

This legislation builds off Riverside County's multiple species habitat conservation plan, allowing land that has already been acquired by the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority to be included in the new Federal wildlife refuge this bill would create.

Our bill would establish a new unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System—the Western Riverside County National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge would be comprised of donated lands from Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority, as well as any additional lands deemed appropriate by the Interior Department acquired from willing sellers or donors, including Federal, State, or local agencies, Tribes, or private land owners.

This refuge would not only create increased recreation, outdoor access, and educational opportunities in Southern California but also work to protect endangered species in the region like the arroyo toad, the southwestern willow flycatcher, and the quino checkerspot butterfly. These protections would in turn help streamline infrastructure projects and support smart growth and land management planning.

As temperatures continue to rise and California experiences another historic drought and wildfire season, it is more important than ever to ensure that we conserve green spaces. As I stated earlier, Riverside County's population is one of the fastest growing in the country, and it is well documented that human development can have damaging effects on the health of endangered and threatened species. Additionally, overdevelopment results in poor community health and well-being.

That is why smart, collaborative land management planning is our best option on how to move forward with a growing population and economy, while safeguarding the resources that keep our communities and wildlife populations healthy.

This bill would support the conservation of habitat for 146 different species in the region, including 33 species that are listed as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The acquisition boundary for the refuge was created in collaboration with the county, environmental groups and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The boundary area expands on local conservation efforts and increase access to green spaces, especially to underserved communities.

The coronavirus pandemic and recent extreme heat waves in our State have served to underscore the importance of ensuring access and preservation of open spaces, especially as our Nation's population grows and its cities expand.

This bill also meets the Biden administration's call to conserve 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030, an initiative known as America the Beautiful. We are proud the creation of this refuge would contribute to that important goal.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 4672. A bill to modify the authority of the Secretary of Defense to transfer excess aircraft to other departments of the Federal Government and to authorize the Secretary to transfer excess aircraft to the Governor of a State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. PADILLA, Mr. President, I rise to introduce the bipartisan Emergency Aircraft Act of 2022.

Currently, DOD has a program to transfer excess aircraft to Federal Agencies for wildfire suppression purposes. However, under current law, DOD is limited to providing only seven aircraft total to each Agency.

After years of increasingly catastrophic wildfires, it has become clear that the Federal Government must do more to support suppression efforts to get fires under control quickly, as well as support search and rescue to keep communities safe. If there are excess aircraft available, they should be put to use suppressing fires and protecting communities.

Furthermore, as fire activity has exploded in the past few years, States have stepped up and greatly increased their own suppression efforts. They should also be allowed to utilize these excess aircraft to increase suppression capabilities and put fires out faster. However, under current law, States do not have access to these excess aircraft.

This bill would remove the arbitrary cap on how many excess aircraft DOD can transfer to Federal Agencies for wildfire suppression efforts; allow States to receive excess aircraft; expand the purposes for which these aircraft could be used from just "wildfire suppression purposes" to include purposes of "wildfire suppression, search and rescue, or emergency operations pertaining to wildfires"; and mandate an annual report from DOD to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on aircraft transferred during the previous fiscal year.

This bill represents a commonsense step forward to expand fire suppression and search and rescue operations across the Federal Government and State governments.

I want to thank Senator CRAMER for joining me in this bipartisan effort, and I urge my colleagues to join us in working to pass this bill as quickly as possible in light of the extreme wildfire danger facing States across the country.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 727—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NEGOTIATE STRONG, INCLUSIVE, AND FORWARD-LOOKING RULES ON DIGITAL TRADE AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY WITH LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES AS PART OF ITS BROADER TRADE AND ECONOMIC STRATEGY IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE UNITED STATES VALUES OF DEMOCRACY, RULE OF LAW, FREEDOM OF SPEECH, HUMAN AND WORKER RIGHTS, PRIVACY, AND A FREE AND OPEN INTERNET ARE AT THE VERY CORE OF DIGITAL GOVERNANCE

Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. RES. 727

Whereas over half of the world's population, totaling more than 5,000,000,000 people, use the internet;

Whereas the digital economy encompasses the economic and social activity from billions of online connections among people, businesses, devices, and data as a result of the internet, mobile technology, and the internet of things;

Whereas the Bureau of Economic Analysis found that the digital economy contributed nearly 10.2 percent of United States gross domestic product and supported 7,800,000 United States jobs in 2020;

Whereas the technology-commerce ecosystem added 1,400,000 jobs between 2017 and 2021, and served as the main job-creating sector in 40 States;

Whereas United States jobs supported by the digital economy have sustained annual wage growth at a rate of 5.9 percent since 2010, as compared to a 4.2 percent for all jobs;

Whereas, in 2020, United States exports of digital services surpassed \$520,000,000,000, accounting for more than half of all United States services exports and generating a digital services trade surplus for the United States of \$214,000,000,000;

Whereas digital trade bolsters the digital economy by enabling the sale of goods on the internet and the supply of online services across borders and depends on the free flow of data across borders to promote commerce, manufacturing, and innovation;

Whereas digital trade has become increasingly vital to United States workers and businesses of all sizes, including the countless small and medium-sized enterprises that use digital technology, data flows, and e-commerce to export goods and services across the world;

Whereas digital trade has advanced entrepreneurship opportunities for women, people of color, and individuals from otherwise underrepresented backgrounds and enabled the formation of innovative start-ups;

Whereas international supply chains are becoming increasingly digitized and data driven and businesses in a variety of industries, such as construction, healthcare, transportation, and aerospace, invested heavily in digital supply chain technologies in 2020;

Whereas United States Trade Representative Katherine Tai said, "[T]here is no bright line separating digital trade from the digital

economy—or the ‘traditional’ economy for that matter. Nearly every aspect of our economy has been digitized to some degree.”;

Whereas industries outside of the technology sector, such as manufacturing and agriculture, are integrating digital technology into their businesses in order to increase efficiency, improve safety, reach new customers, and remain globally competitive;

Whereas the increasing reliance on digital technologies has modernized legacy processes, accelerated workflows, increased access to information and services, and strengthened security in a variety of industries, leading to better health, environmental, and safety outcomes;

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has led to increased uptake and reliance on digital technologies, data flows, and e-commerce;

Whereas 90 percent of adults in the United States say that the internet has been essential or important for them personally during the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas United States families, workers, and business owners have seen how vital access to the internet has been to daily life, as work, education, medicine, and communication with family and friends have shifted increasingly online;

Whereas many individuals and families, especially in rural and Tribal communities, struggle to participate in the digital economy because of a lack of access to a reliable and affordable internet connection;

Whereas new developments in technology must be deployed with consideration to the unique access challenges of rural, urban underserved, and vulnerable communities;

Whereas digital trade has the power to help level the playing field and uplift those in traditionally unrepresented or underrepresented communities;

Whereas countries have negotiated international rules governing digital trade in various bilateral and plurilateral agreements, but those rules remain fragmented, and no multilateral agreement on digital trade exists within the World Trade Organization;

Whereas the United States, through free trade agreements or other digital agreements, has been a leader in developing a set of rules and standards on digital governance and e-commerce that has helped allies and partners of the United States unlock the full economic and social potential of digital trade;

Whereas Congress recognizes the need for agreements on digital trade, as indicated by its support for a robust digital trade chapter in the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement;

Whereas other countries are operating under their own digital rules, some of which are contrary to democratic values shared by the United States and many allies and partners of the United States;

Whereas those countries are attempting to advance their own digital rules on a global scale;

Whereas examples of the plethora of non-tariff barriers to digital trade that have emerged around the globe include—

(1) overly restrictive data localization requirements and limitations on cross border data flows that do not achieve legitimate public policy objectives;

(2) intellectual property rights infringement;

(3) policies that make market access contingent on forced technology transfers or voluntary transfers subject to coercive terms;

(4) web filtering;

(5) economic espionage;

(6) cybercrime exposure; and

(7) government-directed theft of trade secrets;

Whereas certain countries are pursuing or have implemented digital policies that un-

fairly discriminate against innovative United States technology companies and United States workers that create and deliver digital products and services;

Whereas the Government of the People’s Republic of China is currently advancing a model for digital governance and the digital economy domestically and abroad through its Digital Silk Road Initiative that permits censorship, surveillance, human and worker rights abuses, forced technology transfers, and data flow restrictions at the expense of human and worker rights, privacy, the free flow of data, and an open internet;

