

The Teamsters' general president, Sean O'Brien, said:

Union members and American families cannot afford to sacrifice so much of their hard-earned wages to predatory and consolidated credit card corporations trying to skim every last dollar they can from vulnerable consumers.

That is exactly the problem this legislation was introduced to fix.

And just before Thanksgiving, a diverse group of organizations representing workers, small businesses, and competition advocates launched the Lower Credit Card Fees Coalition, urging Congress to pass my Credit Card Competition Act.

Few things could unite unions, businesses, consumer groups, and a bipartisan group of Senators. This bill does just that because it will benefit hard-working Americans.

Far from threatening rewards programs or hurting workers, the bill will benefit Americans who currently are paying the price for the credit card industry's price-gouging schemes. It will give a fighting chance to small businesses and restaurants that we want to see stay open; support the mom-and-pop shops that make our communities feel whole; and, ultimately, keep money in the pockets of hard-working Americans. It is time we bring this commonsense, consumer-protecting bipartisan legislation to the floor for a vote.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 415, Martin O'Malley, of Maryland, to be Commissioner of Social Security; that there be 1 hour for debate, equally divided in the usual form, on the nomination; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO DEBORA G. JUAREZ

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and congratulate Ms.

Debora Juarez on her retirement following nearly 35 years of public service and 8 years in elected office. Debora retires from the Seattle City Council, where she was the first representative of Seattle's District 5 (D5) and was elected by her peers to be council president. She also served as a King County Superior Court judge. A proud member of the Blackfoot Nation, she was the first Native American to serve in any of these roles.

In her many years of service to the Tribes, the State, and to Seattle, she has been guided by a simple mantra shared with her by her Uncle Billy Frank Jr.: "lead to leave"—a mantra that has brought clarity of purpose to her work and she expanded upon by saying "leave a legacy." Whether it was her legal work to save the historical village of Tse-whit-zen, doubling Seattle's 2016 housing levy to build more affordable housing, or her forceful advocacy for the 130th Street light rail station for the people of District 5 as a Sound Transit board member, Debora leaves behind a worthy legacy.

As the chair of the civic development, public assets, and Native communities committee, she oversaw the exciting reimagining of major projects in Seattle: saving the aging Seattle Coliseum from the 1962 World's Fair and turning it into a state-of-art arena without taxpayer dollars, revitalizing the Seattle Waterfront with a new park and boulevard, and dramatically expanding the Seattle Aquarium. Known to many as a bridge builder—both literally and figuratively—she shepherded the effort to add a bridge to reconnect the waterfront to Pike Place Market and helped build the John Lewis Memorial Bridge that connects light rail to North Seattle College and the University of Washington's Northwest Hospital. She also led the effort to revitalize Northgate Mall, considered to be the first indoor shopping mall in America, which is transforming around the new Kraken Community Iceplex to create a vibrant place for the community. In addition to three sheets of ice and light rail, Northgate will soon have hundreds of units of affordable housing and opportunity for more jobs and economic development, thanks to her strong vision.

As the council's first and only Native American councilmember in its 154-year history, Debora leaves an important Indigenous legacy. She worked with myself and my office to address the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls—MMIWG—with the passage of Savanna's Act and on the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization of 2022 to increase protections for women on Tribal lands. Knowing that Seattle has one of the highest numbers of MMIWG cases among U.S. cities, she passed first-of-its-kind local legislation to respond to the crisis and funded a data specialist position within the Seattle Police Department to review these cases. To improve access to healthcare and cul-

turally appropriate medical services. Debora initiated a partnership between Seattle Indian Health Board and North Helpline to open a medical clinic in 2022 in Lake City. She created an Indigenous advisory council for the city and organized the first ever Tribal Nations summit to further the government-to-government relationship between Seattle and Tribes. One hundred and sixty-eight years after the signing of the Treaty of Point Elliot, Debora brought 11 Tribal Nations and six urban Indian organizations to meet directly with the mayor, city departments, and other city officials in a historic gathering.

While we have different taste in shoes, with Debora often rocking the highest heels imaginable, she has also been known to pull on her signature red tennis shoes when it is time to get to work, and like me, Debora has spent much of her life fighting for equal rights and greater opportunities for women. A champion for women's sports, Debora facilitated bringing the Seattle Storm Center for Basketball Performance to Interbay and successfully advocated for the NHL to include space for girl's hockey. Earlier in her career, as a mother to two young daughters, she breastfed and traveled between Olympia and Seattle every day to care for her family and serve as an adviser to two Governors.

Working with Debora over the years has been an immense privilege, and it is my honor to thank her for her lifetime of dedicated service. I wish her the very best during her well-earned retirement and know that she is looking forward to spending more time with her daughters, Raven and Memphis, and her grandbabies, Yvie and Cyrus.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 23-0U. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 14-12 of May 13, 2014.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCHE,
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-0U

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(B)(5)(C), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of Australia.
(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 14-12, Date: May 13, 2014; Military Department: Navy.
(iii) Description: On May 13, 2014, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 14-12, of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act of up to 350 AIM-9X-2 Sidewinder Tactical Missiles; 35 AIM-9X Special Air Training Missiles (NATM); 95 AIM-9X-2 Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM); 22 AIM-9X-2 Tactical Guidance Units; 19 CATM-9X-2 Guidance Units; and 3 DATM-9X. Also included were containers, test sets and support equipment, spare and repair parts, publications and technical documents, personnel training and training equipment, U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance, and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost was \$534 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$476 million of this total.

On January 9, 2018, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 0W-17 of the change from 350 AIM-9X-2 Sidewinder Tactical Missiles to reflect 300 AIM-9X Sidewinder Block II+ Tactical Missiles and 50 AIM-9X-2 Sidewinder Tactical Missiles. Additionally, this transmittal reported the inclusion of 11 CATM-9X-2 Missile Guidance Units. The total notified cost of MDE remained \$476 million. The total notified case value remained \$534 million.

On December 4, 2020, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 0A-21 of the addition of four (4) AIM-9X Block II+ Tactical Missile Guidance Units. The total MDE value increase by \$1 million to \$477 million. The estimated total case value remained \$534 million.

This transmittal notifies inclusion of the following MDE: an additional ten (10) AIM-9X Block II Sidewinder Tactical Guidance Units; thirty-two (32) AIM-9X Block II+ Sidewinder Tactical Guidance Units; and ninety (90) AIM-9X Block II Sidewinder CATM Guidance Units. The estimated total value of the new items is \$28 million. The net cost of MDE will increase by \$28 million, resulting in a revised MDE value of \$505 million. The estimated total case value will remain \$534 million.

(iv) Significance: The proposed sale will improve Australia's capability to effectively maintain its current force projection and enhance interoperability with U.S. forces.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States. Australia is one of our most important allies in the Western Pacific. The strategic location of this political and economic power contrib-

utes significantly to ensuring peace and economic stability in the region. It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist our ally in developing and maintaining a strong and ready self-defense capability.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology:
The AIM-9X Block II and Block II+ (Plus) SIDEWINDER Missile represents a substantial increase in missile acquisition and kinematics performance over the AIM-9M and replaces the AIM-9X Block I Missile configuration. The missile includes a high off-boresight seeker, enhanced countermeasure rejection capability, low drag/high angle of attack airframe, and the ability to integrate the Helmet Mounted Cueing System. The most current AIM-9X Block II/II+ Operational Flight Software developed for all international partner countries, which is authorized by U.S. Government export policy, provides fifth-generation infrared missile capabilities such as lock-on-after-launch, weapons data link, surface attack, and surface launch. No software source code or algorithms will be released.

The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the original notification applies to additional items reported here.

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

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 5, 2023.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23-15, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$582 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCHE,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-15

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment * \$60 million.
Other \$522 million.
Total \$582 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services Under Consideration for Purchase: The Government of Saudi Arabia has requested to buy aircraft hardware and software modifications and support to replenish and modernize its RE-3A Tactical Airborne Surveillance System (TASS) aircraft, including:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Seven (7) Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation System (GPS/INS) (EGI) Security Devices, Airborne, with Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) or M-Code Capability.

Five (5) L3Harris BlackRock Communications Intelligence Sensor Suites.

Non-MDE: Also included are KY-100M narrowband/wideband secure communications terminals; KIV-77 MODE 4/5 Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) cryptographic appliques; AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loaders; integrated electronic intelligence (ELINT)/signals intelligence (SIGINT) systems; L-3 Communication Systems-West (CSW) multi-band receivers/transmitters; ARC-210 radios; high frequency (HF) radios; secure communications equipment; precision navigation and cryptographic devices; aircraft support and support equipment; test and integration support; equipment; spare and repair parts; consumables and accessories; repair and return support; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (SR-D-QDO).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 4, 2023.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Saudi Arabia—RE-3A Tactical Airborne Surveillance System Aircraft Modernization

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has requested to buy aircraft hardware and software modifications and support to replenish and modernize its RE-3A Tactical Airborne Surveillance System (TASS) aircraft, including: seven (7) Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation System (GPS/INS) (EGI) security devices, Airborne, with Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) or M-Code capability, and five (5) L3Harris BlackRock Communications Intelligence Sensor Suites. Also included are KY-100M narrowband/wideband secure communications terminals; KIV-77 MODE 4/5 Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) cryptographic appliques; AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loaders; integrated electronic intelligence (ELINT)/signals intelligence (SIGINT) systems; L-3 Communication Systems-West (CSW) multi-band receivers/transmitters; ARC-210 radios; high frequency (HF) radios; secure communications equipment; precision navigation and cryptographic devices; aircraft support