

This is a good bipartisan bill, and I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join us in making these important reforms to the National Flood Insurance Program.

I yield the floor now to my colleague from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from New York for yielding, as well as for the tremendous work she and our staffs have done together on the Flood Insurance Affordability and Sustainability Act of 2017.

There is a capriciousness of flooding which makes the National Flood Insurance Program so important. You can have a mountaintop village next to a dry gulch. If there is a sudden flash flood, folks who have lived there 100 years suddenly find their 100-year-old homes destroyed. The NFIP helps rebuild the lives of those who are so affected.

The Flood Insurance Program is critical, not just to that mountaintop village but, by extension, our entire country. The economic impact of flooding extends far beyond real estate transactions to the fundamental vitality of communities and the workforce that operates our ports, develops and refines our domestic energy, and produces our seafood and agriculture for global consumption. It just makes sense.

Most towns started on the coast and on riverways because that is how goods were transported, and the history of these waterside communities is what makes them, one, economically vital, but, two, also makes them susceptible to flooding. I will note that the Presiding Officer's State of Pennsylvania, I believe, has among the most incidents of flooding in our country—principally because there are so many riverine systems. There is a valley with a river. If the water rises quickly, that riverside community is flooded. Look at my State of Louisiana. It relies on an accessible and affordable flood insurance program, but that benefits the country.

Louisiana is the No. 1 producer of offshore oil and gas, producing over 15 percent of our Nation's domestic energy supply. That is 15 percent of our Nation's domestic energy supply. It is home to the second largest refining capacity in petrochemical industry. The Gulf of Mexico is home to 11 of the top 20 U.S. ports by cargo volume, and we have one of the largest seafood industries in the world. After Hurricane Katrina, when our port facilities were affected and the farmers in the Upper Missouri suddenly could not get their crop to international markets, it shows the importance of our ports for our entire economy.

The National Flood Insurance Program allows folks in my State to participate in a working coast that gets that energy inland and gets those products in the international market, and this is what provides the value-added contribution to our domestic economy. Since the creation of the National Flood Insurance Program, people in Louisiana paid over \$5 billion in flood

insurance premiums, but, unfortunately, we have suffered some of the greatest losses after Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, Isaac, and the flooding of the great Louisiana floods of last March and August.

While the NFIP has a deficit of \$24 billion—according to FEMA's premium and payout data—the NFIP would have had a surplus if we remove the 2005 loss year, including the losses incurred after Superstorm Sandy. I will also note that New Orleans flooded because federally built floodwalls designed to protect those businesses and families were constructed in a faulty way. This has been recognized, and their failure is what led to the expense. I am not here to say that NFIP doesn't need reforms—it needs reforms—but to underscore the fact that the program has worked for many years despite its failings. We need to reauthorize the NFIP and use the opportunity to improve the program, make it more affordable, transferring more risk to the private sector at a lower cost, increase investment mitigation, modernizing flood mapping to produce greater accuracy, and improve the transparency and accountability of all the participants that operate and administer the program.

There are a number of constituencies interested in long-term reauthorization of NFIP. Senator GILLIBRAND and I know that the issue of flooding crosses party and geographical lines. We wanted to set the right bipartisan tone as Congress begins to debate the issue by introducing our bill, the Flood Insurance Affordability and Sustainability Act. We hope the legislation will contribute to the ongoing discussion and work the committees of jurisdiction are conducting as we move toward reauthorization of the NFIP and with the needed reforms that enhance affordability and sustainability of the program.

Senator GILLIBRAND and her staff are passionate advocates for an affordable and sustainable flood insurance program. I am glad to work with her on this issue. We have listened to many stakeholders: bankers, realtors, home-builders, flood plain managers, insurers, reinsurers, mapping experts, local government officials, financial experts and, most importantly, homeowners who work on our working coast and who have so much invested in making sure they can live and raise their families in a way which has protection from the capriciousness of flooding.

I thank my colleague from New York, as well as Senator CAPITO, for her contribution to this legislation and process.

