

opened criminal investigations against at least eight companies in connection with last year's fires, but there has yet to be a single high-profile case to get to court."

"The government in Jakarta, the capital, has recently banned the draining and clearing of all peatland for agricultural use, and it has ordered provincial governments to adopt better fire suppression methods. But it has not publicly responded to calls for better prevention, such as cracking down on slash-and-burn operations by large palm oil companies."

It would be an unforgivable tragedy if any species of great apes were to become extinct in the wild. They are all endangered—gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos, and orangutans. We need to do whatever is necessary to build international support for protecting these animals, and to help countries like Indonesia enforce its laws to stop the destruction of tropical forests on which these and so many other species depend.

NATIONAL EQUAL PAY DAY

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today is Equal Pay Day, and I wish to speak about the importance of ensuring women in this country are paid fairly.

April 12—102 days into the year—marks the day that women's wages catch up to men's wages from the previous year. That is unacceptable. We can do better.

Last week, the national women's soccer team filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The complaint states that women are paid just 40 percent of what men are paid—despite the fact that our women's soccer team has long been one of the best in the world. The team has won four of the last five Olympic Gold Medals and three of the last seven World Cups. Women soccer players are even given smaller per-diems when they travel. Women receive \$50 per day while men receive \$62.50 per day. This shows the pervasiveness of wage discrimination in this country. The most successful women's soccer team in the world still earns just 40 cents for every dollar earned by men.

Next, I would like to turn to my home State. Women in California are paid just 84 cents for every dollar earned by men. While better than the national average of 79 cents, California's wage gap totals nearly \$40 billion each year in lost wages. That is \$8,053 for every woman who works full time.

This gap has a significant effect on the economic security of working families—40 percent of women are the primary or sole breadwinners in their families. That means 40 percent of families depend on women's wages to pay the bills. Every dollar women lose to the wage gap makes a difference.

Here are just a few examples of what the wage gap costs families: \$8,000 is about 1 year's worth of groceries for a

family of four, 4 months of mortgage and utility payments, or 6 months of rent.

And the wage gap is even bigger for African-American and Latino women. African-American women are paid just 63 cents. Hispanic women are paid just 43 cents. We can't allow this discrimination to continue.

Next, I would like to address a longstanding myth about the wage gap. Some say it exists only because women choose lower-paying professions than men. For example, women are the vast majority of child care and home health care workers. This is a myth.

Even when women perform the same job as men, with the same level of education, the wage gap persists. For example, men who are nurses are paid \$5,000 more than women, even though only 10 percent of nurses are men.

We need to do more to close the wage gap, and I am very proud that California is leading the way. A landmark bill signed by Governor Jerry Brown last year protects women from retaliation if they ask how their pay compares to their colleagues. This is important because secrecy contributes to the wage gap. Women often don't know they are being paid substantially less than men.

The bill also requires employers to justify higher wages for men who perform the same jobs as women.

This law is a big step to improve the economic security of California families.

While it is good news that States are addressing this issue, the wage gap is a national problem. It affects all American women, and the Senate must take action. The Paycheck Fairness Act is a good place to start. I have long supported this bill, which is sponsored by Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI.

The Paycheck Fairness Act is similar to the new California law. It would protect women from retaliation and require employers to justify paying women less than men for the same job.

The bill would also make it easier for women to take legal action under the Equal Pay Act, including class action lawsuits.

Under current law, it is significantly easier to recoup lost wages if they were denied through other discriminatory practices—like failure to pay overtime.

Lastly, the bill would create a training program to help women learn how to negotiate their salaries.

This is a commonsense bill, and one that is long overdue.

In closing, President John F. Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act in 1963. At the time, women made 59 cents for every dollar earned by men. In 53 years, we have only closed the gap by 16 cents. At this rate, it won't be eliminated until 2059.

Women and their families deserve better, and they can't afford to wait that long.

I strongly urge the Senate to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CALIFORNIA CASUALTIES

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to four servicemembers from California or based in California who have died while serving our country in Operation Freedom's Sentinel and in Operation Inherent Resolve since I last entered names into the RECORD.

TSgt Anthony E. Salazar, 40, of Hermosa Beach, CA, died April 13, 2015, at an air base in southwest Asia in a noncombat related incident. Technical Sergeant Salazar was assigned to the 577th Expeditionary Prime Base Engineer Emergency Force Squadron, 1st Expeditionary Civil Engineer Group, U.S. Air Forces Central Command.

