

S. 4530. A bill to establish a Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program within the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program Authorization Act, which I introduced today with Senator HARRIS. Representatives JOSH HARDER, JOHN GARAMENDI, JERRY MCNERNEY, GRACE NAPOLITANO, T.J. COX, and AMI BERA—all Democrats from California—and DIANA DEGETTE and JOE NEGUSE—both Democrats from Colorado—have introduced identical companion legislation in the House.

Airborne snow observatory, ASO, technology is a snow monitoring tool that provides precise measurement of depth and water content for every square meter of snow in a watershed. The technology measures snow depth and water content using an airplane-mounted light detection, LiDAR, instrument coupled with an imaging spectrometer.

When combined with conventional snow surveys, ASO provides a near-perfect picture of snow water content.

By near perfect, I mean that ASO estimates snowpack and runoff forecast with 96 to 99 percent accuracy. This is much better than current practices, which only measure snowpack and runoff with 50 to 90 percent accuracy.

These forecast accuracies are achieved by comparing LiDAR measurements of bare ground topography in the summer with multiple measurements of snow depth during the winter. The greatest accuracies are based on once-a-month flights in watersheds earlier in the winter, and twice monthly flights during the spring runoff period.

The much more precise measurements of snowpack that ASO provides will be critical in better managing competing missions of western water storage reservoirs for flood control and water supply amidst a changing climate and growing population.

For example, in a single year, 2018, Turlock Irrigation District used this technology in the Tuolumne River watershed to save 150,000 acre-feet of water supply.

Because they knew precisely how much snow was in the upper watershed of the Tuolumne, Turlock was able to avoid a release of 150,000 acre-feet of water from Don Pedro Reservoir that otherwise would have been required for flood control.

Without ASO technology, Turlock would have had to assume for safety purposes that the melting snow in the upper Tuolumne watershed was at the high end of a wide range of guesses using conventional snowpack technology. With the possibility of a big snowmelt, Turlock would have had to release the extra 150,000 acre feet of water.

With water in California often costing \$1000 per acre foot or more, errors

in water-storage management can cost hundreds of millions of dollars in unnecessary releases from reservoirs and extra groundwater pumping.

Additional ASO flights to better measure snowpack often have a high return on investment, by one estimate as much as 40:1 for water supply benefits, and 80:1 for all benefits, including hydro, recharge, flood control, and ecosystem benefits.

After several years developing and refining the deployment of snowpack measurement technology, in December 2019, NASA concluded management of the-ASO program and transferred it to the private sector. While consistent with NASA's traditional approach to developing new technologies, this transfer reduces the certainty for Federal support of a program with significant public benefits, including improved water conservation, supply and delivery forecasts across the West.

The bill establishes a snow pack forecasting program at the Bureau of Reclamation within the Department of the Interior.

The Bureau shall implement the program in two phases:

No. 1, the first step is to coordinate with other Federal agencies on how they will work together to improve analyses of snowpack depth. This inter-agency process will result in a report due to Congress by October 21, 2021.

No. 2, following the completion of the report, the Bureau will cost-share with States, water districts, other Federal agencies and other partners on increased LiDAR flights and other activities in particular watersheds.

This program is expected to benefit many Western States, including but not limited to Sierra Nevada and Cascade Mountains; the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, Wyoming, and New Mexico; and the Colorado River tributaries in Utah and Arizona, and the Pacific Northwest.

Fifteen million dollars would be authorized for the program from fiscal years 2022 to 2026.

I hope my colleagues will join me in support of this bill.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 680—CONDEMNING THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S USE OF MILITARY AGGRESSION TO CHANGE THE STATUS QUO AT THE LINE OF ACTUAL CONTROL BETWEEN INDIA AND CHINA

Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 680

Whereas, since a truce ended the 1962 war between India and the People's Republic of China, the countries have been divided by a Line of Actual Control;

Whereas the United States officially recognizes the McMahon Line, the Indian state of

Arunachal Pradesh, and encourages a diplomatic solution to remaining contested areas of the border between India and China;

Whereas, due to the disputed nature of the Line of Actual Control, minor standoffs between India and the People's Republic of China have occasionally happened, but prior to June 15, 2020, no military fatalities had occurred since 1975;

Whereas, in the months leading up to June 15, 2020, the People's Republic of China increased troop deployments, built new infrastructure in contested areas, and harassed Indian patrols along multiple sectors of the Line of Actual Control, particularly around the Depsang Plains, Galwan Valley, Hot Springs, and Pangong Lake;

