

exploitation and improve the justice system's response to victims in elder abuse and exploitation cases.

S. 203

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 203, a bill to reaffirm that the Environmental Protection Agency may not regulate vehicles used solely for competition, and for other purposes.

S. 253

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 253, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 306

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 306, a bill to provide for a biennial budget process and a biennial appropriations process and to enhance oversight and the performance of the Federal Government.

S. 316

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 316, a bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to recognize the authority of States to regulate oil and gas operations and promote American energy security, development, and job creation, and for other purposes.

S. 324

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 324, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of adult day health care services for veterans.

S. 333

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 333, a bill to limit donations made pursuant to settlement agreements to which the United States is a party, and for other purposes.

S. 337

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 337, a bill to provide paid family and medical leave benefits to certain individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 338

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 338, a bill to protect scientific integrity in Federal research and policymaking, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 4

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 4, a joint resolution disapproving the action of the District of Columbia

Council in approving the Death with Dignity Act of 2016.

S. CON. RES. 6

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 6, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

S. RES. 51

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 51, a resolution recognizing the contributions of Federal employees and pledging to oppose efforts to reduce Federal workforce pay and benefits, eliminate civil service employment protections, undermine collective bargaining, and increase the use of non-Federal contractors for inherently governmental activities.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 346. A bill to provide for the establishment of the National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. President, I rise today to reintroduce, along with my cosponsors Senator Maria CANTWELL of Washington and Senator MAZIE HIRONO of Hawaii, legislation that will establish a national volcano early warning and monitoring system to monitor, warn, and protect citizens from undue and avoidable harm from volcanic activity. The system will tie the Alaska Volcano Observatory and the Cascadia Volcano Observatory with the other existing U.S. Geological Survey, USGS facilities: the Hawaiian; Long Valley, California; and Yellowstone Volcano Observatories. The bill will unify the monitoring systems of the volcano observatories into a single connected system, establish a national volcano watch office, operational 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and fund necessary new academic-governmental research.

The United States is home to 169 active volcanoes, of which 55 are considered to be threatening to life and property. Few Americans realize that of the 50 volcanic eruptions that occur annually worldwide, the United States is the third most active country for eruptions, ranking only behind Indonesia and Japan in its number of historically active volcanoes. Since 1990, eight commercial aircraft have lost engine power in flight and dozens more have been damaged after flying into ash clouds caused by volcanic eruptions. Many Americans remember that Mount St. Helens in Washington State explosively erupted on May 18, 1980. The eruption caused 57 fatalities and destroyed 27 bridges and 185 miles of highways at a cost of \$1.1 billion. Fewer Americans remember that lesser known volcanoes,

such as Mount Redoubt in Alaska, erupted well over 100 times in 2009-2010, causing the cancellation of more than 230 commercial airline flights and putting almost 10,000 airline passengers at risk. If eruption forecasts had not accurately predicted where ash clouds from the eruptions might migrate, the negative impacts could have been much worse, or even catastrophic.

The threat to our Nation from volcanic eruptions was dramatically illustrated on December 15, 1989, when a Boeing 747 flying 150 miles northeast of Anchorage, AK encountered an ash cloud that rose from an earlier eruption of Mount Redoubt. The plane lost power in all four engines, falling some 10,000 feet before it could restart two of its engines. The restart saved the lives of the plane's 231 passengers but caused \$80 million in damage to the craft.

This incident points out the dangers to aircraft, especially on the west coast and in Alaska's air space. The Federal Aviation Administration reports that more than 80,000 large aircraft a year carrying more than 30,000 passengers a day, travel in skies over and potentially downwind of many of Alaska's volcanoes, mostly on the heavily traveled great-circle routes between Europe, North America, and Asia. The Alaska Volcano Observatory, with only partial Federal funding, today is responsible for monitoring 29 active volcanoes in the Ring of Fire area along the Aleutian Island flight path.

Even greater potential problems exist for west coast air travelers. There are five active major volcanoes in the Cascade Range of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, including Mount Baker, Glacier Peak, Mount Rainier, Mount St. Helens, and Mount Adams. In the past 31 years, there have been more than 50 eruptions and at least 17 episodes of significant unrest at 34 different volcanoes in the United States, according to the USGS.

While Mount St. Helens is well known, Mount Rainier near Seattle could cause far greater loss of life should it erupt again, highlighting the benefit of advance notice. The same is true of the Yellowstone National Park caldera, should it erupt. The advances in volcanic/earthquake forecasting aided by a national watch office could help to make more accurate and timely predictions of eruptions possible.

In 1989, the Alaska Volcano Observatory was able to provide only a few days' notice before Mount Redoubt erupted that year. In 2009, after the center's capabilities had been expanded and hours of operation increased, it would provide two months of notice before the volcano again erupted, giving enough warning time to reduce oil stored in the Drift River tank farm complex, located downslope from the volcano, and reducing the threat of significant environmental damage.