CAPT Jonathan J. Golden, 33, of Camarillo, CA, died October 2, 2015, in the crash of a C-130J Super Hercules aircraft at Jalalabad Airfield, Afghanistan. Captain Golden was assigned to the 39th Airlift Squadron, Dyess Air Force Base, TX.

SGT Joseph F. Stifter, 30, of Glendale, CA, died January 28, 2016, at Al Asad Airbase, Al Anbar Province, Iraq, from wounds suffered when his armored HMMWV was involved in a roll-over accident. Sergeant Stifter was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, KS.

SSgt Louis F. Cardin, of Temecula, CA, died March 19, 2016, in northern Iraq, from wounds suffered when the enemy attacked his unit with rocket fire. Staff Sergeant Cardin was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Camp Lejeune, NC.

37TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 37th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act, TRA. Since the TRA was signed into law in 1979, the U.S.-Taiwan bilateral relationship has continued to expand, growing into an important friendship as trading partners and allies. In 2015, Taiwan became the United States' ninth largest trading partner and our seventh largest destination for agricultural exports. My home State of Arkansas has seen firsthand the benefit of these close commercial partnerships with Taiwan.

As a member of the Senate Taiwan Caucus, I support efforts to further strengthen and deepen the bonds between the people of the United States and Taiwan, and I am not alone in these efforts. During the past 8 years, 40 State legislative chambers have passed resolutions in support of U.S.-Taiwan trade and a close cultural relationship. As Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou recently pointed out, U.S.-Taiwan relations have never been better, and I look forward to working with President-elect Tsai Ing-wen to ensure this continues to be the case.

In celebrating the 37 years since the Taiwan Relations Act was signed into law, I want to thank the Taiwanese people for their continued friendship and support. It is my hope that the United States and Taiwan will continue to work together to promote enduring peace, stability, and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING AIRBUS EMPLOYEES IN MOBILE, ALABAMA

• Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate the Airbus workers at their new facility in Mobile, AL, for completing their first jet, the first Airbus A321 in the United States.

Airbus and its Alabama employees have worked tirelessly for several years toward this achievement. The Airbus A321 is an advanced airplane and constructing it is no easy task. There is no doubt that building the A321 required immense dedication from the workers in the plant to the suppliers across Alabama and the entire southeast.

I am pleased that Airbus continues to be a leading participant in the manufacturing resurgence in Alabama. The company joins hundreds of others that have recently located their operations in our State, which is a testament to the quality of Alabama products. It is great news indeed for America that one of the finest aircraft manufacturing companies is producing popular, fast-selling models in the United States, and specifically in Mobile, AL.

While this accomplishment is only the beginning, let us join together and enjoy the celebration of this important milestone for Airbus, Alabama, and the people of our community.●

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5077. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Trichloroethylene; Significant New Use Rule" ((RIN2070-AK05) (FRL No. 9943-83)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5078. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fluazinam; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9942-99) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5079. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule en-

titled "1,2-Propanediol, 3-[3-[1,3,3,3-tetramethyl-1-[(trimethylsilyl)oxy]-1-disiloxy]propoxy]-; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9944-11) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5080. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals relative to the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5081. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Thomas P. Bostick, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5082. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a violation of the Antideficiency Act that involved fiscal years 2012 and 2013 Operations and Maintenance, Department of Defense Office of Inspector General funds, and was assigned case number 15-01; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-5083. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2016 Report to Congress on Sustainable Ranges"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5084. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Spokane, Washington: Second 10-Year PM10 Limited Maintenance Plan" (FRL No. 9944-83-Region 10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5085. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Colorado; Revisions to Common Provisions and Regulation Number 3; Corrections" (FRL No. 9942-84-Region 8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5086. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year 2015 Performance Report to the President and Congress for the Biosimilar User Fee Act"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5087. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a financial report for fiscal year 2015 relative to the Biosimilar User Fee Act of 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5088. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Definition of the Term 'Fiduciary'; Conflict of Interest Rule—Retirement Investment Advice" (RIN1210-AB32) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5089. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management

Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sanitary Transportation of Human and Animal Food" ((RIN0910-AG98) (Docket No. FDA-2013-N-0013)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5090. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Administrative Actions for Noncompliance; Lesser Administrative Actions" (Docket No. FDA-2015-N-5052) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 11, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5091. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2015 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5092. A communication from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's fiscal year 2015 report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5093. A communication from the Director, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2015 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5094. A communication from the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's fiscal year 2015 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5095. A communication from the Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2015 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5096. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2015 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5097. A communication from the Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's fiscal year 2015 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5098. A communication from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002