

which are only found in California. From the iconic Joshua Trees to the desert tortoise, big horn sheep, and scores of wildflowers, the beauty of the California desert is unrivaled.

I have heard from thousands of constituents who share a love for the peace and tranquility of this majestic area, such as young students from urban areas exposed to the desert for the first time and veterans returning home from warzones finding much-needed quiet in California's desert landscapes.

When I first came to Washington twenty-six years ago, Senator Alan Cranston asked me to assume the mantle and carry on his efforts to protect the desert by introducing and passing a desert protection bill.

Despite opposition, and even filibuster attempts, the California Desert Protection Act of 1994 passed and was signed into law by President Clinton. Since then, we have all watched the unique desert plants, animals, and surrounding communities flourish, attracting visitors from around the world.

The 1994 bill permanently protected more than 7.5 million acres of pristine desert land in national parks and preserves, and I worked closely with President Obama in 2016 to designate three new desert National monuments that protected a further 1.8 million acres.

The original Desert Protection Act was a crowning achievement for desert conservation, establishing 69 new Wilderness areas, creating the Mojave National Preserve, and converting Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Monuments into National Parks. All told, we were able to protect, or increase protections for about 9.6 million acres.

I am proud to have been a part of these achievements for the desert, and I remain steadfast in my commitment to get this legislation across the finish line.

As I mentioned earlier, this bill represents the varied interests of desert stakeholders and balances the many uses of the California desert. I'll highlight some of what's in the bill now.

The bill designates approximately 375,500 acres of wilderness, including eight new Bureau of Land Management (BLM) wilderness areas.

It expands Death Valley National Park Wilderness by approximately 88,000 acres and adds 7,141 acres to the San Gorgonio Wilderness within San Bernardino National Forest.

This bill also expands Joshua Tree National Park by 4,518 acres and Death Valley National Park by approximately 35,292 acres. The additions to Joshua Tree National Park include 1,600 acres donated by the Mojave Desert Land Trust.

The legislation also officially designates six existing Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Areas totaling 200,580 acres to provide certainty that these recreational uses will be protected and maintained in a manner similar to conservation areas.

Two more additions are the Alabama Hills National Scenic Area in Inyo County and the Vinagre Wash Special Management Area in Imperial County. The Alabama Hills National Scenic Area preserves 18,610 acres for continued recreation and conservation. The Vinagre Wash Special Management Area covers approximately 81,800 acres of Bureau of Land Management land to provide for wilderness preservation, vehicular use on designated routes, and limitations on extractive uses of the land within the management area.

Lastly, this bill designates 77 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Desert conservation has never been a partisan issue. Over the years, legislators have come together across party lines to preserve and protect California's desert.

Considering our progress and bipartisan efforts last Congress, I am hopeful this Congress will take this legislation up and move it forward as quickly as possible.

This bill represents years of collaborative work and the interests of a wide variety of groups and communities with the shared goal of protecting and sustainably managing California's desert. This area is a true national treasure, and I look forward to continuing our work to protect it for generations to come.

Thank you.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 12—TO CONSTITUTE THE MAJORITY PARTY'S MEMBERSHIP ON CERTAIN COMMITTEES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS, OR UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS ARE CHOSEN

Mr. McCONNELL submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 12

Resolved, That the following shall constitute the majority party's membership on the following committees for the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY: Mr. Roberts, Mr. McConnell, Mr. Boozman, Mr. Hoeven, Ms. Ernst, Mrs. Hyde-Smith, Mr. Braun, Mr. Perdue, Mr. Grassley, Mr. Thune, Mrs. Fischer.

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS: Mr. Shelby, Mr. McConnell, Mr. Alexander, Ms. Collins, Ms. Murkowski, Mr. Graham, Mr. Blunt, Mr. Moran, Mr. Hoeven, Mr. Boozman, Mrs. Capito, Mr. Kennedy, Mrs. Hyde-Smith, Mr. Daines, Mr. Rubio, Mr. Lankford.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES: Mr. Inhofe, Mr. Wicker, Mrs. Fischer, Mr. Cotton, Mr. Rounds, Ms. Ernst, Mr. Tillis, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Perdue, Mr. Cramer, Ms. McSally, Mr. Scott (FL), Mrs. Blackburn, Mr. Hawley.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS: Mr. Crapo, Mr. Shelby, Mr. Toomey, Mr. Scott (SC), Mr. Sasse, Mr. Cotton, Mr. Rounds, Mr. Perdue, Mr. Tillis, Mr. Kennedy, Ms. McSally, Mr. Moran, Mr. Cramer.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION: Mr. Wicker, Mr. Thune,

Mr. Blunt, Mr. Cruz, Mrs. Fischer, Mr. Moran, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Gardner, Mrs. Blackburn, Mrs. Capito, Mr. Lee, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Young, Mr. Scott (FL).

