute further estimates that lifting the ban on MSM blood donations would add an additional 510,000 eligible men to the current blood donor pool, of which 43,917 would likely donate, resulting in an additional 74,945 donated pints in California: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly,* That the California State Legislature calls upon the President of the United States to encourage the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services to adopt policies to repeal the current and upcoming discriminatory donor suitability policies of the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regarding blood donations by men who have had sex with another man and, instead, direct the FDA to develop science-based policies such as criteria based on risky behavior in lieu of sexual orientation; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-117. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan urging the United States Congress to enact legislation that requires uniform and science-based food labeling nationwide; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 59

Whereas, In the absence of a federal genetically modified organism (GMO) labeling standard, some states and localities have developed a patchwork of labeling proposals that can be confusing and misleading to consumers. Multiple local regulations increase agriculture and food production costs, requiring food companies operating in Michigan to create separate supply chains to be developed for each state; and

Whereas, GMOs are found in 70 to 80 percent of the foods we eat and play a vital role in maintaining Michigan's agriculture, food processing, and other industries. In 2014, 100 percent of all sugar beets, 93 percent of all corn, and 91 percent of all soybeans grown in Michigan were genetically modified; and

Whereas, A maze of regulations would cripple interstate commerce throughout the food supply and distribution chain and ultimately increase grocery prices for consumers by hundreds of dollars each year. A Cornell University study found that a patchwork of state labeling laws would increase food costs for a family by an average of \$500 per year; and

Whereas, On July 23, 2015, the U.S. House of Representatives passed bipartisan legislation—the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act (H.R. 1599)—to avoid this patchwork of regulations and the costly challenges it creates; and

Whereas, Senate passage of the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act will allow consumers to have access to accurate and consistent information on products that contain CMOs by ensuring that labeling is national, uniform, and science-based. The bill also establishes a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)-administered certification and labeling program, modeled after the USDA National Organic Program for non-GMO, organic foods: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate,* That we urge the United States Congress to enact legislation that requires uniform and science-based food labeling nationwide; and be it further

*Resolved,* That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-118. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to take steps to reform the outdated and inadequate Official Poverty Measure to better reflect poverty and the unmet needs demonstrated by the Supplemental Poverty Measure; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 22

Whereas, The Official Poverty Measure is determined by the United States Census Bureau and is instrumental in determining an individual's eligibility for a number of government programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; Medicaid; School Lunch Program; Women, Infants, and Children Program; Housing Assistance; and others; and

Whereas, The method we use today was developed in 1964 by Mollie Orshansky of the Social Security Administration; and

Whereas, Orshansky's method used before-tax cash income to determine a family's resources, which was then compared to a poverty threshold; and

Whereas, In determining this poverty threshold, Orshansky used a food plan developed by the federal Department of Agriculture that was designed for "temporary or emergency use when funds are low," and then multiplied the cost of the plan by three because, at the time, a family typically used about a third of their income on food; and

Whereas, Other than minor changes, the method has remained the same over time, despite significant economic and governmental changes, including the introduction of Medicare and Medicaid, the shift from a manufacturing to a service economy, welfare reform of the 1990s, and the general stagnation of wages; and

Whereas, The Official Poverty Measure is a one-size-fits-all policy that leads to a distorted perception of poverty and an inefficient allocation of resources to fight poverty; and

Whereas, The Official Poverty Measure has failed to accurately measure poverty because it has not kept up with the changes to our economy and social science research; and

Whereas, The Official Poverty Measure does not take into account that families no longer spend one-third of their income on food; they currently spend between 5 to 10 percent; and

Whereas, The Official Poverty Measure does not account for noncash transfers, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or Medicaid, as income; and

Whereas, The Official Poverty Measure does not account for variations in cost of living in different regions of our country; and

Whereas, Low-income working families in California are especially disadvantaged by the Official Poverty Measure due to our state's high cost of living, which results in the denial of federally funded assistance to families living above the federal poverty line, but who are unable to meet their basic needs; and

