

Rhode Island College, Rebecca Richardson, Robert Sippel, Florida Institute of Technology, Rosemary Campagna, Sandy Schiefer, University of Missouri—Columbia, Schuyler M. Cook, Scott Casper, Shari Last-er.

Stephanie Braunstein, Stephen Hayes, Hesburgh Libraries, University of Notre Dame, Susan Bucks, Monmouth University, Susan Udry, Tammy Savinski, Taylor Fitchett, Thomas E. Hickman, Thomas E. Mann, Victoria Mitchell, Wendy Swanberg, Wilhelmina Randtke.

FEBRUARY 29, 2016.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MILLER, CHAIRMAN BLUNT, AND VICE CHAIRMAN HARPER: As a coalition of 12 conservative, free market organizations we urge you to expand public access to Congressional Research Service (CRS) reports.

Each year CRS receives \$100 million in taxpayer funding to produce and update thousands of nonpartisan reports describing government agencies, explaining public policy, and tallying government spending. They are an invaluable resource to Congress in its efforts to oversee our massive federal government and hold it accountable.

Members of Congress and their staff have easy access to CRS reports. So too do lobbyists and other Beltway insiders, who often pay for the reports through expensive subscription services. But taxpayers cannot easily get copies of CRS reports.

This policy is unfair and outdated. It also stands in stark contrast to other legislative branch agencies: both the Congressional Budget Office and the Government Accountability Office release their reports to the public.

Making CRS reports easily accessible by the public will increase transparency in government, and allow everyday citizens access to important information that will better educate them on the issues before Congress. The bottom line is taxpayers pay for these reports. It is only fair that they have easy access to them.

Sincerely,

Phil Kerpen, President, American Commitment; Grover Norquist, President, Americans for Tax Reform; Norm Singleton, President, Campaign for Liberty; Neil Bradley, Chief Strategy Officer, Conservative Reform Network; Tom Schatz, President, Council for Citizens Against Government Waste; Adam Brandon, President and CEO, Freedom Works; Michael Needham, CEO, Heritage Action for America; Michael Ostrolenk, Co-Founder, Liberty Coalition; Brandon Arnold, Executive Director, National Taxpayers Union; Jerry Taylor, President, Niskanen Center; Kevin Kosar, Senior Fellow and Director of the Governance Project, R Street Institute; David Williams, President, Taxpayers Protection Alliance.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 385—RECOGNIZING THE HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT OF ASTRONAUT SCOTT JOSEPH KELLY OF THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AS THE FIRST PERSON OF THE UNITED STATES TO COMPLETE A CONTINUOUS 1-YEAR MISSION IN SPACE

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. NELSON, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following

resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 385

Whereas Scott Joseph Kelly was born on February 21, 1964, to Richard and Patricia Kelly in Orange, New Jersey, and raised in West Orange, New Jersey;

Whereas Scott Kelly received—

(1) a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from the State University of New York Maritime College in 1987; and

(2) a Master of Science degree in aviation systems from the University of Tennessee in 1996;

Whereas in July 1989, Scott Kelly was designated as a naval aviator in Beeville, Texas, and subsequently made overseas deployments aboard the *USS Dwight D. Eisenhower* to—

(1) the North Atlantic Ocean;

(2) the Mediterranean Sea;

(3) the Red Sea; and

(4) the Persian Gulf;

Whereas since completing training at the United States Naval Test Pilot School in June 1994, Scott Kelly has—

(1) logged over 8,000 hours in not fewer than 40 different aircraft and spacecraft; and

(2) made not fewer than 250 carrier landings;

Whereas in 2012, Scott Kelly retired from the Navy as a captain;

Whereas since being selected by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (referred to in this preamble as “NASA”) for astronaut training in 1996, Scott Kelly has served—

(1) in 1999, as a pilot of the Space Shuttle Discovery on STS-103 to service the Hubble Space Telescope;

(2) in 2007, as Mission Commander of the Space Shuttle Endeavor on STS-118 to the International Space Station (referred to in this preamble as the “ISS”);

(3) as a flight engineer for ISS Expedition 25;

(4) as the Commander of ISS Expedition 26; and

(5) as a 1-year crew member of ISS Expeditions 43, 44, 45, and 46, including 6 months of service as Commander;

Whereas on March 27, 2015, Scott Kelly launched into space for a 340-day mission aboard the ISS;

Whereas during his 340-day voyage aboard the ISS, Scott Kelly—

(1) remained in continuous orbit around the Earth;

(2) achieved the longest continuous amount of time that a United States astronaut has spent living in space;

(3) in addition to his regular duties of ISS maintenance, participated in hundreds of scientific studies; and

