

“(5) WORKING GROUP.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall establish a working group, including members from the National Ballast Information Clearinghouse and States with ballast water management programs, to establish a process for compiling and readily sharing Federal and State commercial vessel reporting and enforcement data regarding compliance with this Act.”.

(2) Section 1205 of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4725) is amended—

(A) in the third sentence, by striking “Compliance” and inserting the following:

“(c) EFFECT OF COMPLIANCE.—Compliance”;

(B) in the second sentence, by striking “Nothing” and inserting the following:

“(b) EFFECT OF TITLE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), nothing”;

(C) in the first sentence, by striking “All actions” and inserting the following:

“(a) CONSISTENCY WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.—All actions”; and

(D) in subsection (b) (as so designated), by adding at the end the following:

“(2) EXCEPTION.—Any discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel, including any discharge of ballast water (as those terms are defined in subsections (a) and (p)(1) of section 312 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1322)), shall be regulated in accordance with that section.”.

TITLE X—HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES AND OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 1001. REAUTHORIZATION OF HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1998.

(a) REAUTHORIZATIONS.—Section 306 of the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998 (33 U.S.C. 892d) is amended—

(1) in the matter before paragraph (1), by striking “There are” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—There are”;

(2) in subsection (a) (as designated by paragraph (1))—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “surveys—” and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting “surveys, \$70,814,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “vessels—” and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting “vessels, \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.”;

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “Administration—” and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting “Administration, \$29,932,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.”;

(D) in paragraph (4), by striking “title—” and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting “title, \$26,800,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.”; and

(E) in paragraph (5), by striking “title—” and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting “title, \$30,564,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) ARCTIC PROGRAMS.—Of the amount authorized by this section for each fiscal year—

“(1) \$10,000,000 is authorized for use in the Arctic—

“(A) to acquire hydrographic data;

“(B) to provide hydrographic services;

“(C) to conduct coastal change analyses necessary to ensure safe navigation;

“(D) to improve the management of coastal change; and

“(E) to reduce risks of harm to subsistence and coastal communities associated with increased international maritime traffic; and

“(2) \$2,000,000 is authorized for use to acquire hydrographic data and provide hydrographic services in the Arctic necessary to

delineate the United States extended Continental Shelf.”.

(b) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES FOR SURVEYS.—Section 306 of such Act (33 U.S.C. 892d) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES FOR SURVEYS.—Of amounts authorized by this section for each fiscal year for contract hydrographic surveys, not more than 5 percent is authorized for administrative costs associated with contract management.”.

SEC. 1002. SYSTEM FOR TRACKING AND REPORTING ALL-INCLUSIVE COST OF HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall—

(1) develop and implement a system to track and report the full cost to the Department of Commerce of hydrographic data collection, including costs relating to vessel acquisition, vessel repair, and administration of contracts to procure data;

(2) evaluate measures for comparing cost per unit effort in addition to measures of cost per nautical square mile; and

(3) submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report on which additional measures for comparing cost per unit effort the Secretary intends to use and the rationale for such use.

(b) DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGY FOR INCREASED CONTRACTING WITH NONGOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES FOR HYDROGRAPHIC DATA COLLECTION.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Secretary completes the activities required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall develop a strategy for how the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will increase contracting with nongovernmental entities for hydrographic data collection in a manner that is consistent with the requirements of the Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act (Public Law 111–11; 33 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.).

SEC. 1003. HOMEPORT OF CERTAIN RESEARCH VESSELS.

(a) ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Commerce may accept non-Federal funds for the purpose of the construction of a new port facility, including obtaining such cost estimates, designs, and permits as may be necessary to facilitate the homeporting of the R/V FAIRWEATHER in accordance with title II of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002 (Public Law 107–77; 115 Stat. 775) at a location that during such homeporting shall be under the administrative jurisdiction of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

(b) STRATEGIC PLAN REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop and submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a strategic plan for implementing subsection (a).

(c) ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may accept non-Federal funds for the purpose of the construction of a new port facility, including obtaining such cost estimates, designs, and permits as may be necessary to facilitate the homeporting of a new, existing, or reactivated research vessel in the city of St. Petersburg, Florida, at a location that during such homeporting shall be under the administrative jurisdiction of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

(d) STRATEGIC PLAN REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment

of this Act, the Secretary shall develop and submit to Congress a strategic plan for construction or acquisition of the facilities needed to allow for an oceanographic research vessel to be homeported in St. Petersburg, Florida. The strategic plan shall include an estimate of funding needed to construct such facilities.

Mr. McCONNELL. So for the information of the Senate, the modification that occurred was necessary to fix a technical error that omitted a number of important charts and tables from the bill.

TO CORRECT THE ENROLLMENT OF S. 140

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 51.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 51) to correct the enrollment of S. 140.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 51) was agreed to.

(The concurrent resolution is printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDER OF BUSINESS AND BIPARTISAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, the Senate's final order of business this week will be to confirm Michelle Bowman, the President's choice to serve on the Federal Reserve Board.

As I highlighted in recent days, we have before us a nominee whose skills and background are tailor-made for the responsibilities of the office. Ms. Bowman has extensive experience in community banking, and the seat to be filled is intended for an expert in that very field.

My colleagues hardly need me to illustrate any further the role that small community banks play in the lives of family farms, small businesses, and communities all across our country. It is time to take an important step for them and confirm this well-qualified nominee.

Yesterday, we passed legislation to reauthorize the Coast Guard by an overwhelming bipartisan majority. The Senate took action to reaffirm the critical security, interdiction, and rescue missions that keep America safe and to streamline duplicative regulations at the same time.

