

(7) building the capacity of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to monitor and appropriately and transparently regulate the power sector and encourage private investment in power production and distribution.

(b) **EFFECTIVENESS MEASUREMENT.**—In prioritizing and expediting institutional efforts and assistance pursuant to this section, as appropriate, such institutions shall use clear, accountable, and metric-based targets to measure the effectiveness of such guarantees and assistance in achieving the goals described in section 3.

(c) **PROMOTION OF USE OF PRIVATE FINANCING AND ASSISTANCE.**—In carrying out policies under this section, such institutions shall promote the use of private financing and assistance and seek ways to remove barriers to private financing for projects and programs under this Act, including through charitable organizations.

(d) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize modifying or limiting the portfolio of the institutions covered by subsection (a) in other developing regions.

SEC. 6. LEVERAGING INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT.

In implementing the strategy described in section 4, the President should direct the United States representatives to appropriate international bodies to use the influence of the United States, consistent with the broad development goals of the United States, to advocate that each such body—

(1) commit to significantly increase efforts to promote investment in well-designed power sector and electrification projects in sub-Saharan Africa that increase energy access, in partnership with the private sector and consistent with the host countries' absorptive capacity;

(2) address energy needs of individuals and communities where access to an electricity grid is impractical or cost-prohibitive;

(3) enhance coordination with the private sector in sub-Saharan Africa to increase access to electricity;

(4) provide technical assistance to the regulatory authorities of sub-Saharan African governments to remove unnecessary barriers to investment in otherwise commercially viable projects; and

(5) utilize clear, accountable, and metric-based targets to measure the effectiveness of such projects.

SEC. 7. PROGRESS REPORT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall transmit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report on progress made toward achieving the strategy described in section 4 that includes the following:

(1) A report on United States programs supporting implementation of policy and legislative changes leading to increased power generation and access in sub-Saharan Africa, including a description of the number, type, and status of policy, regulatory, and legislative changes initiated or implemented as a result of programs funded or supported by the United States in countries in sub-Saharan Africa to support increased power generation and access after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) A description of power projects receiving United States Government support and how such projects, including off-grid efforts, are intended to achieve the strategy described in section 4.

(3) For each project described in paragraph (2)—

(A) a description of how the project fits into, or encourages modifications of, the national energy plan of the country in which

the project will be carried out, including encouraging regulatory reform in that country;

(B) an estimate of the total cost of the project to the consumer, the country in which the project will be carried out, and other investors;

(C) the amount of financing provided or guaranteed by the United States Government for the project;

(D) an estimate of United States Government resources for the project, itemized by funding source, including from the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the United States Agency for International Development, the Department of the Treasury, and other appropriate United States Government departments and agencies;

(E) an estimate of the number and regional locations of individuals, communities, businesses, schools, and health facilities that have gained power connections as a result of the project, with a description of how the reliability, affordability, and sustainability of power has been improved as of the date of the report;

(F) an assessment of the increase in the number of people and businesses with access to power, and in the operating electrical power capacity in megawatts as a result of the project between the date of the enactment of this Act and the date of the report;

(G) a description of efforts to gain meaningful local consultation for projects associated with this Act and any significant estimated noneconomic effects of the efforts carried out pursuant to this Act; and

(H) a description of the participation by small and medium enterprises based in sub-Saharan Africa on projects associated with this Act.

CONGRATULATING TOWSON UNIVERSITY ON THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE UNIVERSITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 338, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 338) congratulating Towson University on the 150th anniversary of the founding of the university.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table without no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 338) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA COLLEGE OF LAW FOR 150 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 339, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 339) congratulating the University of Iowa College of Law for 150 years of outstanding service to the State of Iowa, the United States, and the world.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues for their commendation of the 150th anniversary of the University of Iowa College of Law. This makes it the first law school west of the Mississippi to reach that milestone.

In the past 150 years, the college of law has served the people of Iowa, the Nation, and the world, and I am pleased, along with my colleague Senator ERNST, that the resolution congratulates the college of law on its accomplishments.

I have been honored to attend some of the events celebrating Iowa Law this past year, and the law school should be proud of its vast history of achievement. It is the oldest law school west of the Mississippi River, and it has produced generations of attorneys who have been dedicated to improving and enhancing the practice of law in Iowa and throughout the Nation. Currently, Iowa Law has over 10,000 living alumnae who practice in Iowa and around the world.

Iowa was the first State to admit a woman to the practice of law. Iowa Law followed this tradition when in 1873 it graduated what is believed to be the first female law student in the United States, Mary Hickey. Iowa Law's second female law student, Mary Haddock, was the first woman admitted to the practice of law before the district and circuit courts of the United States.

Iowa Law was one of the first law schools to grant a degree to an African-American student when Alexander Clark, Jr., graduated in 1879—decades before other law schools allowed the enrollment of non-White students. Iowa Law has always been at the forefront of the legal field, particularly when it comes to diversity.

Iowa Law has consistently ranked as one of the top 10 public law schools in the country and is currently ranked the 22nd best law school in the Nation.

Throughout the years, Iowa Law has maintained its commitment to the legal community and encourages students to participate in a variety of programs that better Iowa. For example, Iowa Law recently partnered with the Iowa State Bar Association to start a program that trains and recruits law students to work in rural and smalltown practices, providing better access to legal services in these communities. Iowa Law offers several clinic programs that focus on helping the

citizens of Iowa and has several programs to encourage students to provide pro bono legal services.

For the past 150 years, Iowa Law has produced lawyers who embody the motto of the State of Iowa, which is "Our liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain."

I congratulate the Iowa College of Law on its many achievements, and I am grateful for its continued dedication and commitment to the State of Iowa.

I yield the floor.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 339) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

WORDS OF THANKS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Before we adjourn, Mr. President, I want to say a few words of thanks.

I would like to thank the members of the Secretary of the Senate's office, which houses everyone from the parliamentarians, to members of the disbursing office, to the clerks, historians, curators, librarians, and many other offices and individuals who keep the history and dignity of this institution alive.

I would like to thank the Sergeant At Arms's office and the many hundreds of individuals who do everything from keeping us safe to setting up rooms for meetings.

I also thank the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, which works daily to preserve this complex, which is more than just a collection of buildings, it is a living part of our Nation's history.

I thank the Capitol Police, who are prepared to put their lives on the line every day to protect everyone who works in and visits the Capitol. We are grateful for everything they do.

There are so many others to thank, from the committees and their staffs, to the doorkeepers, to the legal counsel's office and the pages. I know I am going to forget many individuals who deserve our thanks. Please know we are thankful for your service and your dedication.

I ask unanimous consent that a list of the young people who serve in the Chamber as Senate pages be printed in the RECORD.

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

REPUBLICAN PAGES

Emma Rose James, Anna Linda Byrd, Anna Carmack, Herbert Coleman Martinson, Elaina Joy Urban, Ben M. Courtney, Hannah

Elizabeth Michaud, Tatum Buss, John Patrick Tamas, Ally Grayson Driver, Grace McElroy, Jackson Scott Blackwell, Cameron Joseph Knecht, Brett David Brannon, Jr., Haley M. Carbajal, and Easton Ewy.

DEMOCRATIC PAGES

Jaclyn Cline, Amina Lampkin, Marshall Rawlins, Olivia Rich, Megan Stewart, Marc Tarshis, Thomas Wiesler, C.J. Fowler, Ignacio Mata, Bryce Stack, Blaine Stephens, Colin Gray-Hoehn, Marah Bell, and Aarshi Kibria.

Mr. MCCONNELL. On the Member side, allow me to thank my leadership team. Their counsel is invaluable, and their dedication is without equal.

Here on the floor, Laura Dove and her Republican Cloakroom staff have a tough job making things function every single day. Gary Myrick has a tough job on the Democratic side as well. They deserve recognition from both sides of the aisle for what they do.

I particularly would like to thank my chief of staff, Sharon Soderstrom, for her remarkable work ethic and her obvious talent. She has an impressive team behind her. There are so many I can name, but then we would be here all day, so let me say something they already know. I am certainly thankful for what Sharon and her whole team do every single day.

I know the Democratic leader feels the same way about his chief, Drew Willison, and the members of his staff.

Let me acknowledge his kind words yesterday as well. We both have difficult jobs, and, in my view, the Senators can have strong political disagreements without personal animosity always accompanying it. I think many of the 99 other Members of this body agree with that sentiment. We can disagree, as we often say, without being disagreeable. That is how this institution is supposed to function, after all.

I thank Senators for their service to this institution. We signed up for a rather challenging job. We often have different ideas about what serving our constituents means, but, as we have proved so often this year, we can still come together to accomplish important things for our country on education, transportation, and so many issues, just as we saw again a few minutes ago with passage of a significant cyber security measure, long-overdue improvements to the Visa Waiver Program, tax relief for families and small businesses, and other important matters.

I thanked the chairman of the Finance Committee the other day for his impressive work on the tax side of that legislation. Senator HATCH has been an invaluable ally working those issues.

Passage of the visa waiver reform and cyber security legislation are both notable accomplishments for our country, and neither would have been possible without the continued hard work of the chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, RON JOHNSON. I would like to express sincere gratitude to the chairman of the Intelligence Committee,

RICHARD BURR, for his work on cyber security too.

I know there are many others to thank—the chairman of the Appropriations Committee and the leadership and members of all the committees who worked many long hours recently in particular.

I apologize to those I haven't been able to mention, but I want to thank them and to say simply this: I wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year, and happy holidays to everyone. See you in 2016. Rest up because we still have a lot of work to do for the American people.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

OMNIBUS LEGISLATION

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, now that the votes have concluded and we have successfully passed our legislation granting tax relief to millions of Americans, I want to take a few minutes to express my gratitude.

This has been a very long and sometimes difficult process, but it has at almost every step been bipartisan and cooperative. I also think the results speak for themselves. This legislation, the PATH Act, will help families and job creators and grow our economy. This legislation will allow businesses and run-of-the-mill taxpayers to more effectively plan for their future. This legislation will pave the way for comprehensive tax reform, and this legislation will relieve the pressure we face every year on tax extenders and end the cliff-or-crisis mentality that surrounds much of our tax policy. It is, quite simply, a win for good government—the last of many we have enjoyed in what has been a very productive year here in the Senate.

I am pleased to have had the opportunity to work on this important bill and am even more pleased to see it finally passed through both the House and the Senate. I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who worked to make this possible, who set aside partisanship and allowed both parties to realize their top priorities in this legislation without seeing it as a loss to their side.

Here in the Senate, I, of course, want to thank Senator WYDEN, who has been an effective and valuable partner in all of our efforts on the Finance Committee this year.

I really need to thank all of the members of the Finance Committee and their staffs who worked extraordinarily hard on the tax extenders issue throughout this entire year.

I also thank our distinguished majority leader, who recognized the opportunity to get another big accomplishment through the Senate this year and pushed to help us get the substance of the bill in place, and he worked tirelessly to get it across the goal line.

Thanks also to our majority whip for leading another successful effort to secure the vote and shore up support within our conference.