

treatment of pregnant women by reinstating the presumption of release and prohibiting shackling, restraining, and other inhumane treatment of pregnant detainees.

S. 3254

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3254, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish criminal penalties for unlawful payments for referrals to recovery homes and clinical treatment facilities.

S. 3349

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3349, a bill to amend the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 to modify provisions relating to the conveyance of certain Federal land in Storey County, Nevada.

S. 3359

At the request of Ms. HARRIS, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 3359, a bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Aretha Franklin in recognition of her contributions of outstanding artistic and historical significance to culture in the United States.

S. 3381

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3381, a bill to encourage Federal agencies to expeditiously enter into or amend cooperative agreements with States for removal and remedial actions to address PFAS contamination in drinking, surface, and ground water and land surface and subsurface strata, and for other purposes.

S. 3382

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3382, a bill to require the Director of the United States Geological Survey to perform a nationwide survey of perfluorinated compounds, and for other purposes.

S. 3388

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3388, a bill to amend the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

S. 3389

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3389, a bill to redesignate a facility of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

S. RES. 481

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Vermont

(Mr. SANDERS) 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.

S. RES. 525

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 525, a resolution designating September 2018 as National Democracy Month as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

S. RES. 610

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 610, a resolution urging the release of information regarding the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks upon the United States.

S. RES. 612

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 612, a resolution designating September 2018 as "National Child Awareness Month" to promote awareness of charities that benefit children and youth-serving organizations throughout the United States and recognizing the efforts made by those charities and organizations on behalf of children and youth as critical contributions to the future of the United States.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. CARPER):

S. 3394. A bill to establish a national mercury monitoring program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today along with Senator CARPER, I am introducing the Comprehensive National Mercury Monitoring Act. This bill would ensure that we have accurate information about the extent of mercury pollution in the United States.

A comprehensive national mercury monitoring network is needed to protect human health, safeguard fisheries, and track the effect of emissions reductions. This tracking is particularly important in light of increasing mercury emissions from other countries, including a substantial amount of mercury emissions from China. Mercury can be transported around the globe, meaning emissions and releases can affect human health and environment even in remote locations.

The issue of mercury emissions is growing in importance around the world. In 2013, the United States was the first Nation to join and sign the Minamata Convention on Mercury, a global agreement to reduce mercury pollution. The Minamata Convention

has been signed by more than 125 countries and raises the issue that mercury poses a global threat to human health. At present, scientists must rely on limited information to understand the critical linkages between mercury emissions and environmental response and human health. Successful design, implementation, and assessment of solutions to the mercury pollution problem require comprehensive long-term information. A system for collecting such information, such as we have for acid rain and other pollution, does not currently exist for mercury—a much more toxic pollutant.

Mercury is a potent neurotoxin of significant ecological and public health concern, especially for children and pregnant women. It is estimated that approximately 200,000 children born in the U.S. per year are exposed to levels of mercury in the womb that are high enough to impair neurological development. Mercury exposure has gone down as U.S. mercury emissions have declined; however, levels remain far too high.

By accurately quantifying regional and national changes in atmospheric deposition, ecosystem contamination, and bioaccumulation of mercury in fish and wildlife in response to changes in mercury emissions, a monitoring network would help policy makers, scientists, and the public to better understand the sources, consequences, and trends in mercury pollution in the United States. We must have more comprehensive information and we must have it soon; otherwise, we risk making misguided policy decisions.

Specifically, the Comprehensive National Mercury Monitoring Act would:

Direct EPA, in conjunction with the Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, National Park Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, and other appropriate Federal agencies, to establish a national mercury monitoring program to measure and monitor mercury levels in the air and watersheds, water and soil chemistry, and in marine, freshwater, and terrestrial organisms across the nation;

Establish a scientific advisory committee to advise on the establishment, site selection, measurement, recording protocols, and operations of the monitoring program;

Establish a centralized database for existing and newly collected environmental mercury data that can be freely accessed on the Internet and is comprised of data that is compatible with similar international efforts;

Require a report to Congress every two years on the program, including trends, and an assessment of the reduction in mercury deposition rates that need to be achieved in order to prevent adverse human and ecological effects every four-years; and

Authorize \$95 million over three years to carry out the Act.