This bill will require the Secretary of the Interior to establish the national volcano early warning and monitoring system within the USGS to monitor,

warn, and protect the United States from volcanic eruptions. The system would organize, modernize, standardize, and stabilize the operation of the Nation's five western volcanic observatories: Alaska, California, Cascades, Hawaiian, and Yellowstone Observatories. The bill calls for upgrading the existing networks, using geodetic capacities when appropriate, on currently monitored volcanoes and allowing new networks to be installed on some non-monitored volcanoes. The bill will also prompt USGS to help fund observatories to monitor another 20 high-priority volcanoes such as Mount Adams in Washington, North Sister Field in Oregon, Clear Lake in California, and Mount Spurr in Alaska; set up a national volcano watch office that will be operational at all hours; establish a national volcano data center; support research in volcano monitoring science and new technology development; encourage modernization of monitoring activities including "comprehensive application of emerging technologies, such as digital broadband seismometers, real-time continuous Global Positioning System receivers, satellite and airborne radar interferometry, acoustic pressure sensors and spectrometry to measure gas emissions" from lava chambers; authorize cooperative agreements to establish partnerships between the system and institutions of higher education and State agencies to collect data and coordinate volcanic information sharing and funding to pay for new work; and establish an advisory committee to assist with implementation.

This bill was proposed in 2009, 2011, and most recently in 2015. Last year it was the subject of a hearing before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The record of that hearing contains no opposition to this necessary legislation or the effort it would spur. I hope that this Congress will be the one that puts this bill on the President's desk and sees it enacted on public safety grounds alone, the need for this bill is compelling.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I have four 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:

#### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to hold a meeting during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 8, 2017, at 10 a.m. in room SDG-50. The Committee will hold a hearing on "A Look Ahead: Inspector General Recommendations for Improving Federal Agencies."

#### COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 8, 2017, at 10 a.m. in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "Oversight: Modernizing our Nation's Infrastructure."

#### COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 8, 2017, in room 628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building at 2:30 p.m. to conduct an oversight hearing on "Emergency Management in Indian Country: Improving FEMA's Federal-Tribal Relationship with Indian Tribes."

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

The Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 8, 2017, at 2:30 p.m.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 2 p.m. tomorrow, the Chair lay before the Senate a certificate of appointment from the State of Alabama.

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

#### ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2017

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Thursday, February 9; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Price nomination postcloture; finally, that all time during morning business, recess, or adjournment of the Senate count postcloture on the Price nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CORNYN. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of the Senator from Oregon, Mr. WYDEN.

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

The Senator from Oregon.

#### NOMINATION OF TOM PRICE

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, as the Senate begins to consider the Price

nomination, I wanted to see if I could put a little perspective on the upcoming debate.

Focusing on bipartisanship has always been important to me. I know many of my colleagues on the Senate Finance Committee, on the Democratic side, share that view, and in 2009, the nominations of Democrats Tom Daschle, Tim Geithner, and Ron Kirk were all handled in a bipartisan way.

Issues came up in the vetting process in each of these cases, and both sides of the committee took the investigation seriously. Unfortunately, that has not been the case in 2017.

While Congressman PRICE served on the powerful Ways and Means Committee, he traded in health care stocks, pushed policies that helped his portfolio, and got special access to a promising stock deal.

I asked the congressman directly in his Finance Committee hearing whether he got a special deal. He said that he did not.

I don't think you could be much clearer than the following passage from a recent report by a Pulitzer prize-winning reporter at the Wall Street Journal. He wrote: "Rep. Tom Price got a privileged offer to buy a biomedical stock at a discount, the company's officials said, contrary to his congressional testimony this month."

I want to repeat that because I think it goes right to the heart of why Finance Committee Democrats feel that the effort to do the vetting necessary with respect to Congressman PRICE is not completed.

A Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter at the Wall Street Journal—I will just read it again—wrote: "Rep. Tom Price got a privileged offer to buy a biomedical stock at a discount, the company's officials said, contrary to his congressional testimony this month."

So, as I indicated, my Democratic colleagues and I on the committee said it was important to take more time to look into this issue. But the majority, when we said we needed to take more time to look at it, decided to look the other way. That is the first reason for concern on my side.

The second is how Congressman PRICE would manage Health and Human Services, a Department that is really all about people: services for seniors, services for the poor, for the disabled, for children, and for families. These are the powerful threads of our safety net. If the safety net is not there for those who have nowhere else to turn, those poor will suffer greatly.

Now, the debate on Congressman PRICE's nomination, in my view, is a referendum on the future of health care in America. In short, it is a debate about whether it makes sense for our country to go back to the dark days when health care worked only for the healthy and the wealthy.

Based on the public record, Medicare is a program Congressman PRICE doesn't believe in, and it guarantees services he doesn't believe seniors should have.