

law, the report of a rule entitled “Schedule of Fees for Consular Services - Elimination of the ‘Return Check Processing Fee’” (RIN1400-AF48) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-126. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Ohio recognizing that natural gas and its production industry are not only vital to Ohio’s economic future but to maintain the position of the United States as the world’s leading energy producer and urging continued investment in natural gas infrastructure to make affordable energy available to every Ohioan and protect Ohio’s energy security and the energy security of the United States and our global allies; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 121

Whereas, Natural gas is a leading contributor to clean, affordable, and reliable energy security, and it is vital for Ohio families and businesses in maintaining lower energy bills and for Ohio to become the low-cost energy capital of the United States; and

Whereas, Ohio’s natural gas industry has transformed from a low production industry to one of the top seven in terms of production when compared to other states; and

Whereas, Ohio is a leader in clean energy technology, and the natural gas industry leads Ohio in clean electricity production when compared to other energy sources such as nuclear, wind, and solar. In addition, in 2019, natural gas generated more of Ohio’s in-state electricity than coal for the first time in history; and

Whereas, Natural gas saves the average Ohio family \$2,500 annually in total energy costs, including over \$1,000 for home heating and appliances. The 36% of Ohioans utilizing other energy sources do not realize these savings; and

Whereas, The natural gas industry supports 375,000 jobs, which constitutes 5.3% of Ohio’s total employment. In addition, the natural gas industry contributed \$58.8 billion to Ohio’s gross domestic product in 2019; and

Whereas, Restricting natural gas infrastructure development will impede continued access to low-cost natural gas supply; and

Whereas, Increased United States natural gas exports create massive economic benefits for United States communities while providing global access to the reliable United States natural gas supply needed to advance the global energy transition from higher greenhouse gas (GHG) emitting fuels to lower GHG emitting natural gas; and

Whereas, Residential natural gas prices in the United States remain among the lowest in the world despite natural gas exports and domestic consumption reaching all-time highs in recent years; Now therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the members of the Senate of the 135th General Assembly of Ohio, in adopting this resolution, recognize that natural gas and the natural gas industry are not only vital components of the state’s economic future, but also critical to maintaining the position of the United States as the world’s leading energy producer, and urge continued investment in natural gas infrastructure to make affordable energy available to every Ohioan and protect Ohioans energy security and the energy secu-

rity of the United States and our global allies; and be it further

Resolved, That the clerk of the Senate send duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the President Pro Tempore and Clerk of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, each member of the Ohio congressional delegation, Governor Mike DeWine, and the news media of Ohio.

POM-127. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to enact reforms to federal permitting policies to accelerate deployment of new energy infrastructure; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

Whereas, Louisiana recognizes that abundant, resilient, and diversified domestic energy production in the United States enhances American national security, economic competitiveness, and energy independence; and

Whereas, environmental stewardship that keeps our air and water clean, protects public health, ensures biodiversity and species protection, and conserves public lands is a worthy goal that is important to achieve; and

Whereas, the exclusively complex federal permitting and environmental review processes that have built up around America’s environmental laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Clean Water Act (CWA), and other federal requirements, have grown to be so cumbersome that they often unnecessarily slow or prevent the construction of essential new energy infrastructure and therefore discourage domestic energy production without advancing the goals of these laws; and

Whereas, energy is produced in the United States at a much higher environmental standard than is typically the case in the countries from which energy is imported, so the prevention of domestic energy production in the United States undermines environmental stewardship; and

Whereas, delays caused by permitting inefficiencies inhibit the building of essential components of a low-cost, reliable, and modern energy infrastructure that is needed to support economic competitiveness and domestic manufacturing, to enhance reliability and prevent blackouts, to lower costs for consumers and businesses, and to achieve the goals of America’s environmental laws; and

Whereas, after nearly two decades of flat electricity demand, the demand for electricity in the United States is projected to dramatically increase in the coming decades, requiring major increases in domestic energy production and more than doubling domestic electricity transmission grid capacity; and

Whereas, regulatory barriers today mean that more than 2,000 gigawatts of energy production and storage, more than the entire current American electricity capacity combined, are stuck in electricity interconnection queues and the average amount of time to interconnect new energy resources has nearly doubled from about two years to four years; and

Whereas, the average time it takes to process an environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for major infrastructure projects has risen to an excessive length of four and a half years; and

Whereas, the United States is highly reliant on China and other countries that do not share our interest to mine and process crit-

ical minerals, with demand for some of these minerals potentially growing more than forty times by 2040; and

Whereas, other developed nations that share our goals to protect the environment while producing abundant energy resources, such as Canada and Australia, have shown that they can permit new mines within two to three years instead of nearly ten years, as is often the case in the United States; and

Whereas, both linear infrastructure, such as pipelines and transmission lines, as well as energy generation infrastructure, each face extraordinary and indefensible delays due to overlitigation, inappropriate blocking of nationally important projects by unrepresentative and often radical groups that hold those projects hostage, and excessive use of our court system to hamstring worthy projects; and

Whereas, major delays in projects caused by inefficient permitting or overlitigation can dramatically increase costs and make projects less viable, costing consumers, businesses, and taxpayers money and making our energy system less reliable; and

Whereas, unnecessary permitting and regulatory delays limit investments made in modernizing our Nation’s infrastructure that would result in a more efficient energy system with reduced emissions and environmental impacts; and

Whereas, overlapping federal permitting requirements lack the flexibility to allow for efforts that reflect the spirit and intent of traditional environmental laws by protecting human health and the environment instead of procedural compliance with outdated regulations; and

Whereas, failure to reform federal permitting laws is already resulting in fewer jobs, reduced security, and higher prices for Americans without providing additional benefits for the environment; and

Whereas, failing to reform federal permitting laws in the coming months will result in even greater limitations on our energy infrastructure, costing even more American jobs while raising costs for consumers and businesses and leaving America vulnerable to unreliability, blackouts, and the resulting severe harm to American citizens. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to enact reforms to federal permitting policies to accelerate deployment of new energy infrastructure; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-128. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana urging and requesting the United States Congress to enact reforms to federal permitting policies to accelerate deployment of new energy infrastructure; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2

Whereas, Louisiana recognizes that abundant, resilient, and diversified domestic energy production in the United States enhances American national security, economic competitiveness, and energy independence; and

Whereas, environmental stewardship that keeps our air and water clean, protects public health, ensures biodiversity and species protection, and conserves public lands is a worthy goal that is important to achieve; and

Whereas, the excessively complex federal permitting and environmental review processes that have built up around America’s

environmental laws—including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Clean Water Act (CWA), and dozens of other federal requirements—have grown to be so cumbersome that they often unnecessarily slow or prevent the construction of essential new energy infrastructure and therefore discourage domestic energy production without advancing the goals of these laws; and

Whereas, energy is produced in the United States at a much higher environmental standard than is typically the case in the countries from which energy is imported, so prevention of domestic energy production undermines environmental stewardship; and

Whereas, delays caused by permitting inefficiencies inhibit the building of all of the essential components of a low-cost, reliable, and modern energy infrastructure that is needed to support economic competitiveness and domestic manufacturing, to enhance reliability and prevent blackouts, to lower costs for consumers and businesses, and to achieve the goals of America's environmental laws; and

Whereas, after nearly two decades of flat electricity demand, demand for electricity in the United States is projected to dramatically increase in the coming decades, requiring major increases in domestic energy production and a more than doubling of domestic electricity transmission grid capacity; and