Whereas the events of June 15, 2020, which resulted in the death of 20 Indian soldiers, raises serious concerns regarding the intent of the Government of the People's Republic of China and its military forces;

Whereas this act by the People's Republic of China military occurred during bilateral diplomatic negotiations between the Governments of the People's Republic of China and India, who were attempting to deescalate tensions at the Line of Actual Control;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China's expanded territorial claims in Bhutan's eastern sector is a transparent attempt at expanding its illegitimate claims over the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh;

Whereas the United States designated India as a Major Defense Partner and has taken steps to deepen the bilateral defense relationship, including by elevating India to Strategic Trade Authorization Tier 1 Status and conducting annual joint military exercises;

Whereas the United States Government remains committed to a free and open Indo-Pacific and views China's aggression at the Line of Actual Control, in the Indian Ocean, and in the Western Pacific as a threat to the stability and security of the international community;

Whereas the Government of India has taken steps to secure its telecommunications infrastructure from Chinese security threats;

Whereas it mutually benefits the United States and India to strengthen their Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership through increased defense interoperability, intelligence sharing, access to military installations, and trade;

Whereas the United States and India have signed three foundational military agreements, the General Security of Military Information Agreement, the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Understanding, and the Communications, Compatibility, and Security Agreement, and are working to sign the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement; and

Whereas it is in the mutual interest of the United States and India to expand their defense and intelligence relationships both bilaterally, as well as multilaterally through the Quadrilateral Dialogue with Japan and Australia: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the People's Republic of China's use of military force to change the status quo at the Line of Actual Control, as well as its refusal to demarcate that Line in accordance with past bilateral agreements with India;

(2) supports a diplomatic solution that rapidly restores the April 2020 status quo at the Line of Actual Control;

(3) commends India for taking steps to secure its telecommunications infrastructure

from Chinese security threats and encourages multilateral engagement in these efforts, including through the Blue Dot Network;

(4) commits to deepening defense, intelligence, and economic ties with India in line with fulfilling the full potential of the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership; and

(5) supports bilateral and multilateral partnerships, such as the Quadrilateral Dialogue, to promote a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 681—RECOGNIZING THE CHINESE RAILROAD WORKERS WHO WORKED ON THE TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD FROM 1865 TO 1869 AND THE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF THOSE RAILROAD WORKERS TO THE GROWTH OF THE UNITED STATES**

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

**S. RES. 681**

Whereas the Transcontinental Railroad was 1 of the most remarkable engineering feats of the 19th century;

Whereas construction of the nearly 2,000-mile Transcontinental Railroad spanned 6 years;

Whereas the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad facilitated commerce and reduced cross-country travel time from 6 months to 1 week;

Whereas nearly 12,000 Chinese immigrants (referred to in this preamble as the “Chinese railroad workers”) were employed in the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad, constituting more than 80 percent of the workforce of the Central Pacific Railroad Company;

Whereas the Chinese railroad workers were—

(1) considered indispensable by the foremen on the project; and

(2) respected for their work ethic and discipline;

Whereas the Chinese railroad workers set a world record by laying 10 miles of railroad track in just 1 work day;

Whereas the Chinese railroad workers were—

(1) given the most difficult and dangerous jobs; and

(2) paid lower wages than other railroad workers;

Whereas nearly 1,200 Chinese railroad workers died from work accidents, avalanches, and explosions while working in the Sierra Nevada Mountains;

Whereas, in honor of the courage shown by the Chinese railroad workers in organizing for fair wages and safe working conditions, the Department of Labor inducted the Chinese railroad workers into the Labor Hall of Honor in 2014;

Whereas the fight of the Chinese railroad workers against discrimination set an example for millions of Asian Americans who later came to the United States;

Whereas the descendants of the Chinese railroad workers and the wider Asian-American community view the sacrifices of the Chinese railroad workers as integral to the creation of the vibrant and growing Asian-American community that exists throughout the United States; and

Whereas the legacy of the Chinese railroad workers continues to have a profound and positive impact on life in the United States by advancing the ideals of equal opportunity

and the dignity of work for everyone: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes—

(A) the Chinese immigrants who worked on the Transcontinental Railroad from 1865 to 1869 (referred to in this resolving clause as the “Chinese railroad workers”); and