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES: Ms. Murkowski, Mr. Barrasso, Mr. Risch, Mr. Lee, Mr. Daines, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Gardner, Mrs. Hyde-Smith, Ms. McSally, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Hoeven.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Mr. Barrasso, Mr. Inhofe, Mrs. Capito, Mr. Cramer, Mr. Braun, Mr. Rounds, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Boozman, Mr. Wicker, Mr. Shelby, Ms. Ernst.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE: Mr. Grassley, Mr. Crapo, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Enzi, Mr. Cornyn, Mr. Thune, Mr. Burr, Mr. Isakson, Mr. Portman, Mr. Toomey, Mr. Scott (SC), Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Lankford, Mr. Daines, Mr. Young.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS: Mr. Risch, Mr. Rubio, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Gardner, Mr. Romney, Mr. Graham, Mr. Isakson, Mr. Barrasso, Mr. Portman, Mr. Paul, Mr. Young, Mr. Cruz.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS: Mr. Alexander, Mr. Enzi, Mr. Burr, Mr. Isakson, Mr. Paul, Ms. Collins, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Roberts, Ms. Murkowski, Mr. Scott (SC), Mr. Romney, Mr. Braun.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS: Mr. Johnson, Mr. Portman, Mr. Paul, Mr. Lankford, Mr. Romney, Mr. Scott (FL), Mr. Enzi, Mr. Hawley.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY: Mr. Graham, Mr. Grassley, Mr. Cornyn, Mr. Lee, Mr. Cruz, Mr. Sasse, Mr. Hawley, Mr. Tillis, Ms. Ernst, Mr. Crapo, Mr. Kennedy, Mrs. Blackburn.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE: Mr. Burr, Mr. Risch, Mr. Rubio, Ms. Collins, Mr. Blunt, Mr. Cotton, Mr. Cornyn, Mr. Sasse.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING: Ms. Collins, Mr. Scott (SC), Mr. Burr, Ms. McSally, Mr. Rubio, Mr. Hawley, Mr. Braun, Mr. Scott (FL).

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET: Mr. Enzi, Mr. Grassley, Mr. Crapo, Mr. Graham, Mr. Toomey, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Perdue, Mr. Braun, Mr. Scott (FL), Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Cramer.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS: Mr. Hoeven, Mr. Barrasso, Ms. Murkowski, Mr. Lankford, Mr. Daines, Ms. McSally, Mr. Moran.

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE: Mr. Lee, Mr. Cotton, Mr. Sasse, Mr. Portman, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Cruz.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION: Mr. Blunt, Mr. McConnell, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Shelby, Mr. Cruz, Mrs. Capito, Mr. Wicker, Mrs. Fischer, Mrs. Hyde-Smith.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Mr. Rubio, Mr. Risch, Mr. Paul, Mr. Scott (SC), Ms. Ernst, Mr. Inhofe, Mr. Young, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Romney, Mr. Hawley.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS: Mr. Isakson, Mr. Moran, Mr. Boozman, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Rounds, Mr. Tillis, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Blackburn, Mr. Cramer.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS: Mr. Isakson, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Risch.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, in the 112th Congress the Senate adopted a new funding allocation for Senate committees. This approach has served the Senate well for the past three Congresses. I believe this approach will continue to serve the interests of the Senate and the public, regardless of which party is in the majority, by helping to retain core committee staff with institutional knowledge. This funding allocation is based on the party division of the Senate, with 10 percent of the total majority and minority salary

baseline going to the majority for administrative expenses. However, regardless of the party division of the Senate, the minority share of the majority and minority salary baseline will never be less than 40 percent, and the majority share will not exceed 60 percent. It is my intent that this approach will continue to serve the Senate for this Congress and future Congresses.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this approach met our needs for the last three Congresses, and I too would like to see it continue. In addition, special reserves have been restored to its historic purpose. We should continue to fund special reserves to the extent possible in order to be able to assist committees that face urgent, unanticipated, nonrecurring needs. Recognizing the tight budgets we will face for the foreseeable future, it is necessary to continue to bring funding authorizations more in line with our actual resources while ensuring that committees are able to fulfill their responsibilities. I look forward to continuing to work with the majority leader to accomplish this.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a joint leadership letter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

WE MUTUALLY COMMIT TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THE 116TH CONGRESS: The Committee on Rules and Administration is to determine the budgets of the committees of the Senate. The budgets of the committees, including joint and special committees, and all other subgroups, shall be apportioned to reflect the ratio of the Senate as of this date, including an additional ten percent (10%) from the majority and minority salary baseline to be allocated to the chairman for administrative expenses.

Special Reserves has been restored to its historic purpose. Requests for funding will only be considered when submitted by a committee chairman and ranking member for unanticipated, non-recurring needs. Such requests shall be granted only upon the approval of the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Funds for committee expenses shall be available to each chairman consistent with the Senate rules and practices of the 115th Congress.

The division of committee office space shall be commensurate with this funding agreement.

The chairman and ranking member of any committee may, by mutual agreement, modify the apportionment of committee funding and office space.

SENATE RESOLUTION 13—TO CONSTITUTE THE MINORITY PARTY'S MEMBERSHIP ON CERTAIN COMMITTEES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS, OR UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS ARE CHOSEN

Mr. SCHUMER submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 13

Resolved, That the following shall constitute the minority party's membership on

the following committees for the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY: Ms. Stabenow, Mr. Leahy, Mr. Brown, Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Bennet, Mrs. Gillibrand, Mr. Casey, Ms. Smith, Mr. Durbin.

