

1683) and inserting “section 1424 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991 (Public Law 101-510; 10 U.S.C. 8661 note)”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking “section 11 of the Merchant Ship Sales Act of 1946 (50 U.S.C. 4405)” and inserting “section 57100 of title 46”.

SA 3887. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II, insert the following:

SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR REALIGNMENT OF THE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION FUNCTION FOR ARMY AMMUNITION.

(a) **LIMITATION.**—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Defense may be obligated or expended to realign the research, development, test, and evaluation function for Army ammunition away from the Joint Program Executive Office Armaments and Ammunition or Joint Capabilities Portfolio Executive Ammunition construct as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act until a period of 180 days has elapsed following the date on which the report required under subsection (b) is submitted to the congressional defense committees.

(b) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than November 1, 2026, the Secretary of the Army shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that includes the following with respect to the proposed realignment of functions described in subsection (a):

(1) An explanation of whether Army personnel, including contractors, would be required to relocate to a new location and if so an estimate of how many personnel would relocate and to what locations.

(2) An explanation of whether the Army expects to build new facilities and infrastructure at new locations to accomplish the research, development, test, and evaluation function for Army ammunition and, if so, identification of—

(A) what new facilities and infrastructure would have to be constructed; and

(B) where such facilities and infrastructure would be constructed.

(3) A detailed estimate of the costs of relocating personnel and equipment and constructing new facilities and infrastructure.

(4) A detailed explanation of the efficiencies, if any, that the Army expects to realize by realigning the research, development, test, and evaluation function for Army ammunition to Capabilities Portfolio Executive Fires.

(5) In consultation with the with the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of the Air Force, a determination as to whether realigning the research, development, test, and evaluation function for Army ammunition to Capabilities Portfolio Executive Fires will hinder or impede the joint construct that Joint Program Executive Office Armaments and Ammunition has traditionally maintained with the Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I have five requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 9:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 9 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations directly following the business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 9:15 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

**ORDERS FOR MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 15, 2025**

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, September 15; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of Executive Calendar No. 1, S. Res. 377; and notwithstanding rule XXII, at 5:30 p.m., all postcloture time be expired and the Senate vote on adoption of the resolution; and, further, following disposition of the resolution, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 366, Stephan Miran.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COTTON. For the information of all Senators, Senators should expect two votes at 5:30 p.m. and further votes at approximately 8 p.m.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator CANTWELL.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

HANFORD SITE CLEANUP

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to remind everyone in the United States of America that we have a cleanup obligation at the Hanford Site in the State of Washington and to remind the Secretary of Energy and the Trump administration of a commitment to that part of the United States, to our Nation, and to the cleanup of the most contaminated nuclear site in our Nation. We have an agreement between the Washington State Department of Ecology, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Energy, and that is to clean up this site.

Right now, there are 56 million gallons of radioactive and chemical waste being stored underground in World War II era tanks. These 177 waste storage tanks are over 80 years old, so definitely beyond their life design. Some of these tanks are leaking over 1,000 gallons of waste in a year into the ground. So this waste is making its way to the Columbia River, which supplies drinking water to nearly 30,000 residents in the Tri-Cities.

The Federal Government, as I mentioned, is legally and morally obligated to clean up the dangerous mess it left on the sprawling Hanford Site. We know this part of our U.S. history and the effort that men and women made during World War II in an unbelievable timeframe, but it also left us with a huge obligation to clean up the nuclear waste. The Tri-Party Agreement guides the Hanford Cleanup schedule and the goals that need to be met to complete this mission. Our current Energy Secretary, if he is thinking about ignoring these commitments to science or the Tri-Party Agreement, he needs to rethink that.

This couldn’t come at a worse time. In just 6 weeks, for the first time, the removal and treatment of radioactive waste that has been stored in these tanks and in the ground for 80 years will begin to be processed. This process, called vitrification—a process that other countries, like France and Japan and Germany have all successfully achieved—is basically taking the radioactive sludge and turning it into a stable, storable glass. That is what the skilled workers at the Hanford Site have been working on for years—years, years—really—literally 23 years and about \$24 billion in taxpayer money to build a vitrification plant that supports 3,000 jobs in the Tri-Cities to get this post-World War II job done.

When Secretary Wright testified in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, he said, "Senator," speaking to me, "I can't overstate how critical I think it is to finish the job, finish the cleanup at Hanford. Hanford gave a lot to this country, and we left a mess that needs to be cleaned up." He went on to say, "I am firmly committed to continuing our obligations and our moral obligations to clean up the mess that was left behind in your state."

So I had a chance to ask the Secretary about this, and that is why news this week that somehow, maybe in October, we are not going to start the vitrification plan—we are not, after 23 years and \$24 billion going to actually start the process of taking the radioactive waste and turning it into this glassification process, so we can once and for all dispose of it.

I know that the people in the Tri-Cities are very anxious about this situation because the vitrification plant, as I said, was supposed to start on October 15. You don't have to go far back—well, actually, maybe you do have to go far back several Energy Secretaries—to look at what happens when it comes to Hanford cleanup. Every time a new administration comes in, somebody looks at the amount of money that it takes to clean up nuclear waste that has been stored in tanks and says, "This costs too much. We ought to be able to do it cheaper."

So I would say to our current colleagues over at the Department of Energy, you need to look at history and think twice. Secretary Abraham, Energy Secretary, formerly U.S. Senator from Michigan, said that he was going to fundamentally transform cleanup with an accelerated cleanup plan in 2002. This represented the most dramatic shift in a cleanup strategy since the original Tri-Party Agreement between the U.S. Government and those agencies that I mentioned. He claimed that he would save \$50 billion on cleanup. Guess what? It didn't work. It just delayed the cleanup and cost taxpayers more money.

Secretary Bodman, he inherited Secretary Abraham's unrealistic promise,

and he failed to address the fundamental technical problems emerging at the waste treatment plant—problems with hydrogen gas build-up, pulse jet mixing, nuclear critical risk, and identified during his tenure, but not adequately addressed—creating a legacy of, really, technical debt that would cost billions of dollars to resolve.

I can say to my colleagues, I got to a point that I said, I am for an Energy Secretary for life, or until they clean up Hanford, because that is how technical the job is and leaving it every few years to a new Energy Secretary and administrators, to me, was part of the challenge. Also during the Bush administration, when Secretary Bodman was there, they tried to shortcut the cleanup process by saying we could just grout the waste.

So, obviously, you can't just pour concrete on high level nuclear waste, on a toxic brew, and then just leave it in the ground—so many, many challenges there. Despite Secretary Chu's Nobel Prize-winning credentials and genuine commitment to scientific rigor, he failed to overcome the systematic problems at Hanford.

Secretary Moniz, a physicist Secretary, attempted to work around the waste treatment plant's technical problems. His framework for tank waste cleanup—including sending some waste to New Mexico and a partial treatment within the tanks—were approaches that essentially abandoned the original cleanup strategy without demonstrating the alternatives would be faster and cheaper. I am sure there were people over at OMB that probably egged on these ideas, thinking that somehow they were going to save money. They didn't. They didn't even work.

Secretary Perry achieved no significant breakthrough in addressing Hanford's cost or schedule problems. The single shell tanks continued to deteriorate, with Tank B-109 actively leaking during his tenure. That is radioactive waste leaking. The waste treatment plant remained plagued by technical problems and schedule delays with low

activity waste facilities not operational, despite being nearly complete.

Energy Secretary Brouillette probably did the best job I have seen in my tenure. He—this was in the last Trump administration—he and his Deputy Secretary Dabbar really focused on project management and got the low activity waste facility finally dialed in and on track—so literally created the facility to treat the waste.

This facility that is set to be open—apparently now, someone is calling into question, "Maybe let's not open it"—after 23 years and \$24 billion and all these problems and all these mishaps of every Energy Secretary listening to probably a lower staffer, saying, "There's a way to do it differently," somehow, somebody is following in the same apparent wrong-headed idea that somehow you don't have to turn on this plant and we shouldn't move forward. I know that we must continue our obligations at the facility.

I know that we can't walk away from this commitment. I know that the vitrification process has been proven scientifically, and unless there is a problem at this plant, we need to move forward with the production of waste to glass that people have been counting on for years. We cannot put another generation of Washingtonians or Tri-Citians or U.S. citizens, leaving this kind of waste without a solution—we can't change course.

We need to stay the course and get this project done. I hope we will be having an opening and that we can finally say, "We have treated this waste and are ready to remove the rest of the waste in the tanks."

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 15, 2025, AT 3 P.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until Monday, September 15, 2025, at 3 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:08 p.m., adjourned until Monday, September 15, 2025, at 3 p.m.