

S. 1669. A bill to improve drought-related disaster assistance programs of the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. Res. 207. A resolution celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Grand Ole Opry; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 201

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 201, a bill to provide for a study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on the prevalence and mortality of cancer among individuals who served as active duty aircrew in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 478

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 478, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from transmitting certain information to the Department of Justice for use by the national instant criminal background check system.

S. 688

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 688, a bill to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing at its sources globally.

S. 847

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 847, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the employer-provided child care credit and the dependent care assistance exclusion.

S. 858

At the request of Mr. JUSTICE, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 858, a bill to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work on the National Mall to honor the extraordinary acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice displayed by Medal of Honor recipients.

S. 911

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 911, a bill to amend the

Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to include certain retired law enforcement officers in the public safety officers' death benefits program.

S. 1232

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1232, a bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an occupational safety and health standard that requires covered employers within the health care and social service industries to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan, and for other purposes.

S. 1289

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 1289, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States and to support programs at the National September 11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center.

S. 1304

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1304, a bill to permit the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Latino to be located within the Reserve of the National Mall, and for other purposes.

S. 1404

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1404, a bill to combat organized crime involving the illegal acquisition of retail goods and cargo for the purpose of selling those illegally obtained goods through physical and online retail marketplaces.

S. 1458

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1458, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a refundable adoption tax credit.

S. 1515

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1515, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1518

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1518, a bill to redesignate the Saratoga National Historical Park as the "Saratoga National Battlefield Park".

S. 1519

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1519, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 1532

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1532, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 1543

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1543, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 1582

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1582, a bill to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 1664. A bill to require the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to develop a consistent set of policy guidelines for Federal research agencies to address financial instability of graduate researchers and postdoctoral researchers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the bipartisan RESEARCHER Act.

This legislation would require Federal research Agencies to enact policies to address the financial insecurity of graduate and postdoctoral researchers, while collecting data to better understand the financial challenges that these researchers experience.

This legislation would require the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, OSTP, to develop guidelines on addressing the financial insecurity faced by graduate and postdoctoral researchers. Federal research Agencies would then be required to use these guidelines to implement their own policies to tackle this pressing issue.

It would also improve our understanding of the financial insecurity experienced by graduate and postdoctoral researchers by awarding universities and nonprofit organizations grants to study this issue, as well as commissioning a study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

The future of American leadership in science and technology depends on our

success in securing our scientific workforce by strengthening the STEM pipeline.

One of the most significant barriers that imperils our ability to attract new talent into the STEM pipeline and keep our young people in the pipeline once they are there is the many financial stressors that make it difficult for graduate and postdoctoral researchers to provide for themselves while conducting critical research.

Alongside issues with their salaries, young researchers face challenges concerning food insecurity, student loan debt, health, housing, childcare, and more.

Research shows that graduate and postdoctoral researchers identify compensation, including salaries and benefits, as one of the most significant barriers that they face as young people trying to support their personal lives and jumpstart their early careers.

Alongside requiring Federal research Agencies to update their policies to address these concerns, we must also collect more data on this problem to ensure that our solutions are well thought out and effective.

Ensuring continued American leadership in STEM depends on what we do now to support the researchers who will guide the future of our scientific enterprise.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 207—CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRAND OLE OPRY

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. HAGERTY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 207

Whereas, on November 28, 1925, the Grand Ole Opry was born when the WSM Barn Dance was launched with Uncle Jimmy Thompson, a 77-year-old fiddle player;

Whereas, in December 1927, the program was officially named the Grand Ole Opry when George D. Hay, a legendary announcer and program director, proclaimed on-air, "For the past hour, we have been listening to the music taken largely from the Grand Opera, but from now on we will present the Grand Ole Opry";

Whereas the Grand Ole Opry was housed in the Ryman Auditorium, the "Mother Church of Country Music" in Nashville, Tennessee;

Whereas some of the most historic moments of the Grand Ole Opry occurred inside Ryman Auditorium, including the inductions of country music legends like Hank Williams, Patsy Cline, Loretta Lynn, Tammy Wynette, Willie Nelson, George Jones, Jeanne Seely, Dolly Parton, and Johnny and June Carter Cash;

Whereas the popularity of the Grand Ole Opry surged during the 1930s and 1940s, with its live radio broadcast becoming a staple in households across the United States;

Whereas, on March 15, 1974, the Grand Ole Opry broadcast its final show from Ryman Auditorium;

Whereas, on March 16, 1974, the Grand Ole Opry debuted its first show in the new 4,400 seat Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville, Ten-

nessee, with President Richard Nixon in attendance;

Whereas a piece of the Ryman Auditorium stage, known as the circle, was laid into the center of the new Grand Ole Opry House stage and remains a hallowed piece of country music history;

Whereas the Grand Ole Opry is the longest-running radio show in the history of the United States, reaching millions of listeners each week;

Whereas the contributions of the artists and members of the Grand Ole Opry family have had an innumerable impact on the culture and history of the United States;

Whereas the Grand Ole Opry is more than just a concert hall or a radio show, it is a United States institution that has played a pivotal role in shaping the music landscape in the United States;

Whereas the Grand Ole Opry has continued to be the most famous stage in country music and has solidified Nashville, Tennessee, as the country music capital of the world; and

Whereas, in 2025, the Grand Ole Opry is celebrating its 100th anniversary: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Grand Ole Opry;

(2) commemorates the legacy of the Grand Ole Opry and the lasting contributions of the Grand Ole Opry to the advancement of country music; and

(3) congratulates the artists and members of the Grand Ole Opry family on 100 inspiring years.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I come to the Senate floor today for the 298th time in my "Time to Wake Up" speech series to once again call attention to the looming climate calamity.

I went last week to the Our Ocean Conference—a conference founded by the United States of America and dedicated to protecting our oceans before the damage to them and ultimately to us becomes irrecoverable. It was the 10th such conference, which made it a bit of a benchmark.

I was the entirety of the U.S. delegation. You are looking at it—100 percent of the entire U.S. delegation. Ordinarily, many executive branch officials come. In this case, not one executive branch official attended from the United States. And of course not. This administration is nothing more than hirelings of the fossil fuel industry, and the conference, of course, addressed the harm that fossil fuel emissions are doing in the oceans and the harm that petrochemical plastics are doing in the oceans.

Fossil fuel emissions are heating up the oceans in zettajoules. It is a massive number. The joule, as you probably know, is the unit measure for heat energy. "Zetta" means it has 21 zeroes behind it. In more commonly articulated big numbers, it is a billion trillion joules. It looks something like this: 14 zettajoules of heat going into the oceans every single year.

To give a more practical definition, the entire energy production of the human species across the entire planet Earth amounts to one-half of a

zettajoule of energy—everything. All the energy sources of humankind produce one-half of a zettajoule of energy every year. That is how much our species relies on.

The price to all of us of the fossil fuel component of that half-zettajoule is that those 14 zettajoules get pushed into the ocean, get absorbed by the ocean, every single year. The heating of the oceans from fossil fuel pollution is more than 30 times the energy used that causes the heating. It is not a part of it; it is multiple of it, magnified by the greenhouse effect. It is not that fossil fuel creates some excess heat and some of that goes into the oceans; the fossil fuel creates changes in the Earth's physical environment that magnify the heat retention of the planet, the so-called greenhouse effect. So for the component of the half zettajoule of human energy use that comprises the entire species' energy, 14 zettajoules of heat go into the ocean.

Put another way, if you imagine the heat energy given off by the nuclear bomb explosion over Hiroshima, multiply that by seven. Seven Hiroshima nuclear detonations' worth of excess heat is what fossil fuel emissions are driving into our oceans every single second—every single second. Every second, seven Hiroshimas' worth of heat.

In the 10 minutes that it takes me to give this speech, the oceans will absorb 4,000 Hiroshima detonations' worth of heat. That is why seawater off the Florida Keys hit jacuzzi temperatures. That is why measuring devices along our coasts show a foot of sea level rise already. That is why fish species are moving about and fisheries are collapsing. That is why the world's coral reefs are bleaching out—over 80 percent of the world's reefs hit in the last ocean heating surge caused by fossil fuel.

The physical disruption of the ocean with this massive injection of multiple Hiroshimas-per-second of excess physical heat is matched by a chemical effect—acidification.

The excess carbon dioxide added to the atmosphere by fossil fuel pollution interacts with the surface of the ocean, covering 70 percent of our planet—so a lot of surface to interact—and it causes the seawater chemically to acidify.

I actually did an experiment here at my desk, blowing the carbon dioxide in my breath through an aquarium bubbler into my water glass. And, sure enough, pH strips showed that the water in the glass acidified, measurably, just from my breath.

Acidification in the ocean degrades structures that are made up of calcium. It injures coral reefs, worsening the problems of pollution and warming. We are headed for a world of dead reefs at this rate. It makes life harder for shelled creatures, particularly in their larval stages, to grow. There are many of them, but one species measurably hit is the pteropod.

Who cares about the humble pteropod, you may ask. Well, you might,