

County, and our fellow Americans ought to look to John's commitment to public safety, duty, and service with gratitude.

Thank you, John.●

TRIBUTE TO RALPH OKERLUND

• Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, we wish to congratulate State Senator Ralph Okerlund on a remarkable career dedicated to the relentless advancement of prosperity for the great State of Utah. For the many Utahns lucky enough to know him personally—from the hills of Monroe to the halls of the State legislature—it is no surprise that Ralph has chosen to spend more time with his loving family following a consequential tenure in public life. Even for the many Utahns to whom Ralph is still unknown, his influence on civic life through his statewide legislative achievements is significant and enduring.

Senator Okerlund's success can be measured in tangible improvements in his district and across the State. His legislative efforts to facilitate investment in Utah's infrastructure projects, with tax credit incentives and coordination with the State energy and economic development offices, have brought billions of dollars to Utah—a massive boon to the State's economy and its rural counties. In addition, his efforts through the legislative appropriations process delivered Snow College a new building and higher pay for its employees. As a member of the legislative leadership on Capitol Hill, Senator Okerlund kept his commitment to allocate tax dollars wisely and effectively.

Senator Okerlund's success can also be measured by his family and by his fortitude. His professional journey began as a teacher, with degrees from Dixie College and the University of Utah. Ralph then returned to Monroe to help run his family farm and to be closer to his father, whose injury compelled his return. Okerlund would acquire and later sell the dairy but ran the farm for years until his election to the Monroe City Council. Apace with his subsequent ascensions to the mayor's office, Sevier County commission, State senate, and ultimately senate majority leader, is his family of children and grandchildren beside him, including his beloved wife Cindy, who call Monroe home. Ralph has persisted through hardship with the support of his family.

A tireless champion for rural Utah, Senator Okerlund has represented the unique challenges and opportunities facing farmers, ranchers, and rural folks at the State and national level as president of the Council of State Governments Western Association. In this role, he represented Utah's interests among neighboring States with competing ideas on how to manage critical issues like regional energy and land management. His successes in these efforts is undoubtedly owed to his deep

understanding of the issues as a man raised in Monroe.

Few can boast the wealth of personal and professional experiences amassed by Ralph Okerlund in his long and distinguished career—from dairyman to senate majority leader—but every Utahn can admire and follow his commitment to service. His record in government is not marked by expedience but, rather, by a willingness to rise to the occasion and answer the call of his neighbors and friends who seek his reliable judgement and sound leadership. Ralph Okerlund has led for 36 years as an elected official and will continue to serve his family, his friends, and his community with grace and humility.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:57 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 945. An act to amend the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to require certain issuers to disclose to the Securities and Exchange Commission information regarding foreign jurisdictions that prevent the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board from performing inspections under that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 4054. An act to reauthorize the United States Grain Standards Act, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 7995. An act to amend title 31, United States Code, to save Federal funds by authorizing changes to the composition of circulating coins, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 125. Concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 1830.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1830) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 7995. An act to amend title 31, United States Code, to save Federal funds by authorizing changes to the composition of circulating coins, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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-5997. A communication from the Deputy Administrator for Policy Support, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Child Nutrition Programs: Rescission of Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Flexibilities: Notice of Vacatur" (RIN0584-AE84) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 02, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5998. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sethoxydim; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 10016-23-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5999. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Adipic acid; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 10015-57-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6000. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Repeal of DFARS Clauses Related to Taxes Applied to Foreign Contracts in Afghanistan" (RIN0750-AL11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6001. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Repeal of DFARS Provision and Clause on Reserve Officer Training Corps and Military Recruiting on Campus" (RIN0750-AK89) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6002. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Restriction on the Acquisition of Tantalum" (RIN0750-AK94) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6003. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of

a rule entitled “Inflation Adjustment of Acquisition-Related Threshold” (RIN0750-AK76) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6004. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Repeal of DFARS Provision ‘Alternate Preservation, Packaging, and Packing’” (RIN0750-AK59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6005. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Repeal of DFARS Clause ‘Substitutions for Military or Federal Specifications and Standards’” (RIN0750-AK60) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6006. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Treatment of Certain Items as Commercial Items” (RIN0750-AK66) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6007. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13851 of November 27, 2018, with respect to Nicaragua; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6008. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Management’s Discussion and Analysis, Selected Financial Data, and Supplementary Financial Information” (RIN3235-AM28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6009. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Rhode Island: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions, Codification, and Incorporation by Reference” (FRL No. 10015-22-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6010. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Chemical Data Reporting; Extension of the 2020 Submission Period” (FRL No. 10016-96-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6011. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “South Carolina: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions” (FRL No. 10016-11-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6012. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Financial Responsibility Requirements Under CERCLA Section 108(b) for Facilities in the Electric Power Generation, Transmission, and Distribution Industry; the Petroleum and Coal Products Manufacturing Industry; and the Chemical Manufacturing Industry” (FRL No. 10017-87-OLEM) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6013. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (20-2.B)” (FRL No. 10015-16-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6014. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Additional Policy and Regulatory Revisions in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency” (RIN1210-AB98) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 10, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6015. A communication from the Director of the Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Additional Policy and Regulatory Revisions in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency” (RIN1545-BP97) (TD 9931) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 16, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6016. 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 “Medicare Program; Modernizing and Clarifying the Physician Self-Referral Regulations (CMS-1720-F)” (RIN0938-AT64) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6017. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s annual report for calendar year 2019; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6018. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2020-0101 - 2020-0103); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6019. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2020-0091 - 2020-0100); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6020. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Transparency in Coverage” (RIN1210-AB93) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6021. A communication from the Director, National Science Foundation, transmit-

ting, pursuant to law, the Department’s Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2020 and the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6022. A communication from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6023. A communication from the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department’s Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6024. A communication from the Chair of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Inspector General’s Semiannual Report for the six-month period from April 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6025. A communication from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency’s Semiannual Report of the Office of Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6026. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6027. A communication from the Inspector General of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Inspector General’s Semiannual Report to Congress for the period from April 1, 2020, through September 30, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6028. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6029. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Veterans Affairs’ Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6030. A communication from the Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board’s Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6031. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Veterans Affairs’ Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6032. A communication from the Section Chief of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Implementation of the Ryan Haight Online Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act of 2008” (RIN1117-AB20) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2020; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-6033. A communication from the Section Chief of the Diversion Control Division,

Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Implementation of the Combat Metamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005; Retail Sales; Notice of Transfers Following Importation or Exportation” (RIN1117-AB05) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-6034. A communication from the Executive Director, National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Museum’s 2019 annual report and financial audit; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-6035. A communication from the President and Chief Executive Officer, National Railroad Passenger Corporation, Amtrak, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a request for additional funding as a part of a COVID-19 relief bill; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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-261. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress and the Louisiana Congressional delegation to take such actions as are necessary to defeat passage of the “Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act of 2020” and to protect future opportunities for oil and gas exploration on the Outer Continental Shelf; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 38

Whereas, Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.), Chairman of the United States House Committee on Natural Resources has unveiled legislation entitled the “Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act of 2020” with the intent to include ocean impacts of climate change in the discussions of methods to address climate change mitigation; and

Whereas, in an effort to restore coastal ecosystems, strengthen marine mammal conservation, reduce carbon emissions from shipping vessels, improve international ocean governance, and pursue other ocean-related solutions to the climate change crisis, the legislation seeks to end the federal offshore oil-leasing program; and

Whereas, although these pursuits sound laudable, it is important to remember that the Louisiana oil and gas industry supports nearly two hundred and fifty thousand jobs inside the state of Louisiana and more in adjoining states, it accounts for fourteen percent of the state’s tax revenue, and supplies \$73 billion of the state’s gross domestic product; and

Whereas, an analysis has found that such a proposal, if enacted, would cause the loss of nearly one million jobs nationwide in the first twelve to twenty-four months, forty-eight thousand of which are located here in Louisiana; and

Whereas, this proposal would significantly reduce our domestic energy production, making our nation more dependent on less reliable, less safe foreign sources for energy produced under weaker environmental standards and a higher carbon footprint; and

