

Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Semiannual Management Report for the period from April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3177. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Education's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3178. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Department's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-88. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to renew the African Growth and Opportunity Act and to expand it to include other sub-Saharan African countries; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 74

Whereas, The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) was enacted in May 2000 to provide eligible sub-Saharan African countries with duty-free access to the United States market for over 1,800 products, as well as over 5,000 products that are eligible for duty-free access under the Generalized System of Access Program. To become and remain eligible for duty-free access, countries must establish or make continual progress towards establishing a market-based economy, the rule of law, political pluralism, and the right to due process. Eligible countries must have also eliminated barriers to trade and investment with the United States and enacted policies to reduce poverty, combat corruption, and protect human rights; and

Whereas, Approximately forty sub-Saharan African countries are eligible for AGOA beneficiary status. On October 2, 2000, President Bill Clinton designated thirty-four countries as eligible for trade benefits provided under the AGOA. Since the AGOA's enactment, countries have been added and removed from the list of eligible countries, including Cote d'Ivoire, the Central African Republic, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Since 2019, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Guinea, Mali, and Burkina Faso have had their AGOA beneficiary status revoked, while the Democratic Republic of the Congo was declared an eligible lesser-developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African country; and

Whereas, The AGOA has been amended four times to clarify preferential treatment terms, technical standards, and sunset deadlines. With an initial expiration date of September 2007, President George W. Bush signed the AGOA Acceleration Act in July 2004 and extended the act's expiration date to 2015. In June 2015, President Barack Obama signed the Trade Preferences Extension Act, thereby extending the AGOA's validity to its current expiration date of 2025; and

Whereas, United States' imports under the AGOA continue to grow. Total AGOA imports were valued at 9.4 billion dollars in 2022, an increase of 57 percent from 6.0 billion dollars in 2021 and more than double the

value of imports in 2020, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Among these imports, energy product imports, such as crude oil, increased from 1.9 billion dollars in 2021 to 4.5 billion dollars in 2022, and accounted for 47 percent of AGOA imports. Nigeria was the top supplier of energy products in 2022, with 3.4 billion dollars imported. Non-energy imports, such as motor vehicles, textiles, and apparel, increased by 21 percent in 2022 to 5.0 billion dollars. South Africa was the top supplier of AGOA non-energy imports, with eligible imports increasing by 46 percent from 2021 to 2022; and

Whereas, The State of Michigan is well-positioned to support AGOA products from nations like Nigeria, South Africa, and other sub-Saharan African nations to create a two-way pipeline of investment for local entrepreneurs in our state. In 2022, Michigan imported 153 billion dollars, making it the sixth largest importer out of the 53 importers in the United States. As of May 2023, Michigan imported 14.7 billion dollars, with cars, parts and accessories for motor vehicles, delivery trucks, spark ignition engines, and commodities that were not otherwise specified among the top imports; and

Whereas, It is imperative that the United States renew the AGOA and expand it to include other sub-Saharan African countries in an effort to assist with sub-Saharan Africa's regional integration efforts. Sub-Saharan Africa has already become more integrated through tariff reduction and increasing trade in the region. An increase in integration has already led to a growth in regional exports. Coupled with the types of goods it exports, the sub-Saharan Africa region is quickly becoming an attractive trading partner for the State of Michigan. Expanding the AGOA to include other sub-Saharan African countries may help Michigan businesses by encouraging reform of economic and commercial regimes, leading to stronger markets and more effective partners for the State of Michigan; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we urge the President of the United States and the United States Congress to renew the African Growth and Opportunity Act and to expand it to include other sub-Saharan African countries; and be it further

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

POM-89. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California formally endorsing the call for a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2

Whereas, The scientific consensus is clear that human activities are primarily responsible for accelerating global climate change, and that the climate crisis now represents one of the preeminent threats to global civilization; and

Whereas, Fossil fuels are the largest contributor to global climate change accounting for 75 percent of greenhouse gas emissions; and

Whereas, The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report Synthesis Report, approved by 195 member states in March 2023, notes that greatly reduced fossil fuel use would be fundamental to limiting warming and warned that existing fossil fuel infrastructure was already sufficient to breach the 1.5 degrees Celsius limit; and

Whereas, In 2021, the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted landmark

legislation, Resolution 48/13, recognizing a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment is a human right; and

Whereas, The Paris Agreement makes no mention of coal, oil, and gas, an omission with respect to the supply and production of fossil fuels, the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, that needs to be collectively addressed by other means; and

Whereas, The Glasgow Climate Pact improved only incrementally in calling for a phasedown of unabated coal, not a phaseout of all fossil fuels; and

Whereas, Changes in California's climate are already being felt with extreme wildfires, heat waves, droughts, and increasingly severe storms, as well as, rising sea levels, coastal inundation, and ocean warming; and

Whereas, Our entire community is impacted by the health and safety risks of fossil fuel expansion, particularly those who also face socioeconomic and health inequities, including low-income families, those experiencing homelessness, people of color and Indigenous peoples, youth, seniors, those experiencing mental health challenges and physical disabilities, and people with health conditions; and

Whereas, Youth and future generations have the most to lose from a lack of immediate action to stop fossil fuel expansion as they face major and lifelong health, ecological, social, and economic impacts from climate change, including food and water shortages, infectious diseases, and natural disasters; and

Whereas, The International Monetary Fund found that the fossil fuel industry was globally subsidized by \$11,000,000 per minute in 2020, siphoning away funding needed by cities, communities, and other industries; and

Whereas, According to the United Nations Environment Programme Production Gap Report, governments and the fossil fuel industry are currently planning to produce about 110 percent more fossil fuels by 2030 than what is needed to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and avert catastrophic climate disruption; and

Whereas, The International Institute for Sustainable Development has found a "large consensus" across all published studies that developing new oil and gas fields is "incompatible" with the 1.5 degrees Celsius target, including the International Energy Agency that found that there are "no new oil and gas fields approved for development in our [1.5 degrees Celsius] pathway"; and

Whereas, A clean energy transition presents greater economic opportunities than continued dependence on fossil fuel use and extraction; and

Whereas, Our community is committed, as part of our climate emergency response, to a just energy transition and to ambitious investments in green infrastructure and workforce training, and industries that will create high-paying and skilled union jobs and rapidly decarbonize our economy; and

Whereas, California recognizes that it is the urgent responsibility and moral obligation of wealthy fossil fuel producers to manage the decline and phaseout of existing production; and

Whereas, A global initiative is underway calling for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty that would provide a global mechanism to end new fossil fuel exploration and expansion, manage a phaseout of existing production in line with the global commitment to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and accelerate equitable transition plans; and

Whereas, The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty has been formally called for by Vanuatu at the United Nations General Assembly and by Tuvalu at the Sharm el-

Sheikh Climate Change Conference (COP 27) in addition to public endorsements from the World Health Organization, the European Parliament, the Vatican, and over 70 cities and subnational governments globally, including the California Cities of Los Angeles, Hayward, Richmond, Santa Ana, and Sebastopol, as well as the Hawaii State Legislature, now; therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature formally endorses the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges the United States government to join the global community in formally developing a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty as an international mechanism to manage a global transition away from coal, oil, and gas; and be it further

Resolved, That California agrees with the principle of the nonproliferation of fossil fuels and the need to end the expansion of new coal, oil, and gas production; and be it further

Resolved, That California affirms the need for a plan to phase out existing fossil fuel production that prioritizes the most impacted workers and local government services with short- and long-term investments that include enforceable labor standards, such as prevailing wages, apprenticeship opportunities, and project labor agreements, to protect workers and communities; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature affirms its ongoing commitment to the goals of the Paris Agreement, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and the greenhouse gas reduction targets as called for by the IPCC, and intends to meet its proportionate greenhouse gas reductions under the Paris Agreement; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, to the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, to the Governor, to the mayor of each city in California, to the United Nations Secretary-General, and to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

POM-90. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan condemning the terrorist attacks carried out by Hamas in Israel on October 7, 2023; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 78

Whereas, Hamas, a United States-designated foreign terrorist organization, launched a heinous series of coordinated violent attacks by air, land, and sea in Israel on October 7, 2023. Thousands of rockets fired from Gaza fell on Israeli buildings indiscriminately, killing people in their homes and places of work. Armed terrorists on motorcycles engaged in a massive door-to-door slaughter of civilians. Hamas militants stormed Israeli beaches by motorboat. Paragliders descended upon a music festival, where Hamas terrorists mowed down hundreds of attendees with gunfire; and

Whereas, The tragic attack on October 7 left at least 1,400 dead and 3,400 injured, with many victims dehumanized and paraded on camera, their assailants recording their torture and murder. Nearly 200 people were taken captive, including babies and the elderly, whose conditions are still not known. Among the casualties are Americans, 31 killed and 13 missing, and many other foreign nationals; and

Whereas, More Jewish civilian lives were lost on October 7 than any single day since 1945. This attack was reminiscent of other instances when Jews have been persecuted throughout history, including the pogroms of the late 19th and early 20th centuries and events during the Holocaust; and

Whereas, Michiganders are impacted by the events of October 7, many with direct relations to the dead and wounded. This shared grief and pain must compel residents of our state to demonstrate support, compassion, and care for one another; and

Whereas, Hamas's tyranny does not represent the views or advance the aspirations of the many Palestinians who seek to live in dignity and peace in a region mired in conflict; and

Whereas, United States President Joe Biden has publicly stated that "we can't lose sight of the fact that the overwhelming majority of Palestinians had nothing to do with Hamas and Hamas's appalling attacks, and they're suffering as a result as well," and "It's also a priority for me to urgently address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza." United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said "the United States and Israel have agreed to develop a plan that will enable humanitarian aid from donor nations and multilateral organizations to reach civilians in Gaza—and them alone—including the possibility of creating areas to help keep civilians out of harm's way. It is critical that aid begin flowing into Gaza as soon as possible"; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we condemn the terrorist attacks carried out by Hamas in Israel on October 7, 2023; and be it further

Resolved, That we affirm Israel's right to defend itself from Hamas and other terrorists, and to prevent future attacks; and be it further

Resolved, That we join the urgent call for Hamas to release those being held hostage; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge support for immediate access to refuge for innocent civilians in Gaza who need refuge and call on our federal government to work with our allies to provide humanitarian aid; and be it further

Resolved, That we affirm the dignity of all innocent civilians impacted, Israelis and Palestinians, and join the long-standing call for peace in the region; and be it further

Resolved, That during this time of international crisis, we stand with all Michiganders who have Israeli and Palestinian cultural, religious, and familial roots, and decry all antisemitism and Islamophobia in our districts, our state, and across the globe; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the United States Charge d'affaires for Israel, the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker Pro Tempore of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-91. A resolution adopted by the City Council of West Hollywood, California reaffirming its support for the people of Artsakh and supports sanctions and consequences against Azerbaijan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MANCHIN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 432. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the Nulhegan River

and Paul Stream in the State of Vermont for potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-149).

S. 507. A bill to establish the Ralph David Abernathy, Sr., National Historic Site, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-150).

S. 608. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the Deerfield River for potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-151).

S. 961. A bill to redesignate the Salem Maritime National Historic Site in Salem, Massachusetts, as the "Salem Maritime National Historic Park", and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-152).

S. 1405. A bill to provide for the exchange of certain Federal land and State land in the State of Utah (Rept. No. 118-153).

By Mr. MANCHIN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2018. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an assessment to identify locations in National Parks in which there is the greatest need for broadband internet access service and areas in National Parks in which there is the greatest need for cellular service, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-154).

By Mr. MANCHIN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 2149. A bill to sustain economic development and recreational use of National Forest System land in the State of Montana, to add certain land to the National Wilderness Preservation System, to designate new areas for recreation, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-155).

By Mr. MANCHIN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment:

S. 2216. A bill to release from wilderness study area designation certain land in the State of Montana, to improve the management of that land, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-156).

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. KING (for himself, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 3560. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize pre-enrollment of certain combat service members of the Armed Forces in the system of annual patient enrollment of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. ROSEN:

S. 3561. A bill to protect consumers from price gouging of residential rental and sale prices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 3562. A bill to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Tomah, Wisconsin, as the "Jason Simcakoski Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 3563. A bill to require the President to publish a statement of reasons for pardons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.