

also across our Nation. The Alaska Railroad, its builders, operators, and leaders have been foundational to Alaska's development for a century. Throughout its storied history, the railroad has supported war efforts, transported passengers between Alaska's largest cities, helped build the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, invested in real estate, and facilitated tourism and commerce across miles of my State's remote and wild landscapes.

It took decades of twists and turns before the Alaska Railroad Corporation charged forth. What would later become the ARRC laid the first track in Alaska in 1903, starting in Seward and extending 50 miles north. In 1914, the U.S. Congress, acknowledging the national importance of expanding the railroad, funded construction and operations from Seward to Fairbanks at an estimated construction cost of \$35 million.

On July 15, 1923, President Warren G. Harding drove a golden spike into the ground at Nenana, uniting the track and marking the completion of the Alaska Railroad. During World War II, from 1940–1943, the railroad played a key role in moving military and civilian supplies that were essential in supporting the war efforts. In 1943, two tunnels were built through the Chugach Mountains to allow rail access to Whittier, a military port and fuel depot essential to the Nation's defense. This important partnership with the U.S. military continues to this day.

In 1962, the railroad established its first car-barge service in Whittier, followed by train-ship service, revolutionizing Alaska by enabling rail cars from the lower 48 to be shipped to any point along the Alaska Railroad. In the early to mid-1970s, the railroad supported construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline; shipping and storing pipeline between Valdez, Seward, and Fairbanks, from where it was then trucked to the North Slope. In 1981, the railroad entered into agreements with Fairbanks and Anchorage school district career centers for a tour guide program that trained high school students to serve as hosts onboard summer passenger trains.

In 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed into law the authorization of the transfer of the Alaska Railroad to the State of Alaska. Shortly thereafter, the Alaska Railroad Corporation was born. By 1996, the ARRC showed a profit of \$8.0 million and passenger ridership had grown to 512,000. Former Governor Bill Sheffield became CEO in 1997. In the early 2000s, the Alaska Railroad Corporation's real estate operations exceeded \$11 million in profits for the first time and a web-based passenger reservation system was implemented. Simultaneously, the Alaska Railroad began a program to reduce diesel emissions and noise. 2003 was the railroad's most profitable and safe year in its history up until that point.

In 2013, the Railroad's own Bill O'Leary was named CEO, becoming the

first lifelong Alaskan to lead the railroad. Today, the ARRC operates a regularly scheduled public transportation service connecting Alaskans and visitors to communities from Seward to Fairbanks. Passengers gain access to wonderfully remote regions and areas off the road system including Alaska's Chugach National Forest and Denali National Park, which are visited by hundreds of thousands of people annually.

Like Alaska itself, the Alaska Railroad's story is full of peaks and valleys. Every mile of this legendary railroad was earned through grit, bravery, skill and sweat. Alaska Railroad Corporation trains are iconic symbols, in Alaska and around the world, of the "can do" spirit of Alaskans. The railroad's irreplaceable team, as much as the iron and steel of the locomotives, have served as foundational infrastructure driving economic development in The Last Frontier. I respectfully urge my fellow Members of the 118th Congress to join the proud Members of the Alaska Delegation in congratulating and thanking the Alaska Railroad Corporation for 100 years of service to our State and to our Nation.●

RECOGNIZING THE TRINITY SCHOOL OF DURHAM AND CHAPEL HILL 6TH GRADE HISTORY BOWL TEAM

● Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Trinity School of Durham and Chapel Hill 6th grade history bowl team consisting of Devlin Smith, Chloe Blumhofer, Shya Khosla, and Joshua Glass. This team proudly represented the great State of North Carolina at the 2023 National History Bowl Championships, which is one of the largest quiz bowl tournaments in the world.

Qualifying for the national championships is a great achievement in itself. The young scholars were required to pass a rigorous qualifying test of 50 questions that needed to be completed within 20 minutes. Exceptional performers were then invited to compete in the regional finals, and the most highly qualified participants at the regional finals were invited to the national championships.