(4) conducted 3 space walks;

Whereas Scott Kelly participated in a 1-year twins study in space while his identical twin brother, former NASA astronaut Mark Kelly, acted as a human control specimen on Earth, providing an understanding of the physical, behavioral, microbiological, and molecular reaction of the human body to an extended period of time in space, which could—

(1) be pivotal for the United States goal for humans to explore Mars; and

(2) contribute to unforeseen scientific innovations that benefit all of humanity;

Whereas the 340-day space mission of Scott Kelly—

(1) generated new insight into how the human body adjusts to weightlessness, isolation, radiation, and the stress of long-duration space flight; and

(2) will help support astronaut physical and mental well-being during longer space exploration missions in the future;

Whereas Scott Kelly completed the 340-day mission with Russian cosmonaut Mikhail Kornienko, embodying peaceful international cooperation in outer space;

Whereas on March 1, 2016, Scott Kelly touched down on Earth, ending his 340-day space voyage; and

Whereas, the 1-year mission of Scott Kelly marks a significant step in reaching the goals of NASA of future missions to Mars, elsewhere in the solar system, and beyond: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates National Aeronautics and Space Administration astronaut Scott Kelly for—

(A) the historic achievement in completing a 1-year mission in space; and

(B) a successful return to Earth, the United States, and his family;

(2) recognizes that—

(A) the 1-year mission of Scott Kelly contributed to research on the effects of long-duration space flight on the human body and mind; and

(B) continuing studies of human health are critical to future human exploration of space; and

(3) applauds the contributions of the 1-year journey in space of Scott Kelly to the scientific progress of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 386—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD ESTABLISH A GOAL OF MORE THAN 50 PERCENT CLEAN AND CARBON-FREE ELECTRICITY BY 2030 TO AVOID THE WORST IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, GROW THE ECONOMY, INCREASE SHARED PROSPERITY, IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH, AND PRESERVE THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. COONS, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. NELSON, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. WARREN, Mr. KING, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. CARPER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

S. RES. 386

Whereas failing to act on climate change will have a devastating impact on the United States economy, costing billions of dollars in lost gross domestic product;

Whereas extreme weather, intensified by climate change, has already cost taxpayers billions of dollars each year in recovery efforts and the amount will continue to grow if climate change is not addressed;

Whereas decreased economic growth and increased costs of infrastructure repairs and other recovery efforts due to climate change will significantly increase the budget deficit and undermine the fiscal stability of the United States;

Whereas climate change will have devastating public health implications, including—

(1) increased rates of asthma and other respiratory diseases, especially in vulnerable

populations, including children and low income communities;

- (2) the spread of infectious diseases;
- (3) risks to food and water supplies; and
- (4) an increased number of premature deaths;

Whereas inaction on climate change will disproportionately impact communities of color and exacerbate economic inequalities;

Whereas the Secretary of Defense has identified climate change as a threat multiplier that will increase global instability and conflict;

Whereas the transition to a clean energy economy is feasible with existing technology; and

Whereas the transition to clean energy will—

- (1) create millions of jobs;
- (2) increase—
 - (A) the gross domestic product of the United States; and
 - (B) household income;
- (3) save—
 - (A) billions of dollars in avoidable health costs; and
 - (B) lives and improve public health;
- (4) lower energy bills for businesses and consumers;
- (5) help the United States achieve the international emissions reduction goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 26 to 28 percent of 2005 levels by 2025; and
- (6) unlock billions of dollars in private investment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the United States should—

- (1) establish a national goal of more than 50 percent clean and carbon-free electricity by 2030; and
- (2) enact legislation to accelerate the transition to clean energy to meet that goal.

SENATE RESOLUTION 387—CONGRATULATING THE HISTORIC COLUMBIA RIVER HIGHWAY ON ITS 100TH YEAR

Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 387

Whereas June 7, 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the Historic Columbia River Highway, a 75-mile-long scenic highway designed by Samuel C. Lancaster that runs through the Columbia River Gorge between Troutdale and The Dalles, Oregon;

Whereas the Historic Columbia River Highway, the first scenic highway in the United States and the first modern highway in the Pacific Northwest, is a National Historic Landmark;

Whereas Samuel C. Lancaster wrote that, when engineering the Historic Columbia River Highway, Lancaster aimed “to find . . . the points where the most beautiful things along the line might be seen to the best advantage, and if possible to locate the road in such a way as to reach them”;

Whereas the Historic Columbia River Highway is an engineering masterpiece that successfully used innovative engineering techniques to complement the magnificent natural landscape of the Columbia River Gorge;

Whereas the Historic Columbia River Highway showcases all aspects of the rich and diverse natural landscape of Oregon, including Multnomah Falls, the fourth-largest waterfall in the United States;

