

Despite the clear benefits of fire sprinkler systems, the current tax code fails to incentivize these lifesaving systems. Your legislation would fix this oversight by classifying fire sprinkler systems as Section 179 expenses and allowing property owners to deduct the cost of retrofitting their buildings. Additionally, the FSIA will allow high-rise building owners to depreciate the costs of these systems much faster than the current tax code allows. The FSIA provides a real incentive for building owners to protect not only their properties but the lives of those people inside them.

Thank you again for your strong support for the fire and emergency service. The IAFC looks forward to continuing to work with you to protect communities across Maine and the entire United States.

Sincerely,

FIRE CHIEF JOHN D. SINCLAIR,
President and Chairman of the Board.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 605. A bill to amend the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to discourage litigation against the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management relating to land management projects; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the Litigation Relief for Forest Management Projects Act be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 605

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Litigation Relief for Forest Management Projects Act".

SEC. 2. FOREST AND RANGELAND RENEWABLE RESOURCES PLANNING ACT OF 1974.

(a) CONSULTATION REGARDING LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS.—Section 6(d) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604(d)) is amended—

(1) by striking "(d) The Secretary" and inserting the following:

"(d) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND CONSULTATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED AFTER APPROVAL OF LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be required to engage in consultation under this subsection or any other provision of law (including section 7 of Public Law 93-205 (16 U.S.C. 1536) and section 402.16 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation)) with respect to—

"(i) the listing of a species as threatened or endangered, or a designation of critical habitat pursuant to Public Law 93-205 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), if a land management plan has been adopted by the Secretary as of the date of listing or designation; or

"(ii) any provision of a land management plan adopted as described in clause (i).

"(B) EFFECT OF PARAGRAPH.—Nothing in this paragraph affects any applicable requirement of the Secretary to consult with the head of any other Federal department or agency—

"(i) regarding any project to implement a land management plan, including a project carried out, or proposed to be carried out, in an area designated as critical habitat pursuant to Public Law 93-205 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

"(ii) with respect to the development of a modification to a land management plan that would result in a significant change (within the meaning of subsection (f)(4)) in the land management plan."

(b) DEFINITION OF SECRETARY; CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) DEFINITION OF SECRETARY.—Section 3(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1601(a)) is amended, in the first sentence of the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting "(referred to in this Act as the 'Secretary')" after "Secretary of Agriculture".

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.) is amended, in sections 4 through 9, 12, 13, and 15, by striking "Secretary of Agriculture" each place it appears and inserting "Secretary".

SEC. 3. FEDERAL LAND POLICY AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1976.

Section 202(f) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712(f)) is amended—

(1) by striking "(f) The Secretary" and inserting the following:

"(f) PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED AFTER APPROVAL OF LAND USE PLANS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be required to engage in consultation under this subsection or any other provision of law (including section 7 of Public Law 93-205 (16 U.S.C. 1536) and section 402.16 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation)), with respect to—

"(i) the listing of a species as threatened or endangered, or a designation of critical habitat, pursuant to Public Law 93-205 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), if a land use plan has been adopted by the Secretary as of the date of listing or designation; or

"(ii) any provision of a land use plan adopted as described in clause (i).

"(B) EFFECT OF PARAGRAPH.—

"(i) DEFINITION OF SIGNIFICANT CHANGE.—In this subparagraph, the term 'significant change' means a significant change within the meaning of section 219.13(b)(3) of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this subparagraph), except that—

"(I) any reference contained in that section to a land management plan shall be deemed to be a reference to a land use plan;

"(II) any reference contained in that section to the Forest Service shall be deemed to be a reference to the Bureau of Land Management; and

"(III) any reference contained in that section to the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-588; 90 Stat. 2949) shall be deemed to be a reference to this Act.

"(ii) EFFECT.—Nothing in this paragraph affects any applicable requirement of the Secretary to consult with the head of any other Federal department or agency—

"(I) regarding a project carried out, or proposed to be carried out, with respect to a species listed as threatened or endangered, or in an area designated as critical habitat, pursuant to Public Law 93-205 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

"(II) with respect to the development of a new land use plan or the revision of or other significant change to an existing land use plan."