Whereas, The Official Poverty Measure does not account for the increase in child care expenses due to the rise in the workforce participation of both parents; and

Whereas, The Official Poverty Measure does not account for variations in health care coverage and out-of-pocket medical costs; and

Whereas, Historically, there has been widespread agreement among analysts, advocates, and policymakers that the Official Poverty Measure is inadequate, leading to a 1990 Congressional appropriation that was made for an independent scientific study on a new calculation method; and

Whereas, This study was performed by The National Academy of Sciences, which established the Panel on Poverty and Family Assistance. The panel released a report in 1995 entitled "Measuring Poverty: A New Approach" which established guidelines for creating a new method; and

Whereas, Fifteen years later, in 2010, the Interagency Technical Working Group on Developing a Supplemental Poverty Measure and the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor developed an alternative poverty measure known as the Supplemental Poverty Measure; and

Whereas, The Supplemental Poverty Measure was designed to take into account changes in the United States economy over time, cost-of-living variations in different parts of the country, and the changing role of government; and

Whereas, The Supplemental Poverty Measure more accurately measures poverty by using a basic set of goods that includes food, clothing, shelter, and utilities, adjusted to reflect the needs of different family types and to account for geographic differences in living costs to establish what is known as a poverty threshold; and

Whereas, The Supplemental Poverty Measure defines family resources as the value of cash income from all sources, plus the value of noncash benefits, including nutrition assistance, subsidized housing, home energy assistance, tax credits, and other benefits that are available to buy the basic bundle of goods, minus the necessary expenses for critical goods and services not included in the thresholds; and

Whereas, Necessary expenses include income taxes, Social Security payroll taxes, childcare and other work-related expenses, child support payments, and contributions toward the cost of medical care and health insurance premiums or out-of-pocket medical costs; and

Whereas, The Supplemental Poverty Measure offers a more accurate measure of poverty than the general Official Poverty Measure; and

Whereas, The use of the Official Poverty Measure can have a detrimental effect on policies to combat poverty because it results in less efficient and less accurately targeted policies and expenditures; and

Whereas, It is vital that we implement a fair poverty measure that allows us to efficiently allocate resources and focus on regions and populations that need help the most; and

Whereas, Given the numerous inadequacies of the Official Poverty Measure as a tool to accurately target and efficiently allocate antipoverty resources, the Supplemental Poverty Measure should guide the reform and updating of the Official Poverty Measure for administrative purposes in determining financial eligibility for programs intended to reduce poverty: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California jointly,* That the Legislature of California urges the President and the Congress of the United States to take steps to reform the outdated and inadequate Official Poverty Measure to better reflect poverty and the unmet needs demonstrated by the Supplemental Poverty Measure; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, to the Governor of California, and to the author of this resolution.

POM-119. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California memorializing August 6, 2015, as the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and urging the United States Congress and the President of the United States to continue to secure citizens right to vote and remedy any racial discrimination in voting; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13

Whereas, Signed into law on August 6, 1965, by President Lyndon B. Johnson, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is a landmark piece of federal legislation in the United States; and

Whereas, One hundred and forty-five years ago, in 1870, Congress ratified the 15th Amendment, which declared that the right to vote shall not be denied or abridged on the basis of race, color, or previous condition of servitude; and

Whereas, By 1910, violence and intimidation resulted in nearly all black citizens being disenfranchised and removed from the voter rolls in the former Confederate States, undermining the promise of equal protection under the law; and

Whereas, Native American, Latino, and Asian American/Pacific Islander communities experienced similar attempts to disenfranchise citizens in their communities throughout the United States; and

Whereas, Between 1870 and 1965, voters faced, "first-generation barriers," such as poll taxes, literacy tests, vouchers of "good character," disqualification for "crimes of moral turpitude", and other tactics intended to keep African Americans from the polls on Election Day; and

Whereas, During the 1920s, African Americans in Selma, Alabama formed the Dallas County Voters League (DCVL). During the 1960s in partnership with organizers from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the DCVL held registration drives and classes to help African Americans in Dallas County pass the literacy tests required to register to vote. On March 7th, 1965, the first march from Selma to Montgomery took place. The march, nicknamed "Bloody Sunday" for the horrific attack on unarmed marchers by armed police, was broadcast nationwide and led to a national outcry for the passage of the Voting Rights Act, and

Whereas, Often regarded as one of the most effective civil rights laws, the Voting Rights Act was passed with the intent to ban discriminatory voting policies at all levels of government; and

Whereas, The Voting Rights Act is credited for the enfranchisement of millions of minority voters as well as the diversification of the electorate and legislative bodies throughout all levels of government; and

Whereas, Before Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act was added in 1975, language minorities were disenfranchised from the electoral process. Section 203 required certain jurisdictions to provide registration or voting notices, forms, instructions, assistance, or other materials and information regarding the electoral process in the language of the applicable minority group; and

Whereas, In June of 2013, the Supreme Court struck down key sections of the Voting Rights Act that were designed to prevent discriminatory voting policies that can disenfranchise minority voters; and

Whereas, Despite 50 years of progress, racial minorities continue to face voting barriers in jurisdictions with a history of discrimination; and

Whereas, To build a stronger and more cohesive state and nation, we must continue to help advance the cause of voter equality and equal access to the political process for all people in order to protect the rights of every American and

Whereas, We must continue to educate the next generation about the importance of civic engagement in our communities: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly,* That the Legislature recognizes August 6, 2015, as the 50th Anniversary of the signing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and recognizes the significant progress made by the Voting Rights Act to protect every citizen's right to vote; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Legislature honors and remembers those who struggled and died for this freedom; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Legislature urges the Congress and the President of the United States to continue to secure citizens' right to vote and remedy any racial discrimination in voting; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit, copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority leader of the United States Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-120. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California memorializing the United States Congress to ban the sale or display of any Confederate flag, including the Confederate Battle Flag, on federal property and encourage states to ban the use of Confederate States of America symbolism from state flags, seals, and symbols, and would encourage the donation of Confederate artifacts to museums; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 26

Whereas, According to the 1860 United States Census, the United States population was 31,443,321. The total number of slaves in the Lower South was 2,312,352, comprising 47 percent of the total population, and the total number of slaves in the Upper South was 1,208,758, comprising 29 percent of the total population; and

Whereas, South Carolina had a clear Black majority from about 1708 through most of the 18th century. By 1720, there were approximately 18,000 people living in South Carolina and 65 percent of those were African American slaves. South Carolina's slave population grew to match the success of its rice culture. Whereas in 1790, there were slightly more Whites than Blacks, with 140,178 Whites and 108,806 Blacks living in South Carolina. By 1860, the Black population had grown, with 291,300 Whites and 412,320 Blacks, to nearly double the White population; and

Whereas, The Southern United States, including the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Texas, West Virginia, Virginia, and South Carolina, seceded, from the greater union in 1860 to join the Confederate States of America under President Jefferson Davis and General Robert E. Lee; and

Whereas, The symbolism of the Confederate flag when the states seceded in 1860 represented, in its personification, secession and treason; and

Whereas, The first official national flag of the Confederacy, often called the Stars and

Bars, was flown from March 4, 1861, to May 1, 1863, inclusive. The Stars and Bars flag was adopted March 4, 1861, in the first temporary national capital of Montgomery, Alabama, and was raised over the dome of that first Confederate Capitol; and

Whereas, At the First Battle of Manassas, the first battle of the Civil War, the similarity between the Stars and Bars and the Stars and Stripes caused confusion and military problems. Regiments carried flags to help commanders observe and assess battles in the warfare of the era. At a distance, the two national flags were hard to tell apart. In addition, Confederate regiments carried many other flags, which added to the possibility of confusion; and

