

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Kuwait—Cartridge Actuated Device/Propellant Actuated Devices (CAD/PAD) and Support

The Government of Kuwait has requested to buy additional Cartridge Actuated Device/Propellant Actuated Devices (CAD/PAD) and support that will be added to a previously implemented case that was under Congressional notification threshold. The original FMS case, valued at \$48.2 million, included CAD/PAD items and support for Calendar Years 2025–2026 (CY25–CY26). This notification is for CAD/PAD items and support of Kuwait's F/A-18 and KC-130/J aircraft fleet. Also included is engineering, technical, and program support and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated cost is \$59.1 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a Major Non-NATO ally that has been an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will provide Kuwait with the equipment and sustainment support necessary to maintain its air defense capacity to defend its territorial integrity and to meet its national defense requirements. Kuwait will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors are currently unknown, as there will be competitive contract solicitations after FMS case implementation. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this sale will not require the assignment of any U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Kuwait.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-04

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. Cartridge Actuated Device/Propellant Actuated Device (CAD/PADs) are the explosive devices installed within the aircraft escape and safety systems to save lives during emergencies. CAD/PAD are also used to power the aircraft systems that deploy weapons and jettison equipment.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is UNCLASSIFIED.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures or equivalent systems which might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that the Government of Kuwait can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Kuwait.

ISRAEL

Ms. KLOBUCHER. Mr. President, I rise to talk about recent developments in Israel. Israel is America's ally and partner in intelligence and defense. Our Nation's relationship with Israel is built upon shared democratic values that have united our countries throughout the last 75 years.

The decision this week of the Netanyahu government in Israel to suspend the proposed judicial legislation opens the door for Israelis to find a path forward. For Israel to remain a bedrock for democracies globally, it must have an independent judiciary, support for the rule of law, and a system of proper checks and balances.

 TRIBUTE TO DARNELL DEMASTERS

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the career of Darnell DeMasters, who will retire from her position as vice president of Federal Government Affairs at WEC Energy Group on April 4.

Over the past 25 years, Darnell has worked on behalf of customers in Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, and Minnesota, advocating for their energy needs before Congress and ensuring lawmakers understand the impact of legislation on their constituents. Prior to her time with WEC Energy Group, Darnell spent many years on Capitol Hill and later transitioned to positions in government affairs for the Duquesne Light Company and General Public Utilities.

Darnell was also instrumental in re-establishing and leading the Wisconsin Group, a nonpartisan, nonadvocacy organization to discuss public policy matters and government actions affecting Wisconsin's business, educational, public sector, and political communities.

Outside of her working hours, Darnell is an active member of the executive board of The Woman's Club of Fairfax, GFWC, a unified group of women dedicated to enhancing the lives of families and strengthening their community through charitable work, donations, and volunteer service.

I am fortunate to have worked with Darnell in her capacity at WEC Energy Group for many years. Her efforts to re-establish the Wisconsin Group as a forum to connect Wisconsinites and Wisconsin organizations in Washington, DC, have proven to be valuable, and my staff and I have regularly enjoyed the connection and community they have fostered.

I know Darnell's colleagues will miss her thoughtful and expert guidance, good humor, and deep knowledge. I am grateful for all of the work Darnell has done for the people of Wisconsin, and I wish her all the best as she begins a new chapter in her retirement.

 TRIBUTE TO REVEREND JOSEPH ELLWANGER

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the exceptional career and life of Rev. Joseph Ellwanger. Reverend Ellwanger is a pillar of the Milwaukee community and has left an indelible mark on the lives of so many. From his early career as a pastor in Alabama standing with civil rights leaders, to his ongoing work to reintegrate formerly incarcerated people into their home communities, Rev. Joseph Ellwanger has put into action his faith to affirm all people.