Whereas, regulatory barriers today mean that more than two thousand gigawatts of energy production and storage, which accounts for more than the entire current American electricity capacity combined, are stuck in electricity interconnection queues and the average amount of time to interconnect new energy resources has nearly doubled from about two years to nearly four years; and

Whereas, the average time it takes to process an environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for major infrastructure projects has risen to an excessive length of four-and-a-half years; and

Whereas, the United States is highly reliant on China and other countries that do not share our interests to mine and process critical minerals, with demand for some of these minerals potentially growing by more than forty times by 2040; and

Whereas, other developed nations that share our goals to protect the environment while producing abundant energy resources, such as Canada and Australia, have shown that they can permit new mines within two to three years instead of nearly ten years, as is often the case in the United States; and

Whereas, both linear infrastructure, such as pipelines and transmission lines; as well as energy generation infrastructure each face extraordinary and indefensible delays due to excessive litigation, inappropriate blocking of nationally important projects by unrepresentative and often radical groups that hold those projects hostage, and excessive use of our court system to hamstring worthy projects; and

Whereas, major delays in projects caused by inefficient permitting or over litigation can dramatically increase costs and make projects less viable, costing consumers, businesses, and taxpayers money and making our energy system less reliable; and

Whereas, unnecessary permitting and regulatory delays also increase American dependence on energy produced by foreign dictators and authoritarian regimes; and

Whereas, unnecessary permitting delays limit investments made in modernizing our Nation's infrastructure that would result in a more efficient energy system with reduced emissions and environmental impact; and

Whereas, overlapping federal permitting requirements lack the flexibility to allow for efforts that reflect the spirit and intent of traditional environmental laws by protecting human health and the environment instead of procedural compliance with outdated regulations; and

Whereas, failure to reform federal permitting laws is already resulting in fewer jobs, reduced security, and higher prices for Americans without providing additional benefits for the environment; and

Whereas, failing to reform these laws in the coming months will result in even greater limitations on our energy infrastructure, costing even more American jobs while raising costs for consumers and businesses and leaving America vulnerable to unreliability, blackouts, and resulting in severe harm to the American people. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request federal legislators to work in good faith to enact legislation that reforms federal permitting and environmental review processes to promote economic and environmental stewardship by expediting the deployment of modern energy infrastructure. Be it further

Resolved, That these reforms should enable faster and lowercost construction of energy infrastructure of all kinds, without prejudice, including by considering steps to do the following:

(1) Limit excessive use of judicial processes to slow projects inappropriately.

(2) Prevent inappropriate usage of the Clean Water Act and other laws to hamstring the lawful building of linear energy infrastructure, such as pipelines and transmission lines

(3) Enact reforms to plan, permit, and pay for the necessary build-out of electricity transmission infrastructure to support a more reliable energy grid that lowers costs for consumers and businesses.

(4) Enable the domestic build-out of the full array of modern energy technologies, including nuclear, emissions management, hydrogen, critical mineral mining and processing, and all other needs for a modern energy system. Be it further

Resolved, That these legislative reforms should also strive to ensure accountability for federal agencies conducting permitting and environmental review processes, including better data, more aggressive time lines, and permitting shot clocks. Additionally these legislative reforms must be accompanied by a redoubling of efforts to streamline federal regulations to support the efficient building of new energy infrastructure. Be it further

Resolved, That failure to act to update our federal permitting system to support building new energy infrastructure will further harm consumers, workers, and businesses, while making the United States less competitive and more vulnerable to both foreign adversaries and domestic outages. Be it further

Resolved, That Congress must act with urgency in the coming months to fix our broken permitting system. Be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-129. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee urging the United States Congress to enact reforms to federal permitting policies to accelerate deployment of new energy infrastructure; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 318

Whereas, the State of Tennessee recognizes that abundant, resilient, and diversified domestic energy production in the United States enhances American national security, economic competitiveness, and energy independence; and

Whereas, environmental stewardship that keeps our air and water clean, protects public health, ensures biodiversity and species protection, and conserves public lands is a worthy goal that is important to achieve; and

Whereas, the excessively complex federal permitting and environmental review processes that have built up around America's environmental laws—including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Clean Water Act (CWA), and dozens of other federal requirements—have grown to be so cumbersome that they often unnecessarily slow or prevent the construction of essential new energy infrastructure and therefore discourage domestic energy production without advancing the goals of these laws; and

Whereas, energy is produced in the United States at a much higher environmental standard than is typically the case in the countries from which energy is imported, so prevention of domestic energy production undermines environmental stewardship; and

Whereas, delays caused by permitting inefficiencies inhibit the building of all of the essential components of a low-cost, reliable, and modern energy infrastructure that is needed to support economic competitiveness and domestic manufacturing, to enhance reliability and prevent blackouts, to lower costs for consumers and businesses, and to achieve the goals of America's environmental laws; and

Whereas, after nearly two decades of flat electricity demand, demand for electricity in the United States is projected to dramatically increase in the coming decades, requiring major increases in domestic energy production and a more than doubling of domestic electricity transmission grid capacity; and

Whereas, regulatory barriers today mean that more than 2,000 gigawatts of energy production and storage—more than the entire current American electricity capacity combined—are stuck in electricity interconnection queues, and the average amount of time to interconnect new energy resources has nearly doubled from about two years to nearly four years; and

Whereas, the average time it takes to process an environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for major infrastructure projects has risen to an excessive length of four and one-half years; and

Whereas, the United States is highly reliant on China and other countries that do not share our interests to mine and process critical minerals, with demand for some of these minerals potentially growing by more than forty times by 2040; and

Whereas, other developed nations that share our goals to protect the environment while producing abundant energy resources, such as Canada and Australia, have shown that they can permit new mines within two to three years instead of nearly ten years, as is often the case in the United States; and

Whereas, both linear infrastructure—such as pipelines and transmission lines—as well as energy generation infrastructure face extraordinary and indefensible delays due to overlitigation, inappropriate blocking of nationally important projects by unrepresentative and often radical groups that hold those projects hostage, and excessive use of our

court system to hamstring worthy projects; and

Whereas, major delays in projects caused by inefficient permitting or overlitigation can dramatically increase costs and make projects less viable, costing consumers, businesses, and taxpayers money and making our energy system less reliable; and

Whereas, unnecessary permitting and regulatory delays also increase American dependence on energy produced by foreign dictators and authoritarian regimes; and

Whereas, unnecessary permitting delays limit investments made in modernizing our nation's infrastructure that would result in a more efficient energy system with reduced emissions and environmental impact; and

Whereas, overlapping federal permitting requirements lack the flexibility to allow for efforts that reflect the spirit and intent of traditional environmental laws by protecting human health and the environment instead of procedural compliance with outdated regulations; and

Whereas, failure to reform federal permitting laws is already resulting in fewer jobs, reduced security, and higher prices for Americans without providing additional benefits for the environment; and

Whereas, failing to reform these laws in the coming months will result in even greater limitations on our energy infrastructure, costing even more American jobs while raising costs for consumers and businesses and leaving America vulnerable to unreliability, blackouts, and the resulting severe harm to the American people; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the One Hundred Thirteenth General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, That we urge the U.S. Congress to work in good faith to enact legislation that reforms federal permitting and environmental review processes to promote economic and environmental stewardship by expediting the deployment of modern energy infrastructure; and be it further

Resolved, That these reforms should enable faster and lower-cost construction of energy infrastructure of all kinds, without prejudice, including the consideration of steps to: (1) limit excessive use of judicial processes to slow projects inappropriately; (2) prevent inappropriate usage of the Clean Water Act and other laws to hamstring the lawful building of linear energy infrastructure, such as pipelines and transmission lines; (3) enact reforms to plan, permit, and pay for the necessary build-out of electricity transmission infrastructure to support a more reliable energy grid that lowers costs for consumers and businesses; and (4) enable the domestic build-out of the full array of modern energy technologies, including nuclear, emissions management, hydrogen, critical mineral mining and processing, and all other needs for a modern energy system; and be it further

Resolved, That these legislative reforms should also strive to ensure accountability for federal agencies conducting permitting and environmental review processes, including better data, more aggressive timelines, and permitting shot clocks; and be it further

Resolved, That these legislative reforms must be accompanied by a redoubling of efforts to streamline federal regulations to support the efficient building of new energy infrastructure. Failure to act to update our federal permitting system to support building new energy infrastructure will further harm consumers, workers, and businesses while making the United States less competitive and more vulnerable to both foreign adversaries and domestic outages. Congress must act with urgency in the coming months to fix our broken permitting system; and be it further

Resolved, That a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Speaker and the

Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, and each member of the Tennessee Congressional delegation.

