

One company, Cal-Maine Foods, recently announced in an SEC filing that it is spending up to \$500 million to buy back shares for the benefit of the founder's family. Cal-Maine also recently reported quarterly profits of \$509 million, more than three times what it made in the same period a year ago.

Despite its tremendous profits, last year Cal Maine received \$44 million in USDA indemnity payments to compensate for bird deaths due to the avian flu outbreak. It should be uncontroversial that a company that has earmarked hundreds of millions of dollars of cash on-hand and expected earnings for stock buybacks also has the resources to bear losses and implement biosecurity measures without taxpayer assistance.

There are also some very large private companies that have benefited from government assistance under this program. While these companies do not have access to liquidity from the public markets, their size and national scale provide them with greater access to funding from banks and other lenders on terms that are more favorable than those available to smaller private companies that operate regionally or locally. Further, any company that is private-equity backed surely has similar access to funding through the sponsor of the investment fund that owns the company.

This legislation would ensure that taxpayer funds to support egg producers will be made available to publicly traded or private equity-backed companies only if they will not pay dividends or buy back stock. To receive taxpayer assistance, these companies also must certify that they cannot access alternative sources of financing. There are strong penalties, including criminal liability, for falsifying these certifications.

As egg prices remain high, and the Trump administration limits Federal resources at the Department of Agriculture, we must ensure that these limited resources are used effectively to combat the avian flu and help producers who need it most, rather than highly profitable companies.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this commonsense legislation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 246—RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AND CALLING ON ELECTED OFFICIALS AND CIVIL SOCIETY LEADERS TO COUNTER ANTISEMITISM

Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. PAUL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CRAPO, Mr.

WYDEN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. KELLY, Mr. MORENO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. MOODY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mrs. BRITT, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 246

Whereas “Jewish American Heritage Month” has its origins in 1980, when Congress enacted the Joint Resolution entitled “Joint Resolution to authorize and request the President to issue a proclamation designating April 21 through April 28, 1980, as ‘Jewish Heritage Week’”, approved April 24, 1980 (Public Law 96-237; 94 Stat. 338);

Whereas, on April 24, 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the proclamation for “Jewish Heritage Week”, and in that proclamation, President Carter spoke about the bountiful contributions made by the Jewish people to the culture and history of the United States;

Whereas Congress has played a central role in recognizing “Jewish American Heritage Month” since the Senate and House of Representatives passed resolutions in 2005 and 2006, respectively, urging the President to proclaim the national observation of a month recognizing the Jewish-American community;

Whereas, since 2006, Presidents Bush, Obama, Trump, and Biden have all issued proclamations for “Jewish American Heritage Month”, which celebrates Jewish Americans and encourages all people of the United States to learn more about Jewish heritage and the contributions of Jewish people throughout the history of the United States;

Whereas the people of the United States celebrate the rich history of Jewish people in the United States and the more than 350-year history of Jewish contributions to society in the American Colonies and United States;

Whereas the United States has long served as a haven for Jewish people escaping oppression in search of liberty, justice, and tolerance;

Whereas the Jewish-American community dates back to 1654, when a group of 23 Jewish people, fleeing persecution at the hands of the Portuguese Inquisition, fled Brazil and found refuge in what is now New York City;

Whereas Jewish Americans have established deep roots in communities across the United States and served their neighbors and the United States as loyal and patriotic citizens, always grateful for the safe harbor that the United States has provided for them;

Whereas the Jewish-American community has grown to over 6,000,000 people, representing approximately 2 percent of the population of the United States in 2024;

Whereas Jewish Americans have served in government and the military, won Nobel prizes, led universities and corporations, advanced medicine and philanthropy, created and performed in enduring works of performing and visual art, written great novels, become emblems of justice as members of the Supreme Court, and so much more;

Whereas, since Hamas’ deadly attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, antisemitism in the United States has reached record highs with incidents targeting Jews and those who are perceived as Jewish;

Whereas, according to the American Jewish Committee, 77 percent of American Jews say they feel less safe as a Jewish person in the United States because of the October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorist attacks;

Whereas, according to the American Jewish Committee, almost 70 percent of Jewish adults report experiencing antisemitism online, including on social media;

Whereas, according to Hillel International, 83 percent of Jewish college students have experienced or witnessed some form of antisemitism since the October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorist attacks;

Whereas, in 2024, the Anti-Defamation League recorded 9,354 antisemitic incidents in the United States, which equals an average of 25 incidents per day and represents a 344 percent increase in antisemitic incidents over the previous 5 years and an increase of nearly 900 percent over the previous decade;

Whereas the Federal Bureau of Investigation has aggregated 2023 hate crime data showing the highest number of single-bias anti-Jewish hate crime incidents ever recorded;

Whereas one of the most effective ways to combat antisemitism and hate is through increasing education and awareness about the contributions Jewish Americans have made to the United States through the arts, entertainment, science and technology, the military, the government, business, culinary traditions, and other fields; and

Whereas, as the strength of a society can be measured by how that society protects its minority populations and celebrates their contributions, it is altogether fitting for the United States to once again mark the month of May as “Jewish American Heritage Month”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the significance of Jewish American Heritage Month as a time to celebrate the contributions of Jewish Americans to the society and culture of the United States;

(2) calls on elected officials, faith leaders, and civil society leaders to condemn and counter all acts of antisemitism;

(3) calls on elected officials and State and local leaders to educate the public on the contributions of the Jewish-American community and uplift Jewish stories and voices; and

(4) takes all possible steps to ensure the safety, security, and dignity of American Jews in all aspects of their lives, including at the workplace, college and university campuses, synagogues, and home.

SENATE RESOLUTION 247—DESIGNATING MAY 2025 AS “NATIONAL WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS MONTH”

Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 247

Whereas wildfires across the contiguous United States, Alaska, Hawaii, and the United States territories have increased in scale, complexity, and severity, fire seasons have lengthened in many parts of the United States to encompass the entire year, and wildfire has become a threat in regions of the United States that have little or no history of wildfire;

Whereas, in the United States from 2015 to 2024, an average of 62,435 wildfires burned, consuming on average a total of 7,553,704 acres, which is 705,612 acres above the previous 10-year average;

Whereas, in the United States from January 1 to May 2, 2025, 22,759 wildfires burned 988,319 acres, which is above both the 10-year average occurrence of 15,639 wildfires and the average 10-year burned area of 951,468 acres;

Whereas, from May 2025 to August 2025, over 60 percent of States in the United States are predicted to be at risk for significant wildfire events, and over 50 percent of

States are expected to face above-normal risks for significant wildfire events;

Whereas nearly 85 percent of wildland fires in the United States are caused by humans;

Whereas Federal wildfire suppression efforts cost over \$2,500,000,000 per year, and the total cost of wildfire damage across the United States is estimated to be tens to hundreds of billions of dollars per year;

Whereas significant investments in proactive planning, mitigation, and risk reduction are necessary for the United States to counteract increasingly severe wildfire risk, damage, and loss;

Whereas firefighters are on the front lines and are at an increased risk of developing cancer and respiratory diseases because they are exposed to smoke and hazardous chemicals in the line of duty;

Whereas the effects of long-term exposure to wildfire smoke will harm more people, as particulate pollution triggers asthma attacks, heart attacks, and strokes, and can kill;

Whereas preventative measures exist to help individuals and communities increase their fire resilience through—

(1) reducing the risk of home ignition by using fire-resistant construction materials and maintaining yard vegetation;

(2) community planning that reduces home wildfire exposure and increases access for firefighters;

(3) evacuation planning and assistance for people and their animals;

(4) vegetation and forest management; and

(5) limited use of combustibles during high heat or drier seasons, including fireworks, exhaust, and open flames; and

Whereas a nationally designated Wildfire Preparedness Month—

(1) increases awareness of the threat of wildfires and knowledge of lifesaving and fire mitigation practices; and

(2) promotes educational initiatives, encourages community programming, and increases overall knowledge and preparedness: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the month of May 2025 as “National Wildfire Preparedness Month”;

(2) encourages increased awareness of, and preparedness for, the threat of wildfires and subsequent suppression efforts at the Federal, State, local, and Tribal levels of government, including Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian communities, and by non-governmental organizations and communities; and

(3) supports resources and educational initiatives that communicate how communities at risk of exposure to wildfire hazards can take preventative measures, including, home hardening, land management practices that reduce or remove highly flammable grasses and shrubs, instituting or enhancing early warning systems, reducing unplanned human ignitions, reducing adverse health impacts from smoke and fire exposure, and safely and efficiently evacuating people and their animals.

SENATE RESOLUTION 248—EXPRESSING THE NEED FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY FOR PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 248

Whereas the planet is facing an unprecedented biodiversity crisis, largely driven by human activity;

Whereas recent scientific studies have confirmed that human-driven activities are significantly damaging the ecosystems of the planet by—

(1) altering 75 percent of the area of terrestrial environments and 66 percent of marine environments;

(2) directly exploiting wildlife and plant species;

(3) accelerating climate change, directly harming nature and exacerbating other threats;

(4) polluting air, land, and water; and

(5) introducing invasive species;

Whereas recent scientific studies have shown that human-driven threats have harmed biodiversity by—

(1) threatening approximately 1,000,000 species with imminent or near extinction, including—

(A) more than 40 percent of amphibians;

(B) 33 percent of corals, sharks, shark relatives, and marine mammals;

(C) more than 60 percent of cycads and more than 30 percent of conifer trees; and

(D) approximately 10 percent of the more than 5,000,000 insect species on the planet; and

(2) causing population sizes of wild species to decline by—

(A) an average of 68 percent for species of mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, and reptiles;

(B) approximately 3,000,000,000 birds in North America since 1970;

(C) approximately 50 percent for species of live corals; and

(D) an average of more than 20 percent overall;

Whereas human activity is accelerating the decline of important economic and cultural services, including—

(1) land productivity, with a reduction in the productivity of approximately ¼ of the land surface;

(2) land and freshwater resources, with more than ⅓ of the land surface and 75 percent of freshwater resources devoted to crop or livestock production;

(3) global crops, with approximately \$500,000,000,000 of global crops at risk due to pollinator loss;

(4) marine fisheries, with ⅓ of marine fisheries overfished, 60 percent fished at capacity, and only 7 percent fished below capacity; and

(5) environmental health, with 25 percent of greenhouse gas emissions caused by land clearing, crops, and fertilization;

Whereas the decline of biodiversity disproportionately impacts indigenous and other communities that rely on nature for essential services, including Native Americans and Alaska Natives, who offer unique perspectives and traditional ecological knowledge critical to preserving biodiversity;

Whereas the decline of biodiversity and ecosystem services observed worldwide is occurring in the United States;

Whereas the United States possesses an abundance and great diversity of species of fish, wildlife, and plants that are of significant value to the United States for intrinsic, aesthetic, ecological, educational, cultural, recreational, economic, and scientific reasons;

Whereas the decline of biodiversity presents a direct threat to the security, health, and well-being of the people of the United States by causing economic harm through the loss of valuable ecosystem services, including zoonotic disease buffering, polli-

nation, water filtration, soil replenishment, the provision of game species, medicinal products, and recreational opportunities;

Whereas communities of color, low-income communities, Tribal communities, and other populations that have been systematically and deliberately targeted for environmentally degrading activities and excluded from conservation efforts face disproportionate impacts from biodiversity loss;

Whereas Federal agencies are tasked with protecting and conserving biodiversity in the United States and worldwide through a variety of legal and policy channels;

Whereas there is no coordinating policy to maximize the effectiveness of the conservation efforts of the Federal Government and collaboration by the Federal Government with States, local governments, Indian Tribes, private landowners, and other non-governmental stakeholders;

Whereas the United States should play a leading role on the international stage in addressing the biodiversity crisis, yet the United States—

(1) is not a party to—

(A) the Convention on Biological Diversity, done at Rio de Janeiro June 5, 1992;

(B) the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (commonly known as “the Convention on Migratory Species”), done at Bonn November 6, 1979; or

(C) other relevant international agreements;

(2) does not issue a periodic national biodiversity outlook, contrary to most other countries; and

(3) does not have a national biodiversity strategy as part of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; and

Whereas scientific research highlights essential pathways forward, including—

(1) establishing the effective conservation, restoration, and durable protection of not less than 30 percent of an ecologically representative area of the lands, freshwater, and oceans in the United States and in the world by 2030 by working collaboratively with governments, land owners, fishers, indigenous peoples, communities, and others;

(2) restoring or rewilding species and degraded habitats, and ensuring integrity and connectivity of protected areas;

(3) retaining and protecting highly intact ecosystems;

(4) reducing pesticide use to levels not higher than necessary for ecologically sustainable and safe food production; and

(5) addressing the threats posed by invasive species: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) it is in the national interest for the Federal Government to establish a national biodiversity strategy—

(A) to ensure the conservation and restoration of the biodiversity of the United States;

(B) to secure and restore the ecosystem services provided by nature for current and future generations;

(C) to deliver on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;

(D) to set ambitious, yet necessary, goals for protecting biodiversity in the coming decades;

(E) to promote social equity and justice in the conservation of the biodiversity of the United States;

(F) to coordinate the actions of Federal agencies to advance the conservation of biodiversity;

(G) to promote collaboration among Federal, State, and Tribal governments, non-governmental stakeholders, civil society, and international parties to advance conservation;