Reverend Ellwanger was born in St. Louis, MO, but grew up in Selma, AL. He left his childhood home when St. Paul Lutheran Church, an African-American congregation in Birmingham, requested a pastoral candidate. During his time with St. Paul's he joined the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's fight for civil rights. Reverend Ellwanger attended civil rights meetings and eventually received an invitation to meet with the SCLC's steering committee, where he met Dr. Martin Luther King. Reverend Ellwanger was the lone White pastor to join the movement, and he stood undeterred by challenges from his conservative denomination. He recruited both students and clergy to join with him in the civil rights movement. On March 6, 1965, the day before Bloody Sunday, Ellwanger led a group of 72 White Alabamians to Selma to participate in the Concerned White Citizens march supporting voting rights for African-Americans.

Reverend Ellwanger joined the National Council of Christian Churches and met with President Lyndon Johnson after Bloody Sunday. This meeting brought together a group of clergymen from a broad spectrum of denominations to communicate to President Johnson that the religious community supported the Voting Rights Act.

Reverend Ellwanger's work for equal justice has been ongoing. From Alabama, he moved to Milwaukee, WI, where he was a Lutheran pastor for decades. He continues to work for voting rights and is a founding member of Project RETURN to help individuals who have experienced incarceration make a positive, permanent return to community, family, and friends.

As Reverend Ellwanger celebrates his 90th birthday, I am pleased to join others in recognizing the contributions he has made to the people of Milwaukee, our State, and our Nation.

 TRIBUTE TO SCOTT LEONARD

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the long career of Scott Leonard, of Milwaukee, as he retires from Amtrak after 19 years of dedicated service. Born in Milwaukee on April 2, 1961, he graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1984. His first job was with the blood services division of the American Red Cross, first in Wisconsin, then in Washington, DC.

Scott always loved trains, especially passenger trains. As a child, he would ride some of the storied trains that travelled through the Badger State. His interest and passion for the railroad led him to a position with the National Association of Railroad Passengers—NARP—an advocacy group supporting the growth of rail passenger services in the United States. There, he worked with the membership of the association to advance ideas to Amtrak for improved service and to communicate back to NARP what they could do to support Amtrak. Scott was an ever-present figure on Capitol Hill providing information and support to the Members and their staffs as they worked on the important rail bills of the late 1980s and 90s.

In 2004, Scott joined Amtrak's government affairs office and was responsible for handling congressional correspondence, managing special projects, and assisting with VIP travel. He is well regarded for his thorough and prompt replies to queries and ability to provide personal and professional service to inquiries or complaints. Members of Congress, foreign dignitaries and other important passengers came to know Scott on a first-name basis as he met or escorted them to the station or their train. Leaving the office and headed to the station, suit and tie, clipboard in hand, his friends in government affairs would say: "Somebody is about to get the Scott Leonard Treatment." For many, he was Amtrak, a recognized face in the crowd, a measure of consistency in a harried world.

Scott also holds the unique distinction of travelling every mile of Amtrak's 21,400-route system, one of only two people known to have that achievement. As in every large endeavor such as this, one needs a playbook or guide so others may follow on a clear and consistent path of requirements. In a system as large as Amtrak's, there are many anomalies. Scott organized the "playbook" right to down the last switch, siding, and alternative route options. There are others chasing this goal, and maybe someday there will be created the "Leonard Prize" for those who do indeed cover that last mile. In addition to his knowledge of Amtrak's system, he can recite the beginning and end of the U.S. highway system and possesses excellent mapmaking skills and a deep knowledge of American geography.

Some might say that Scott was lucky to get a job that allowed him to pursue his passions and interest. However, the truth is that Amtrak was lucky to have Scott. He lives the values of the company every day, and he is a beloved colleague to those around him. His former boss in government affairs once said that "if there were ever a human cloning opportunity, Scott would be No. 1 on the list."

Soon, Scott will retire from service at Amtrak and return to Wisconsin with his husband, Kevin. They will set-

tle in a historic property in Racine, not far from the Hiawatha line where friends and family alike can keep an ear out for the whistles and sounds of trains racing by.

