

Monsanto for their corn and soybean germplasm and traits to be sold in their brands will be squeezed given that the new merged companies will need to increase market share and profits for their shareholders to justify the mergers. Independent seed companies cannot compete with the bundling opportunities and margins that the merged companies will enjoy with their combined product offerings.

In the longer term, the American farmer will lose as the remaining oligopoly uses their market power, bundling of products, and limited competition to increase the costs for every acre planted. This in turn will increase the costs for consumers in all markets touched by production agriculture.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTIONS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Secretary of the Senate, on March 10, 2017, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled joint resolutions:

H.J. Res. 37. Joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Defense, the General Services Administration, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration relating to the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

H.J. Res. 44. Joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of the Interior relating to Bureau of Land Management regulations that establish the procedures used to prepare, revise, or amend land use plans pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

H.J. Res. 57. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to accountability and State plans under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

H.J. Res. 58. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to teacher preparation issues.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the enrolled joint resolutions were signed on March 13, 2017, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 720. An act to amend Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to improve attorney accountability, and for other purposes.

H.R. 725. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to prevent fraudulent joinder.

H.R. 985. An act to amend the procedures used in Federal court class actions and multidistrict litigation proceedings to assure fairer, more efficient outcomes for claimants and defendants, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 2 of the Migratory

Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 715a), and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Speaker appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission: Mr. Thompson of California.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 720. An act to amend Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to improve attorney accountability, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 725. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to prevent fraudulent joinder; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 985. An act to amend the procedures used in Federal court class actions and multidistrict litigation proceedings to assure fairer, more efficient outcomes for claimants and defendants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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-996. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Streptomycin; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions" (FRL No. 9957-65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2017; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-997. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oxytetracycline; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions" (FRL No. 9959-19) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2017; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-998. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Flupyradifurone; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions" (FRL No. 9958-75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2017; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-999. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Freedom of Information Act Implementation" (RIN2590-AA86) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1000. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Commercial Prerinse Spray Valves" (RIN1904-AD31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2017; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1001. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of California Air Plan Revisions, Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District" (FRL No. 9958-43-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1002. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of California Air Plan; Owens Valley Serious Area Plan for the 1987 24-Hour PM10 Standard" (FRL No. 9958-80-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1003. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of New Reactors, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Enforcement Guidance Memorandum 15-002, Revision 1: Enforcement Discretion for Tornado-Generated Missile Protection Non-Compliance" (EGM 15-002) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1004. A communication from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Board's compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act during calendar year 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1005. A communication from the Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Endowment's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2016 and the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1006. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-6670)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1007. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Sturgeon Bay, Sturgeon Bay, WI" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2017-0050)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1008. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Black Warrior River; Tuscaloosa, AL" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2017-0032)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1009. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Black Warrior River; Tuscaloosa, AL" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2017-0034)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1010. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department

of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Operational Equipment Test; Bellingham Bay; Bellingham, WA" ((RIN1625-AA00)) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0084)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1011. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Loop Parkway Bridge—Long Creek, Hempstead, NY" ((RIN1625-AA00)) (Docket No. USCG-2017-0019)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1012. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Columbia River, Sand Island, WA" ((RIN1625-AA00)) (Docket No. USCG-2017-0118)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1013. A communication from the Deputy Chief, Enforcement Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 1.80(b) of the Commission's Rules: Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties to Reflect Inflation" (DA 16-1453) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1014. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.202(b), FM Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Red Lake, Minnesota)" ((MB Docket No. 05-142)) (DA 16-371)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CRAPO, from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, with amendments:

S. 327. A bill to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to provide a safe harbor related to certain investment fund research reports, and for other purposes.

By Mr. CRAPO, from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, without amendment:

S. 444. A bill to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to expand the investor limitation for qualifying venture capital funds under an exemption from the definition of an investment company.

S. 462. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to refund or credit certain excess payments made to the Commission.

By Mr. CRAPO, from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, with amendments:

S. 484. A bill to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to terminate an exemption for companies located in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and any other possession of the United States.

By Mr. CRAPO, from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, without amendment:

S. 488. A bill to increase the threshold for disclosures required by the Securities and

Exchange Commission relating to compensatory benefit plans, and for other purposes.

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 Mr. UDALL (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 607. A bill to establish a business incubators program within the Department of the Interior to promote economic development in Indian reservation communities; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. KAINE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. REED, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KING, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BROWN, Ms. STABENOW, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 608. A bill to nullify the effect of the March 6, 2017 executive order that temporarily restricts most nationals from six countries from entering the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. KING):

S. 609. A bill to amend the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001 and title 38, United States Code, to require the provision of chiropractic care and services to veterans at all Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers and to expand access to such care and services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 610. A bill to promote transparency by permitting the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board to allow its disciplinary proceedings to be open to the public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 611. A bill to amend the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to meet the needs of homeless children, youth, and families, and honor the assessments and priorities of local communities; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 612. A bill to provide for the unencumbering of title to non-Federal land owned by the city of Tucson, Arizona, for purposes of economic development by conveyance of the Federal reversionary interest to the City; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. FLAKE:

S. 613. A bill to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to provide for the consideration by State regulatory authorities and nonregulated electric utilities of whether subsidies should be provided for the deployment, construction, maintenance, or operation of a customer-side technology; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 614. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to establish a pilot program for commercial recreation concessions on certain land managed by the Bureau of Land Management; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 615. A bill to establish an alternative, outcomes-based process for authorizing innovative, high-quality higher education providers to participate in programs under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S.J. Res. 38. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Approval, Disapproval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval of Air Quality Implementation Plans and Federal Implementation Plan; Utah; Revisions to Regional Haze State Implementation Plan; Federal Implementation Plan for Regional Haze"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 34

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of S. 34, a bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for the en bloc consideration in resolutions of disapproval for "midnight rules", and for other purposes.

S. 108

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 108, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

S. 109

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 109, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of pharmacist services.

S. 155

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 155, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to permit employers to pay higher wages to their employees.

S. 170

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 170, a bill to provide for nonpreemption of measures by State and local governments to divest from entities that engage in commerce-related or investment-related boycott, divestment, or sanctions activities targeting Israel, and for other purposes.