The provision to clarify the regulation of vessel incidental discharge delivered a much needed victory for the communities and small maritime businesses, including so many in my State of Kentucky, that rely on America's inland waterways for their livelihood. The reauthorization delivered some well-earned certainty to the brave men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard, whose commitment to service should make all of us proud.

Of course, the Coast Guard legislation was just the very latest installment in a long list of bipartisan successes passed by this Senate in this Congress on behalf of the American people.

The big battles may be what captivate the press, and Republicans are certainly proud of our signature accomplishments, like historic tax reform and confirming Justice Gorsuch and Justice Kavanaugh, but at the same time, it is frequently overlooked how many of this Congress's achievements have been thoroughly bipartisan.

Republicans and Democrats together passed landmark legislation that marshaled more resources to the frontlines of communities fighting against opioids, more specialized training and resources for first responders, greater access to grant support for State and local authorities, and more support for treatment, recovery, and workforce reentry programs to heal the wounds of this devastating epidemic.

Together we reformed some of the excesses of Dodd-Frank and lightened the load on local lenders.

Together we ended the cycle of chronic continuing resolutions for defense funding that denied certainty to our Armed Forces and eroded our readiness. We rebuilt a regular appropriations process. It featured the largest year-on-year defense funding increase in 15 years and the biggest pay raise for servicemembers in nearly a decade.

Together we made new investments to start rebuilding our Nation's infrastructure.

Together, we brought new resources and new reforms to the systems that serve our veterans. Together, we improved comprehensive sanctions to target maligned behavior throughout the international system. We passed major bills to combat sex trafficking, improve school safety, expand opportunities for vocational and technical training, and extend the right to try new medical treatments to those with terminal illnesses.

This isn't even an exhaustive list. Clearly, the Senate has proved to be fertile soil for bipartisan work. It has made life better for the American people in tangible ways. We should all take pride in this, and we need to keep up this momentum for the remainder of this year as we consider more legislation and confirm more nominees. We will need it throughout the next Congress. We will need to work across the aisle within this body, and this Repub-

lican Senate and Democratic House will need to learn to collaborate as well. This long list of accomplishments offers just the blueprint we will need.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

MOTION TO DISCHARGE—S.J. RES. 65

Mr. PAUL. Pursuant to the Arms Export Act of 1976, I move to discharge the Foreign Relations Committee from further consideration of S.J. Res. 65, relating to the disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Government of Bahrain.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The motion is now pending.

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that until 12:15 p.m., the time be equally divided by opponents and proponents, with the first 30 minutes for opponents of the bill and the last 30 minutes for proponents of the bill.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

SPECIAL COUNSEL INVESTIGATION

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise to discuss the firing of Attorney General Jeff Sessions by President Trump immediately after the midterm elections, as well as the ongoing Justice Department investigation by Special Counsel Robert Mueller into Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. Presidential elections.

The only transparency to be found in the Trump White House is the President's disdain for the Mueller investigation into the 2016 elections. After multiple guilty pleas and convictions among the President's campaign advisers on this ongoing investigation, President Trump remains relentless in his campaign to find any way possible to limit the scope of the ongoing investigation.

I did not support Jeff Sessions' nomination to be Attorney General, but he followed the law and rightly recused himself from overseeing the work of Mr. Mueller and his team of professional investigators. Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein should continue to oversee the Mueller investigation. Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein has shown his fidelity to the rule of law with the much needed announce-

ment of a special counsel to investigate potential criminal activity and collusion between the Trump campaign and the Russian Government in the 2016 elections. His choice of Robert Mueller was solid. Mr. Mueller served as the FBI Director under both Democratic and Republican Presidential administrations. He has a well-earned reputation as a nonpartisan professional.

Let me remind my colleagues that when Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein made the special counsel appointment in May of 2017, he wrote:

I determined that it is in the public interest for me to exercise my authority and appoint a Special Counsel to assume responsibility for this matter. . . . What I have determined is that based upon the unique circumstances, the public interest requires me to place this investigation under the authority of a person who exercises a degree of independence from the normal chain of command. . . . Considering the unique circumstances of this matter, however, I determined that a Special Counsel is necessary in order for the American people to have full confidence in the outcome. Our Nation is grounded on the rule of law, and the public must be assured that government officials administer the law fairly. Special Counsel Mueller will have all appropriate resources to conduct a thorough and complete investigation, and I am confident that he will follow the facts, apply the law and reach a just result.

That is what Mr. Rosenstein said when he appointed Mr. Mueller as special counsel. Now we know just how right Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein was to worry about protecting the independence and integrity of the special counsel's investigation so that the rule of law would be followed and the special counsel could follow the facts, apply the law, and reach a just result regardless of what the President wants. Indeed, at every turn, President Trump has tried to undermine the rule of law and interfere with this investigation. He has relentlessly criticized the Mueller investigation in the court of public opinion, somehow characterizing it as a "witch-hunt" by conflicted, "angry Democrats," notwithstanding the dozens of guilty pleas and convictions already obtained by the special counsel, as well as Mr. Mueller's professional, nonpartisan legacy of service.

The new Acting Attorney General, Matthew Whitaker, who is an unconfirmed political appointee, is already on the record making inflammatory comments on how to limit the scope of the investigation and cut off resources. He should immediately recuse himself from the investigation. Serious legal questions have been raised about the legality and constitutionality of the designation by President Trump of Mr. Whitaker, who has not been confirmed by the Senate and is heading a Cabinet Department. The Constitution's appointment clause requires all principal officers of the government to be nominated and have the advice and consent of the Senate.