

amendment No. 4014 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4016, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 4015

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4015 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4016, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 4037

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4037 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4016, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 4056

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4056 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4016, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

S. 3526. A bill to provide for the protection of and investment in certain Federal land in the State of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to reintroduce the Protecting Unique and Beautiful Landscapes by Investing in California, PUBLIC Lands Act. This comprehensive bill would permanently protect over 900,000 acres of public lands and promote restoration on another 871,000 acres throughout northwest California, the central coast, and Los Angeles County. This bill includes protections for nearly 600,000 acres of new and proposed wilderness and nearly 700 miles of new wild and scenic rivers.

This legislation would preserve our public lands for the benefit of current and future generations and help protect California communities from impacts of the climate crisis. The PUBLIC Lands Act is grounded in the best conservation principles: it expands ac-

cess to the outdoors for all, addresses disparities in access to nature, supports locally led efforts, and is based in science.

In northwest California, this bill would designate new wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, special management areas, and forest and watershed restoration areas. Importantly, it would increase wildfire resiliency in northwest California, where the impacts of the climate crisis have resulted in more frequent and severe wildfires.

Along the central coast, the bill would designate nearly 250,000 acres of public land in the Los Padres National Forest and Carrizo Plain National Monument as wilderness and study the feasibility of creating a 400-mile long condor national recreation trail, stretching from Los Angeles to Monterey County. The designations in the bill would protect the abundant biodiversity that make the central coast so special.

In Los Angeles County, this bill would designate nearly 30,000 acres of new wilderness, helping provide permanent protections so that future generations can enjoy the limited wild and untouched spaces in Southern California.

The bill would also provide outdoor recreation opportunities for park-poor communities. This bill enjoys the support of hundreds of local municipalities and elected officials, community groups, businesses, and local outfitters. It is the product of significant public engagement in the legislative process spanning decades.

I want to highlight that this legislation protects existing water rights, property rights, and land-use authorities. The bill also does not create any new public lands, rather, it protects existing public lands through wilderness designations in order to keep these lands as pristine as possible.

The science is increasingly clear that we must conserve 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030 as part of ongoing efforts to solve the climate crisis, protect nature, and save America's wildlife. I am proud that the State of California has made significant strides to achieve this goal, and I am determined to do my part to protect our public lands and waters at the Federal level.

I would like to thank my colleagues and conservation champions, Representatives JARED HUFFMAN, SALUD CARBAJAL, and JUDY CHU, for championing these bills in the House. I also want to thank Senator SCHIFF for cosponsoring this bill and working toward our shared goal of promoting restoration, recreation, and conservation throughout California. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass the PUBLIC Lands Act as quickly as possible.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3543. A bill to amend the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 to modify the description of interest for purposes of certain distributions of antidumping duties and countervailing duties and to authorize a special distribution of those amounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 3543

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

## SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Trade Cheating Restitution Act of 2025".

## SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF DESCRIPTION OF INTEREST FOR PURPOSES OF CERTAIN DISTRIBUTIONS OF ANTIDUMPING DUTIES AND COUNTERVAILING DUTIES AND SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION OF AMOUNTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 605(c)(1) of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (19 U.S.C. 4401(c)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B); and

(2) by striking "October 1, 2014, by U.S. Customs and Border Protection under, or in connection with—" and inserting "October 1, 2000, by U.S. Customs and Border Protection."

(b) FUNDING.—In carrying out the amendments made by subsection (a), the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall use amounts available for such purpose in the "Refund of Moneys Erroneously Received and Covered" account of the Department of the Treasury.

## (c) SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION OF AMOUNTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the amendments made by subsection (a), all interest realized under section 605(c)(1) of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (19 U.S.C. 4401(c)(1)), as amended by that subsection, for a fiscal year ending before the date of the enactment of this Act shall be subject to a special distribution carried out in accordance with this subsection.

(2) GENERAL NOTICE.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall publish a general notice in the Federal Register announcing the timing of the special distribution required under paragraph (1).

(3) ELIGIBILITY.—Each person seeking a special distribution under paragraph (1) must—

(A) have received at least one distribution under the Continued Dumping and Subsidy Offset Act of 2000 (section 754 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1675c; repealed by subtitle F of title VII of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-171; 120 Stat. 154))) during a prior fiscal year;

(B) timely file a certification for the special distribution, as determined by the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection; and

(C) meet the eligibility criteria contained in the Continued Dumping and Subsidy Offset Act of 2000 at the time of filing that certification.