Whereas the 2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices of the Department of State highlighted significant human rights issues committed by the People’s Republic of China in the digital realm, including “arbitrary interference with privacy; pervasive and intrusive technical surveillance and monitoring; serious restrictions on free expression, the press, and the internet, including physical attacks on and criminal prosecution of journalists, lawyers, writers, bloggers, dissidents, petitioners, and others as well as their family members, and censorship and site blocking”;

Whereas the United States discourages digital authoritarianism, including practices that undermine human and worker rights and result in other social and economic coercion;

Whereas allies and trading partners of the United States in the Indo-Pacific region have urged the United States to deepen economic engagement in the region by negotiating rules on digital trade and technology standards;

Whereas the digital economy has provided new opportunities for economic development, entrepreneurship, and growth in developing countries around the world;

Whereas negotiating strong digital trade principles and commitments with allies and partners across the globe enables the United States to unite like-minded economies around common standards and ensure that principles of democracy, rule of law, freedom of speech, human and worker rights, privacy, and a free and open internet are at the very core of digital governance;

Whereas United States leadership and substantive engagement is necessary to ensure that global digital rules reflect United States values so that workers are treated fairly, small businesses can compete and win in the global economy, and consumers are guaranteed the right to privacy and security;

Whereas the United States supports rules that reduce digital trade barriers, promote free expression and the free flow of information, enhance privacy protections, protect sensitive information, defend human and worker rights, prohibit forced technology transfer, and promote digitally enabled commerce; and

Whereas the United States supports efforts to cooperate with allies and trading partners to mitigate the risks of cyberattacks, address potentially illegal or deceptive business activities online, promote financial inclusion and digital workforce skills, and develop rules to govern the use of artificial intelligence and other emerging and future technologies: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States should negotiate strong, inclusive, forward-looking, and enforceable rules on digital trade and the digital economy with like-minded countries as part of a broader trade and economic strategy to address digital barriers and ensure that the United States values of democracy, rule of law, freedom of speech, human and worker rights, privacy, and a free and open

internet are at the very core of the digital world and advanced technology;

(2) in conducting such negotiations, the United States must—

(A) pursue digital trade rules that—

(i) serve the best interests of workers, consumers, and small and medium-sized enterprises;

(ii) empower United States workers;

(iii) fuel wage growth; and

(iv) lead to materially positive economic outcomes for all people in the United States;

(B) ensure that any future agreement prevents the adoption of non-democratic, coercive, or overly restrictive policies that would be obstacles to a free and open internet and harm the ability of the e-commerce marketplace to continue to grow and thrive;

(C) coordinate sufficient trade-related assistance to ensure that developing countries can improve their capacity and benefit from increased digital trade; and

(D) consult closely with all relevant stakeholders, including workers, consumers, small and medium-sized enterprises, civil society groups, and human rights advocates; and

(3) with respect to any negotiations for an agreement facilitating digital trade, the United States Trade Representative and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies must—

(A) consult closely and on a timely basis with the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives about the substance of those negotiations and the requisite legal authority to bind the United States to any such agreement;

(B) keep both committees fully apprised of those negotiations; and

(C) provide to those committees, including staff with appropriate security clearances, adequate access to the text of the negotiating proposal of the United States before presenting the proposal in the negotiations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 728—COM-
MENDING THE BRAVERY, COUR-
AGE, AND RESOLVE OF THE
HUMAN RIGHTS AND PRO-DE-
MOCRACY ACTIVISTS IN CUBA
ONE YEAR AFTER THE HISTORIC
MARCH LED BY SUCH ACTIVISTS
THROUGH THE STREETS OF
CUBA TO EXERCISE THE FUNDA-
MENTAL RIGHT TO PEACEFULLY
ASSEMBLE AND SPEAK OUT
AGAINST THE HUMAN RIGHTS
ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY THE
BRUTAL, TOTALITARIAN, AND
ILLEGITIMATE COMMUNIST RE-
GIME IN CUBA

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. BRAUN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 728

Whereas July 11, 2022, marked 1 year since the largest anti-government demonstration in Cuba when thousands of brave protestors took to the streets in more than 40 cities to peacefully demand access to fundamental freedoms and civil liberties and call for an end to communism, censorship, and the oppressive leadership of the Communist regime in Cuba;

Whereas the regime, in an attempt to silence the Cuban people, responded to the demonstration with a wave of terror, repression, and criminalization and detained and persecuted more than 1,400 protestors;