

*Ann Begeman, of South Dakota, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring December 31, 2020.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE—TREATY

The following executive report of committee was submitted:

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

Treaty Doc. 114-12: Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro with 2 conditions and 7 declarations (Ex. Rept. 114-16)

The text of the committee-recommended resolution of advice and consent to ratification is as follows:

As reported by the Committee on Foreign Relations:

Resolved, (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

Section 1. Senate Advice and Consent Subject to Declarations and Conditions.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro, which was opened for signature in Brussels on May 19, 2016, and signed on behalf of the United States of America (the "Protocol") (Treaty Doc. 114-12), subject to the declarations of section 2 and the conditions of section 3.

Sec. 2. Declarations.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declarations:

(1) Reaffirmation that United States Membership in NATO Remains a Vital National Security Interest of The United States.—The Senate declares that—

(A) for more than 60 years the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has served as the preeminent organization to defend the countries in the North Atlantic area against all external threats;

(B) through common action, the established democracies of North America and Europe that were joined in NATO persevered and prevailed in the task of ensuring the survival of democratic government in Europe and North America throughout the Cold War;

(C) NATO enhances the security of the United States by embedding European states in a process of cooperative security planning and by ensuring an ongoing and direct leadership role for the United States in European security affairs;

(D) the responsibility and financial burden of defending the democracies of Europe and North America can be more equitably shared through an alliance in which specific obligations and force goals are met by its members;

(E) the security and prosperity of the United States is enhanced by NATO's collective defense against aggression that may threaten the security of NATO members; and

(F) United States membership in NATO remains a vital national security interest of the United States.

(2) Strategic Rationale For NATO Enlargement.—The Senate finds that—

(A) the United States and its NATO allies face continued threats to their stability and territorial integrity;

(B) an attack against Montenegro, or its destabilization arising from external subver-

sion, would threaten the stability of Europe and jeopardize United States national security interests;

(C) Montenegro, having established a democratic government and having demonstrated a willingness to meet the requirements of membership, including those necessary to contribute to the defense of all NATO members, is in a position to further the principles of the North Atlantic Treaty and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area; and

(D) extending NATO membership to Montenegro will strengthen NATO, enhance stability in Southeast Europe, and advance the interests of the United States and its NATO allies.

(3) Support for NATO's Open Door Policy.—The policy of the United States is to support NATO's Open Door Policy that allows any European country to express its desire to join NATO and demonstrate its ability to meet the obligations of NATO membership.

(4) Future Consideration Of Candidates For Membership In NATO.—

(A) Senate Finding.—The Senate finds that the United States will not support the accession to the North Atlantic Treaty of, or the invitation to begin accession talks with, any European state (other than Montenegro), unless—

(i) the President consults with the Senate consistent with Article II, section 2, clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States (relating to the advice and consent of the Senate to the making of treaties); and

(ii) the prospective NATO member can fulfill all of the obligations and responsibilities of membership, and the inclusion of such state in NATO would serve the overall political and strategic interests of NATO and the United States.

(B) Requirement for Consensus and Ratification.—The Senate declares that no action or agreement other than a consensus decision by the full membership of NATO, approved by the national procedures of each NATO member, including, in the case of the United States, the requirements of Article II, section 2, clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States (relating to the advice and consent of the Senate to the making of treaties), will constitute a commitment to collective defense and consultations pursuant to Articles 4 and 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty.

(5) Influence Of Non-NATO Members On NATO Decisions.—The Senate declares that any country that is not a member of NATO shall have no impact on decisions related to NATO enlargement.

(6) Support for 2014 Wales Summit Defense Spending Benchmark.—The Senate declares that all NATO members should continue to move towards the guideline outlined in the 2014 Wales Summit Declaration to spend a minimum of 2 percent of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on defense and 20 percent of their defense budgets on major equipment, including research and development, by 2024.

(7) Support for Montenegro's Democratic Reform Process.—Montenegro has made difficult reforms and taken steps to address corruption. The United States and other NATO member states should not consider this important process complete and should continue to urge additional reforms.

Sec. 3. Conditions.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following conditions:

(1) Presidential Certification.—Prior to the deposit of the instrument of ratification, the President shall certify to the Senate as follows:

(A) The inclusion of Montenegro in NATO will not have the effect of increasing the

overall percentage share of the United States in the common budgets of NATO.

(B) The inclusion of Montenegro in NATO does not detract from the ability of the United States to meet or to fund its military requirements outside the North Atlantic area.

(2) Annual Report on NATO Member Defense Spending.—Not later than December 1 of each year during the 8-year period following the date of entry into force of the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report, which shall be submitted in an unclassified form, but may be accompanied by a classified annex, and which shall contain the following information:

(A) The amount each NATO member spent on its national defense in each of the previous 5 years.

(B) The percentage of GDP for each of the previous 5 years that each NATO member spent on its national defense.

(C) The percentage of national defense spending for each of the previous 5 years that each NATO member spent on major equipment, including research and development.

(D) Details on the actions a NATO member has taken in the most recent year reported to move closer towards the NATO guideline outlined in the 2014 Wales Summit Declaration to spend a minimum of 2 percent of its GDP on national defense and 20 percent of its national defense budget on major equipment, including research and development, if a NATO member is below either guideline for the most recent year reported.

Sec. 4. Definitions.

In this resolution:

(1) Appropriate Congressional Committees.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(2) NATO Members.—The term "NATO members" means all countries that are parties to the North Atlantic Treaty.

(3) Non-NATO Members.—The term "non-NATO members" means all countries that are not parties to the North Atlantic Treaty.

(4) North Atlantic Area.—The term "North Atlantic area" means the area covered by Article 6 of the North Atlantic Treaty, as applied by the North Atlantic Council.

(5) North Atlantic Treaty.—The term "North Atlantic Treaty" means the North Atlantic Treaty, signed at Washington April 4, 1949 (63 Stat. 2241; TIAS 1964), as amended.

(6) United States Instrument of Ratification.—The term "United States instrument of ratification" means the instrument of ratification of the United States of the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. WARREN:

S. 3511. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to expand the Secretarial Designee Program of the Department of Defense to include victims of acts of terror; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GRAHAM:

S. 3512. A bill to reauthorize the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Historic Preservation Program; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. FLAKE:

S. 3513. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to facilitate communication between U.S. Customs and Border Protection and border ranchers in Arizona and other border States and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 3514. A bill to adjust the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DONNELLY (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 3515. A bill to authorize previously appropriated resources for communities to address persistent or historical crime through collaborative cross-sector partnerships; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCCAIN:

S. 3516. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a best-practices peer review of each medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs to evaluate the efficacy of health care delivered at each such medical center; read the first time.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 3517. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide appropriate rules for the application of the deduction for income attributable to domestic production activities with respect to certain contract manufacturing or production arrangements; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 3518. A bill to impose nonnuclear sanctions with respect to Iran, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 3519. A bill to address the psychological, social, and emotional needs of children, youth, and families who have experienced trauma, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. FRANKEN, and Ms. WARREN):

S. Res. 632. A resolution supporting a transition to 100 percent clean, renewable energy to help consumers, support the economy and national security of the United States, and avoid the worst impacts of climate change; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. Con. Res. 58. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that rates for inmate calling service should not exceed the affordable modified rate caps adopted by the Federal Communications Commission; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 24

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 24, a bill to clarify that an authorization

to use military force, a declaration of war, or any similar authority shall not authorize the detention without charge or trial of a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States.

S. 299

At the request of Mr. NELSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 299, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 1148

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1148, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes.

S. 1524

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1524, a bill to enable concrete masonry products manufacturers to establish, finance, and carry out a coordinated program of research, education, and promotion to improve, maintain, and develop markets for concrete masonry products.

S. 1911

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1911, a bill to implement policies to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally.

S. 2595

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2595, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 2712

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2712, a bill to restore amounts improperly withheld for tax purposes from severance payments to individuals who retired or separated from service in the Armed Forces for combat-related injuries, and for other purposes.

S. 2748

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) were added as cosponsors of S. 2748, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, social work schools, and other programs, including physician assistant education programs, to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 2878

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2878, a bill to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to advance religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and through stronger and more flexible political responses to religious freedom violations and violent extremism worldwide, and for other purposes.

S. 2895

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2895, a bill to extend the civil statute of limitations for victims of Federal sex offenses.

S. 2957

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISC), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2957, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the first manned landing on the Moon.

S. 2989

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 2989, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States merchant mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II.