Scott, thank you for your dedication and long service to Amtrak—America's Railroad. May you and Kevin have a long, happy, and healthy retirement.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO FRANK THOMAS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Frank Thomas who is retiring as vice president and assistant to the chairman at Stephens, Inc., after a long and dedicated career advocating on behalf of Arkansas. In his 27 years at Stephens, Inc., he was responsible for a number of duties, including outreach to elected officials as leader of the government affairs office, but his service and impact on Arkansas started long before.

Frank first pursued a career in journalism while attending the University of Arkansas. He served as the student station manager of KUAF before assuming the role of news director. He went on to work as a reporter at television and radio stations in Michigan and New York. He was called to continue serving Arkansas as an adviser to U.S. Senator David where he served in a number of capacities, including as the Senator's chief of staff.

In 2019, Frank was inducted into the University of Arkansas's Lemke Alumni Society's Hall of Honor in recognition of graduates who have enjoyed distinguished careers in journalism, brought honor and integrity to their respective communities and contributed to the growth of the school. Frank's expansive career has given him valuable experience and a wealth of knowledge that he was kind enough to share with Arkansas interns interested in serving The Natural State through my office's summer internship speaker series. Throughout his life, he has represented the very best of a public servant.

I am grateful for the friendship we have built and for his advice. I wish Frank and wife Sylvia much happiness as he begins a well-deserved retirement. I am confident their family, son John, daughter Lauren, and granddaughter Finley are excited for this next chapter.●

TRIBUTE TO SHEILA R. TILLERSON ADAMS

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I would like to offer my congratulations the Honorable Sheila R. Tillerson Adams on her recent retirement as chief and administrative judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County and Seventh Judicial Circuit of Maryland and to thank her for her long career of distinguished public service. Judge Adams served as the administrative judge for 12 years.

Judge Adams has been a trailblazer, the first Black woman to serve as a judge in Prince George's County. She graduated from Morgan State University in May 1979 with a bachelor of science degree in psychology, cum laude. She received her juris doctor degree from Howard University School of Law in May 1982 and a master of laws in taxation from Georgetown University Law Center in May 1987. She gained admission to the Maryland Bar in June 1983, the Federal Bar in July 1983, and the Supreme Court in May 1992.

Judge Adams began her legal career in 1982 and, in 1984, became only the second Black female State's attorney in Prince George's County, after being hired by the State's attorney at the time, Arthur M. "Bud" Marshall. She was appointed by then-Governor William Donald Schaefer to the District Court of Maryland in Prince George's County in June 1993. She served with distinction in that capacity for 3 years before she was elevated to the Circuit Court for Prince George's County by Governor Schaefer's successor, Parris Glendening, in 1996. On September 4, 2010, following the Retirement of Judge William D. Missouri, then-Maryland Court of Appeals Chief Judge Robert M. Bell appointed her as administrative judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County and the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Maryland.

Judge Adams led the court through floods and fire that damaged court facilities and the COVID-19 pandemic. She persevered. While she served as chief and administrative judge, Judge Adams articulated a vision statement to exemplify the court's goals when providing judicial services: "The Circuit Court Welcomes All—A Forum for Justice." This statement has served as the foundation for every initiative, program, and goal at the court. Judge Adams expanded the Problem-Solving Courts to provide greater assistance to youth and adults facing a myriad of challenges. She established the Veterans, Re-Entry, Truancy Reduction, Juvenile Diversion, and Back on Track Courts to help people who have served in the military, people who struggle with substance issues, students with truancy problems, and the formerly incarcerated succeed in life. Through counseling, rehabilitation services, and intense monitoring, these programs are changing lives for the better every day. Judge Adams also focused on providing resources and assistance to survivors of elder abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, and sex trafficking with the creation of the Prince George's County Family Justice Center—PGCFJC—an initiative of the circuit court. With more than 21 on-site partners, the PGCFJC provides a full array of co-located services through a coordinated, collaborative, and hope-centered advocacy model. Local government and private community-based organizations work together and efficiently meet survivors' needs.