We must establish a comprehensive, robust national monitoring network

for mercury to provide the data needed to help make decisions to protect the people and environment of Maine and the United States.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 3403. A bill to authorize transitional sheltering assistance for individuals who live in areas with unhealthy air quality caused by wildfires, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Clean Air Refugee Assistance Act of 2018 to help Americans who have been driven away from their homes by choking, hazardous wildfire smoke. Western wildfires are getting bigger, hotter, and more difficult to fight and scientists says it's only likely to get worse.

Folks back home in Oregon and across the Pacific Northwest already know what I'm talking about because they're on the front lines of these disasters. With dryer summers and lower snow packs, wildfires rage across the West. They're threatening lives, homes, and businesses and generating so much smoke that they're creating what I call clean air refugees.

These are people who can't go outside and, in some cases, who must flee their homes and communities to find pockets of fresh air.

I'm talking about children suffering from asthma and other conditions and seniors who need a respirator to breathe.

In some cases, Oregonians lacking access to safe, clean air are being told to seek shelter in public places like libraries and government buildings.

My legislation would help provide some relief by opening the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Transitional Sheltering Assistance program to people seeking temporary shelter from wildfire smoke.

This program already permits FEMA to pay for temporary lodging for people who can't immediately return home following a disaster.

My bill would permit clean air refugees to apply if they live in an area where the air quality index is determined to be unhealthy for at least three consecutive days as the result of a wildfire declared to be a major disaster by the President or Governor of the affected state.

FEMA-approved applicants would pick from a list of participating hotels and motels and FEMA would pay the lodging costs.

Mr. President, the Federal government needs to step up and be a better partner on these wildfires and it can start by helping Americans who have been driven from their homes find some refuge.

Passing the Clean Air Refugee Assistance Act would be a breath of fresh air for folks struggling to escape the choking smoke, and I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 3404. A bill to impose a moratorium on large agribusiness, food and beverage manufacturing, and grocery retail mergers, and to establish a commission to review large agriculture, food and beverage manufacturing, and grocery retail mergers, concentration, and market power; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Food and Agribusiness Merger Moratorium and Antitrust Review Act of 2018, a critical bill that would put a pause on the largest, most consequential acquisitions and mergers in the food and agriculture sector, and give Congress an opportunity to update our antitrust laws in order to protect America's farmers, workers and rural communities who are being harmed by the ever increasing levels of corporate concentration.

Almost 20 years ago, Senator Paul Wellstone of Minnesota introduced the Agribusiness Merger Moratorium and Antitrust Review Act of 1999.

Senator Wellstone introduced that bill out of a concern that growing concentration in the agricultural sector was harming our farmers and rural communities, and was causing agricultural commodity markets to become stacked against the farmer.

Senator Wellstone was right to be concerned, and over the past two decades concentration has only gotten worse—much worse. Today a small number of giant companies control every link of the food chain.

Consolidation has now reached a point where the top four firms in almost every sector in the food and agriculture economy have acquired abusive levels of market power.

Recently I traveled and met with farmers and ranchers in rural America. I heard firsthand how excessive levels of concentration and market power hurt our independent family farmers, who are being forced to sell into ever more concentrated marketplaces that unfairly reduce the prices they receive for their crops and livestock.

The data paints a grim picture: The farmer's share of every retail dollar has plummeted from 41 percent in 1950 to approximately 15 percent today. Since 2013, net farm income for United States farmers has fallen by half and median farm income was negative in 2017 and is expected to be negative again in 2018.

Excessive market power has led to price gouging of both farmers and consumers. For example, in 2016 the largest pork producer in the U.S., Chinese-owned Smithfield Foods, credited its enhanced profits to the 14-year low prices paid to farmers for live hogs and the higher selling prices for pork to consumers.

In the past three decades, the top four largest pork packers have seized control of 71 percent of the market, up from 36 percent. Over the same period, the top four beef packers have expanded their market share from 32 percent to 85 percent. The top four flour

millers have increased their market share from 40 percent to 64 percent. The market share of the top four soybean crushers has jumped from 54 percent to 79 percent, and the top four wet corn processors control of the market has increased from 63 percent to 86 percent.

The top four grain companies today control nearly 90 percent of the global grain market.

During the past two years, there has been a wave of consolidation among global seed and crop-chemical firms, and three companies now control nearly two-thirds of the world's commodity crop seeds. Those same three companies now also control nearly 70 percent of all agricultural chemicals and pesticides.

In the United States, the four largest corn seed sellers accounted for 85 percent of the market in 2015, up from 60 percent in 2000. Over the past 20 years, the cost for an acre's worth of seeds for an average corn farmer has nearly quadrupled, and the cost of fertilizer has more than doubled. Yet corn yields increased only 36 percent over that time, and the price received for the sale of a bushel of corn increased only 31 percent.

71 percent of the contract poultry growers who depend on the income from their poultry contracts live at or below the federal poverty level.

The United States is losing farmers at an alarming rate, agricultural jobs and wages are drying up, and rural communities are disappearing.

These problems can be mitigated by more active use of our antitrust laws, and allowing an opportunity for U.S. farmers and ranchers to compete in fair and open markets.

The Food and Agribusiness Merger Moratorium and Antitrust Review Act provides the opportunity to stop increased consolidation through acquisitions and mergers until such time as a full review of the impact of concentration is completed and government responses are formulated.

Specifically, this bill would halt large mergers in the food system for 18 months and would set up a commission to study how to strengthen antitrust oversight of the farm and food sectors and publish recommended improvements to merger enforcement.

This moratorium would provide needed time to develop new tools to strengthen merger enforcement and antitrust rules to address the unique conditions in the farm and food economy and protect farmers, workers and consumers.

The federal government needs to provide safeguards to the agricultural marketplace so that farmers and workers have the opportunity to share in the prosperity that open, transparent and fair markets can provide them.

Senator Wellstone was prescient when he put forward this legislation almost twenty years ago. The problem of concentration was apparent then, and has grown even worse. What would

have been had the Senate passed this legislation then?

I did not have the opportunity to serve alongside Senator Wellstone, but I know from my colleagues who did, that there was no better advocate, no better organizer, who understood the power of coalitions, who understood the power of taking an issue to the Senate floor and demanding action. I look forward to working with my colleagues, educating others about this issue, and continuing the work he started to defend farmers, workers, and consumers from the harms being posed by corporate concentration.

This legislation has broad support, with endorsements from the following organizations:

ActionAid USA, Alabama Contract Poultry Growers Association, Alliance for Democracy, American Agriculture Movement, American Grassfed Association, Animal Wellness Action, Appetite for Change (MN), Beyond Pesticides, California Dairy Campaign, California Farmers Union, Campaign for Contract Agriculture Reform, Campaign for Family Farms and the Environment, Cattle Producers of Louisiana, Center for Food Safety, Community Farm Alliance (KY), Contract Poultry Growers Association of the Virginias, The Cornucopia Institute, Crawford Stewardship Project (WI), Dakota Rural Action of SD, Dallas Farmers Market Friends, Family Farm Action.

Family Farm Defenders (WI), Farm Aid, Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance, Farmworker Association of Florida, Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund, Food & Water Watch, Food Chain Workers Alliance, Food for Maine's Future, Food Policy Council of San Antonio, Friends of the Earth U.S., Government Accountability Project, GROW North Texas, HEAL Food Alliance, Idaho Organization of Resource Councils, Illinois Farmers Union, Illinois Stewardship Alliance, Independent Cattlemen of Wyoming, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement, Iowa Farmers Union.

Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future (MD), Kansas Farmers Union, Land Stewardship Project (MN), Michigan Farmers Union, Minnesota Farmers Union, Missouri Farmers Union, Missouri Rural Crisis Center, National Family Farm Coalition, National Farmers Organization, National Farmers Union, National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association, National Women Involved in Farm Economics, Nebraska Farmers Union, North Dakota Farmers Union, Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance, Northeast Organic Farming Assoc.—NY, Northeast Organic Farming Assoc.—VT, Northern Plains Resource Council (MT), Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance (MA), Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association.