Whereas the construction of a water-level route through the Columbia River Gorge, now Interstate 84, destroyed many sections of the Historic Columbia River Highway;

Whereas, in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-663; 100 Stat. 4274), Congress directed the Oregon Department of Transportation to prepare a program to preserve and restore the Historic Columbia River Highway for public use as a historic road;

Whereas the State of Oregon is working to connect intact and usable highway segments with recreation trails, where feasible, to create a continuous historic road route through the Columbia River Gorge that links local, State, and Federal recreation facilities; and

Whereas the continued preservation and restoration of the Historic Columbia River Highway will provide greater access to the Columbia River Gorge for recreation and tourism, which will help to boost the economies of the region: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) congratulates the Historic Columbia River Highway on its 100th year;
- (2) recognizes the cultural, economic, and environmental importance of the Historic Columbia River Highway;
- (3) expresses support for the continued success of the restoration of the Historic Columbia River Highway; and
- (4) requests that the Secretary of the Senate prepare an official copy of this resolution for presentation to Senator Wyden, Senator Merkley, and Kevin Gorman of Friends of the Columbia Gorge.

SENATE RESOLUTION 388—SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KIRK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MURPHY, and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 388

Whereas, in March 2016, there are more than 3,640,000,000 women in the world;

- Whereas women around the world—
 - (1) have fundamental rights;
 - (2) participate in the political, social, and economic lives of their communities;
 - (3) play a critical role in providing and caring for their families;
 - (4) contribute substantially to economic growth and the prevention and resolution of conflict; and
 - (5) as farmers and caregivers, play an important role in the advancement of food security for their communities;

Whereas the advancement of women around the world is a foreign policy priority for the United States;

Whereas, on July 28, 2015, in Mandela Hall at the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the President told individuals in Africa—

- (1) “if you want your country to grow and succeed, you have to empower your women. And if you want to empower more women, America will be your partner”; and
- (2) “girls cannot go to school and grow up not knowing how to read or write—that denies the world future women engineers, future women doctors, future women business owners, future women presidents—that sets us all back”;

Whereas 2015 marked the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration at the Fourth World Conference on Women, in September 1995, which reaffirmed—

- (1) the commitment of the international community to the full implementation of

the rights of women and girls as an inalienable, integral, and indivisible part of all human rights; and

- (2) that local, regional, national, and global peace is attainable and inextricably linked to the advancement of women, who are a fundamental force for leadership, conflict resolution, and the promotion of lasting peace at all levels;

Whereas 2016 will mark the 5-year anniversary of the establishment of the first United States National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security, which includes a comprehensive set of commitments by the United States to advance the meaningful participation of women in decisionmaking relating to matters of war or peace;

Whereas the first United States National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security states that, “Deadly conflicts can be more effectively avoided, and peace can be best forged and sustained, when women become equal partners in all aspects of peace-building and conflict prevention, when their lives are protected, their experiences considered, and their voices heard.”;

Whereas there are 58 national action plans around the world, and there are 15 national action plans known to be in development;

Whereas at the White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism in February 2015, leaders from more than 60 countries, multilateral bodies, civil society, and private sector organizations agreed to a comprehensive action agenda against violent extremism that—

- (1) highlights the importance of the inclusion of women in countering the threat of violent extremism; and
- (2) notes that “women are partners in prevention and response, as well as agents of change”;

Whereas women remain underrepresented in conflict prevention and conflict resolution efforts, despite the proven success of women in conflict-affected regions in—

- (1) moderating violent extremism;
- (2) countering terrorism;
- (3) resolving disputes through nonviolent mediation and negotiation; and
- (4) stabilizing societies by improving access to peace and security—

- (A) services;
- (B) institutions; and
- (C) venues for decisionmaking;

Whereas peace negotiations are more likely to end in a peace agreement when women's groups play an influential role in the negotiation process;

Whereas studies show that a peace agreement is 35 percent more likely to last not less than 15 years if women participate in the development of the peace agreement;

Whereas according to the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the Department of State, the full and meaningful participation of women in security forces vastly enhances the effectiveness of the security forces;

Whereas, on August 30, 2015, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom highlighted, “our goal must be to build societies in which sexual violence is treated—legally and by every institution of authority—as the serious and wholly intolerable crime that it is. We have seen global campaigns and calls to action draw attention to this issue and mobilize governments and organizations to act. But transformation requires the active participation of men and women everywhere. We must settle for nothing less than a united world saying no to sexual violence and yes to justice, fairness and peace.”;

Whereas, in 2014—

- (1) 700,000,000 women or girls had been married before the age of 18; and