POM-130. A resolution adopted by the House of the Representatives of the State of Arkansas encouraging the United States Congress to enact a trade policy that supports United States businesses and workers while penalizing global polluters; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1021

Whereas, on average, goods produced in:

(1) China generate three (3) times the emissions of equivalent goods made in the United States; and

(2) Russia emit four (4) times the emissions of equivalent goods made in the United States; and

Whereas, minerals mined in China are more than two (2) times as polluting as those mined in the United States; and

Whereas, the average pollution intensity of Russian oil is at least thirty-three percent (33%) higher than United States crude oil, and Russian natural gas is sixty percent (60%) more pollution intensive than United States natural gas; and

Whereas, many rural Americans are suffering from severe poverty, poor health care, and few economic opportunities, making them increasingly vulnerable to crime and the opioid crisis; and

Whereas, the average per capita income for rural Americans is only fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) compared to approximately sixty-four thousand dollars (\$64,000) for all Americans; and

Whereas, the poverty rate in rural America is fifteen point four percent (15.4%) compared with twelve point eight percent (12.8%) nationwide; and

Whereas, United States rural communities have lower wages, property taxes, and land prices, which should give them a competitive advantage in attracting investments in manufacturing that provide revenue streams that help fund local schools and infrastructure; and

Whereas, manufacturing jobs play a more important role in the rural economy than in urban areas, accounting for a greater share of jobs and earnings; and

Whereas, United States trade policy, which has given foreign polluters an unfair advantage over the past two (2) decades, has encouraged economic restructuring across rural America that has resulted in manufacturing employment falling by over twenty percent (20%); and

Whereas, China has been the major beneficiary of this poorly designed federal trade policy, with the United States losing roughly five million (5,000,000) jobs in the last twenty (20) years, and half of those losses are the result of the United States trade deficit with China; and

Whereas, rewarding United States firms for their environmental performance would bolster domestic manufacturing and generate well-paying jobs, particularly in rural areas, and reduce dependence on imports from high emitting producers like Russia and China: Now therefore, *be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Fourth General Assembly of the State of Arkansas:*

That the House of Representatives encourage the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to enact a trade policy that holds high-polluting countries like China and Russia accountable for their pollution output and promotes American economic development and the rebuilding of United States supply chains, particularly in rural communities, by rewarding American

businesses and workers for their superior environmental performance while penalizing global polluters. Be it further

Resolved That upon adoption of this resolution, a copy be provided to the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Arkansas delegation to the United States Congress by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.

POM-131. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to impose a quota or tariff on imported shrimp, crab meat, and crawfish and to enact a buy plan for domestic shrimp, crab meat, and crawfish directly from domestic commercial fishermen; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 9

Whereas, the domestic fishing industry has faced severe hardships, such as Hurricane Ida and other natural disasters, repeated openings of the Bonnet Carre Spillway, unfair trade practices, illegal chemicals, rising inflation, gas prices, and supply chain issues; and

Whereas, in October of 2022, United States Congressman Garret Graves announced that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) purchased up to twenty-five million dollars of Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic wild caught shrimp; and

Whereas, Section 32 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act authorizes the USDA to purchase domestic shrimp; and

Whereas, purchases such as this will help provide relief to Louisiana's shrimp industry; and

Whereas, Louisiana's seafood industry is the largest supplier in the country and the main economic driver in coastal areas; and

Whereas, more relief is necessary for the Louisiana seafood industry to compete with foreign importers; and

Whereas, strategies to ensure that domestic commercial fishermen are able to sell their products are necessary for the continued success of the Louisiana seafood industry; and

Whereas, plans to buy shrimp directly from domestic commercial shrimp fishermen are of vital importance to ensure the success of coastal communities that rely heavily on this industry. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to impose a quota or tariff on imported shrimp, crab meat, and crawfish and to enact a buy plan for domestic shrimp, crab meat, and crawfish directly from domestic commercial fishermen; and be it further

Resolved, that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-132. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to support H.R. 82 and S. 597 of the 118th Congress, the Social Security Fairness Act, and all similar legislation and to take such actions as are necessary to review and eliminate all provisions of federal law which reduce Social Security benefits for those receiving pension benefits from federal, state, or local government retirement or pension systems, plans, or funds; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 20

Whereas, the Congress of the United States of America has enacted both the Government

Pension Offset (GPO), reducing the spouse and survivor Social Security benefit and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), reducing the earned Social Security benefits payable to any person who also receives a public pension benefit; and

Whereas, the GPO negatively affects a spouse or survivor receiving a federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit who would also be entitled to a Social Security benefit earned by a spouse; and

Whereas, the GPO formula unfairly reduces the spouse or survivor Social Security benefit by two-thirds of the amount of federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit received by the spouse or survivor, in many cases completely eliminating the Social Security benefit even though the spouse paid Social Security taxes for many years; and

Whereas, the GPO has a harsh effect on hundreds of thousands of citizens and undermines the original purpose of the Social Security dependent/survivor benefit; and

Whereas, according to recent Social Security Administration figures, more than half a million individuals nationally are affected by the GPO; and

Whereas, the WEP applies to those persons who have earned federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefits, in addition to working in employment covered under Social Security and paying into the Social Security system; and

Whereas, the WEP unfairly reduces the earned Social Security benefit using an averaged indexed monthly earnings formula and may reduce Social Security benefits for affected persons by as much as one-half of the retirement benefit earned as a public servant in employment not covered under Social Security; and

Whereas, the WEP causes hardworking individuals to lose a significant portion of the Social Security benefits that they earned themselves; and

Whereas, according to recent Social Security Administration figures, more than one and a half million individuals nationally are affected by the WEP; and

Whereas, in certain circumstances, both the WEP and GPO can be applied to a qualifying survivor's benefit, each independently reducing the available benefit and in combination eliminating a large portion of the total Social Security benefit available to the survivor; and

Whereas, because of the calculation characteristics of the GPO and WEP, they have a disproportionately negative effect on employees working in lower-wage government jobs, like policemen, firefighters, teachers, and state employees; and

Whereas, Louisiana is making every effort to improve the quality of life of its citizens and to encourage them to live here, yet the current GPO and WEP provisions compromise their quality of life; and

Whereas, the number of people affected by GPO and WEP is growing everyday as more and more people reach retirement age; and

Whereas, individuals drastically affected by the GPO and WEP may have no choice but to return to work after retirement in order to make ends meet, but the earnings accumulated during this return to work can further reduce the Social Security benefits to which the individual is entitled; and

Whereas, the GPO and WEP are established in federal law, and repeal of the GPO and WEP can only be enacted by congress; and

Whereas, the Legislature of Louisiana adopted House Concurrent Resolution No. 11 of the 2022 Regular Session memorializing congress to support H.R. 82 of the 117th Congress and other state legislators to do the same in order to reduce or eliminate the GPO and WEP. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to review the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions and to eliminate or reduce them by supporting H.R. 82 and S. 597 of the 118th Congress and all similar purposed legislation; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation and the president of the United States.

POM-133. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to compel the United States Food and Drug Administration to fulfill its duties regarding inspection and testing of imported seafood; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 10

Whereas, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in 2019 the United States imported six billion pounds of edible seafood products, including one and one half billion pounds of shrimp, an increase of nearly six and one half million pounds more than the shrimp imported in 2018; and

Whereas, the 2019 shrimp imports alone, valued at six billion dollars, accounted for twenty-seven percent of the total value of imported seafood that year, which reached twenty-two billion dollars; and

Whereas, it is estimated that over half of the imported seafood consumed in the United States is from aquaculture, or seafood farming, rather than wild-caught; and

Whereas, the FDA is responsible for the safety of all fish and fishery products entering the United States and sold in Louisiana; and

Whereas, the FDA's seafood safety program is governed by its Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point regulations, which address food safety management through the analysis and control of biological, chemical, and physical hazards from raw material production and procurement and handling to manufacturing, distribution, and consumption of the finished product; and

Whereas, FDA regulations are supposed to measure the compliance of imported seafood with inspections of foreign processing facilities, sampling of seafood offered for import into the United States, domestic surveillance sampling of imported products, inspections of seafood importers, foreign country program assessments, and the use of information from foreign partners and FDA overseas offices; and

Whereas, in 2011 the FDA was only inspecting two percent of the seafood imported into the United States; and

Whereas, unfortunately 2011 is the last year for which data regarding the percentage of imports inspected is available due to a lack of transparency and inadequate assessment measures; and

Whereas, in 2011 the Government Accountability Office (GAO) noted that the FDA's assessment of foreign aquaculture operations was limited by the FDA's lack of procedures, criteria, and standards; and ten years later, a 2021 GAO report found that the agency was failing to monitor the effectiveness of its own enforcement policies and procedures; and

Whereas, in contrast, the European Union regularly conducts physical checks of ap-

proximately twenty percent of all imported fish products that are fresh, frozen, dry, salted, or hermetically sealed, and for certain fishery products, physical checks are conducted on approximately fifty percent of imports; and

Whereas, the Louisiana State University School of Renewable Natural Resources published a 2020 paper titled "Determination of Sulfite and Antimicrobial Residue in Imported Shrimp to the USA", which presented findings from a study of shrimp imported from India, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, China, Bangladesh, and Ecuador and purchased from retail stores in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and

Whereas, a screening of these shrimp for sulfites and residues from antimicrobial drugs found the following: (1) five percent of the shrimp contained malachite green, (2) seven percent contained oxytetracycline, (3) seventeen percent contained fluoroquinolone, and (4) seventy percent contained nitrofurantoin, all of which have been banned by the FDA in domestic aquaculture operations; and

Whereas, although the FDA requires that food products exposed to sulfites must include a label with a statement about the presence of sulfites, of the forty-three percent of these locally purchased shrimp found to contain sulfites, not one package complied with this labeling requirement; and

Whereas, the drug and sulfite residues included in this screening can be harmful to human health during both handling and consumption and have been known to cause all a of the following: liver damage and tumors, reproductive abnormalities, cardiac arrhythmia, renal failure, hemolysis, asthma attacks, and allergic reactions; and

Whereas, the results of this study confirm that existing screening and enforcement measures for imported seafood are insufficient; whatever the percentage of imports inspected may be, seafood is currently being imported that contains unsafe substances that put American consumers at risk; and

Whereas, because imported seafood is not held to the same standards as domestic seafood, domestic fishing industries are put at a distinct and significant disadvantage commercially; and

Whereas, according to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the average value of Louisiana shrimp fell from three dollars and eighty cents per pound in 1980 to one dollar fifty cents per pound in 2017; and

Whereas, this unfair competition allows foreign competitors to flood the United States market with seafood harvested under intensive farming practices using antimicrobial drugs, while devastating local industries and the coastal communities built around them; and

Whereas, shrimp consumption is on the rise in the United States, yet domestic shrimp profits have decreased in recent years, particularly for shrimp sourced in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic regions; and

Whereas, Senator John Kennedy has previously introduced legislation to bolster Louisiana's shrimp, red snapper, and seafood industry and protect American consumers from illegal exports; and

Whereas, this legislation would increase funding to the Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP) and would allow SIMP to conduct audits on seafood under its purview to prevent foreign seafood imports that misrepresent themselves from entering U.S. markets; and

Whereas, proposed legislation such as this is a necessary step that Congress must take to protect American consumers and bolster the Louisiana seafood industry. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to compel the United States Food and Drug Administration to fulfill its duties regarding inspection and testing of imported seafood; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-134. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to amend federal law to allow states to provide for the consolidation of federally funded workforce development services with federally funded social safety net services; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11

Whereas, the state of Louisiana desires to provide the most streamlined and consolidated customer service for those seeking work, unemployment benefits, or social safety net programs; and

Whereas, the United States Department of Labor and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) currently restrict the consolidation of federally funded employment and job training services with other federally funded services, such as safety net programs; and

Whereas, in Louisiana, federally funded employment services and workforce development services are provided by local workforce development boards and the Louisiana Workforce Commission, and federally funded social services are provided by the Louisiana Department of Health; and

Whereas, Louisianians seeking assistance with employment and job training services, as well as social safety net programs, are forced to seek these services at more than one location of state and local government agencies, with little to no consolidation or coordination of such services; and

Whereas, the state of Louisiana desires to develop a consolidation plan for the delivery of workforce development and social services to its citizens in order to provide a broader and more streamlined delivery of services to those seeking these services. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to amend federal law to allow states to provide for the consolidation of federally funded workforce development services with federally funded social safety net programs. Be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-135. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Michigan vehemently opposing the transfer of mail processing operations from the Iron Mountain Processing and Distribution Center to the Green Bay Processing and Distribution Center in Wisconsin; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 12

Whereas, The United States Postal Service has a long and venerable tradition of serving as a great equalizer between the people of our nation. Both the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution of the United States gave Congress the power to establish a system of post offices, and a Post Office Department was first established by the Sec-

ond Continental Congress in 1775, with Benjamin Franklin appointed to serve as the Postmaster General. Throughout its 250-year history, the Post Office has chosen time and time again to prioritize service over profit, from President Washington's support for the subsidization of stagecoaches in the 1780s, to the construction of money-losing postal routes to encourage settlement in the west during the mid-19th century, to the creation of the Pony Express to deliver the mail through extreme environments in 1860, to the elimination of price differences based on the distance of a letter was to travel in 1863. While free home delivery began in cities in 1863, it was not initially offered in rural areas, though they paid the same rates. After initial experiments showed how happy rural customers were to be given the same attention as city-dwellers, rural free delivery became a permanent service in 1902. It is the mission of the United States Postal Service "to bind the Nation together through the personal, educational, literary, and business correspondence of the people"; and

Whereas, The Post Office is a service that we, as a society, have chosen to provide to our people. There is no constitutional mandate that the Post Office be run as a profitable business enterprise; to the contrary, our history shows that we have repeatedly used the Post Office to ensure that every American, no matter where they live, is connected through the post. The people can choose the level of postal service that they want the United States Postal Service to provide, and they can decide what costs they are willing to bear to provide that service; and

Whereas, Contrary to the desires of many that the United States Postal Service put service first, there are those who insist that it must be run like a business. The "Delivering for America" plan, published in March 2021, emphasizes the financial viability of the Postal Service, with a focus on raising enough revenue to cover their operating costs and fund new investments. The plan proudly proclaims that it will enable the United States Postal Service to operate with a positive net income, and the most recent report boasts that it has reduced projected ten-year losses from 160 billion dollars to 70 billion dollars. These publications read like a corporate marketing pitch, establishing goals such as "more rational pricing approach," a "stable and empowered workforce" and a "bold approach to growth, innovation and continued relevance." What these profit-minded advocates seemingly fail to recognize is that lower-quality service and higher prices drive customers away, decreasing use of the postal service and thus decreasing revenue, while simultaneously undermining the Postal Service's mission of binding the nation together; and

Whereas, The United States Postal Service's focus on financial optimization has already had negative impacts on those living in rural areas, such as Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Local post offices have changed the time when mail is gathered for delivery from the afternoon to the early morning, meaning that a piece of mail dropped off during the day will remain at the post office for far longer before the shipping process begins. In practical effect, this adds one day to shipping times even while allowing the Postal Service to deny having done so for accounting purposes. Additionally, one-day Priority Mail Express shipping, which was available as recently as early January 2024, is no longer available from the UP to anywhere in Michigan: instead, citizens are being charged the same rate for two-day shipping. Combined with the change in collection time above, next-day shipping has essentially been transformed into three-day shipping.

This is extremely problematic for businesses and health departments that need to collect samples of drinking water and have them delivered to a laboratory for bacterial testing within 24 hours of sampling. Delays in shipping also have negative consequences for patients who receive medications through the mail, for people who need to ensure their bills are paid on time, and for businesses delivering frozen foods such as the UP's beloved pasties. Focusing too much on the postal network as a whole while ignoring the importance of timely local shipping is not modernization; it is regression. The people of the Upper Peninsula want what's best for their communities, not what's best for the pocketbooks for those in Washington; and

Whereas, In January 2024, the United States Postal Service announced plans to transfer some mail processing services, including outgoing mail operations, from the Iron Mountain Processing and Distribution Center in Kingsford, Michigan, to the Green Bay Processing and Distribution Center in Wisconsin. The Postal Service has justified this plan based on the fact that a majority of the mail and packages sent from the Iron Mountain area are destined for locations outside the local area. While this might make sense from the standpoint of the Postal Service as a nationwide business, it does not make sense for the people of the Upper Peninsula, for whom timely local delivery is essential. The notices that have been published about this plan assure that, while five craft employee positions will be eliminated, no management positions will be eliminated. But the notices also indicate that there will be reassignments, which means that some employees could be left without a job if they are unwilling to be reassigned to a post office far away. Furthermore, recent changes to the Iron Mountain facility may have led to inaccurate conclusions about the need for it, stacking the deck so that the evidence would support the conclusion the government was looking for. The capacity of the Green Bay facility to handle the mail from the Iron Mountain area is curiously left out of the government's preliminary findings. When similar notices across the country all use identical, buzzword-riddled language about efficiency, cost-effectiveness, modern strategies, and "rightsizing" the postal workforce, it becomes difficult to trust that they have made a careful, informed decision about the proper level of services to provide at the Iron Mountain facility; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That we vehemently oppose the transfer of mail processing operations from the Iron Mountain Processing and Distribution Center to the Green Bay Processing and Distribution Center in Wisconsin; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Michigan, the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the United States Postmaster General.

POM-136. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan vehemently opposing the transfer of mail processing operations from the Iron Mountain Processing and Distribution Center to the Green Bay Processing and Distribution Center in Wisconsin; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 92

Whereas, The United States Postal Service has a long and venerable tradition of serving as a great equalizer between the people of

our nation. Both the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution of the United States gave Congress the power to establish a system of post offices, and a Post Office Department was first established by the Second Continental Congress in 1775, with Benjamin Franklin appointed to serve as the Postmaster General. Throughout its 250-year history, the Post Office has chosen time and time again to prioritize service over profit, from President Washington's support for the subsidization of stagecoaches in the 1780s, to the construction of money-losing postal routes to encourage settlement in the west during the mid-19th century, to the creation of the Pony Express to deliver the mail through extreme environments in 1860, to the elimination of price differences based on the distance a letter was to travel in 1863. While free home delivery began in cities in 1863, it was not initially offered in rural areas, though they paid the same rates. After initial experiments showed how happy rural customers were to be given the same attention as city-dwellers, rural free delivery became a permanent service in 1902. It is the mission of the United States Postal Service "to bind the Nation together through the personal, educational, literary, and business correspondence of the people"; and

Whereas, The Post Office is a service that we, as a society, have chosen to provide to our people. There is no constitutional mandate that the Post Office be run as a profitable business enterprise; to the contrary, our history shows that we have repeatedly used the Post Office to ensure that every American, no matter where they live, is connected through the post. The people can choose the level of postal service that they want the United States Postal Service to provide, and they can decide what costs they are willing to bear to provide that service; and

Whereas, Contrary to the desires of many that the United States Postal Service put service first, there are those who insist that it must be run like a business. The "Delivering for America" plan, published in March 2021, and particularly its "optimized collections plan", emphasizes the financial viability of the Postal Service, with a focus on raising enough revenue to cover their operating costs and fund new investments. The plan proudly proclaims that it will enable the United States Postal Service to operate with a positive net income, and the most recent report boasts that it has reduced projected ten-year losses from 160 billion dollars to 70 billion dollars. These publications read like a corporate marketing pitch, establishing goals such as a "more rational pricing approach," a "stable and empowered workforce" and a "bold approach to growth, innovation and continued relevance." What these profit-minded advocates seemingly fail to recognize is that lower-quality service and higher prices drive customers away, decreasing use of the postal service and thus decreasing revenue, while simultaneously undermining the Postal Service's mission of binding the nation together; and

Whereas, The United States Postal Service's focus on financial optimization has already had negative impacts on those living in rural areas, such as Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Local post offices have changed the time when mail is gathered for delivery from the afternoon to the early morning, meaning that a piece of mail dropped off during the day will remain at the post office for far longer before the shipping process begins. In practical affect, this adds one day to shipping times even while allowing the Postal Service to deny having done so for accounting purposes. Additionally, one-day Priority Mail Express shipping, which was available as recently as early January 2024, is no

longer available from the UP to anywhere in Michigan; instead, citizens are being charged the same rate for two-day shipping. Combined with the change in collection time above, next-day shipping has essentially been transformed into three-day shipping. This is extremely problematic for businesses and health departments that need to collect samples of drinking water and have them delivered to a laboratory for bacterial testing with 24 hours of sampling. Delays in shipping also have negative consequences for patients who receive medications through the mail, for people who need to ensure their bills are paid on time, and for businesses delivering frozen foods such as the UP's beloved pasties. Focusing too much on the postal network as a whole while ignoring the importance of timely local shipping is not modernization; it is regression. The people of the Upper Peninsula want what's best for the communities, not what's best for the pocketbooks of those in Washington; and

Whereas, In January 2024, the United States Postal Service announced plans to transfer some mail processing services, including outgoing mail operations, from the Iron Mountain Processing and Distribution Center in Kingsford, Michigan, to the Green Bay Processing and Distribution Center in Wisconsin. The Postal Service has justified this plan based on the fact that a majority of the mail and packages sent from the Iron Mountain area are destined for locations outside the local area. While this might make sense from the standpoint of the Postal Service as a nationwide business, it does not make sense for the people of the Upper Peninsula, for whom timely local delivery is essential. The notices that have been published about this plan assure that, while five craft employee positions will be eliminated, no management positions will be eliminated. But the notices also indicate that there will be reassignments, which means that some employees could be left without a job if they are unwilling to be reassigned to a post office far away. Furthermore, recent changes to the Iron Mountain facility may have led to inaccurate conclusions about the need for it, stacking the deck so that the evidence would support the conclusion the government was looking for. The capacity of the Green Bay facility to handle the mail from the Iron Mountain area is curiously left out of the government's preliminary findings. When similar notices across the country all use identical, buzzword-riddled language about efficiency, cost-effectiveness, modern strategies, and "rightsizing" the postal workforce, it becomes difficult to trust that they have made a careful, informed decision about the proper level of services to provide at the Iron Mountain facility; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we vehemently oppose the transfer of mail processing operations from the Iron Mountain Processing and Distribution Center to the Green Bay Processing and Distribution Center in Wisconsin; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Michigan, the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the United States Postmaster General.

POM-137. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Guam expressing support for the passage of measures by the United States Congress during the 118th Congress which would amend the "Radiation Exposure Compensation Act" to include the people of Guam as "downwinders" of U.S. Pacific nuclear test sites, extend the claims period,

and improve compensation and benefits; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

RESOLUTION NO. 171-37

Whereas, the United States government detonated sixty-seven (67) nuclear devices in the Bikini and Eniwetok Atolls of the Republic of the Marshall Islands between the years of 1946 and 1962. These nuclear test sites in the Marshall Islands, in addition to other locations in the Pacific Ocean, became known as the "Pacific Proving Grounds." On October 31, 1952 (GMT), one (1) U.S. nuclear test titled "Operation Ivy" was conducted on Elugelab Island ("Flora") in the Eniwetok Atoll, in which the first true thermonuclear hydrogen bomb (a 10.4 megaton device), code-named "Mike," was detonated, destroying the entire island, and leaving behind a crater six thousand two hundred forty (6,240) feet across and one hundred sixty-four (164) feet deep in its aftermath; and

Whereas, radioactive fallout occurs after a detonation of a nuclear bomb where radioactive particles and earth debris, which form the mushroom cloud, are released into the atmosphere, and remain there for about twenty-four (24) hours before descending back to Earth. Before the descent back to Earth, these radioactive particles can be carried through jet-streams in the atmosphere to locations over a thousand miles away from the actual test site and settle into the environment causing multiple health and environmental problems; and

Whereas, in a 2005 Assessment of the Scientific Information for the Radiation Exposure Screening and Education Program reported by the National Research Council on behalf of the Committee to Assess the Scientific Information for the Radiation Exposure Screening and Education Program and Board on Radiation Effects Research Division on Earth and Life Studies, it was confirmed that Guam "did receive radioactive debris from fallout during the nuclear-weapons testing in the Pacific Ocean" and was a harbor for the decontamination of ships present in the Marshall Islands during the nuclear testing; and

Whereas, in the sworn testimony of retired U.S. Navy Lieutenant Charles Bert Schreiber on the fallout of the first hydrogen bomb test, the detonation of Operation Ivy's Mike, he states, "I was the Radiological Safety Officer for the Headquarters Command Guam. On or about November 3, 1952, I was making my monthly check sitting at the desk in that office that was about five (5) feet from the window screens that covered the wall all the way down to about a couple of inches from the floor. I took out the metal calibration rod (about as big as a normal soda straw and about six (6) inches long) stored in the instrument that has a small radioactive source on its end. I put the counter on the low setting (it has three (3); low, medium, and high) and was ready to place the rod near the detection windows (two (2) of them), but the dial needle was way over on the scale and the audible signal was clicking like mad, or almost a continuous sound; sounds like constant static on a radio. My original thought was that the counter was malfunctioning, but when I raised it up and put it nearer the screen window, the dial needle swung even further over, and the sound increased still further. I then put it close to the screen near the floor and the needle went off the scale (as far as it could swing right). I knew it was not the counter, but that there was some radioactivity outside. I panicked. My first thought was that Guam had been subjected to some radioactive dust attack"; and

Whereas, Guam's local residents were never warned or informed by the U.S. Navy of an increase in radioactivity, and documents with this information were classified until 1994; and

Whereas, on October 15, 1990, H.R. 2372 (U.S. Public Law 101-426), relative to the “Radiation Exposure Compensation Act” (RECA), was enacted. The law covered some of those who were affected by nuclear fallout during atmospheric testing in Nevada and the Marshall Islands. RECA established the Radiation Exposure Compensation Program (RECP) with the Civil Division of the U.S. Department of Justice to administer its responsibilities under RECA; and

Whereas, on July 10, 2000, an amendment to RECA (U.S. Public Law 106-245) broadened the scope of eligibility for benefit coverage to include new victim categories, and to modify the eligibility criteria for compensation. The amendment extended the time-period for consideration and compensation, and included other individuals who experienced radiation exposure, such as uranium miners, uranium millers, ore transporters, and “downwinders”; and

Whereas, to address the issue of eligibility under RECA, the Board on Radiation Effects Research (BRER) Committee invited Guam’s Mr. Robert N. Celestial and then-Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo to give oral and written testimonies in 2004. After completing both testimonies, an independent committee was convened. Its conclusions are documented in the Radiation Exposure Screening and Education Program (RESEP) Report 2005, which states: “As a result of its analysis, the committee concludes that Guam did receive measurable fallout from atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons in the Pacific. Residents of Guam during that period should be eligible for compensation under RECA in a way similar to that of persons considered to be downwinders”; and

Whereas, the Guam Legislature supports extension of RECA coverage to claimants who were residents of Guam for at least one (1) year from 1946 to 1962 and diagnosed with a RECA covered illness as “downwinders” of U.S. Pacific nuclear test sites; an increase of RECA awards for “downwinders” from Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000); coverage for additional forms of cancer and medical benefits; and an extension of the fund claims period for nineteen (19) more years; and

Whereas, the cancer diagnoses eligible under RECA include leukemia, multiple myeloma, lymphoma (other than Hodgkin’s disease), and primary cancers of the thyroid, male or female breast, esophagus, stomach, pharynx, small intestine, pancreas, bile ducts, gallbladder, salivary gland, urinary bladder, brain, colon, ovary, liver (except if cirrhosis or hepatitis B is indicated), and lung; and

Whereas, incidence data reported from Guam to the Pacific Regional Central Cancer Registry between 2007 and 2018 shows that seven (7) of the top ten (10) adult cancers in Guam are compensable under RECA; now therefore, be it

Resolved, that I Mina’trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guahan (the 37th Guam Legislature) does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, express support for the passage of measures by the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives during the 118th Congress which would amend the “Radiation Exposure Compensation Act” to include Guam as a “downwinder” of U.S. Pacific nuclear test sites, extend the fund claims period, improve compensation to One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000), and provide medical benefits; and does further support the extension of RECA coverage to those persons who were present in Guam for at least one (1) year from 1946 to 1962 and diagnosed with a RECA covered illness; and be it further

Resolved, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption

hereof, and that copies of the same be there-after transmitted to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President, United States of America; to the Honorable Kamala Harris, Vice President, United States of America; to the Honorable Patty Murray, President Pro Tempore, U.S. Senate; to the Honorable Ben Ray Lujan, New Mexico Senator, U.S. Senate; to the Honorable Dick Durbin, Chairperson, U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary; to the Honorable Teresa Leger Fernandez, New Mexico Representative, U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairperson, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary; to the Honorable Virginia Foxx, Chairperson, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and the Workforce; to the Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Chairperson, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce; to the Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, Democratic Leader, U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable Burgess Owens, U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable Bob Good, Chairman of the House Freedom Caucus; to the Honorable James C. Moylan, Guam Delegate, U.S. House of Representatives; to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior; to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs; to the U.S. Attorney General, Department of Justice; to Mr. Robert N. Celestial, President, Pacific Association of Radiation Survivors (PARS); and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, I Maga’hagan Guahan.

POM-138. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Colorado concerning the designation of March 4, 2024, as “Colorado Aerospace Day”; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 24-012

Whereas, Our nation and the world have significantly benefitted from technological and scientific advances resulting from space exploration and aerospace activities; and

Whereas, Colorado ranks first in the nation for aerospace employment concentration; and

Whereas, There are over 37,000 Coloradans who are directly employed in aerospace, with the aerospace cluster supporting over 250,000 jobs; and

Whereas, Colorado is home to the nation’s top aerospace companies, including Ball Aerospace, Blue Origin, Boeing, L3Harris, Lockheed Martin Space, Maxar Technologies, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, Sierra Space, and United Launch Alliance, and close to 500 additional companies that support the aerospace sector by providing services and developing products, including spacecraft, launch vehicles, satellites, command and control software, sensors, and navigation operations; and

Whereas, Colorado is a strategic location for national space and cyber activity, with five key military commands: North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), the United States Northern Command, the Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense, the United States Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, and the permanent home of United States Space Command, and three space-related United States Space Force bases: Buckley, Peterson, and Schriever; and

Whereas, The United States Air Force Academy, along with Colorado’s colleges and universities, including the University of Colorado Boulder, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, Colorado School of Mines, Colorado State University, Metropolitan

State University of Denver, University of Denver, Colorado Mesa University, and Fort Lewis College, provides access to world-class aerospace-related degrees and offers aerospace companies one of the country’s most educated workforces; and

Whereas, Various organizations are key to Colorado’s prominence in aerospace, such as the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, the world’s largest aerospace technical society; the Colorado Space Coalition, a group of industry stakeholders working to grow and promote Colorado as a center of excellence for aerospace; the Colorado chapter of Citizens for Space Exploration, housed within the Colorado Business Roundtable, whose mission is to promote better understanding of aerospace and its importance in our economy and daily lives, as well as promoting the importance of human space exploration; and the Colorado Space Business Roundtable, an organization that works to convene stakeholders from industry, government, and academia to advance aerospace business and workforce opportunities throughout the state. Together, these organizations form the Colorado chapter of the Aerospace States Association, a nonpartisan organization of lieutenant governors and associate members from aerospace organizations and academia who represent states’ interests in federal aerospace and aviation policy development, currently led by Colorado Lieutenant Governor Dianne Primavera; and

Whereas, The Colorado Air and Space Port seeks to serve as America’s hub for commercial space transportation, research, and development. This horizontal launch facility will have the potential to become the foundation for a global suborbital transportation network connecting Colorado globally; now, therefore,

Be it Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-Fourth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein.

That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly:

(1) Strongly urge and request the government of the United States of America to take action to preserve and enhance American leadership in space, spur innovation, and ensure our continued national and economic security by increasing funding for space exploration and activities;

(2) Congratulate NASA and Lockheed Martin Space on the return of its mission OSIRIS-REx to earth on September 24, 2023, after its six-year journey from Bennu with the first-ever sample return from an asteroid;

(3) Recognize and appreciate the Colorado companies, including Ball Aerospace, Boeing, Lockheed Martin Space, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, United Launch Alliance, and others, that are key to enabling human exploration throughout our solar system, supporting NASA’s Artemis Program to take humans to the moon and beyond. These companies’ work continues to expand our understanding of the universe, enabling a new generation of groundbreaking research with innovations like the James Webb Space Telescope, and will help lead the way in the search for life beyond our planet with the Habitable Worlds Observatory;

(4) Recognize and appreciate the exciting new innovations such as the successful inaugural flight of the United Launch Alliance Vulcan Centaur Rocket on January 8, 2024, as well as the upcoming inaugural flight of Boeing’s CST-100 Starliner Crew Test Flight to the International Space Station and the upcoming inaugural flight of the Sierra Space Dream Chaser, the world’s only winged commercial spaceplane, to the International Space Station, both of which will launch on a United Launch Alliance rocket; and

(5) Hereby declare March 4, 2024, to be “Colorado Aerospace Day”.

Be it Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to President Joseph Biden, Jr.; Vice President Kamala Harris; Speaker of the House of Representatives Mike Johnson; House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries; Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer; Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell; Senator John Hickenlooper; Senator Michael Bennet; Congresswoman Diana DeGette; Congressman Joe Neguse; Congresswoman Lauren Boebert; Congressman Ken Buck; Congressman Doug Lamborn; Congressman Jason Crow; Congresswoman Brittany Pettersen; Congresswoman Yadira Caraveo; Bill Nelson, NASA Administrator; Michael Whitaker, Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration; Governor Jared Polis; Lieutenant Governor and Co-chair, Colorado Space Coalition, Dianne Primavera; Brigadier General Laura Clellan, The Adjutant General of Colorado; General Stephen N. Whiting, Commander, U.S. Space Command; Colonel Marcus Jackson, Buckley Garrison Commander, Buckley Space Force Base; Dr. Christopher Scolese, Director, National Reconnaissance Office; Ross B. Garelick Bell, Executive Director, Aerospace States Association; Heather Pringle, Chief Executive Officer, Space Foundation; Dr. Ronald M. Sega, Co-chair, Colorado Space Coalition; Michael Gass, Co-chair, Colorado Space Coalition; Debra Wilcox, Chair, Colorado Space Business Roundtable; Christie Lee and Stacey DeFore, Co-chairs, Colorado Citizens for Space Exploration; Marshall Lee, Chair, AIAA Rocky Mountain Section; Jeff Kloska, Director, Colorado Air and Space Port; and Debbie Brown, President, Colorado Business Roundtable.

POM-139. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan urging the United States Congress to fund the construction of a new air traffic control tower for the Gerald R. Ford International Airport; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 122

Whereas, The Gerald R. Ford International Airport, located in Cascade Township near Grand Rapids, Michigan, is the largest commercial airport in western Michigan and second largest airport in the state. This airport has been ranked by the Federal Aviation Administration as one of the fastest growing airports in the United States. The Gerald R. Ford International Airport, originally named the Kent County Airport, was built in 1963 and is in desperate need of an update to its air traffic control tower; and

Whereas, The current air traffic control tower in use at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport is over six decades old, making it the second-oldest control tower in the nation's top 100 markets. Recent terminal upgrades mark this airport as dedicated to setting the bar high regarding the quality of the services it provides. Securing funding for a new air traffic control tower would ensure that the Gerald R. Ford International Airport maintains this trend; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we urge Congress to fund the construction of a new air traffic control tower for the Gerald R. Ford International Airport; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-140. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana

urging the United States Congress to support the extension of funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program of 2021, which provides Louisiana residents access to broadband services; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

Whereas, on August 29, 2019, by executive order, Governor John Bel Edwards created the Broadband for Everyone in Louisiana Commission, which facilitates private-sector providers, public entities, and other broadband stakeholders to improve both the adoption and availability of broadband service for Louisiana residents by providing universal access to broadband service; and

Whereas, during the 2020 Second Extraordinary Session of the Legislature of Louisiana, the office of broadband and connectivity was created within the governor's office to promote and encourage broadband adoption for households in an effort to eliminate the digital divide in Louisiana by 2029; and

Whereas, the office of broadband and connectivity's mission is to coordinate federal, state, and municipal efforts by identifying best practices and tactics necessary to reach their goal; and

Whereas, in 2021, as part of the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act's historic investment in broadband infrastructure and digital equity, Congress appropriated more than fourteen billion dollars for the ACP; and

Whereas, Congress assigned the Federal Communications Commission to administer the ACP, the successor program to the Emergency Broadband Benefit, which helped almost nine million households afford internet access during the pandemic; and

Whereas, under the ACP, eligible households can receive a discount of up to thirty dollars per month for internet services and up to seventy-five dollars per month for households on qualifying tribal lands; and

Whereas, eligible households may also receive a one-time discount of up to one hundred dollars to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers; and

Whereas, Louisiana was the first state to receive broadband award approval from the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and is number one in the nation for ACP enrollment with an estimated forty-six percent of eligible households enrolled; and

Whereas, currently, there are more than nine hundred thousand eligible households within the state that may qualify for the ACP and four hundred twenty-two thousand two hundred fifty-seven households that have enrolled; and

Whereas, based on current take rates, more than fourteen billion dollars in funding appropriated for the ACP program could be exhausted in late 2023 or early 2024; and

Whereas, the ACP has been a critical tool in helping bridge the digital divide that exists between those who have access to modern information and communications technology and those who do not. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to support continued funding of the ACP so that low-income Louisiana households can continue to receive the support they need to participate in the digital marketplace; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-141. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii en-

dorsing the participation of Taiwan as an observer in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, International Civil Aviation Organization, World Health Organization, and International Criminal Police Organization; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

Whereas, the United States and Republic of China, also commonly known as Taiwan, are bonded by a shared commitment to democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and a free market economy; and

Whereas, for years, Taiwan has actively engaged in climate change research, supported anti-terrorism cooperation, and worked with its partners to tackle transnational crime; and

Whereas, Taiwan's meaningful participation in bodies such as the World Health Organization, International Criminal Police Organization, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and International Civil Aviation Organization would make international mechanisms even more global; and

Whereas, the Congress of the United States passed the landmark Taiwan Relations Act in 1979, which is the foundation of United States-Taiwan relations as it promotes a close bilateral relationship that advances mutual security and commercial interests between the United States and Taiwan; and

Whereas, preserving peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait is crucial to the maintenance of a free and open Indo-Pacific, and Taiwan is an indispensable partner in this endeavor; and

Whereas, Taiwan is the ninth largest trade partner of the United States, with bilateral trade totaling \$135,500,000,000 in 2022; and

Whereas, Taiwan supports the United States-led Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, as it will help bolster the economic potential of the region by defining shared trade objectives among partners and addressing standards for technology, supply chains, the digital economy and clean energy; and

Whereas, the United States-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade intends to develop concrete methods to deepen their economic and trade relationship, advance mutual trade priorities based on shared values, and promote innovative and inclusive economic growth for workers and businesses, including through new trade agreements; and

Whereas, to strengthen bilateral trade, the government of Taiwan has expressed its desire for a Bilateral Trade Agreement, Bilateral Investment Agreement, and an Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement; and

Whereas, since establishing a sister-state relationship in 1993, Hawaii and Taiwan have developed an enduring and mutually beneficial friendship exemplified by the Taiwan government's generous \$500,000 contribution to Hawaii in the aftermath of the disastrous Maui wildfire in 2023; and

Whereas, Taiwan is Hawaii's tenth largest import partner and its ninth largest export partner, as Taiwan imported \$54,000,000 worth of goods, with award-winning Kona coffee beans being the most popular, and exported \$13,000,000 worth of goods in 2023; and

Whereas, the State of Hawaii Office in Taipei and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Honolulu have been working together to promote substantial cooperation and exchanges in the areas of tourism, agriculture, culture, education, and trade between Hawaii and Taiwan; and

Whereas, the United States-Taiwan Education Initiative was launched in 2020 to strengthen cooperation in international education and highlight Taiwan's capacity to provide Mandarin language instruction; and

Whereas, given Mandarin's designation as a critical language and Taiwan's plans to be

bilingual by 2030, schools and institutions of higher education in both Hawaii and Taiwan are encouraged to enhance their exchanges, as exemplified by the partnership between the University of Hawaii and the National Tsing Hua University; and

Whereas, Taiwan has established the Gift Scholarship at the University of Hawaii to sponsor Language Flagship for students interested in Mandarin immersion programs in Taiwan, and the University of Hawaii and the National Taiwan Ocean University have signed a memorandum of understanding on Academic Cooperation and an Agreement of Cooperative 3+2 Master Programs, which will further improve the bilateral exchange of education; and

Whereas, the United States has assisted Taiwan in participating in the World Health Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization, and International Criminal Police Organization and will continue to support Taiwan's meaningful participation in these and other international organizations; now, therefore, and be it

Resolved, By the Senate of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the House of Representatives concurring, that this body endorses the participation of Taiwan as an observer in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, International Civil Aviation Organization, World Health Organization, and International Criminal Police Organization; and be it further

Resolved, That this body supports the further progress on the United States—Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade and a speedy conclusion to this negotiation and encourages the United States Trade Representative to commence negotiations to enter into a bilateral trade agreement with Taiwan; and be it further

Resolved, That this body supports the State's thirty-first anniversary of sister-state relations with Taiwan and commemorates the forty-fifth anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States; President of the United States Senate; Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; United States Secretary of State; members of Hawaii's congressional delegation; Governor; and Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.

POM-142. A resolution adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco, California, urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to amend specified provisions of the federal Social Security Act to allow recipients of disabled adult child benefits under the act to continue to receive those benefits upon marriage; to the Committee on Finance.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 4036. A bill to establish a Government Spending Oversight Committee within the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-186).

By Mr. SCHATZ, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1723. A bill to establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding

School Policies in the United States, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-187).

By Mr. REED, from the Committee on Armed Services, without amendment:

S. 4638. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-188).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 4630. A bill to establish an interagency committee to harmonize regulatory regimes in the United States relating to cybersecurity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 4631. A bill to amend title 41, United States Code, to prohibit minimum education requirements for proposed contractor personnel in certain contract solicitations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 4632. A bill to establish an earlier application processing cycle for the FAFSA; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 4633. A bill to provide for the settlement of the water rights claims of the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, and the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. RISCH):

S. 4634. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 154 First Avenue East in Jerome, Idaho, as the "Representative Maxine Bell Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. ERNST):

S. 4635. A bill to require a report and updated guidance on continued risk management for pharmaceutical supply chains of Department of Defense; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PETERS:

S. 4636. A bill to require reporting on offerors that have denied requests for uncertified cost or pricing data; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 4637. A bill to amend the Food for Peace Act to allow additional forms of assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. REED:

S. 4638. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Armed Services; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 4639. A bill to establish in the National Institute of Standards and Technology the Foundation for Standards and Metrology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 751. A resolution congratulating the Triune University Thunder women's softball team for winning the 2023 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Women's Softball National Championship; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. Res. 752. A resolution expressing the condolences of the Senate and honoring the memory of the victims on the second anniversary of the mass shooting at the Fourth of July parade in Highland Park, Illinois, on July 4, 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 91

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 91, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust.

S. 265

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 265, a bill to reauthorize the rural emergency medical service training and equipment assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 633

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJAN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 633, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Everett Alvarez, Jr., in recognition of his service to the United States.

S. 711

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 711, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the invaluable service that working dogs provide to society.

S. 912

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Colorado