Oklahoma Independent Stockgrowers Association, Oklahoma Stewardship Council, Organic Farmers' Agency for Relationship Marketing (OFARM), Organic Seed Alliance, Organic Seed Growers & Trade Association (OSGATA), Organization for Competitive Markets, PCC Community Markets (WA), Pennsylvania Farmers Union, Powder River Basin Resource Council (WY), R-CALF United Stockgrowers of America, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, Rural Advancement Foundation International—USA (RAFI-USA), Rural Coalition/Coalición Rural, Rural Vermont, Slow Food Dallas-Ft. Worth, South Dakota Farmers Union, Southern Colorado Livestock Association, State of Missouri National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Western Colorado Alliance, Wisconsin Farmers Union.

Thank you, Madam President.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

### SENATE RESOLUTION 620—CONGRATULATING THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF INVENTORS ON THE MILESTONE OF ACHIEVING 200 MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

Mr. NELSON (for himself and Mr. BLUNT) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 620

Whereas the systematic application of organized knowledge and information can generate technology and produce creative solutions to existing problems;

Whereas innovation, based on new inventions and technologies, has proven to be a key factor in the industrial and economic development of the world;

Whereas the majority of our Nation's basic research is done at United States colleges and universities;

Whereas the National Academy of Inventors was founded at the University of South Florida in 2010;

Whereas the National Academy of Inventors serves a valuable role in the translation of science and technology within the university, college, government, and nonprofit research institute community, and for the benefit of society;

Whereas the National Academy of Inventors enhances the visibility of university, college, government, and nonprofit research institute technology and academic innovation;

Whereas the National Academy of Inventors educates and mentors innovative students;

Whereas the National Academy of Inventors encourages the commercialization of research;

Whereas the National Academy of Inventors recognizes and encourages inventors who have patents issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office;

Whereas the National Academy of Inventors includes thousands of researchers, amplifying their work into practical applications; and

Whereas the National Academy of Inventors has achieved the significant milestone of 200 member institutions across the Nation: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the importance of inventions, patents, and copyrights as part of maintaining United States leadership in the world and a competitive global economy;

(2) expresses support for academic technological developments that promote entrepreneurship and for academic innovations in local communities;

(3) supports the mission of the National Academy of Inventors to recognize and encourage inventors with patents issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office, enhance the visibility of academic technology and innovation, encourage the disclosure of intellectual property, educate and mentor innovative students, and translate the inventions of its members to benefit society;

(4) acknowledges the National Academy of Inventors for its role in elevating the contributions of academic inventors across all disciplines; and

(5) congratulates the National Academy of Inventors for its rapid expansion to include 200 member institutions.

## AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I have a request for one committee to meet during today's session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCEANS, ATMOSPHERE, FISHERIES, AND COAST GUARD

The Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, August 28, 2018, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Harmful Algal Blooms: The Impact on Our Nation's Waters."

## REMEMBERING JOHN MCCAIN

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to add my voice to many around the world who remember our dear friend and our colleague John McCain.

John McCain was a man of the highest character, courage, and credibility, known for his stubborn courage and his heroic patriotism. He leaves a legacy of unquestioned devotion and love for his country and his family.

When I first came to the Senate, John was very welcoming. He knew I had been an orthopedic surgeon, and he told me I really ought to take a look at his x rays. Of course, the x rays showed the many fractures which were the result of being shot down over Hanoi and the injuries that resulted from the crash and the subsequent beatings as a prisoner of war. It was out of pure generosity on his part that we became friends and traveling companions.

John took great pride in this institution and in knowing that none of us in this body of 100—left or right, Republican or Democrat, conservative or liberal—none of us agreed with him 100 percent of the time. But every one of us respected him and the strength of his convictions. I always have.

Probably no one knows the first person to give him the nickname "Maverick," but he certainly lived up to it. For John, it wasn't about playing a character on television. For him, there was no switching between a public and a private persona; he was the same when the cameras were off as when they were on.

His voice would thunder on the Senate floor when he was stirred to outrage, with incredible force and conviction, and so he came to another affectionate name—"Hurricane McCain."

His humor was legendary. He used his biting humor like a surface-to-air missile.