

premium coffee beans. Ben keeps his strong relationship with FSU. Lucky Goat Coffee products are featured on campus, and Ben regularly hires FSU students and alumni. From the start, Ben has been committed to creating dignified work. He prioritizes career development and professional growth for his employees, with one-time baristas moving up to serve in senior management within the company.

Over the years, Lucky Goat Coffee has been recognized for its growth and remained committed to investing in its community. In 2017, then-Governor Rick Scott recognized Lucky Goat Coffee with a Governor's Business Ambassador Award. As one of the 100 fastest growing companies owned or led by Florida State University alumnus, Lucky Goat Coffee was named to the Seminole 100 in 2018, 2019, and 2020. Ben mentors young entrepreneurs interested in the coffee industry, and Lucky Goat Coffee supports local youth-focused organizations, including local Little League teams and Cub Scouts. They also help Leon County Schools, donating much-needed school supplies for students and equipment, including coffee, for the teachers.

Like many Florida small businesses, Lucky Goat Coffee suffered a severe decline in revenue due to the coronavirus pandemic. In April 2020, the U.S. Small Business Administration launched the Paycheck Protection Program, a small business relief program that I was proud to author. The PPP provides forgivable loans to impacted small businesses and nonprofits who maintain their payroll during the COVID-19 pandemic. A PPP loan gave Lucky Goat the support it needed to retain its employees and survive the pandemic.

Lucky Goat Coffee is a notable example of a small business that provides dignified work to its employees and invests in its community. Through their passion and generosity, Lucky Goat fuels Floridians every day with its delicious coffee and supports them through community service.

Congratulations to Ben and the entire team at Lucky Goat. I look forward to your continued success.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5976. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the issuance of an Executive Order declaring a national emergency to deal with the threat posed by the People's Republic of China (PRC) increasing exploitation of United States Capital to resource and to enable the development and modernization of its military, intelligence, and other security apparatuses which continues to allow the PRC to directly threaten the United States forces overseas, including by developing and deploying weapons of mass destruction, advanced conventional weapons, and malicious cyber-enabled actions against the United States and its people; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5977. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule - Branch Application Procedures" (RIN3064-AF54) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5978. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to serious human rights abuse and corruption that was declared in Executive Order 13818 of December 20, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5979. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5980. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "CY 2021 Inpatient Hospital Deductible and Hospital and Extended Care Services Coinsurance Amounts" (RIN0938-AU14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 16, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5981. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "CY 2021 Part A Premiums for the Uninsured Aged and for Certain Disabled Individuals Who Have Exhausted Other Entitlement" (RIN0938-AU15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 16, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5982. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicaid Program; Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP) Managed Care (CMS-2408-F)" (RIN0938-AT40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 16, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5983. A communication from the Regulations Writer, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the re-

port of a rule entitled "Hearings Held by Administrative Appeals Judges of the Appeals Council" (RIN0960-AI25) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 20, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5984. A communication from the Director, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Nondiscrimination Obligations of Federal Contractors and Subcontractors: Procedures to Resolve Potential Employment Discrimination" (RIN1250-AA10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5985. A communication from the Director, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Nondiscrimination Obligations of Federal Contractors and Subcontractors: Procedures to Resolve Potential Employment Discrimination" (RIN1250-AA10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5986. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Registration Requirements for Pooled Plan Providers" (RIN1210-AB94) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5987. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Financial Factors in Selecting Plan Investments" (RIN1210-AB95) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5988. A communication from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5989. A communication from the Chairman, International Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2020 Annual Financial Report (AFR); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5990. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2021-02, Small Entity Compliance Guide" (FAC 2021-02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5991. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2021-02, Technical Amendments" (FAC 2021-02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5992. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation: FAR Case

202-002, Removal of Obsolete Definitions" (RIN9000-AO05) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5993. A communication from the Chairman of the Board, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's consolidated report addressing the Federal Managers Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA or Integrity Act) and the Inspector General Act of 1978 (IG Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5994. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation: FAR Case 2019-002, Recreational Services on Federal Lands" (RIN9000-AN85) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5995. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, four (4) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Justice, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 16, 2020; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5996. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) Quarterly Report to Congress; Fourth Quarter of fiscal year 2020"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-253. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to declare the waters of the Straits of Mackinac as "designated" for purposes of Great Lakes commercial ship pilotage; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 244

Whereas, The Great Lakes are integral to Michigan's environment, economic development, and recreation; and

Whereas, The federal Great Lakes Pilotage Act of 1960 established two distinct categories of pilotage on the Great Lakes—designated waters and undesignated waters—and authorized the President of the United States to determine designated waters. In 1960, President Dwight D. Eisenhower declared designated waters on the Great Lakes, including all United States waters of the St. Marys River, the Soo Locks, and approaches thereto. There have been no significant changes in designated waters since that time; and