Whereas, After the battle, General Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard, a prominent general of the Confederate States Army during the Civil War, wrote that he was resolved then to have the Confederate flag changed if possible, or to adopt for his command a "battle flag," the Stars and Bars, that would be entirely different from any state or federal flag. His aide William Porcher Miles, the former chair of the Committee on the Flag and Seal, described his rejected national flag design to Beauregard. Miles also told the Committee on the Flag and Seal about the general's complaints and request for the national flag to be changed. The committee rejected this idea by a four to one vote, after which Beauregard proposed the idea of having two flags. He described the idea in a letter to his commander General Joseph E. Johnston: "How would it do for us to address the War Dept. on the subject for a supply of Regimental or badge flags made of red with two blue bars crossing each other diagonally on which shall be introduced the stars. . . . We would then on the field of battle know our friends from our enemies"; and

Whereas, Although the soldiers of the Confederacy were never tried by the United States government after the Civil War, Jefferson Davis and General Robert E. Lee were indicted and later acquitted of all charges by President Andrew Johnson as he left office in 1869; and

Whereas, After the Civil War ended, groups such as the Ku Klux Klan were formed to promote White supremacy and racial hatred. The Ku Klux Klan, perhaps the most infamous, was one of the first groups to continue using the Confederate flag after the war. The Ku Klux Klan rallied others still vexed after the war to instill fear and spout hate against freed African Americans; and

Whereas, The flag was later resurrected in the 1950s to rally resistance to the Civil Rights movement and support the South's desire to maintain segregation and further the policies of Jim Crow; and

Whereas, In South Carolina the Confederate flag was moved to the top of their State Capitol building in 1962, after President John F. Kennedy called on the Congress of the United States to end poll taxes and literacy tests for voting, and the United States Supreme Court struck down segregation in public transportation; and

Whereas, According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, there are 788 "hate groups" in the United States. Of these, 57 are located in the State of California, which is the highest of any state. There are a total of 283 of these hate groups in the former Confederate states. Nineteen of these hate groups reside in South Carolina. Of these 19 hate groups, 16 use the Confederate flag as one of their symbols. These hate groups include the Ku Klux Klan, Neo-Nazis, and Neo-Confederates; and

Whereas, African Americans make up 15.6 percent of the population of the United States, or 45 million people, but in 2013, they were victims of one-third of all hate crimes in the United States, which is the highest number of any group in America; and

Whereas, On June 17, 2015, Dylann Roof went to Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, and opened fire during a Wednesday Bible study, killing nine of the church's attendees; and

Whereas, Over the last five years, friends of Dylann Roof had seen him become increasingly aligned with White supremacist ideologies. They observed his behavior becoming more fanatical than that of the most notorious hate groups in his native South Carolina. Dylann Roof believed that it was up to him to do the work that other hate groups were failing to do. Dylann Roof believed that African Americans were "stupid and violent" people and viewed Hispanics and Latinos as the "enemy"; and

Whereas, Dylann Roof has been photographed on various occasions with the same Confederate flag that many of these hate groups proudly display; and

Whereas, Sixty-nine percent of those surveyed by Public Policy Polling believe that the shooting attack at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, was a hate crime and 34 percent surveyed believe it was a form of terrorism; and

Whereas, Since the end of the Civil War, private and official use of the Confederacy's flags, and of flags with derivative designs, has continued and generated philosophical, political, cultural, and racial controversy in the United States. These include flags displayed in states, cities, towns, counties, schools, colleges, or universities, or by private organizations, associations, or by individuals; and

Whereas, In some American states the Confederate flag is given the same protection from burning and desecration as the United States flag. It is protected from being publicly mutilated, defiled, or otherwise cast in contempt by the laws of five states: Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina. However, laws banning the desecration of any flag, even if technically remaining in effect, were ruled unconstitutional in 1989 by the United States Supreme Court in *Texas v. Johnson* and are not enforceable; and