Whereas, with energy demand expected to continue to rise until at least 2040, Louisiana currently produces nearly twenty percent of our nation’s energy, refines approximately forty-five percent of the total United States petroleum, and processes fifty-one percent of the nation’s natural gas; and

Whereas, while meeting this demand year after year, Louisiana energy producers are at

the forefront of carbon emissions reduction technology development like carbon capture and storage that can capture ninety percent of carbon emissions from fossil fuels; and

Whereas, in addition, the offshore oil and gas industry in the United States operates under some of the most stringent environmental rules in the world and its infrastructure also supports some of the most abundant fish habitat providing fishing opportunities that have made Louisiana the “Sportsman’s Paradise”; and

Whereas, protecting leasing and production in the Outer Continental Shelf will help combat climate change by helping our state combat coastal land loss and sustain oil and gas operations in the Gulf of Mexico critical to energy innovations needed to reduce carbon emissions; and

Whereas, Louisiana and its local economies, especially communities reliant on energy development and production, have felt an outsized impact from the COVID-19 pandemic and are expected to face a slower recovery than many other states because of our large service sector employment; and

Whereas, Louisiana already faces major budget shortfalls that will impact schools, emergency services, and other essential services; and

Whereas, under the provisions of the Gulf of Mexico Security Act, in 2019 alone energy production on the Outer Continental Shelf generated over \$155 million to the state of Louisiana used for coastal restoration and hurricane preparedness; and

Whereas, ensuring access to available leasing acreage on the Outer Continental Shelf will protect offshore energy production as an essential part of our state’s budget when our state and local governments need it the most; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the Louisiana Congressional Delegation and the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to defeat passage of the “Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act of 2020” and to protect future opportunities for oil and gas exploration on the Outer Continental Shelf; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation.

POM-262. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress and the Louisiana Congressional delegation to take such actions as are necessary to defeat passage of the “Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act of 2020” and to protect future opportunities for oil and gas exploration on the Outer Continental Shelf; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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Whereas, in an effort to restore coastal ecosystems, strengthen marine mammal conservation, reduce carbon emissions from shipping vessels, improve international ocean governance, and pursue other ocean-related solutions to the climate change crisis, the legislation seeks to end the federal offshore oil-leasing program; and

Whereas, although these pursuits sound laudable, it is important to remember that

the Louisiana oil and gas industry supports nearly two hundred and fifty thousand jobs inside the state of Louisiana and more in adjoining states, it accounts for fourteen percent of the state’s tax revenue, and supplies \$73 billion of the state’s gross domestic product; and

Whereas, an analysis has found that such a proposal, if enacted, would cause the loss of nearly one million jobs nationwide in the first twelve to twenty-four months, forty-eight thousand of which are located here in Louisiana; and

Whereas, this proposal would significantly reduce our domestic energy production, making our nation more dependent on less reliable, less safe foreign sources for energy produced under weaker environmental standards and a higher carbon footprint; and

Whereas, with energy demand expected to continue to rise until at least 2040, Louisiana currently produces nearly twenty percent of our nation’s energy, refines approximately forty-five percent of the total United States petroleum, and processes fifty-one percent of the nation’s natural gas; and

Whereas, while meeting this demand year after year, Louisiana energy producers are at the forefront of carbon emissions reduction technology development like carbon capture and storage that can capture ninety percent of carbon emissions from fossil fuels; and

Whereas, in addition, the offshore oil and gas industry in the United States operates under some of the most stringent environmental rules in the world and its infrastructure also supports some of the most abundant fish habitat providing fishing opportunities that have made Louisiana the “Sportsman’s Paradise”; and

Whereas, protecting leasing and production in the Outer Continental Shelf will help combat climate change by helping our state combat coastal land loss and sustain oil and gas operations in the Gulf of Mexico critical to energy innovations needed to reduce carbon emissions; and

Whereas, Louisiana and its local economies, especially communities reliant on energy development and production, have felt an outsized impact from the COVID-19 pandemic and are expected to face a slower recovery than many other states because of our large service sector employment; and

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Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation.