

and expanded in 2007, celebrates its 20th anniversary as a key national policy for increasing the supply of domestic renewable energy and supporting American families and the economy and energy security of the United States;

Whereas the RFS provides for steady growth by setting increasing annual volumetric targets for an appropriate variety of renewable fuels;

Whereas the RFS achieves this goal by setting annual volumetric targets for renewable fuel, including specific targets for biodiesel, cellulosic, and advanced fuel types;

Whereas these targets were designed to be ambitious in order to induce private sector innovation and investment, while providing ample flexibility in the law for the Environmental Protection Agency to administer the RFS, including the ability to adjust annual targets annually if necessary to reflect production volumes;

Whereas the RFS drives innovation that improves environmental performance by requiring that renewable fuel reduces lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions by certain minimum thresholds ranging from 20 percent to 60 percent, depending on the type of fuel;

Whereas, since 2007, the private sector has responded the RFS by investing billions of dollars in the renewable fuel sector to expand production of first-generation renewable fuel and to develop and demonstrate advanced renewable fuel;

Whereas the RFS has driven innovation and investment in the biofuels sector, resulting in more than 275 renewable fuel facilities in 36 States, producing over 25,000,000,000 gallons per year;

Whereas the renewable fuels industry supports a robust bioeconomy that, in 2023, contributed \$210,000,000,000 to the United States gross domestic product and supported nearly 644,000 domestic jobs;

Whereas the RFS has provided critical markets for farmers in the United States, supporting rural economies and domestic processing, and helping to drive economic growth and strengthen rural communities;

Whereas the RFS continues to provide an important backstop for farmers in the United States to ensure robust domestic demand when facing uncertainty in export markets;

Whereas the RFS has enabled the United States ethanol industry to supply more than 98 percent of gasoline sold nationwide with at least 10 percent ethanol and has helped the biodiesel and renewable diesel industry produce over 5,000,000,000 gallons annually, about 10 percent of total on-road diesel use;

Whereas renewable fuels have delivered real savings for American consumers at the pump, with higher-level ethanol blends like E15 reducing prices by 10–30 cents per gallon on average and biodiesel driving down the price of traditional diesel by about 4 percent;

Whereas the RFS has contributed to significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by requiring renewable fuels to meet minimum lifecycle emissions reductions and has helped the United States transportation sector make progress toward environmental sustainability;

Whereas the RFS has evolved over 2 decades to keep pace with new technologies and shifting markets, while remaining at the heart of ongoing national conversations about energy security, environmental stewardship, and the agricultural economy;

Whereas, over the past 20 years, the RFS has become a cornerstone of United States energy security by reducing reliance on volatile energy markets and supporting the domestic production of renewable fuels; and

Whereas to continue on the path toward greater energy dominance, the United States must continue its efforts to diversify its

transportation fuel supply and avoid over-reliance on imported fuels: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 20th anniversary of the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) as a milestone in America's commitment to strengthening energy security, supporting rural communities, growing the economy, and improving environmental performance;

(2) commends the contributions of the RFS in building a robust and innovative domestic renewable fuels industry;

(3) recognizes the positive impacts of the RFS on United States energy policy, the agricultural sector, and the environment over the past 2 decades;

(4) affirms the continued importance of the RFS in advancing the energy, economic, and environmental goals of the United States Government;

(5) believes that diversifying the fuel supply with an increasing percentage of domestic renewable fuel strengthens the economy of the United States, increases security, and improves environmental performance; and

(6) supports continued implementation of the RFS as enacted in 2007 to achieve this goal.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 365—DESIGNATING AUGUST 1, 2025, AS “GOLD STAR CHILDREN’S DAY”

Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. KELLY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 365

Whereas the recognition of Gold Star Families in the United States dates back to World War I, when the families of fallen members of the Armed Forces displayed a service flag with a gold star in the window of their homes;

Whereas, in 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law legislation declaring Gold Star Mother’s Day, now known as “Gold Star Mother’s and Family’s Day”, a national observance honoring the mothers of fallen members of the Armed Forces annually on the last Sunday of September;

Whereas, since 2010, the Senate has honored Gold Star Spouses by resolution annually on April 5, recognizing the unique sacrifices made by spouses of fallen members of the Armed Forces;

Whereas many thousands of children of military families have lost parents who served in the Armed Forces and also deserve national recognition for the burden and legacy they carry; and

Whereas, since 2021, the Senate has honored Gold Star Children by resolution annually on August 1, recognizing the debt of gratitude owed to children of fallen members of the Armed Forces by the people of the United States as part of the debt owed to the members of the Armed Forces who sacrificed all in protecting the freedom of the United States and the people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates August 1, 2025, as “Gold Star Children’s Day”;

(2) honors the sacrifices and hardships of the children of fallen members of the Armed Forces; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe Gold Star Children’s Day in support of children of the fallen members of the Armed Forces of the United States.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 366—COMMEMORATING THE 69TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONTINUOUS OPERATIONS OF THE MAUNA LOA OBSERVATORY

Ms. HIRONO submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 366

Whereas the Mauna Loa Observatory (referred to in this preamble as the “MLO”) is an atmospheric baseline station of the Global Monitoring Laboratory within the Earth System Research Laboratories (referred to in this preamble as the “ESRL”) organized under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research;

Whereas the mission of the ESRL is to measure atmospheric constituents that are capable of forcing adjustments to the climate of the Earth and those that may deplete the ozone layer;

Whereas the mission of the ESRL is primarily accomplished through long-term tropospheric measurements of key atmospheric parameters such as carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, methane, chlorofluorocarbons, ozone, sulfur dioxide, nitrous oxide, radon, aerosols, optical depth, and a spectrum of solar radiation parameters;

Whereas the MLO, due to its location on the north flank of Mauna Loa Volcano, on Hawaii Island, is the premier long-term atmospheric monitoring facility on Earth for sampling the troposphere as it protrudes through the strong marine temperature inversion layer present in the region;

Whereas the MLO, constructed in 1956 and continuously in operation since, is the site where the ever-increasing concentrations of global atmospheric carbon dioxide have been observed;

Whereas the MLO has been home to hundreds of atmospheric research programs—

(1) with national and international universities and government organizations; and

(2) related to a diverse spectrum of research categories; and

Whereas the MLO and its 4 sites on Hawaii Island, including the critical administrative office in Hilo, is home to a dedicated workforce committed to their mission to acquire, evaluate, and make available accurate, long-term records of the atmosphere in a manner that allows the causes and consequences of change to be understood: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 69th anniversary of the continuous operations of the Mauna Loa Observatory (referred to in this resolution as the “MLO”);

(2) recognizes the monumental contributions that the research conducted at and data produced by the MLO has provided to the global leadership in atmospheric research of the United States;

(3) reaffirms the Senate’s strong support for the critical ongoing operations of the MLO, including its 4 sites on Hawaii Island; and

(4) honors the cultural significance of Mauna Loa to the Native Hawaiian community.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 367—DESIGNATING JULY 2025 AS “AMERICAN GROWN FLOWER AND FOLIAGE MONTH”

Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. SULIVAN, and Mr. SCHIFF) submitted the

following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 367

Whereas cut flower and foliage growers in the United States are hard-working, dedicated individuals who bring beauty, economic stimulus, and pride to their communities and the United States;

Whereas the people of the United States have a long history of using flowers and foliage grown in the United States to bring beauty to important events and express affection for loved ones;

Whereas consumers spend more than \$59,000,000,000 each year on floral products, including cut flowers, garden plants, bedding, and indoor plants;

Whereas, each year, an increasing number of households in the United States purchase fresh cut flowers and foliage from more than 16,000 florists and floral establishments;

Whereas the annual per capita spending on floral products by consumers in the United States is almost \$177;

Whereas the people of the United States increasingly want to support domestically produced food and agricultural products and would prefer to buy locally grown flowers and foliage whenever possible, yet a majority of domestic consumers do not know where the flowers and foliage they purchase are grown;

Whereas, in response to increased demand, the “Certified American Grown” logo was created in July 2014 to educate and empower consumers to purchase flowers and foliage from domestic producers;

Whereas millions of stems of domestically grown flowers and foliage are now “Certified American Grown”;

Whereas domestic flower and foliage farmers produce thousands of varieties of flowers and foliage across the United States, such as peonies in Alaska, Gerbera daisies in California, lupines in Maine, tulips in Washington, lilies in Oregon, larkspur in Texas, and leatherleaf in Florida;

Whereas the flower and foliage varieties with the highest production in the United States are tulips, lilies, Gerbera daisies, gladiolas, leatherleaf, irises, and roses;

Whereas people in every State have access to domestically grown flowers and foliage, yet only 20 percent of flowers and foliage sold in the United States is domestically grown;

Whereas the domestic cut flower and foliage industry—

(1) creates a substantial economic impact daily; and

(2) supports hundreds of growers, thousands of small businesses, and tens of thousands of jobs in the United States;

Whereas most domestic cut flowers and foliage are sold in the United States within 24 to 48 hours after harvest and last longer than flowers shipped longer distances;

Whereas flowers and foliage grown domestically enhance the ability of the people of the United States to festively celebrate weddings and births and honor those who have passed;

Whereas flower and foliage giving has been a holiday tradition in the United States for generations;

Whereas flowers and foliage speak to the beauty of motherhood on Mother’s Day and to the spirit of love on Valentine’s Day;

Whereas flowers and foliage help commemorate the service and sacrifice of members of the Armed Forces on Memorial Day and Veterans Day; and

Whereas the Senate encourages the cultivation of flowers and foliage in the United States by domestic flower and foliage farmers: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 2025 as “American Grown Flower and Foliage Month”;

(2) recognizes that purchasing flowers and foliage grown in the United States supports the farmers, small businesses, jobs, and economy of the United States;

(3) recognizes that growing flowers and foliage in the United States is a vital part of the agricultural industry of the United States;

(4) recognizes that cultivating flowers and foliage domestically enhances the ability of the people of the United States to festively celebrate holidays and special occasions; and

(5) urges all people of the United States to proactively showcase flowers and foliage grown in the United States in order to show support for—

(A) the flower and foliage farmers, processors, and distributors in the United States; and

(B) the agricultural industry of the United States overall.

# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 20—RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT AND REAFFIRMING THE UNITED STATES’ COMMITMENT TO ITS PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. BRITT, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 20

Whereas August 1, 2025, is the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe Final Act (referred to in this resolution as the “Helsinki Final Act”);

Whereas, on August 1, 1975, 35 nations, including the United States, Canada, and the nations of Europe, signed the Helsinki Final Act, marking a historic milestone in international diplomacy during the Cold War;

Whereas the Helsinki Final Act established a comprehensive concept of security that encompasses political-military, environmental and economic, and human rights and humanitarian dimensions;

Whereas the Helsinki Final Act codified 10 principles in the Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations Between Participating States (commonly known as “The Decalogue”), which—

(1) all participating states committed to respect and put into practice in their relations with each other; and

(2) have formed a basis for the international order in the region encompassing the participating states of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) since its inception in 1975;

Whereas these principles, adopted on the basis of consensus by all participating states and repeatedly reaffirmed, enshrine—

(1) the sovereign equality of all participating states and respect for the rights inherent in sovereignty;

(2) refraining from the threat or use of force among participating states;

(3) the inviolability of frontiers of the 57 participating states;

(4) the territorial integrity of participating states;

(5) the peaceful settlement of disputes among participating states;

(6) nonintervention in internal affairs;

(7) respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion, or belief;

(8) equal rights and self-determination of peoples;

(9) cooperation among participating states; and

(10) fulfillment in good faith of obligations under international law;

Whereas the Helsinki Final Act, for the first time in the history of international agreements, recognized that respect for, and implementation of, commitments to human rights and fundamental freedoms are integral to stability and security within and among nations;

Whereas the principles of the Helsinki Final Act have been threatened in recent years by irresponsible acts of certain states, including the actions of the Russian Federation in its occupation of the territories of Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia and which constitute a threat to the stability and security of Europe and the world;

Whereas the Russian Federation is responsible for the clear, gross, and uncorrected violation of all 10 principles of the Helsinki Final Act;

Whereas the scourge of anti-Semitism persists throughout the OSCE region and should continue to be called out, condemned, and opposed by all participating states;

Whereas Congress contributed to advancing the aims of the Helsinki Final Act by creating the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (commonly known as the “Helsinki Commission”) to monitor and encourage compliance with provisions of the Helsinki Final Act;

Whereas the Helsinki Commission consists of 9 United States senators, 9 members of the United States House of Representatives, and 3 representatives from the Executive Branch of the United States Government;

Whereas the Helsinki Final Act ultimately led to the creation of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, which was designed to prevent, manage, and resolve conflict within and among the participating states;

Whereas the legacy of the Helsinki Final Act continues to serve as a guiding framework for—

(1) addressing security challenges;

(2) defending the rule of law; and

(3) supporting the rights of individuals against authoritarian oppression and aggression;

Whereas successive United States administrations since the Helsinki Final Act was signed in 1975 have made the Helsinki Final Act’s Principles Guiding Relations Between Participating States a basis for United States policy toward Europe and the entire OSCE region;

Whereas Congress has strongly supported and encouraged the United States to promote improved compliance with these guiding principles, including by raising its concerns about noncompliance in a direct and frank manner, and continues to provide such support and encouragement; and

Whereas, in the face of renewed threats to sovereignty, democracy, and human rights, particularly in Eastern Europe and Eurasia, the principles of the Helsinki Final Act remain significant and foundational to a comprehensive concept of security: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring)*, That Congress—

(1) commemorates the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and recognizes the importance of the Helsinki Principles and the OSCE;

(2) reasserts the commitment of the United States to the full implementation of the Helsinki Final Act and to continued participation in the OSCE;