By Mr. Kaine (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 1314. A bill to amend the Natural Gas Act to bolster fairness and transparency in consideration of interstate natural gas pipelines, to provide for greater public input opportunities, and for other purposes; to the Committee

on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. Kaine. Mr. President. Today I am introducing a bipartisan bill to make the process of siting natural gas pipelines fairer and more transparent.

For some time now, I have been listening to Virginians with passionate views on the proposed Atlantic Coast and Mountain Valley Pipelines. For various reasons, many oppose one or both of these projects, while others support these projects. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FERC, is tasked with analyzing all the issues—purpose and need for a project, impacts on 2 people living on the route, potential risks to the environment or property—and deciding what course best serves the public interest.

From listening to all sides, I have concluded that while reasonable people may reach different conclusions, FERC's public input process is flawed and could be better. Accordingly, this legislation proposes several steps to address several shortcomings, all of which were originally brought to my attention by Virginia constituents. For instance, this bill requires programmatic analysis of pipelines proposed around the same time and in the same geographic vicinity so that the full impacts of multiple projects can be analyzed. It requires a greater number of public comment meetings so that citizens are not required to commute long distances to meetings at which they must speed through just a few minutes of remarks on these complex topics. And it clarifies the circumstances under which eminent domain should and should not be used.

I am pleased to be joined by my colleague Senator MARK WARNER on this bill, and our Virginia Republican colleague Representative MORGAN GRIFITH is preparing a similar bill in the House of Representatives. While our views may differ on many aspects of energy policy, we can all agree that the public deserves reasonable opportunity to weigh in on energy infrastructure projects and that this process can be fairer and more transparent without mandating a particular outcome.

I encourage the Senate to consider this legislation, not to pave the way for pipelines nor to throw up insurmountable roadblocks to them—but to give the public greater certainty that the federal government's infrastructure decisions are fair and transparent.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 185—RECOGNIZING AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL WATER SAFETY MONTH

Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. NELSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 185

Whereas, according to the 2016 report of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, there were estimated averages of—

(1) 5,600 pool- or spa-related nonfatal drowning injuries treated at a hospital emergency department during each of the 2013 through 2015 calendar years; and

(2) 367 pool- or spa-related nonfatal or fatal drowning injuries involving children younger than 15 years old during each of the 2011 through 2013 calendar years, with 77 percent of those injuries involving children younger than 5 years old;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drowning is—

(1) the leading cause of unintentional death in the United States among children 1 through 4 years old; and

(2) the second-leading cause of unintentional death in the United States among children 5 through 14 years old;

Whereas drowning ranks fifth among the leading causes of unintentional injury or death in the United States, and every day, approximately 10 individuals die from unintentional drowning, 2 of whom are children 14 years old or younger;

Whereas the goal of National Water Safety Month is to prevent or reduce the number of unintentional drowning-related injuries and deaths in pools and open water venues;

Whereas the recreational water industry, as represented by the organizations involved in the National Water Safety Month Coalition, has contributed to that goal by—

(1) developing, through codes and standards, safe public swimming facilities and residential pools and spas; and

(2) providing aquatic programs and public awareness relating to unintentional accidents in pools and open water venues;

Whereas unintentional drowning deaths that occur each year, especially of children under 5 years old, can be prevented by teaching children to swim, by using barriers and other devices that aid in preventing access to areas where drowning could occur, and especially by providing constant adult supervision without distraction;

Whereas each public pool and spa in the United States should be in compliance with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 8001 et seq.), which was signed into law on December 19, 2007, and requires all public pools to install safe drain covers that help prevent entrapment;

Whereas each residential pool and spa in the United States should be built and maintained in accordance with the guidelines described in that Act or the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code, which a State or locality may adopt through building codes and standards;

Whereas % of drowning deaths occur during May through August; and

Whereas, for the tenth consecutive year, May has been recognized as National Water Safety Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Water Safety Month;

(2) supports promoting awareness of water safety by increasing public education and awareness;

(3) acknowledges the grief of families who have faced the loss of a loved one, and commends the families who, in their grief, choose to promote and educate the public on water safety;

(4) encourages States, localities, and territories of the United States to—

(A) support the goals and ideals of National Water Safety Month by issuing a proclamation to designate May 2017 as “National Water Safety Month”;

(B) support the adoption of codes and standards that provide safety requirements

that may decrease the incidence of drowning; and

(C) engage in and encourage public awareness campaigns, including campaigns that educate individuals on—

- (i) how to swim;
- (ii) layers of protection; and
- (iii) adult supervision;

(5) recognizes the vital role that swimming and aquatic-related activities play in maintaining physical and mental health and enhancing quality of life;

(6) encourages efforts to educate the public about water safety to prevent drownings and recreational water-related injuries; and

(7) understands the vital importance of communicating water safety rules and programs to families and individuals of all ages, including owners of private pools, users of public swimming facilities, and visitors to waterparks.

SENATE RESOLUTION 186—RECOGNIZING THE AVIATION CADET MUSEUM IN EUREKA SPRINGS, ARKANSAS, AS THE NATIONAL AVIATION CADET MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. COTTON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

S. RES. 186

Whereas the Aviation Cadet Museum was founded in 1994 by former aviation cadet and Air Force First Lieutenant Errol Severe;

Whereas, from 1917 until 1965, the flying cadet and succeeding aviation cadet programs served as the primary production source for nearly 500,000 joint service pilots, navigators, and bombardiers;

Whereas the bravery, courage, dedication, and heroism of aviators and supporting ground crews from the Army Air Corps and the Army Air Forces were critical factors in defeating the enemies of the United States during World War I and World War II;

Whereas the Aviation Cadet Museum in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, is the only museum in the United States that exists exclusively to preserve and promote an understanding of the role of aviation cadets in the 20th century; and

Whereas the Aviation Cadet Museum is dedicated to—

(1) celebrating the spirit of the United States; and

(2) recognizing the teamwork, collaboration, patriotism, and courage of the men who trained for and fought in, as well as those individuals on the home front who mobilized and supported, the national aviation effort: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes the Aviation Cadet Museum in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, as the national aviation cadet museum of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 187—CONGRATULATING AND HONORING FERMI NATIONAL ACCELERATOR LABORATORY ON 50 YEARS OF GROUNDBREAKING DISCOVERIES

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 187

Whereas, in 2017, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (referred to in this pre-

amble as “Fermilab”) celebrates the 50th anniversary of the date on which the first employees of Fermilab started work in Illinois, June 15, 1967;

Whereas Fermilab drives scientific discovery by building and operating world-leading particle accelerator and detector facilities, performing pioneering research with national and global partners, and developing new technologies for science that support the industrial competitiveness of the United States;

Whereas Fermilab provides research facilities for 4,500 scientists from 50 countries;

Whereas research at Fermilab led to the discovery of the 3 building blocks of the universe, the bottom quark in 1977, the top quark in 1995, and the tau neutrino in 2000;

Whereas superconducting magnets developed at Fermilab led to the advancement of magnetic resonance imaging medical diagnostics;

Whereas Fermilab contributed critical components, computing capabilities, and scientific expertise to the 2012 discovery of the Higgs boson in Geneva, Switzerland;

Whereas Fermilab continues to lead scientific discoveries, including planning construction for the Long-Baseline Neutrino Facility to power the Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment; and

Whereas Fermilab demonstrates its strong commitment to developing a diverse workforce for the future in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics through educational programs that bring more than 15,000 K-12 students to visit Fermilab each year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates and honors the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory on the semicentennial of the Laboratory; and

(2) wishes the Laboratory success in continuing to help the people of the United States understand the mysteries of matter, energy, space, and time.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 220. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 722, to impose sanctions with respect to Iran in relation to Iran’s ballistic missile program, support for acts of international terrorism, and violations of human rights, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 221. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. MARKEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 722, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 222. Mr. TILLIS (for Mr. MORAN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 174, recognizing the 100th anniversary of Lions Clubs International and celebrating the Lions Clubs International for a long history of humanitarian service.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 220. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 722, to impose sanctions with respect to Iran in relation to Iran’s ballistic missile program, support for acts of international terrorism, and violations of human rights, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following: