

been unresolved for decades and which may not be resolved for many years to come, due in part to the complex and significant issues typically involved in water rights adjudication and settlements;

Whereas the development of water infrastructure on Federal Indian reservations, in particular, has frequently been conditioned on the settlement of Tribal reserved water rights and has been prevented or delayed by—

(1) continuing uncertainty over the status of Tribal water rights;

(2) the years-long process of Tribal water rights settlements; or

(3) conflict over the quantification of Tribal reserved water rights in State water rights adjudications;

Whereas the quantity of water that would be required to supply reliable, clean drinking water to provide for the basic needs of each Native community is typically only a small fraction of the total quantity water allocated to the Native community;

Whereas the trust responsibility of the Federal Government to Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Villages, and Native Hawaiian communities requires the Federal Government to ensure the survival and welfare of Native Americans, and the failure to provide basic water service cannot be reconciled with this trust responsibility;

Whereas the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) affirmed the trust responsibility of the Federal Government to support Tribal self-governance and self-determination, and these goals cannot be fully realized without addressing inequities, including ensuring access to reliable, clean drinking water for every Tribal community;

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic provided a stark reminder that access to reliable, clean drinking water to support basic hygiene is a matter of life or death for all individuals of the United States and Native communities suffer disproportionate impacts during epidemics and disasters due to a multitude of factors, including—

(1) persistent economic disadvantages on Federal Indian reservations, in Alaska Native Villages, and in Native Hawaiian communities;

(2) lack of on-reservation affordable and safe housing; and

(3) lack of public health infrastructure, including access to running water;

Whereas, on January 27, 2021, President Biden issued Executive Order 14008 (86 Fed. Reg. 7619; relating to tackling the climate crisis), which provides that it is the policy of the Biden Administration to secure environmental justice and spur economic opportunity for disadvantaged communities that have been historically marginalized and overburdened by pollution and underinvestment in housing, transportation, water and wastewater infrastructure, and health care;

Whereas, through the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58; 135 Stat. 429) (referred to in this preamble as “IIJA”) and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-169; 136 Stat. 1818) (referred to in this preamble as “IRA”), Congress has provided funding for the Indian Health Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Bureau of Reclamation to support the construction and repair of Tribal clean water infrastructure, but inadequate resources are available to Tribes to assist them with accessing these construction and repair funding programs, and to support Tribal operation and maintenance of water infrastructure, which is necessary to successfully implement the historic investment in clean water infrastructure;

Whereas many Native communities need technical assistance to ensure that the Native communities can—

(1) access and take advantage of the new construction funding made available through the IIJA and IRA;

(2) develop the managerial, financial, and regulatory framework necessary for a fully functional and self-sustaining utility; and

(3) engage appropriate outside support to assist, as needed;

Whereas advances in water technology, including treatment, sensors, and innovative pipeline materials, can assist in—

(1) accelerating efforts to provide universal access to reliable, clean, and drinkable water for all Native communities; and

(2) enhancing resilience in the face of climate change;

Whereas it is in the interest of the United States, and it is the policy of the United States, that all existing Native communities be provided with safe and adequate water supply systems as soon as practicable; and

Whereas appropriate funding at the level of unmet need and a “whole-of-government” approach among all Federal agencies are both essential to provide a meaningful solution to the lack of access to clean water in Native communities: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That—

(1) it is the sense of the Senate that—

(A) access to reliable, clean drinking water is an essential human need, and such access on Federal Indian reservations, Alaska Native villages, and in Native Hawaiian communities is—

(i) critical to the health, well-being, and economic development of the individuals living on those lands and in those communities; and

(ii) integral to maintaining the public health of the people of the United States;

(B) settlement or adjudication of Tribal claims of reserved water rights is not and should not be a prerequisite to the provision of this basic human service to households located in Native communities, nor should the provision of basic human services be used to leverage the resolution of Tribal reserved water rights and claims;

(C) the provision of reliable, clean drinking water to support the domestic requirements of Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Villages, and Native Hawaiian communities is an essential component of the Federal trust responsibility to Native Americans and critical to supporting permanent homelands;

(D) while funding for safe drinking water systems for Native communities received a significant and groundbreaking boost from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58; 135 Stat. 429) (referred to in this resolution as “IIJA”) and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-169; 136 Stat. 1818) (referred to in this resolution as “IRA”), the funding made available for construction and repair of domestic water systems in Native communities is not a complete solution;

(E) technical assistance is urgently needed to allow Native communities to plan and design the systems necessary to remedy the longstanding problem of lack of access to clean drinking water and bring those plans to the “shovel ready” stage where Native communities can take advantage of available construction funding;

(F) Native communities need support to develop the managerial, financial, and regulatory capacity necessary for a fully functional and self-sustaining utility and to support the operation and maintenance of water systems; and

