

This bill is a bipartisan and bicameral effort, sponsored in the House of Representatives by Representative MADELEINE BORDALLO and Representative DON YOUNG, and I look forward to growing its support in the Senate.

Conservation violations and wildlife trafficking offenses are a global problem threatening biodiversity and animal welfare and facilitating significant criminal operations. Tackling this broad problem is complicated and compounded by insufficient penalties for offenders and the difficulty of maintaining U.S.-oversight on the global level.

This bill proposes to address these concerns by criminalizing elements of wildlife-trafficking operations under Federal racketeering and organized crime statutes. Classifying wildlife-trafficking crimes as “predicate offenses” under the Money Laundering Statute, Travel Act and the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act enables prosecutors to administer substantial fines and prison-time for violations.

The bill recognizes the value of whistleblowers’ information to direct investigations into wildlife-trafficking violations. It establishes a procedure to secure valuable, useful information from informants and provide sufficient compensation for the risks these individuals make to blow the whistle on illegal operations. To do so, the bill redirects penalty payments from wildlife-trafficking violations to fund whistleblower compensation programs. Monetary rewards to wildlife-crime whistleblowers come from partial share of penalty paid to the U.S. Government, providing no additional expense to American taxpayers.

The bill empowers Federal wildlife agents to operate abroad and provides them with direction to collaborate with local authorities. It instructs the Secretary of the Interior to adopt an International Wildlife Conservation Program consisting of four components: a regional component providing for protection of natural range habitats; a species component focusing conservation on most vulnerable species; an anti-trafficking component to curtail demand and limit poaching; and a convention component to implement the Convention on International Trade in the Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna, CITES.

The legislation seeks to expand the Marine Turtle Act of 2004 by extending the legislation’s coverage to include U.S. territories, and increasing the Act’s scope to cover marine and freshwater turtles as well as tortoises.

Additionally, the bill proposes to strengthen the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 and the Shark-Finny Measure under the Magnuson-Stevens Act by establishing that fines associated with violating these acts are to be used to benefit the same species that were affected.

Of particular concern to fishermen and women up and down the coasts, the

bill addresses illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing violations by considering serious abuses as violations of Federal money laundering laws and therefore subjecting violators to substantial penalties.

Protecting wildlife requires a unified and strategic approach to end poaching worldwide. Congress must aggressively counter the relentless activities of poachers, traffickers, and transnational criminal organizations. The Wildlife Conservation and Anti-Trafficking Act is a strong response to crimes against wildlife; it will provide the necessary tools to curtail these illicit activities.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 673—RECOGNIZING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF INGALLS SHIPBUILDING

Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 673

Whereas October 2018 marks the 80th anniversary of Ingalls Shipbuilding, a shipbuilding corporation located in Pascagoula, Mississippi;

Whereas Ingalls Shipbuilding is the largest industrial employer in the State of Mississippi, with nearly 12,000 shipbuilders that—

(1) construct surface combatants, amphibious assault ships, and United States Coast Guard cutters; and

(2) provide repair and maintenance services on United States Navy ships;

Whereas Ingalls Shipbuilding is the largest supplier to the United States Navy of surface combatants and has built nearly 70 percent of the fleet of warships of the United States Navy;

Whereas Ingalls Shipbuilding was founded in 1938 by Robert Ingersoll Ingalls on the east bank of the Pascagoula River in the State of Mississippi;

Whereas since 1938, Ingalls Shipbuilding has provided the United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and other customers with the most reliable and high-quality ships in the world;

Whereas the individuals who build ships at Ingalls Shipbuilding continue that legacy of excellence;

Whereas Ingalls Shipbuilding provides 20,000 direct and indirect jobs in the State of Mississippi;

Whereas Pascagoula is the home of the finest shipbuilders in the world;

Whereas Ingalls Shipbuilding contributes more than \$1,000,000,000 to the economy of the State of Mississippi annually; and

Whereas as of the date of this resolution, Ingalls Shipbuilding—

(1) has 13 ships from 4 different classes under construction; and

(2) will build for the United States Navy the LPD Flight II, the next class of amphibious transport dock landing ship: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes Ingalls Shipbuilding on the occasion of its 80th anniversary as a leader in the military shipbuilding sector of the United States and an excellent corporate citizen; and

(2) extends best wishes to Ingalls Shipbuilding on that auspicious occasion.

