

and an independent commission that can do the same kind of public, transparent, open disclosure. A special prosecutor does not produce a report; they and the team will produce a prosecution, if it is warranted. They are the only ones who can prosecute.

We cannot stand idle while Russia interferes and threatens our political infrastructure, which now includes our electoral system. Neither can we stand idle while our Department of Justice is leaderless or, worse yet, has a prosecutor who also may be tainted by the fact that he reports to the Attorney General or to the President. The Attorney General has recused himself, with good reason, because he was implicated in allegations surrounding collusion between the Trump campaign and the Russian interference.

The allegations of collusion are serious. They must be investigated, and the investigation and potential prosecution must be done by someone who is independent—a special prosecutor. Revelation upon revelation day after day leaves us with no choice. In fact, we had no choice well before now, but the disclosures that have surfaced just within the last hours and days confirm that justice will not be vindicated unless we have a special prosecutor. That is why I have chosen to block the nomination and confirmation of the Deputy Attorney General. I will consider doing it with other nominees as well. I feel so strongly—and I hope my colleagues do as well—that a special prosecutor is necessary to vindicate justice, to make sure that Americans have trust and confidence in our Department of Justice and in the ability of the United States to protect its democracy and the integrity of its electoral process.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### TRIBUTE TO JILL HRUBY

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, it is an honor to recognize Jill Hruby and her team for their commitment to the success of Sandia National Laboratories and their commendable service to the Nation.

Since 2015, Ms. Hruby has been the president and director of Sandia Na-

tional Laboratories and will be leaving the labs at the end of April.

It has been a pleasure working with her over the last 2 years.

With more than 12,000 employees, Sandia is our Nation's largest national laboratory with principal sites in Albuquerque, NM, and Livermore, CA.

The lab employs some of the best and brightest minds in the country and is indispensable to our national security and to maintaining our Nation's science and engineering superiority.

Ms. Hruby joined Sandia in 1983 to work on research in nanoscience, hydrogen storage, mechanical component design, thermal analysis, and microfluidics.

She served for 27 years at Sandia's California location, managing projects responsible for weapon components, microtechnologies, and materials processing.

In 2010, she came to New Mexico to serve as the vice president of the Energy, Nonproliferation, and High-Consequence Security Division and as the leader of Sandia's International, Homeland, and Nuclear Security Program Management Unit.

In July 2015, Ms. Hruby became the first woman to direct a national security laboratory.

Ms. Hruby has authored numerous publications, holds three patents in microfabrication, and won an R&D 100 Award in solid-state radiation detection. In 2016, the Society of Women Engineers presented Ms. Hruby with the Suzanne Jenniches Upward Mobility Award in celebration of her rise to a leadership role and her dedication to creating a nurturing environment for women in the workplace.

She has said that she wants her work to matter to others and to have a purpose greater than herself.

I commend Jill Hruby for her incredible record of service to our Nation addressing some of our most complex issues and challenges, and I wish her the best in all of her future endeavors.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

#### RECOGNIZING THE STUDENTS OF CLAN OF MOR'DU

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and to congratulate the students of the Clan of Mor'Du team for their recent State competition victory and their invitation to participate in the FIRST LEGO League World Festival.

As we enter a century of fast-paced innovation where science and technology continue to be at the epicenter of our daily lives, it is important to promote STEM education so that the next generation of engineers and entrepreneurs can fully harness the opportunities these new advancements bring to our society. Therefore, it is my honor to bring to the attention of the Senate a group of astounding young students and their coaches from Spruce Moun-

tain Middle School who have stepped up to the plate to accept this challenge.

These outstanding students compete in the State's rigorous LEGO league, where teams must build and program robots made from LEGO NXT kits to solve missions. Their dedication to excellence and their perseverance against teams from more prominent school districts has already lead them to two well-deserved statewide championship victories. In honor of their tireless efforts, the Clan of Mor'du have been invited to attend the FIRST LEGO League World Festival in St. Louis, MO, this spring. For most of these curious young students, it will be their first trip outside of Maine.

I wish to join the communities of Jay, Livermore, and Livermore Falls, as well as the State of Maine, in congratulating the Clan of Mor'du for their pioneering spirit and remarkable achievements. Their willingness to challenge themselves and work together as a team is a testament to the tenacity and ingenuity of Maine's great people.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

#### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

#### REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SIGNIFICANT MALICIOUS CYBER-ENABLED ACTIVITIES THAT WAS DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13694 ON APRIL 1, 2015—PM 4

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report, which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13694 of April 1, 2015, is to continue in effect beyond April 1, 2017.

Significant malicious cyber-enabled activities originating from, or directed by persons located, in whole or in substantial part, outside the United States, continue to pose an unusual

and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13694 with respect to significant malicious cyber-enabled activities.

DONALD J. TRUMP.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 29, 2017.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:01 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following joint resolution, without amendment:

S.J. Res. 34. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission relating to "Protecting the Privacy of Customers of Broadband and Other Telecommunications Services".

#### 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-1118. A communication from the Chairman, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to the Congress: Medicare Payment Policy"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1119. A communication from the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country (OSS-2017-0285); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1120. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Performance Report for fiscal year 2016 for the Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA); to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1121. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Financial Report for fiscal year 2016 for the Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA); to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1122. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Financial Report for fiscal year 2016 for the Generic Drug User Fee Amendments; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1123. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a financial report relative to the Medical Device User Fee Amendments of 2012 for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1124. A communication from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting, a report of proposed legislation entitled "Criminal Judicial Pro-

cedure, Administration, and Technical Amendments Act of 2017"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1125. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Polyglycerol polyricinoleate; Tolerance Exemption" (FRL No. 9959-12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1126. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Octadecanoic acid, 12-hydroxy-homopolymer, ester with a, a', a" -1,2,3-propanetriyltris[w-hydroxypoly(oxy-1,2-ethanediyl); Tolerance Exemption" (FRL No. 9958-97) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1127. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Isoamyl acetate; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9956-02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1128. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fatty Acids, Montan-Wax, Ethoxylated; Tolerance Exemption" (FRL No. 9958-10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1129. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cyantraniliprole; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9958-53) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1130. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cloquintocet-mexyl; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9959-11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1131. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Aspergillus flavus AF36; Amendment to an Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9959-92) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1132. A communication from the official performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence), transmitting, pursuant to law, a fiscal year 2016 report relative to data mining (OSS-2017-0298); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1133. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Christopher C. Bogdan, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1134. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant Gen-

eral Kevin W. Mangum, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1135. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Wendy M. Masiello, United States Air Force, and her advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1136. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of five (5) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1137. A communication from the Principal Director (Force Resiliency), performing the duties of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Report (NGRER) for fiscal year 2018; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1138. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001, with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1139. A communication from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to Securities Transaction Settlement Cycle" (RIN3235-AL86) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1140. 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 Missouri's Air Quality Implementation Plans; Open Burning Requirements" (FRL No. 9958-72-Region 7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 24, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1141. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "State of Iowa; Approval and Promulgation of the Title V Operating Permits Program, the State Implementation Plan, and 112(1) Plan" (FRL No. 9957-84-Region 7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 24, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1142. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Employee Consents" (Rev. Proc. 2017-28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1143. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country (OSS-2017-0321); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1144. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, of the proposed