

render the proposed project impracticable if the project has a clearly overriding public interest; and

Whereas, the Clean Water Act and the Rivers and Harbors Act do not allow for such variances when a project to mitigate coastal wetland loss is being considered, even when that project has a clearly overriding public interest; and

Whereas, in an effort to help the state protect its valuable coast and wetlands, federal law should allow for a variance for a project that has a clearly overriding public interest. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to allow for variances on certain projects regulated by the Clean Water Act and the Rivers and Harbors Act. Be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-220. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urging the Secretary of Health and Human Services to select former Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove and the former Naval Air Warfare Center Warminster and Horsham, Warrington and Warminster Townships for an exposure assessment and study on human health implications of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances contamination; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 682

Whereas, The United States military used foam containing perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), unregulated contaminants, in firefighting training at two former bases, Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove in Horsham Township, Montgomery County, and Naval Air Warfare Center Warminster in Warminster Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, The former Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove is the location of Horsham Air Guard Station, an active base of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard; and

Whereas, The chemicals have appeared in elevated levels in public and private water wells; and

Whereas, PFOS and PFOA are "extremely persistent in the environment and resistant to typical environmental degradation processes," according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which has also stated: "The toxicity, mobility and bioaccumulation potential of PFOS and PFOA pose potential adverse effects for the environment and human health"; and

Whereas, A growing body of science has established associations between PFOS and PFOA and a range of health effects, including a variety of cancers; and

Whereas, The chemicals were first discovered in local public water supplies near the former military bases by an EPA testing program, resulting in several public water wells being taken offline; and

Whereas, On May 19, 2016, the EPA issued an update to its health advisory for PFOS and PFOA that significantly reduces the amount considered safe in drinking water: in the worst possible case, water containing the chemicals at an amount previously deemed safe would now be more than eight times over the recommended limits; and

Whereas, The new recommended levels have resulted in officials from the Horsham Water and Sewer Authority, Warminster Mu-

nicipal Authority and Warrington Township Water and Sewer Department shutting down contaminated public drinking water wells, including 16 municipal wells in Horsham, Warrington and Warminster Townships and nearly 150 private wells; and

Whereas, Section 316 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91, 131 Stat. 1283 requires the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct an exposure assessment of at least eight current or former domestic military installations known to have perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) contamination, which includes PFOS and PFOA, in addition to commencing a study on the human health implications of PFASs contamination in sources of water and relevant exposure pathways; therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services to select these two installations and Horsham, Warrington and Warminster Townships for the exposure assessment and the study on human health implications; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of each house of Congress, to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania, to the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services and to the United States Secretary of Defense.

POM-221. A resolution adopted by the City Council of South Portland, Maine memorializing its opposition to any plan or legislation that would open the coast of Maine to offshore drilling for gas and oil; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-222. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to an amendment to the United States Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 2503. A bill to establish Department of Energy policy for science and energy research and development programs, and reform National Laboratory management and technology transfer programs, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-241).

H.R. 589. A bill to establish Department of Energy policy for science and energy research and development programs, and reform National Laboratory management and technology transfer programs, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-242).

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1405. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-243).

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 Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. PERDUE):

S. 2805. A bill to authorize a pilot program on treatment of members of the Armed Forces for post-traumatic stress disorder related to military sexual trauma, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. ERNST (for herself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 2806. A bill to establish a National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 2807. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit an annual report regarding performance awards and bonuses awarded to certain high-level employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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

S. 2808. A bill to authorize community development block grants for providing tools, equipment, and other resources; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 2809. A bill to establish the San Rafael Swell Western Heritage and Historic Mining National Conservation Area in the State of Utah, to designate wilderness areas in the State, to provide for certain land conveyances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 2810. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to establish an efficient system to enable employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. RISCH, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 2811. A bill to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to reauthorize the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

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

S. Res. 502. A resolution supporting robust relations with the State of Israel bilaterally and in multilateral fora upon seventy years of statehood, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 25

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 25, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the credit for employers establishing workplace child care facilities, to increase the child care credit to encourage greater use of quality child care

services, to provide incentives for students to earn child care-related degrees and to work in child care facilities, and to increase the exclusion for employer-provided dependent care assistance.

S. 155

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) 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. 294

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 294, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to clarify the Food and Drug Administration's jurisdiction over certain tobacco products, and to protect jobs and small businesses involved in the sale, manufacturing and distribution of traditional and premium cigars.

S. 382

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 382, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a voluntary registry to collect data on cancer incidence among firefighters.

S. 413

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 413, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prohibit prescription drug plan sponsors and MA-PD organizations under the Medicare program from retroactively reducing payment on clean claims submitted by pharmacies.

S. 700

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 700, a bill to improve the reproductive assistance provided by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to severely wounded, ill, or injured members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their spouses or partners, and for other purposes.

S. 796

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 796, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion for employer-provided education assistance to employer payments of student loans.

S. 811

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 811, a bill to ensure that organizations with religious or moral convictions are allowed to continue to provide services for children.

S. 915

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Pennsyl-

vania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 915, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 1064

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1064, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to prohibit the stigmatization of children who are unable to pay for meals.

S. 1109

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1109, a bill to amend title VIII of the Public Health Service Act to extend advanced education nursing grants to support clinical nurse specialist programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1152

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1152, a bill to create protections for depository institutions that provide financial services to cannabis-related businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 1596

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1596, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase certain funeral benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 2265

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2265, a bill to promote democracy and the rule of law in Nicaragua, and for other purposes.

S. 2315

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2315, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to clarify the regulatory framework with respect to certain nonprescription drugs that are marketed without an approved new drug application, and for other purposes.

S. 2334

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2334, a bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to provide clarity with respect to, and to modernize, the licensing system for musical works under section 115 of that title, to ensure fairness in the establishment of certain rates and fees under sections 114 and 115 of that title, and for other purposes.

S. 2341

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cospon-

sor of S. 2341, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing of veterans benefits by the Department of Veterans Affairs, to limit the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to recover overpayments made by the Department and other amounts owed by veterans to the United States, to improve the due process accorded veterans with respect to such recovery, and for other purposes.

S. 2393

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2393, a bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to provide Federal protection to the digital audio transmission of a sound recording fixed before February 15, 1972, and for other purposes.

S. 2416

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2416, a bill to amend titles 5, 10, and 37, United States Code, to ensure that an order to serve on active duty under section 12304b of title 10, United States Code, is treated the same as other orders to serve on active duty for determining the eligibility of members of the uniformed services for certain benefits.

S. 2497

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2497, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Arms Export Control Act to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriations of funds to Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 2506

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2506, a bill to establish an aviation maintenance workforce development pilot program.

S. 2559

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2559, a bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to implement the Marrakesh Treaty, and for other purposes.

S. 2597

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2597, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program of payments to children's hospitals that operate graduate medical education programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2667

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the names of the Senator from North

Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2667, a bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to provide for State and Tribal regulation of hemp production, and for other purposes.

S. 2714

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2714, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Don and Deyon Stephens, Founders of Mercy Ships, in recognition of nearly 40 years of service as the leaders of a humanitarian relief organization that exemplifies the compassionate character of America.

S. 2764

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2764, a bill to amend and enhance the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act to improve the conservation of sharks, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 286

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 286, a resolution supporting the role of the United States in ensuring children in the poorest countries have access to a quality education through the Global Partnership for Education.

S. RES. 346

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 346, a resolution recognizing the importance and effectiveness of trauma-informed care.

S. RES. 481

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 481, a resolution calling upon the leadership of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to dismantle its labor camp system, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 502—SUPPORTING ROBUST RELATIONS WITH THE STATE OF ISRAEL BILATERALLY AND IN MULTILATERAL FORA UPON SEVENTY YEARS OF STATEHOOD, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

S. RES. 502

Whereas May 14, 2018, marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel;

Whereas May 11, 2018, marks the 69th anniversary of Israel's membership in the United Nations;

Whereas, on May 14, 1948, the United States was the first country to grant recognition to the State of Israel;

Whereas Israel offers invaluable contributions to the international community, including to the fields of start-up economies, entrepreneurship, cyber security, military weaponry, counter-terrorism, intelligence gathering, airport security, agriculture, water management, arid-zone farming, medical advances, natural gas, and other technologies;

Whereas, in 2000, with the support of the United States Government, Israel was accepted into the Western European and Others Group (WEOG) at the United Nations headquarters in New York, and its membership became permanent in 2004;

Whereas, in 2013, Israel also became a member of WEOG at the United Nations bodies in Geneva;

Whereas WEOG membership made possible the election for 2016-17 of Israel's Ambassador as the chair of the Sixth (Legal) Committee of the General Assembly, and in 2017, Israel's election to the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women);

Whereas, in May 2017, Israel was elected as one of the Vice-Presidents of the United Nations General Assembly;

Whereas robust bilateral ties with Israel maximize security, economic, and cultural benefits in the region, increase regional stability, and build confidence with respect to peace negotiations;

Whereas Israel maintains diplomatic relations with 158 nations and retains 79 resident embassies, 22 consulates general, and 6 special missions globally;

Whereas Israel maintains free trade agreements with the United States, members of the European Union, members of the European Free Trade Association, Canada, Turkey, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Mexico, Romania, Bulgaria, and Jordan;

Whereas, in 1989, the United States Government designated Israel as a major non-NATO ally;

Whereas, in 2014, the United States Government designated Israel as a "major strategic partner";

Whereas the United States and Israel have signed three 10-year memoranda of understanding, in which the United States committed to provide \$26,700,000,000 between fiscal year 1999 and fiscal year 2008, \$30,000,000,000 between fiscal year 2009 and fiscal year 2018, and \$38,000,000,000 between fiscal year 2019 and fiscal year 2028;

Whereas Congress has appropriated amounts in accordance with such memoranda of understanding, reflecting the two countries' shared priorities in the region and the strength of United States support for maintaining Israel's qualitative military edge; and

Whereas Israel's involvement as an active member of the community of nations benefits both Israel and the United States, and allies who share common values and promote democratic stability throughout the world; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) encourages equitable treatment of Israel in international fora;

(2) urges United Nations member states to support Israel's future candidacy for the United Nations Security Council;

(3) encourages the diplomatic recognition of the state of Israel and robust engagement with Israel from all United States allies and from governments across the globe; and

(4) reiterates its support for a negotiated settlement leading to a sustainable two-state solution with the democratic, Jewish state of Israel and a demilitarized, democratic Palestinian state living side-by-side in peace and security.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have 8 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 ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 9, 2018, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 9, 2018, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Jonathan R. Cohen, of California, to be the Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador, and the Deputy Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations, and to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during his tenure of service as Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, Joseph Cella, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Fiji, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru, the Kingdom of Tonga, and Tuvalu, and David B. Cornstein, of New York, to be Ambassador to Hungary, all of the Department of State, Eliot Pedrosa, of Florida, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank, and Jackie Wolcott, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the International Atomic Energy Agency, with the rank of Ambassador, and to be Representative of the United States of America to the Vienna Office of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 9, 2018, at 4 p.m. to conduct a hearing on the nomination of Tara Sweeney, of Alaska, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 9, 2018, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing on the following nominations. Ryan Wesley Bounds, of Oregon, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, J. Campbell Barker, and Jeremy D. Kernodle, both to be a United States