SENATE RESOLUTION 674—RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2018 AS “NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH”

Mr. HATCH submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 674

Whereas the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and the American Federation of School Administrators have declared the month of October 2018 to be “National Principals Month”;

Whereas principals are educational visionaries, instructional and assessment leaders, disciplinarians, community builders, budget analysts, facilities managers, and administrators of legal and contractual obligations;

Whereas principals work collaboratively with teachers and parents to develop and implement clear missions, high curriculum standards, and performance goals;

Whereas principals create school environments that facilitate great teaching and learning and continuous school improvement;

Whereas the vision, actions, and dedication of principals provide the mobilizing force behind any school improvement effort; and

Whereas the celebration of National Principals Month would honor elementary school, middle school, and high school principals and recognize the importance of principals in ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the month of October 2018 as “National Principals Month”;

(2) honors the contributions of principals in elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools in the United States; and

(3) supports the goals and ideals of National Principals Month.

SENATE RESOLUTION 675—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING ON OCTOBER 14, 2018, AS “NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK”

Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 675

Whereas, in 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt established the first national wildlife refuge on Pelican Island in Florida;

Whereas, in 2018, the National Wildlife Refuge System, administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, is the premier system of land and water to conserve wildlife in the world and has grown to approximately 836,000,000 acres, 567 national wildlife refuges, and 38 wetland management districts located in every State and territory of the United States;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are important recreational and tourism destinations in communities across the United States, and this protected land offers a variety of recreational opportunities, including 6 wildlife-dependent uses that the National Wildlife Refuge System manages, specifically hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System experiences more than 53,000,000 visits each year, which generate more than \$2,400,000,000 in sales and 35,000 jobs in local economies;

Whereas visitation to the National Wildlife Refuge System increased by nearly 30 percent from 2006 to 2017;

Whereas, in 2018, 377 units of the National Wildlife Refuge System have hunting programs and 312 units of the National Wildlife Refuge System have fishing programs, averaging more than 2,400,000 hunting visits and more than 7,300,000 fishing visits each year;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System experienced more than 31,400,000 wildlife observation visits during fiscal year 2017;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are important to local businesses and gateway communities;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System encompasses every kind of ecosystem in the United States, including temperate, tropical and boreal forests, wetlands, deserts, grasslands, arctic tundras, and remote islands, and spans 12 time zones from the Virgin Islands to Guam;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are home to more than 700 species of birds, 220 species of mammals, 250 species of reptiles and amphibians, and more than 1,000 species of fish;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are the primary Federal land on which the production, migration, and wintering habitat for waterfowl are fostered;

Whereas, since 1934, the sale of the Federal Duck Stamp to outdoor enthusiasts has generated more than \$850,000,000, which has enabled the purchase or lease of more than 5,700,000 acres of habitat for waterfowl and numerous other species in the National Wildlife Refuge System;

Whereas refuges provide protection to more than 380 threatened and endangered species;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are cores of conservation for larger landscapes and resources for other agencies of the Federal Government, State governments, private landowners, and organizations in efforts to secure the wildlife heritage of the United States;

Whereas more than 38,000 volunteers and approximately 200 national wildlife refuge "Friends" organizations contribute more than 1,350,000 volunteer hours annually, the equivalent of 650 full-time employees, and provide an important link to local communities;

Whereas national wildlife refuges provide an important opportunity for children to discover and gain a greater appreciation for the natural world;

Whereas there are national wildlife refuges located in several urban and suburban areas and there is a refuge located within a 1-hour drive of every metropolitan area in the United States, which has enabled national wildlife refuges to employ, educate, and engage young people from all backgrounds in exploring, connecting with, and preserving the natural heritage of the United States;

Whereas, since 1995, refuges across the United States have held festivals, educational programs, guided tours, and other events to celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week during the second full week of October;

Whereas the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has designated the week beginning on October 14, 2018, as "National Wildlife Refuge Week"; and

Whereas the designation of National Wildlife Refuge Week by the Senate would recognize more than a century of conservation in the United States, raise awareness about the importance of wildlife and the National Wildlife Refuge System, and celebrate the myriad recreational opportunities available to enjoy this network of protected land: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning on October 14, 2018, as "National Wildlife Refuge Week";

(2) encourages the observance of National Wildlife Refuge Week with appropriate events and activities;

(3) acknowledges the importance of national wildlife refuges for their recreational opportunities and contribution to local economies across the United States;

(4) finds that national wildlife refuges play a vital role in securing the hunting and fishing heritage of the United States for future generations;

(5) identifies the significance of national wildlife refuges in advancing the traditions of wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation;

(6) recognizes the importance of national wildlife refuges to wildlife conservation, the protection of imperiled species and ecosystems, and compatible uses;

(7) acknowledges the role of national wildlife refuges in conserving waterfowl and waterfowl habitat under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.);

(8) reaffirms the support of the Senate for wildlife conservation and the National Wildlife Refuge System; and

(9) expresses the intent of the Senate—
(A) to continue working to conserve wildlife; and

(B) to manage the National Wildlife Refuge System for current and future generations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 676—TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 676

Whereas, in 1945, Congress passed the Joint Resolution of August 11, 1945 (59 Stat. 530, chapter 363), to establish the first week in October of each year as "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week";

Whereas, in 1988, Congress passed the Handicapped Programs Technical Amendments Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-630; 102 Stat. 3289), which designated October of each year as "National Disability Employment Awareness Month";

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 61,000,000 people in the United States have a disability;

Whereas, among people with disabilities in the United States, 33 percent participate in the workforce;

Whereas the unemployment rate for people with a disability is higher than for people without a disability across all educational attainment groups;

Whereas community-based, integrated employment at competitive wages is a human right and vital to economic self-sufficiency in the United States;

Whereas Employment First is a national movement, supported by the Department of Labor, that supports the belief that all people, including people with significant disabilities, are capable of full participation in competitive integrated employment and community living;

Whereas, under Employment First policies, State and Federal systems align services, incentives, and policies for youth and adults with disabilities to lead to community-based, integrated employment at competitive wages;

Whereas, when provided the accommodations and support they need, people with disabilities as a group are capable of performing virtually any job in the United States;

Whereas Congress has enacted laws to ensure people with disabilities are not discriminated against in employment, have access to supports and services to find and keep a job, and are entitled to accommodations in the workplace, including—

(1) in 1973, when Congress enacted the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), a landmark civil rights law that—

(A) prohibits discrimination on the basis of a disability in employment by the Federal Government and Federal contractors;

(B) requires the Federal Government and Federal contractors to engage in affirmative action to promote the employment and advancement of people with disabilities; and

(C) established programs administered by the Rehabilitation Services Administration of the Department of Education, including vocational rehabilitative services administered by State agencies;

(2) in 1975, when Congress enacted the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975 (Public Law 94-142; 89 Stat. 773), later renamed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), that requires public schools to provide all eligible children with disabilities a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment, including services to assist students with disabilities as those students transition from high school to higher education or the workforce;

(3) in 1990, when Congress enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), a landmark civil rights law that prohibits employment discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities, mandates reasonable accommodations in the workplace, and requires public entities to provide services (including employment services) in the most integrated setting;

(4) in 2008, when Congress enacted the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq.), a landmark civil rights law that prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of genetic information;

(5) in 2014, when Congress enacted the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) to strengthen and improve the workforce system of the United States to better support people with disabilities by—

(A) focusing on increasing competitive integrated employment for people with disabilities;

(B) limiting the use of discriminatory subminimum wages; and

(C) requiring that 15 percent of vocational rehabilitation funds be used to help people with disabilities transition from high school to higher education or the workforce;

(6) in 2014, when Congress extended the work opportunity tax credit program to encourage the hiring of people with disabilities referred by vocational rehabilitation agencies; and

(7) in 2018, when Congress reauthorized the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.) to increase the focus on and funding for recruiting and supporting individuals with disabilities through career and technical education;

Whereas the Federal Government is the largest employer in the United States and has taken steps to increase recruitment, hiring, and retention of people with disabilities in the Federal workforce, including when—

(1) on July 26, 2000, President William J. Clinton issued Executive Order 13163 (29 U.S.C. 791 note; relating to increasing the opportunity for individuals with disabilities to