Whereas, The act requires both United States and foreign-flagged vessels sailing in designated waters to be under the navigational direction of a United States or Canadian registered pilot to ensure marine safety and effective use of navigable waters. Further, foreign-flagged vessels operating in undesignated waters on the Great Lakes must have a United States or Canadian registered pilot on board to direct the navigation of the vessel or be available to assist in navigation if necessary; and

Whereas, Pilotage of foreign-flagged vessels on the Great Lakes is an important

function provided by individuals with years of experience sailing on the largest freshwater sea in the world. Pilots are charged with the safety of the vessel and boating public as well as protection of infrastructure and the environment; and

Whereas, The Straits of Mackinac, an environmentally sensitive area of great importance to the entire Great Lakes ecosystem, is an undesignated water. The Straits are often congested with commercial and recreational vessel traffic. Additionally, the area has restricted visibility, narrow waterways, and important infrastructure including the Mackinac Bridge and pipelines contributing to the unique navigational challenges that exist in the Straits of Mackinac; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the President and the Congress of the United States to declare the waters of the Straits of Mackinac as "designated" for purposes of Great Lakes commercial ship pilotage; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard.

POM-254. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan discouraging the United States Congress from expanding the size of the Supreme Court of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 323

Whereas, For over 150 years, there have been nine seats on the Supreme Court of the United States. While the country has grown and changed during that period, the Supreme Court has repeatedly demonstrated its ability to fulfill its constitutional role as the nation's highest court and remain an independent arbiter of the law without additional justices; and

Whereas, In recent months, there have been calls to increase the number of justices on the Supreme Court in an effort to gain political advantage. The number of justices on the Supreme Court has been fixed by federal law since 1869 and efforts to expand the size of the Supreme Court in the century and a half since have been met with significant resistance from the American people; and

Whereas, The legitimacy of the Supreme Court is its most valuable asset. The Supreme Court's ability to issue rulings which are followed nationwide rests on the American people's respect for the institution's independence and separation from day-to-day politics; and

Whereas, The federal judiciary, particularly the Supreme Court, must remain insulated from partisan disputes. Politicizing the Supreme Court by adding seats for the purpose of generating an ideological shift would be enormously detrimental for the public's faith in the judicial branch as an independent and impartial branch of government. The framers of the U.S. Constitution envisioned a system in which Supreme Court justices and federal judges would serve lifetime appointments, ensuring that the judiciary would not experience the kinds of political pressures that are present in the elected branches; and

Whereas, Subjecting the Supreme Court to major structural changes as a consequence of shifting partisan control of the executive and legislative branches would bring the judiciary into the political fray in a way that would harm its ability to fulfill its critical role in our system; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we discourage Congress from expanding

the size of the Supreme Court of the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-255. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to take necessary actions to review and enact federal law to fully protect developmentally or physically disabled federal benefit recipients from sexual and physical exploitation or abuse by payees and fiduciaries; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 51

Whereas, the Social Security Administration, through its Representative Payment Program, appoints family, friends, or other individuals to serve as payees' representatives for beneficiaries who are incapable of managing their Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments due to age, developmental disability, physical disability, or mental disability; and

Whereas, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, through its Fiduciary Program, appoints family, friends, or other individuals to serve as fiduciaries and receive payments for veterans who are physically or mentally incapable of managing their veterans benefit payments due to physical injury, disease, or age; and

Whereas, recent medical testimony before the Louisiana Senate Select Committee on Women and Children revealed that developmentally or physically disabled patients were being sexually and physically exploited and abused by caregivers who were also payees; and

Whereas, studies have shown that children are more likely to be abused if they are living with certain caregivers, and disabled adults with developmental disabilities are more likely to be abused compared to the general population; and

Whereas, the Social Security Administration and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs both have programs to assess and review the suitability of payees and fiduciaries; and

Whereas, the Senate finds that greater efforts must be made to protect developmentally or physically disabled federal benefit recipients from exploitation and abuse by certain caregivers who are payees or fiduciaries; and

Whereas, Social Security recipients, SSI recipients, and veterans are entitled to health care benefits through Medicare, Medicaid, and veterans health benefits; and

Whereas, Medicare, Medicaid, and veterans health benefits cover an annual wellness visit or routine medical examination with a primary care physician or other health care provider; and

Whereas, the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana finds that it would further protection efforts to require developmentally or physically disabled recipients of Social Security, SSI, or veterans benefits to undergo an annual medical examination with their primary care physician outside of the view of a caregiver so as to eliminate or minimize the possibility of sexual or physical exploitation or abuse from their caregiver who is also a payee or fiduciary. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to take necessary actions to review and enact federal law to fully protect developmentally or physically disabled federal benefit recipients from sexual and physical exploitation or abuse by payees and fiduciaries; and be it further,