

S.J. Res. 24 would overturn a science-based rulemaking that follows the requirements of the law, and thereby undermines the ESA. Bats are critical to healthy, functioning ecosystems and contribute at least \$3 billion annually to the United States agriculture economy through pest control and pollination. If enacted, S.J. Res. 24 would undermine America's proud wildlife conservation traditions and risk extinction of the species.

Therefore, I am vetoing this resolution.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 26, 2023.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the veto messages with respect to S.J. Res. 9 and S.J. Res. 24 be considered at times to be determined by the majority leader in concurrence with the Republican leader prior to October 4; that there be up to 2 hours for debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees on each resolution; that the Senate then vote on passage of each joint resolution, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 365, S. Res. 366, S. Res. 367, S. Res. 368, and S. Res. 369.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MORNING BUSINESS

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REHABILITATION ACT

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I rise today to highlight the importance of the Rehabilitation Act and to recognize the law's significance as we celebrate its 50th birthday today.

The Rehabilitation Act prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in programs that receive Federal funding. It helped lay the foundation for the Americans with Disabilities Act, which wasn't signed into law until almost two decades later. But aside from that, the anniversary of the Rehabilitation Act also serves as a re-

minder that we are where we are now because of the sheer willpower of disability activists from across the country—activists like my late friend Judy Heumann, whom I can't help but remember today.

Even though the Rehabilitation Act was signed into law in 1973, it was not implemented until 4 years later, and that was only after hundreds of disabled activists sat in and occupied Federal buildings across the country. At San Francisco's sit-in, which lasted for weeks, protestors like Judy refused to be moved. Authorities shut off the phone lines. They shut off the water so those protesting went thirsty. But our community stuck together and stayed strong. I am grateful these dedicated activists persisted despite difficult obstacles, and their persistence and determination should inspire our country to push further towards achieving the ultimate goal of full accessibility and inclusion.

People with disabilities continue to face discrimination every day. From lack of access to healthcare, to disparately low employment rates; from inaccessible websites and official documents, to suffering the indignity of having airlines destroy wheelchairs and assistive equipment on flights, our Nation must push past complacency and work to ensure the letter and spirit of the Rehabilitation Act and Americans with Disabilities Act are applied to all aspects of life in the 21st century.

Our community is already more than 61 million strong—a number that will continue to grow in the years ahead—because the truth is that every American is just 1 day away from becoming disabled and everyone should hope to live long enough that they eventually gain some sort of disability. Our Nation's laws and policies should reflect that. That is one reason why I am proud that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services acted on my request that Medicare finally cover seat elevation systems in power wheelchairs. It is why I am proud that the Government Accountability Office agreed to study health disparities experienced by people with disabilities. And it is why I will keep working with the disability community to honor and carry on the work of Judy and all the advocates, activists, and allies who helped get us to this point.

So here is to 50 years of the Rehabilitation Act and to everything we do in the next 50.

REMEMBERING THOMAS HUGH SEYMOUR

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today in tribute to the late Thomas Hugh Seymour for his service to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

Mr. Seymour's illustrious career spanned two decades as the OCWR Fire Protection Engineer and Safety and

Health consulting expert. His journey was marked by the highest levels of dedication, expertise, and passion for workplace safety, and his work has helped to save lives. Prior to his role at OCWR, Mr. Seymour had a distinguished career at OSHA, where he ascended to the position of Deputy Director for the Directorate of Safety Standards Programs. During his tenure at OSHA, Mr. Seymour played an instrumental role in shaping and drafting critical safety standards that have since become integral to safeguarding workplaces nationwide. He was an advocate for safer working conditions and a guardian of fire safety. This year, Mr. Seymour received a posthumous Safety Advocate Award from the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights and National Safety Council.

I offer my heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Seymour's family for his service and also recognize all the distinguished recipients of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights' 2023 Safety Recognition Awards. May their dedication continue to guide us as we strive to create workplaces that are safe and accessible.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING DUNLAP LIVESTOCK AUCTION, INC.

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week it is my privilege to recognize Dunlap Livestock Auction of Dunlap, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

The Schaben family's involvement in Dunlap Livestock Auction began in 1948 under Jim Schaben, Sr., who served as manager of the livestock auction. Two years later, in 1950, Jim Schaben, Sr., purchased Dunlap Livestock Auction with his wife Ruth. Jim is a 1945 graduate of the Reppert School of Auctioneering in Indiana following his honorable service in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II. The current facility was completed in 1974 and was passed on to his sons Jay, Jim Jr., and Jon. Jim Sr. passed away in 2013 at the age of 87, leaving behind a legacy of service, generosity, and auctioneering excellence.

Today, the Schaben family still owns and operates Dunlap Livestock Auction and has grown to include multiple generations of the family. In addition to livestock, they also offer home and estate, farm machinery, gun, and real estate auctions serving clients throughout Iowa and the Midwest. The Schaben family has continually advocated for the cattle industry. In 2021, Jon Schaben testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee on behalf of the Iowa Cattlemen's Association, an organization of which he is a member.

In 2023, Dunlap Livestock Auction celebrated its 73rd business anniversary of being operated by the Schaben family.

Dunlap Livestock Auction and the Schaben family are a staple of the Harrison County and Dunlap community. Jim Sr. served in the Iowa Senate from 1967 until 1975 on the Agriculture Committee. Jim Sr. and Ruth donated 80 acres of land in the 1970s to Harrison County, which now bears the name Schaben Park. Dunlap Livestock Auction has also been recognized for its work. In 2020, they won the Iowa Beef Industry Council's Beef Quality Assurance Iowa Marketer Award. In 2022, Will Epperly represented Dunlap Livestock Auction and won the World Livestock Auctioneer Championship. Jon Schaben won the World Livestock Auctioneer Championship in 2003.

Dunlap Livestock Auction's commitment to providing livestock auctioneering services in Western Iowa is clear. I want to congratulate the Schaben family and the entire team at Dunlap Livestock Auction for their continued dedication to providing auctioneering services to Iowans. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

TRIBUTE TO JEREMY CRISS

● Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant and champion of our agricultural community, Jeremy Criss. With over 30 years of unwavering service to Montgomery County, Mr. Criss has proven himself to be an indispensable asset not only to his community but also to the State of Maryland as a tireless advocate for our farmers.

What sets Mr. Criss apart is not just his deep understanding of what our farmers do but, more importantly, why they do it. He has always recognized that agriculture is not just an occupation; it is a way of life, a vital pillar of our society. As the director of agricultural services for Montgomery County, MD, Mr. Criss's commitment to the betterment of our society through agriculture has been nothing short of exceptional.

Under Mr. Criss's leadership, the Montgomery County Office of Agriculture has been a beacon of support for farmers, offering invaluable resources and guidance, allowing our agricultural community not only to survive but also to thrive. Mr. Criss's personal commitment to the cause of agriculture is evident to anyone who knows him. He has not only been a director but also a friend and mentor to many in our farming community, offering guidance and a listening ear during both good times and challenging ones. His kindness and unwavering support have made him a beloved figure among our farmers and greater community, and his absence will be keenly felt.

I commend Mr. Criss for the invaluable contributions he has made to our agricultural community. His legacy is one of dedication, passion, and a deep

love for the land and the people who work it. Montgomery County, the State of Maryland, and our farmers are stronger today because of Mr. Criss, and I congratulate him and wish him a well-earned, enjoyable, and fulfilling retirement.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Kelly, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

REPORT OF THE VETO OF S.J. RES. 9, A JOINT RESOLUTION THAT WOULD DISAPPROVE THE FINAL RULE ENTITLED "ENDANGERED AND THREATENED WILDLIFE AND PLANTS: LESSER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN: THREATENED STATUS WITH SECTION 4(D) RULE FOR THE DISTINCT POPULATION SEGMENT AND ENDANGERED STATUS FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTINCT POPULATION SEGMENT"—PM 22

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States was ordered to be printed in the Record, spread in full upon the Journal, and held at the desk:

To the Senate of the United States:

I am returning herewith without my approval S.J. Res. 9, a joint resolution that would disapprove the final rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Lesser Prairie-Chicken; Threatened Status with Section 4(d) Rule for the Northern Distinct Population Segment and Endangered Status for the Southern Distinct Population Segment."

The final rule, issued by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), provides Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections to an American bird species whose historical habitat on the Great Plains has diminished by approximately 90 percent and whose populations have plummeted toward disappearance. Following a rigorous review of the best available scientific and commercial information regarding the past, present, and future threats, as well as ongoing conservation efforts, the USFWS listed the Southern Distinct Population Segment of the lesser prairie-chicken as endangered, and the Northern Distinct Population Segment of the lesser prairie-chicken as threatened. The rule also affirms and protects locally led and crafted voluntary conservation agreements that landowners and land managers have developed in recent years, which provide certainty for industry as well as safeguards for prairie-chicken populations.

S.J. Res. 9 would overturn a science-based rulemaking that follows the requirements of the law, and thereby un-

dermines the ESA. The lesser prairie-chicken serves as an indicator for healthy grasslands and prairies, making the species an important measure of the overall health of America's grasslands. If enacted, S.J. Res. 9 would undermine America's proud wildlife conservation traditions, risk the extinction of a once-abundant American bird, and create uncertainty for landowners and industries who have been working for years to forge the durable, locally led conservation strategies that this rule supports.

Therefore, I am vetoing this resolution.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, September 26, 2023.

REPORT OF THE VETO OF S.J. RES. 24, A JOINT RESOLUTION THAT WOULD DISAPPROVE THE FINAL RULE ENTITLED "ENDANGERED AND THREATENED WILDLIFE AND PLANTS; ENDANGERED SPECIES STATUS FOR NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT"—PM 23

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States was ordered to be printed in the Record, spread in full upon the Journal, and held at the desk:

To The Senate of the United States:

I am returning herewith without my approval S.J. Res. 24, a joint resolution that would disapprove the final rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Northern Long-Eared Bat."

The final rule, issued by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), provides Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections to the northern long-eared bat, whose populations have been heavily impacted by white-nose syndrome. The northern long-eared bat now faces extinction due to white-nose syndrome, a deadly disease that has spread across approximately 79 percent of the northern long-eared bat's entire range and is expected to affect 100 percent of the species' range by the end of the decade. Data indicate white-nose syndrome has caused estimated declines of 97 to 100 percent in affected northern long-eared bat populations. Following a rigorous review of the best available scientific and commercial information regarding the past, present, and future threats, as well as ongoing conservation efforts, the USFWS listed the northern long-eared bat as an endangered species under the ESA.

S.J. Res. 24 would overturn a science-based rulemaking that follows the requirements of the law, and thereby undermines the ESA. Bats are critical to healthy, functioning ecosystems and contribute at least \$3 billion annually to the United States agriculture economy through pest control and pollination. If enacted, S.J. Res. 24 would undermine America's proud wildlife