North Carolina is proud of the accomplishments of these young scholars and their representation of our State at the national championships, where they finished in the top 20 and came so very close to qualifying for the world championship in Rome, Italy.

It was an incredible performance and a testament to their skills and dedication to expanding their knowledge. I wish them all the best as they continue to pursue their academic endeavors in the next school year. We all can't wait to see what you do next.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to

the Senate by Mrs. Stringer, 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.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO HOSTAGE-TAKING AND THE WRONGFUL DETENTION OF UNITED STATES NATIONALS ABROAD THAT WAS GLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 14078 OF JULY 19, 2022—PM 19

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to hostage-taking and the wrongful detention of United States nationals abroad declared in Executive Order 14078 of July 19, 2022, is to continue in effect beyond July 19, 2023.

Hostage-taking and the wrongful detention of United States nationals are heinous acts that undermine the rule of law. Terrorist organizations, criminal groups, and other malicious actors who take hostages for financial, political, or other gain—as well as foreign states that engage in the practice of wrongful detention, including for political leverage or to seek concessions from the United States—threaten the integrity of the international political system and the safety of United States nationals and other persons abroad. Hostage-taking and the wrongful detention of United States nationals abroad continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 14078 with respect

to hostage-taking and the wrongful detention of United States nationals abroad.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 12, 2023.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:28 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1096. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the United States Marine Corps, and to support programs at the Marine Corps Heritage Center.

H.R. 1548. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to specify that actions of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation are not a collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act.

H.R. 2622. An act to amend the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 to codify certain Securities and Exchange Commission no-action letters that exclude brokers and dealers compensated for certain research services from the definition of investment adviser, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1548. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to specify that actions of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation are not a collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 2622. An act to amend the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 to codify certain Securities and Exchange Commission no-action letters that exclude brokers and dealers compensated for certain research services from the definition of investment adviser, 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-1601. A communication from the Security Officer II of the Office of Senate Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report regarding amending the foreign terrorist organization designations, Section 219 of INA (U) (OSS-2023-0611); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1602. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 14078 with respect to hostage-taking and the wrongful detention of United States nationals abroad; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1603. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification of intent to provide assistance to Ukraine, including for self-defense and border security operations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1604. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Depart-

ment of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification of intent to provide assistance to Ukraine, including for self-defense and border security operations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1605. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Determination Under Section 506(a) (1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA) to Provide Military Assistance to Ukraine"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1606. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Determination Under Section 506(a) (1) and Section 614(a) (1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA) to Provide Military Assistance to Ukraine"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1607. 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 2023-0040 - 2023-0051); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1608. A communication from the Chair of the Commission on International Religious Freedom, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's 2023 Annual Report; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1609. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Removal of the Vaccine Requirements for Head Start Programs" (RIN0970-AC90) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1610. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing Benefits" (29 CFR Part 4044) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1611. A communication from the Secretary to the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the actuarial status of the railroad retirement system; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1612. A communication from the Senior Advisor, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director of the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 22, 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1613. A communication from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2023 annual report on the financial status of the railroad unemployment insurance system; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1614. A communication from the Director of the Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the period of October 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1615. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Federal Elec-

tion Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1616. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and a Management Report for the period from October 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1617. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1618. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and a Management Report for the period from October 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1619. A communication from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Executive Branch Financial Disclosure and Standards of Ethical Conduct Regulations" (RIN3209-AA68) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 22, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1620. A communication from the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2022 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1621. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's fiscal year 2022 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1622. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Federal Equal Opportunity Recruitment Program (FEORP) for Fiscal Year 2020"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1623. 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 2023-04, Introduction" (FAC 2023-04) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 22, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1624. A communication from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Legal Expense Fund Regulation" (RIN3209-AA50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 22, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1625. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report and the Management Response for the period of