Whereas, In 2000, South Carolina passed a bill to remove the Confederate flag from the top of the state house dome. It had been placed there since the early 1960s by an all-White South Carolina Legislature to mark the 100th anniversary of the Civil War. The law was moved to the north end of the state house as part of a compromise. However, to this day, there have been protests to have the flag removed from there as well; and

Whereas, To many groups, especially African Americans, the Confederate flag is a symbol of hate, racism, exclusion, oppression, and violence. Its symbolism and history are directly linked to the enslavement, torture, and murder of millions of African Americans; and

Whereas, Today, as in the past, public display of the Confederate flag is believed to instill fear, intimidation, and a direct threat of violence towards others, though a minute number of groups disagree, claiming that the Confederate flag commemorates Southern heritage; and

Whereas, In 2014, the State of California, through the enactment of Assembly Bill 2444, became the first state to ban the state sale and display of the Confederate flag. The State of California may not sell or display the Battle Flag of the Confederacy, also referred to as the Stars and Bars, or any similar image, or tangible personal property inscribed with that image unless the image appears in a book, digital medium, or state museum that serves an educational or historical purpose; and

Whereas, On June 22, 2015, Governor Nikki Haley of South Carolina called upon her

state to remove the Confederate flag from the capitol grounds in the wake of the Emanuel AME Church shooting: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly,* That the Legislature of California encourages the United States Congress to identify the states that have a Confederate symbol embedded into their state's flag; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Legislature memorializes the United States Congress to encourage states to ban the use of the former Confederate States of America symbolism and seals from all state flags, seals, and symbols; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Legislature memorializes the United States Congress to ban the sale and display of any Confederate flag, including the Confederate Battle Flag, on federally owned properties and buildings and to urge those states that sell or display the flag at their capitols to have the flag removed; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Legislature encourages the United States Congress to encourage businesses to urge their states to take down any Confederate flag, including the Confederate Battle Flag, from their capitols; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Legislature encourages the donation of any effects representing the former Confederate States of America to local, state, and national museums; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to the Minority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California, and to the governors of the southern states including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

POM-121. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan opposing the United States Environmental Protection Agency's efforts to study or commission a study that, if consistent with the agency's past practices, many fear will serve as the first step towards the regulation of grills and barbecues; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 56

Whereas, Barbecues are an American tradition enjoyed by families from all walks of life across the country. Whether tailgating for a football game, hosting a backyard get-together, or just grilling a summer meal, barbecues are a quintessentially American experience and an opportunity to eat and socialize with family and friends; and

Whereas, Cooking outdoors on a grill during the summer saves electricity. Using a grill prevents the release of heat into the kitchen and other living spaces, while cooking indoors heats up a kitchen, forcing cooling systems, such as the refrigerator and air conditioner, to work harder and use more energy; and

Whereas, The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), our nation's environmental regulatory agency, has funded a University of California-Riverside student project to develop preventative technology to reduce emissions from residential barbecues. By funding this project, the EPA is apparently intent on finding a solution to a problem that does not exist and demonstrating an unnecessary interest and concern over the impact of backyard barbecues on public health; and

Whereas, Based on the EPA's past practices, today's study, no matter how small, is a concern to Michiganders and Americans, as it is inevitably the first step towards tomorrow's regulation of this American pastime. To fulfill its mission to protect human health and the environment, the EPA's primary tool has been, and continues to be, regulatory mandates that time and again ignore the financial, economic, and social burdens to the state and the country. The regulation of barbecues would be the latest, egregious example of overreach by the EPA; and

Whereas, Funding such a study is a poor use of taxpayer dollars. In the face of record national debts, annual budget deficits, and other profound problems the country is facing, surely the federal government can better use our resources than on a study of grills and backyard barbecues: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate,* That we oppose the United States Environmental Protection Agency's efforts to study or commission a study that, if consistent with the agency's past practices, many fear will serve as the first step towards the regulation of grills and barbecues; and be it further

*Resolved,* That copies of this resolution be transmitted to Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-122. A resolution passed by the City Council of San Jose, California, urging the United States Congress to pass H.R. 2140, the "Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2015", to hold individuals who commit egregious human rights violations accountable by imposing financial and travel sanctions upon those citizens of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and their family members, who are complicit in human rights abuse committed in Vietnam; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-123. A resolution passed by the City Council of Sebastopol, California urging passage of meaningful, common sense gun control measures; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 1616. A bill to provide for the identification and prevention of improper payments and the identification of strategic sourcing opportunities by reviewing and analyzing the use of Federal agency charge cards (Rept. No. 114-174).