(G) further measures are necessary to ensure that the benefits of the historic investments made by the IIJA and IRA in infrastructure are fully realized; and

(2) the Senate—

(A) calls upon the Federal executive branch to—

(i) work in collaboration with the relevant Native governmental entities and State and local jurisdictions to expedite the planning, design, development, and operation of the infrastructure necessary to provide reliable, clean drinking water on Federal Indian reservations, in Alaska Native Villages, and in Native Hawaiian communities; and

(ii) inform Congress of further authorizations and expenditures that may be necessary to meet the objective described in clause (i);

(B) calls upon the Federal executive branch to—

(i) employ a “whole-of-government” approach to ensure the provision of reliable, clean drinking water to households on Federal Indian reservations, in Alaska Native villages, and in Native Hawaiian communities;

(ii) create an interagency task force consisting of high-level representatives from departments and agencies with authority to provide water infrastructure that will work to remove barriers, optimize funding, and make immediate and tangible progress on meeting the objective described in clause (i); and

(iii) report annually to Congress on the progress toward the objective described in clause (i); and

(C) calls upon the Federal executive branch, State governments, and affected water agencies to—

(i) affirmatively support de-coupling the planning, design, development, and operation of water infrastructure from the settlement or adjudication of Tribal reserved water rights; and

(ii) support the development of water infrastructure necessary to provide reliable, clean drinking water in Native communities independent of settlements or adjudications of Tribal reserved water rights.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 356—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 18 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 24, 2023, AS “RAIL SAFETY WEEK” IN THE UNITED STATES AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF RAIL SAFETY WEEK TO REDUCE HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSING AND TRESPASSER-RELATED INCIDENTS, FATALITIES, AND INJURIES, REDUCE DERAILMENTS, IMPROVE THE SAFE TRANSPORTATION OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS BY RAIL, AND PREVENT RAIL WORKER FATALITIES**

Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. VANCE, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. FETTERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 356

Whereas the first Rail Safety Week was held from September 24 through September 30, 2017, by the national education safety nonprofit organization Operation Lifesaver, the Department of Transportation, and other organizations;

Whereas Rail Safety Week was launched to raise awareness about the need for increased education on how to be safe around highway-rail grade crossings and railroad tracks and to highlight efforts to further reduce collisions, injuries, and fatalities;

Whereas highway-rail grade crossing and trespassing incidents constituted approximately 94 percent of all rail-related fatalities during 2022;

Whereas, under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58; 135 Stat. 429), Congress provided \$3,000,000,000 during a 5-year period for the Railroad Crossing Elimination grant program to help local communities construct highway-rail grade separation projects to eliminate crossings;

Whereas, in 2022, 50 percent of all highway-rail grade crossing collisions and 64 percent of all fatal highway-rail grade crossing collisions occurred at gated highway-rail grade crossings;

Whereas preliminary Federal statistics indicate that 2,197 highway-grade crossing collisions occurred in the United States in 2022, resulting in 274 deaths and another 812 individuals being injured;

Whereas many collisions between trains and motor vehicles or pedestrians could have been prevented by increased education, engineering, and enforcement;

Whereas Operation Lifesaver, the foremost nonprofit organization with respect to rail safety, administers a public education program about grade-crossing safety and trespassing prevention;

Whereas, during Rail Safety Week, from September 18 through 24, 2023, and throughout the year, everyone is encouraged to take added caution as motorists or pedestrians approach tracks or trains;

Whereas the February 3, 2023, Norfolk Southern train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, which resulted in the burning of 6 vinyl chloride tank cars and forced the evacuation of approximately 2,000 nearby residents, was a reminder of the risks posed by hazardous materials transportation;

Whereas preliminary 2022 Federal statistics indicate that—

(1) Class I freight railroads had the highest derailment rate in the past decade;

(2) the number of derailments per 1,000,000 miles traveled among Class I freight railroads has increased by 14 percent since 2012; and

(3) more than 43,000 rail workers have been injured and 135 rail workers have been killed on duty since 2012;

Whereas the United States, Canada, and Mexico will concurrently observe Rail Safety Week; and

Whereas this important observance should lead to greater safety awareness and a reduction in highway-rail grade crossing collisions, derailments, rail worker fatalities, and other railroad incidents: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of “Rail Safety Week”;

(2) expresses strong support for—

(A) the goals and ideals of Rail Safety Week;

(B) efforts to reduce highway-rail grade crossing and trespasser-related incidents, fatalities, and injuries;

(C) efforts by the Federal Railroad Administration to improve safety cultures at Class I freight railroads;

(D) efforts by the National Transportation Safety Board to investigate the February 3, 2023, Norfolk Southern derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, and the safety culture at Norfolk Southern;

(E) the residents of East Palestine, Ohio, Western Pennsylvania, and all other communities impacted by the derailment and release of hazardous materials on February 3, 2023;

(F) the brave actions of first responders who combat releases of hazardous materials across the United States, including the brave actions of the more than 300 firefighters

from 50 fire departments who responded to the February 3, 2023, derailment in East Palestine, Ohio; and

(G) rail workers who have died or been injured while working to keep people and goods moving throughout the United States and the families of those rail workers; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) to participate in Rail Safety Week events and activities;

(B) to educate themselves and others on how to be safe around railroad tracks; and

(C) to support efforts to improve the safe transportation of hazardous material by rail.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 357—RECOGNIZING THE FORMATION OF THE ALLIANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT IN DEMOCRACY AND URGING THE UNITED STATES TO PURSUE DEEPER TIES WITH ITS MEMBER COUNTRIES

Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RISCH, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 357

Whereas, on September 22, 2021, Presidents Luis Abinader of the Dominican Republic, Laurentino Cortizo of the Republic of Panama, and Carlos Alvarado of the Republic of Costa Rica met in New York during the opening of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly to form the Alliance for Development in Democracy (referred to in this preamble as the “ADD”);

Whereas the member countries of the ADD have committed to work through the ADD to advance institutions that protect the rule of law and individual freedoms;

Whereas the ADD promotes regional integration by strengthening cultural, commercial, and demographic ties in the context of free, peaceful, and democratic societies;

Whereas the Department of Defense and the Department of State have repeatedly emphasized that the economic encroachment of the Government of the People’s Republic of China into the Western Hemisphere is coercive and represents an acute threat to the national security of the United States and of allies of the United States in the Western Hemisphere;

Whereas, during the years preceding the date of adoption of this resolution, United States trade has doubled with the Republic of Costa Rica and the Republic of Panama, and tripled with the Dominican Republic;

Whereas, combined, the three founding members of the ADD represent the third-largest trading partner of the United States in the Western Hemisphere;

Whereas, on December 10, 2021, the ADD formed a business council to promote the development of trade, investment, and commerce between the ADD and the United States;

Whereas, on June 10, 2022, Canada, a critical ally and strategic partner of the United States, and the members of the ADD issued a joint statement committing to working together to address democratic challenges and to prevent the erosion of democracy in the Western Hemisphere;

Whereas, on June 16, 2022, the Republic of Ecuador formally joined the ADD as the fourth member of the ADD;

Whereas, on July 25, 2022, the United States and the founding members of the ADD signed a memorandum of understanding to advance the Consultative Dialogue on Supply Chains and Economic Growth between

the United States and the ADD to strengthen supply chain resiliency; and

Whereas the ADD has sought to comprehensively address the migratory flows that transit through territories within the jurisdiction of the member countries of the ADD: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Dominican Republic, the Republic of Panama, and the Republic of Costa Rica for forming the Alliance for Development in Democracy (referred to in this resolution as the “ADD”), and the Republic of Ecuador for ascending to the ADD;

(2) affirms that the ADD provides a counterweight to the growing influence of autocratic and anti-United States forces in the Western Hemisphere;

(3) calls on the President to—

(A) pursue and prioritize engagement with the ADD regarding the full spectrum of the national security and economic interests of the United States in the Western Hemisphere; and

(B) deepen regional integration on economic issues including increasing trade, expanding market access, and integrating investment markets throughout the Western Hemisphere, including by pursuing nearshoring, reshoring, and friendshoring initiatives; and

(4) calls on the President to use the diplomatic capital of the United States, including the voice and vote of the United States in international organizations, to support member countries of the ADD in promoting policies that—

(A) enhance the regional integration specified in paragraph (3)(B) by strengthening democratic institutions and promoting economic prosperity;

(B) strengthen the critical infrastructure of those countries, such as ports, airports, and other logistical assets to facilitate regional trade;

(C) manage migrant flows across the Western Hemisphere and within the jurisdiction of those countries;

(D) counter corruption, organized crime, and illegal drug trafficking across the Western Hemisphere and within the jurisdiction of those countries; and

(E) strengthen the resiliency of supply chains critical to foreign investment and trade with those countries.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 358—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 17 THROUGH 23, 2023, AS NATIONAL ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY WEEK

Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 358

Whereas the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development reports that more than 43,000,000 adults in the United States lack the basic literacy, numeracy, and digital skills necessary to succeed at home, in the workplace, and in society;

Whereas the literacy of the people of the United States is essential for the economic and societal well-being and the national security of the United States;

Whereas the United States reaps the economic benefits of individuals who improve their literacy, numeracy, and English-language skills;

Whereas literacy and educational skills are necessary for individuals to fully benefit