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 85—CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN TO FULFILL REPEATED PROMISES OF ASSISTANCE IN THE CASE OF ROBERT LEVINSON, THE LONGEST HELD UNITED STATES CIVILIAN IN OUR NATION'S HISTORY

Mr. NELSON (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 85

Whereas United States citizen Robert Levinson is a retired agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), a resident of Coral Springs, Florida, the husband of Christine Levinson, father of their seven children, and grandfather of their six grandchildren;

Whereas Robert Levinson traveled from Dubai, United Arab Emirates, to Kish Island, Iran, on March 8, 2007;

Whereas, after traveling to Kish Island and checking into the Hotel Maryam, Robert Levinson disappeared on March 9, 2007;

Whereas, in December 2007, Robert Levinson's wife, Christine, traveled to Kish Island to retrace Mr. Levinson's steps and met with officials of the Government of Iran who pledged to help in the investigation;

Whereas for 10 years, the United States Government has continually pressed the Government of Iran to provide any information on the whereabouts of Robert Levinson and to help ensure his prompt and safe return to his family;

Whereas officials of the Government of Iran promised their continued assistance to the relatives of Robert Levinson during the visit of the family to the Islamic Republic of Iran in December 2007;

Whereas, in November 2010, the Levinson family received a video of Mr. Levinson in captivity, representing the first proof of life since his disappearance and providing some initial indications that he was being held somewhere in southwest Asia;

Whereas, in April 2011, the Levinson family received a series of pictures of Mr. Levinson, which provided further indications that he was being held somewhere in southwest Asia;

Whereas Secretary of State John Kerry stated on August 28, 2013, "The United States respectfully asks the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to work cooperatively with us in our efforts to help U.S. citizen Robert Levinson";

Whereas, on September 28, 2013, during the first direct phone conversation between the heads of governments of the United States and Iran since 1979, President Barack Obama raised the case of Robert Levinson to President of Iran Hassan Rouhani and urged the President of Iran to help locate Mr. Levinson and reunite him with his family;

Whereas, on August 29, 2014, Secretary of State Kerry again stated that the United States "respectfully request[s] the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran work cooperatively with us to find Mr. Levinson and bring him home";

Whereas, on January 16, 2016, the Government of Iran released five United States citizens detained in Iran;

Whereas, on January 17, 2016, President Obama stated that "even as we rejoice in the safe return of others, we will never forget about Bob," referring to Robert Levinson, and that "each and every day but especially today our hearts are with the Levinson family and we will never rest until their family is whole again";

Whereas, on January 19, 2016, White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest stated that the United States Government had “secured a commitment from the Iranians to use the channel that has now been opened to secure the release of those individuals that we know were being held by Iran . . . to try and gather information about Mr. Levinson’s possible whereabouts”;

Whereas the Government of Iran’s most recent commitment to assist in and the diplomatic channel dedicated to locating and returning Bob Levinson have not yielded any meaningful results;

Whereas, on November 23, 2016, the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (UNWGAD) issued Opinion No. 50/2016, concerning Robert Levinson in which the UNWGAD found Iran responsible for the arbitrary detention of Mr. Levinson;

Whereas, on November 26, 2013, Mr. Levinson became the longest held United States civilian in our Nation’s history; and

Whereas the Federal Bureau of Investigation continues to offer a \$5,000,000 reward for information leading to Mr. Levinson’s safe return: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that March 9, 2017, marks 10 years since the disappearance of Robert Levinson from Kish Island, Iran;

(2) recognizes that Robert Levinson is the longest held United States civilian in our Nation’s history;

(3) notes that repeated pledges by officials of the Government of Iran to provide their Government’s assistance in the case of Robert Levinson have not led to any meaningful progress in locating or returning Robert Levinson;

(4) urges the Government of Iran to take meaningful steps towards fulfilling its repeated promises to assist in locating and returning Robert Levinson, including immediately providing all available information from all entities of the Government of Iran regarding the disappearance of Robert Levinson to the United States Government;

(5) urges the President and the allies of the United States to continue to press the Government of Iran at every opportunity to locate and return Robert Levinson, notwithstanding ongoing and serious disagreements the United States Government has with the Government of Iran on a broad array of issues, including Iran’s ballistic missile program, sponsorship of international terrorism, and human rights abuses;

(6) notes that in addition to these other serious issues, further delay in locating and returning Robert Levinson remains a significant obstacle to improving United States-Iran relations; and

(7) expresses sympathy to the family of Robert Levinson for their anguish and expresses hope that their ordeal can be brought to an end in the near future.

SENATE RESOLUTION 86—RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICORPS MEMBERS AND ALUMNI TO THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. TESTER, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. REED, Ms. WARREN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr.

MANCHIN, and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 86

Whereas, since its inception in 1994, the AmeriCorps national service program has proven to be a highly effective way to engage the people of the United States in meeting a wide range of local and national needs and promote the ethics of service and volunteerism;

Whereas, since 1994, more than 1,000,000 individuals have taken the AmeriCorps pledge to “get things done for America” by becoming AmeriCorps members;

Whereas, each year, AmeriCorps, in coordination with State service commissions, provides opportunities for approximately 80,000 individuals across the United States to give back in an intensive way to communities, States, and the United States;

Whereas AmeriCorps members have served more than 1,400,000,000 hours nationwide, helping to—

- (1) improve the lives of the most vulnerable people of the United States;
- (2) protect the environment;
- (3) contribute to public safety;
- (4) respond to disasters; and
- (5) strengthen the educational system of the United States;

Whereas, since 1994, more than \$8,700,000,000 in AmeriCorps funds have been invested in nonprofit, community, educational, and faith-based groups and those funds leverage hundreds of millions of dollars in outside funding and in-kind donations each year;

Whereas, in 2016, AmeriCorps members recruited and supervised more than 2,300,000 community volunteers, demonstrating the value of AmeriCorps as a powerful force for encouraging people to become involved in volunteering and community service;

Whereas, in 2016, AmeriCorps members served at approximately 21,000 locations across the United States, including at nonprofit organizations, schools, and faith-based and community organizations;

Whereas AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps campuses in Mississippi, Maryland, Iowa, California, and Colorado strengthen communities and develop future leaders through team-based service;

Whereas AmeriCorps members nationwide, in return for the service of those members, have earned more than \$3,300,000,000 to use to further their own educational advancement at colleges and universities across the United States;

Whereas AmeriCorps members, after their terms of service with AmeriCorps end, have been more likely to remain engaged in their communities as volunteers, teachers, and nonprofit professionals than the average individual;

Whereas, in 2009, Congress passed the bipartisan Serve America Act (Public Law 111-13; 123 Stat. 1460), which authorized the expansion of national service, expanded opportunities to serve, increased efficiency and accountability, and strengthened the capacity of organizations and communities to solve problems;

Whereas national service programs have engaged millions of people in the United States in results-driven service in the most vulnerable communities of the United States, providing hope and help to individuals with economic and social needs;

Whereas national service and volunteerism demonstrate the best of the spirit of the United States, with people turning toward problems and working together to find community solutions; and

Whereas AmeriCorps Week, observed in 2017 from March 4 through March 11, is an

appropriate time for the people of the United States to salute current and former AmeriCorps members for their positive impact on the lives of people in the United States, to thank the community partners of AmeriCorps for making the program possible, and to encourage more people in the United States to become involved in service and volunteering: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) encourages the people of the United States to join in a national effort to—

(A) salute AmeriCorps members and alumni; and

(B) raise awareness about the importance of national and community service;

(2) acknowledges the significant accomplishments of the members, alumni, and community partners of AmeriCorps;

(3) recognizes the important contributions made by AmeriCorps members and alumni to the lives of the people of the United States; and

(4) encourages individuals of all ages to consider opportunities to serve in AmeriCorps.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have 9 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

ARMED SERVICE COMMITTEE

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet March 9, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.

BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet March 9, 2017, at 10 a.m.

FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet March 9, 2017 at 10:30 a.m.

FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet March 9, 2017 at 10:45 a.m., to hold a hearing entitled “Resolving the Conflict in Yemen: U.S. Interests, Risks, and Policy.”

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet on March 9, 2017 at 10 a.m., in SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

VETERANS’ AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Committee on Veterans’ Affairs is authorized to meet March 9, 2017, at 10 a.m., in room SD-G50 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet March 9, 2017, at 2 p.m., in room SH-219 of the Senate Hart Office Building.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

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