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2044. A bill to prohibit the use of certain clauses in form contracts that restrict the ability of a consumer to communicate regarding the goods or services offered in interstate commerce that were the subject of the contract, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-175).

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations:

Report to accompany S. 2152, a bill to establish a comprehensive United States Government policy to encourage the efforts of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to develop an appropriate mix of power solutions, including renewable energy, for more broadly distributed electricity access in order to support poverty reduction, promote development outcomes, and drive economic growth, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-176).

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on Finance, without amendment:

S. 2368. An original bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the efficiency of the Medicare appeals process, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-177).

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. CORKER for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

\*Catherine Ebert-Gray, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Solomon Islands and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Vanuatu.

Nominee: Catherine Ebert-Gray.

Post: Papua New Guinea.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.
2. Spouse: Ian S. Gray: None.
3. Children: Thomas F. Gray: None; Claire E. Gray: None.
4. Parents: William A. & Myrna Ebert: \$50.00, 5/2011, Republican National Committee; \$25.00, 8/2011, Republican National Committee; \$25.00, 9/2011, Republican Senate Committee; \$35.00, 10/2011, Republican Nat'l Congress Committee; \$25.00, 1/2012, Republican Senate Committee; \$20.00, 3/2012, Republican National Committee; \$25.00, 7/2012, Mitt Romney; \$20.00, 8/2012, Mitt Romney; \$20.00, 8/2012, Republican National Committee; \$25.00, 8/2012, Paul Ryan; \$25.00, 9/2012, Mitt Romney; \$100.00, 9/2012, Mitt Romney; \$25.00, 1/2013, Tea Party; \$25.00, 2/2013, Republican National Committee; \$20.00, 2/2013, Republican Nat'l Congress Committee; \$25.00, 3/2013, Republican National Committee; \$25.00, 3/2013, Conservative Majority Fund; \$20.00, 4/2013, Republican National Committee; \$25.00, 5/2013, Republican Nat'l Congress Committee; \$25.00, 5/2013, Republican Nat'l Congress Committee; \$30.00, 6/2013, Republican National Committee; \$20.00, 6/2013, Tea Party; \$25.00, 8/2013, Republican National Committee; \$25.00, 10/2013, Republican National Committee; \$25.00, 10/2013, Republican Nat'l Congress Committee; \$20.00, 10/2013, Republican Nat'l Congress Committee; \$20.00, -1/2013, Republican Nat'l Congress Committee; \$20.00, 11/2013, Tea Party; \$20.00, 12/2013, Republican Nat'l Congress Committee; \$25.00, 1/2014, Republican National Committee; \$20.00, 2/2014, Republican Nat'l Congress Committee; \$20.00, 2/2014, Tea Party; \$25.00, 3/2014, Draft Ben Carson; \$50.00, 3/2014, Draft Ben Carson; \$20.00, 4/2014, Tea Party; \$25.00, 5/2014, Draft Ben Carson; \$25.00, 5/2014, Draft Ben Carson; \$25.00, 5/2014, Republican Senate Committee; \$20.00, 6/2014, Tea Party; \$20.00, 6/2014, Republican National Committee; \$25.00, 6/2014, Republican National Committee; \$25.00, 6/2014, Republican Party of Wisconsin; \$20.00, 7/2014, Republican National Committee; \$20.00, 7/2014, Tea Party; \$35.00, 7/2014,