(B) the contributions of the Chinese railroad workers to the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad and the growth of the United States;

(2) honors the Chinese railroad workers who lost their lives working in the Sierra Nevada Mountains; and

(3) acknowledges all of the risks faced by the Chinese railroad workers in completing the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad while enduring discrimination and unequal pay and treatment.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 682—RECOGNIZING THE DEVASTATING EXPLOSION THAT ROCKED THE PORT OF BEIRUT ON AUGUST 4, 2020, AND EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH THE LEBANESE PEOPLE**

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WARNER, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

**S. RES. 682**

Whereas, on August 4, 2020, 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate detonated at the Port of Beirut, killing more than 200 people and injuring thousands more;

Whereas the dangerous and highly explosive material was unsafely stored at the Port of Beirut since 2014, despite repeated warnings over the threat the stockpile posed to the surrounding civilian population;

Whereas the Secretary General of the Lebanese Red Cross was quoted as saying, “What we are witnessing is a huge catastrophe.”;

Whereas the blast destroyed vast swaths of infrastructure across Beirut and displaced up to 300,000 people;

Whereas the blast destroyed or damaged the entire port of Beirut, through which Lebanon imports the bulk of its food, including the destruction of approximately 120,000 metric tons of desperately needed food stocks, according to the United Nations;

Whereas, prior to the blast, nearly 1,000,000 people in the Beirut metropolitan area, including more than 500,000 children, did not have the means to buy basic essentials, including food;

Whereas Lebanon already struggles to support the largest per-capita population of refugees in the world, including nearly 1,000,000 Syrian refugees currently registered with the United Nations;

Whereas the governor of Beirut predicted that the full cost of recovery and relief could be between \$3,000,000,000 and \$5,000,000,000;

Whereas several Beirut hospitals, already struggling to procure medical equipment and pay medical staff amid the spread of COVID-19, have sustained too much blast damage to admit new patients;

Whereas the blasts coincides with a period of protracted political crisis in Lebanon;

Whereas, after months of political deadlock, Lebanon formed a government in January of this year with the backing of Hezbollah, a United States-designated Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO), and its allies;

Whereas endemic corruption and Hezbollah’s mismanagement has led Lebanon

to the brink of economic collapse, including an 80 percent currency devaluation since 2019, one of the highest rates of public debt, food insecurity, and hyperinflation;

Whereas the United States Government has longstanding concerns about Hezbollah’s use of and influence over the Beirut port as a transit and storage point for its terrorist enterprise;

Whereas the people of Lebanon across the political spectrum have renewed demands for a meaningful change in Lebanon’s political leadership, government accountability, and transparency;

Whereas, following the explosion and public outcry from the Lebanese people, Prime Minister Hassan Diab announced on August 10, 2020, that he and his government would step down;

Whereas international donors, including the United States, have pledged \$297,000,000 in aid to Lebanon at a virtual summit hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron;

Whereas the United States, through the United States Agency for International Development, announced on August 7, 2020, that it would provide more than \$15,000,000 in humanitarian assistance to aid the people of Lebanon following the explosions at the Port of Beirut, and that these funds would support life-saving medical responses and relief for the immediate needs of people facing this tragedy, including food aid for 50,000 people for three months and medical and pharmaceutical support for up to 60,000 people for three months; and

Whereas a stable Lebanon with a credible, transparent government free from Iranian and Hezbollah interference is in the broader national security interests of the United States and United States partners and allies: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) extends its heartfelt condolences to, and stands with, the people of Lebanon;

(2) supports United States Government efforts to provide emergency humanitarian relief in concert with other governments and international partners;

(3) affirms that United States assistance, led by the United States Agency for International Development, should be delivered directly to the Lebanese people through properly vetted channels, organizations, and individuals;

(4) calls on the Government of Lebanon to conduct a credible, impartial, and transparent investigation into the cause of, and responsibility for, the explosion, and include impartial international experts as part of the investigation team;

(5) calls on the investigation team to evaluate and determine the root causes of instability and economic mismanagement that have impacted the people of Lebanon; and

(6) further calls on the Government of Lebanon to restore faith and confidence by prioritizing policies and programs that advance the interests of the people of Lebanon.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 683—DESIGNATING THE FIRST WEEK OF AUGUST 2020 AS “WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK”, AND DESIGNATING AUGUST 2020 AS “NATIONAL BREASTFEEDING MONTH”**

Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. MARKEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary: