

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Regional Haze Five-Year Progress Report State Implementation Plan" (FRL No. 9972-34-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3849. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Illinois; Volatile Organic Compounds Definition; Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule" (FRL No. 9972-33-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3850. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, notification of his intent to end the suspension of Argentina's designation as a beneficiary developing country under the Generalized System of Preferences program; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3851. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to United States Citizens Detained by Iran; to the Committees on Finance; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; and Foreign Relations.

EC-3852. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Medicare Part B Monthly Actuarial Rates, Premium Rates, and Annual Deductible Beginning January 1, 2018" ((RIN0938-AS72) (CMS-8067-N)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3853. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; CY 2018 Inpatient Hospital Deductible and Hospital and Extended Care Services Coinsurance Amounts" ((RIN0938-AT05) (CMS-8065-N)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3854. 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 "Revenue Procedure 2018-3" (Rev. Proc. 2018-3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3855. 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 "2018 Standard Mileage Rates" (Notice 2018-3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3856. 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 "Loss Safe Harbor and Hurricanes Harvey and Irma Cost-Index" (Rev. Proc. 2018-8 and Rev. Proc. 2018-9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3857. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license

for the export of 5.56mm upper receiver assemblies, barrel assemblies, and accessories to the United Arab Emirates in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 17-028); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3858. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of rifles and accessories to Bahrain in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 16-072); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3859. A communication from the Executive Secretary, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), transmitting, pursuant to law, nine (9) reports relative to vacancies in the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3860. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae) management report for the fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3861. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semi-annual Report of the Inspector General and the Management Response for the period from April 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3862. A communication from the Director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Management, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2016 inventory of commercial and inherently governmental activities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3863. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Secretary of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2017; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3864. A communication from the Solicitor General, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, an opinion of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit (United States v. Slatten); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3865. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Election Commission, transmitting proposed legislation; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

#### 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. YOUNG (for himself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2276. A bill to require agencies to submit reports on outstanding recommendations in the annual budget justification submitted to Congress; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. FLAKE:

S. 2277. A bill to require the delisting of Mexican gray wolves under the Endangered

Species Act of 1973 on a determination that the subspecies has been sufficiently recovered in the United States; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CASEY, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 2278. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants to improve health care in rural areas; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2279. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to establish a competitive grant program to repair, improve, rehabilitate, or replace bridges to improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of people and freight over bridge crossings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2280. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure the Secretary of Veterans Affairs permits the display of Battlefield Crosses in national cemeteries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 2281. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the individual tax rates in effect for taxable years 2018 through 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. PERDUE):

S. Res. 367. A resolution condemning the Government of Iran for its violence against demonstrators and calling for peaceful resolution to the concerns of the citizens of Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CORKER (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. Res. 368. A resolution supporting the right of all Iranian citizens to have their voices heard; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 338

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

S. 1357

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1357, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a standard definition of therapeutic family care services in Medicaid.

S. 1674

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1674, a bill to

provide grants for the repair, renovation, and construction of public elementary schools and secondary schools, to establish a school infrastructure bond program, and for other purposes.

S. 1693

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1693, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify that section 230 of that Act does not prohibit the enforcement against providers and users of interactive computer services of Federal and State criminal and civil law relating to sex trafficking.

S. 1764

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1764, a bill to extend the principle of federalism to State drug policy, provide access to medical marijuana, and enable research into the medicinal properties of marijuana.

S. 1911

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1911, a bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to transfer certain funds to the 1974 United Mine Workers of America Pension Plan, and for other purposes.

S. 2203

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2203, a bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration.

S. RES. 363

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 363, a resolution expressing profound concern about the growing political, humanitarian, and economic crisis in Venezuela and the widespread human rights abuses perpetrated by the Government of Venezuela.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

### SENATE RESOLUTION 367—CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN FOR ITS VIOLENCE AGAINST DEMONSTRATORS AND CALLING FOR PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THE CONCERNS OF THE CITIZENS OF IRAN

Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. PERDUE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 367

Whereas on December 28, 2017, citizens began protesting the Government of Iran across the country in the cities and towns of Dorud, Khomainsi Shahr, Najafabad, Qahdarian, Tehran, and Tuyserkan;

Whereas so far 20 people have been killed and 450 have been arrested since demonstrations first began;

Whereas the United States is committed to promoting universal human rights, specifically freedom of speech and freedom of assembly;

Whereas the Government of Iran has provided monetary support to terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah and Hamas; and

Whereas the citizens of Iran deserve the support of the international community in their pursuit of a democratic government that respects human rights and freedoms: Now, therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the Government of Iran—

(A) for its funding of terrorist organizations and activities;

(B) the continued oppression of its citizens; and

(C) the suppression of communication through interference with internet applications such as Instagram, Facebook, Telegram and Twitter; and

(2) reaffirms—

(A) the commitment of the United States to preserving and promoting the freedoms of speech and assembly as universal rights; and

(B) the support of the United States for the citizens of Iran to establish a freely elected, democratic system.

### SENATE RESOLUTION 368—SUPPORTING THE RIGHT OF ALL IRANIAN CITIZENS TO HAVE THEIR VOICES HEARD

Mr. CORKER (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 368

Whereas, on December 28, 2017, Iranian citizens initiated protests objecting to the system of entrenched corruption and impoverishment in Iran, as well as the Government of Iran's foreign policy of supporting terrorism;

Whereas these protests began in the city of Mashhad and rapidly spread throughout urban and rural populations across Iran;

Whereas these protests constitute the most significant anti-government protests in Iran since June 2009;

Whereas reports indicate that Iranian citizens have expressed numerous economic grievances, including the regime's widespread corruption and investment of resources in regional conflicts;

Whereas reports indicate that many hundreds of Iranians have been arrested and dozens killed in connection with the protests;

Whereas the Government of Iran has shut down mobile internet access and is working to block access to social media applications used to organize and publicize the protests;

Whereas online social networking and information sharing sites such as Telegram, Instagram, and Twitter have been blocked;

Whereas the Government of Iran has routinely violated the human rights of its citizens, including ongoing, systematic, and serious restrictions of freedom of peaceful assembly and association and freedom of opinion and expression, including the continuing closures of media outlets, arrests of journalists, and the censorship of expression in on-line forums such as blogs and websites;

Whereas the 2016 Department of State Human Rights Report on Iran noted "severe restrictions on civil liberties, including the freedoms of assembly, association, speech, religion, and press. Other human rights problems included abuse of due process combined with use of capital punishment for crimes that do not meet the requirements of due process, as well as cruel, inhuman, or degrad-

ing treatment or punishment; and disregard for the physical integrity of persons, whom authorities arbitrarily and unlawfully detained, tortured, or killed.";

Whereas the Government of Iran has previously responded to protests with a concerted campaign of intimidation, repression, and violence, including human rights abuses against Iranian citizens;

Whereas the Government of Iran continues to operate with hostility and impunity toward journalists, reformers, ethnic and religious minorities, political opponents, human rights defenders, women's rights groups, student activists, and others, including through unlawful and arbitrary detentions, arrests, politically motivated sentencing, physical assaults, and killings; and

Whereas, on December 29, 2017, the Department of State strongly condemned the arrest of peaceful protesters and noted, "Iran's leaders have turned a wealthy country with a rich history and culture into an economically depleted rogue state whose chief exports are violence, bloodshed, and chaos.":

Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the right of all Iranian citizens, many of whom braved the persistent and pervasive threat of censorship, arrest, physical harassment, and death, to have their voices heard;

(2) calls on the Government of Iran to respect the rights of the people of Iran to freedom of speech, press, religion, association, and assembly;

(3) condemns the Government of Iran's persistent human rights violations;

(4) warns the Government of Iran against any violence or retribution targeting peaceful protesters;

(5) objects to acts of censorship, intimidation, and other restrictions on freedom of the press, freedom of speech, and freedom of expression in Iran;

(6) encourages the President, the Secretary of State, and the United States Ambassador to the United Nations to work to convene emergency sessions of the United Nations Security Council and the United Nations Human Rights Council to condemn the ongoing human rights violations perpetrated by the Government of Iran and establish a monitoring mechanism by which the Council can monitor such violations;

(7) calls on the Government of Iran to cooperate with and allow visits of the United Nations Special Rapporteurs for Human Rights and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; and

(8) urges the President and Secretary of State to work with the international community to ensure that violations of human rights are part of all formal and informal multilateral or bilateral discussions with and regarding Iran.

## ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2018

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, January 8; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Campbell nomination.

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