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS: Mr. Leahy, Mrs. Murray, Mrs. Feinstein, Mr. Durbin, Mr. Reed, Mr. Tester, Mr. Udall, Mrs. Shaheen, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Coons, Mr. Schatz, Ms. Baldwin, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Manchin, Mr. Van Hollen.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES: Mr. Reed, Mrs. Shaheen, Mrs. Gillibrand, Mr. Blumenthal, Ms. Hirono, Mr. Kaine, Mr. King, Mr. Heinrich, Ms. Warren, Mr. Peters, Mr. Manchin, Ms. Duckworth, Mr. Jones.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS: Mr. Brown, Mr. Reed, Mr. Menendez, Mr. Tester, Mr. Warner, Ms. Warren, Mr. Schatz, Mr. Van Hollen, Ms. Cortez Masto, Mr. Jones, Ms. Smith, Ms. Sinema.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION: Ms. Cantwell, Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Schatz, Mr. Markey, Mr. Udall, Mr. Peters, Ms. Baldwin, Ms. Duckworth, Mr. Tester, Ms. Sinema, Ms. Rosen.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES: Mr. Manchin, Ms. Cantwell, Mr. Wyden, Mr. Sanders, Ms. Stabenow, Mr. Heinrich, Ms. Hirono, Mr. King, Ms. Cortez Masto.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Mr. Carper, Mr. Cardin, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Whitehouse, Mr. Merkley, Mrs. Gillibrand, Mr. Booker, Mr. Markey, Ms. Duckworth, Mr. Van Hollen.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE: Mr. Wyden, Ms. Stabenow, Ms. Cantwell, Mr. Menendez, Mr. Carper, Mr. Cardin, Mr. Brown, Mr. Bennet, Mr. Casey, Mr. Warner, Mr. Whitehouse, Ms. Hassan, Ms. Cortez Masto.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS: Mr. Menendez, Mr. Cardin, Mrs. Shaheen, Mr. Coons, Mr. Udall, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Kaine, Mr. Markey, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Booker.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS: Mrs. Murray, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Casey, Ms. Baldwin, Mr. Murphy, Ms. Warren, Mr. Kaine, Ms. Hassan, Ms. Smith, Mr. Jones, Ms. Rosen.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS: Mr. Peters, Mr. Carper, Ms. Hassan, Ms. Harris, Ms. Sinema, Ms. Rosen.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE: Mr. Warner (Vice Chairman), Mrs. Feinstein, Mr. Wyden, Mr. Heinrich, Mr. King, Ms. Harris, Mr. Bennet, Mr. Reed (ex officio), Mr. Schumer (ex officio).

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY: Mrs. Feinstein, Mr. Leahy, Mr. Durbin, Mr. Whitehouse, Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Coons, Mr. Blumenthal, Ms. Hirono, Mr. Booker, Ms. Harris.

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET: Mr. Sanders, Mrs. Murray, Mr. Wyden, Ms. Stabenow, Mr. Whitehouse, Mr. Warner, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Kaine, Mr. Van Hollen, Ms. Harris.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION: Ms. Klobuchar, Mrs. Feinstein, Mr. Schumer, Mr. Durbin, Mr. Udall, Mr. Warner, Mr. Leahy, Mr. King, Ms. Cortez Masto.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Mr. Cardin, Ms. Cantwell, Mrs. Shaheen, Mr. Markey, Mr. Booker, Mr. Coons, Ms. Hirono, Ms. Duckworth, Ms. Rosen.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS: Mr. Tester, Mrs. Murray, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Brown, Mr. Blumenthal, Ms. Hirono, Mr. Manchin, Ms. Sinema.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING: Mr. Casey, Mrs. Gillibrand, Mr. Blumenthal, Ms. Warren, Mr. Jones, Ms. Sinema, Ms. Rosen.

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE: Mr. Heinrich, Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Peters, Ms. Hassan.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS: Mr. Coons (Vice Chairman), Mr. Schatz, Mrs. Shaheen.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS: Mr. Udall (Vice Chairman), Ms. Cantwell, Mr. Tester, Mr. Schatz, Ms. Cortez Masto, Ms. Smith.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to the following member of my staff: Heidi Steele, a fellow in my office, during the pendency of the 116th Congress.

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

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Dimitrios Meritis, a fellow in my office, be granted privileges of the floor for this session of Congress.

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

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 251, H.R. 264, AND H.R. 269

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there are three bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the titles of the bills for the first time en bloc.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 251) to extend by two years the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 264) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 269) to reauthorize certain programs under the Public Health Service Act and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to public health security and all-hazards preparedness and response, to clarify the regulatory framework with respect to certain nonprescription drugs that are marketed without an approved drug application, and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. I now ask for a second reading, and I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bills will receive their second readings on the next business day.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Thursday, January 10; 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; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1; finally, notwithstanding the