(4) DISTRIBUTION.—Interest specified under paragraph (1) shall be aggregated by antidumping duty or countervailing duty order or finding and distributed on a pro rata basis to persons eligible under paragraph (3) as follows:

(A) For interest realized on or after October 1, 2010, as soon as possible following the date of the enactment of this Act but not later than the date that is 210 days after such date of enactment.

(B) For interest realized on or after October 1, 2000, and on or before September 30, 2010, as soon as possible following the date of

the enactment of this Act but not later than the date that is 210 days after the distribution under subparagraph (A).

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

### SENATE RESOLUTION 547—EXPRESSING UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED STATES-JAPAN ALLIANCE IN RESPONSE TO POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY PRESSURE BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr. RICKETTS (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 547

Whereas, since 1951, the United States-Japan alliance has served as the cornerstone of peace, security, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific;

Whereas, on October 4, 2025, Japan elected its first female prime minister, Sanae Takaichi;

Whereas, on November 2, 2025, the People's Republic of China's Foreign Ministry harshly criticized a meeting between Prime Minister Takaichi and a senior Taiwan official at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting in Gyeongju, South Korea, despite the fact that such meetings regularly occur at APEC, where Taiwan has been an active member since 1991;

Whereas, on November 7, 2025, in response to a question from a member of the Japanese parliament about a hypothetical Chinese blockade of the Taiwan Strait involving United States forces, Prime Minister Takaichi responded that "[i]f battleships are used and a naval blockade involves the use of force, I believe that would, by any measure, constitute a 'survival-threatening situation' for Japan," a legal term under Japanese law allowing Tokyo to exercise its right to collective self-defense with the United States;

Whereas Prime Minister Takaichi further clarified that "the Japanese government would make its judgment by synthesizing all information based on the specific circumstances of the actual situation";

Whereas Prime Minister Takaichi's remarks are in line with previous remarks from senior Japanese leaders, including then-Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi's statement in 2021 that "[t]he peace and stability of Taiwan are directly connected to Japan," and then-Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso's remarks that "[i]f a major problem took place in Taiwan, it would not be too much to say that it could relate to a survival-threatening situation (for Japan)";

Whereas, on November 7, 2025, the People's Republic of China's Consul General in Osaka criticized Prime Minister Takaichi's remarks to parliament in a post on X, saying, "We have no choice but to cut off that dirty neck that has been lunged at us without hesitation. Are you ready?";

Whereas, since November 7, 2025, the People's Republic of China has effectively suspended or blocked many Japanese cultural performances inside China, including films and concerts, with venues reportedly told that concerts featuring Japanese musicians would be cancelled for the rest of 2025;

Whereas, on November 14, 2025, the People's Republic of China announced travel advisories urging its citizens to avoid travel to or study in Japan, leading airlines to offer refunds to Chinese travelers and cancel flights;

Whereas, on November 16, 2025, Chinese coast guard vessels sailed through waters around the Senkaku Islands, which are administered by Japan, prompting Japan to deploy its own coast guard vessels in response;

Whereas, on November 18, 2025, and December 1, 2025, the People's Republic of China sent letters to the United Nations criticizing Prime Minister Takaichi's remarks;

Whereas, on November 19, 2025, the People's Republic of China announced it would reimpose a 2023 ban on seafood imports from Japan and suspended consultations to resume Japanese beef exports to China;

Whereas, on November 20, 2025, the Department of State Deputy Spokesperson stated, "Our commitment to the U.S.-Japan Alliance and to Japan's defense, including the Japan-administered Senkakus, is unwavering. The U.S.-Japan Alliance remains the cornerstone of peace and security in the Indo-Pacific.... We firmly oppose any unilateral attempts to change the status quo, including through force or coercion, in the Taiwan Strait, East China Sea, or South China Sea.";

Whereas, on December 2, 2025, the Japanese Coast Guard intercepted and drove away two Chinese coast guard vessels that approached a Japanese fishing boat near the Senkaku Islands;

Whereas, on December 6, 2025, People's Liberation Army Navy's Liaoning aircraft carrier conducted exercises near the Japanese island of Okinawa and two Chinese J-15 warplanes locked radar on two Japanese F-15 military aircraft on separate occasions in international waters;

Whereas, on December 9, 2025, two Russian Tu-95 nuclear-capable strategic bombers joined two Chinese H-6 bombers and four J-16 fighters on a joint patrol in international waters between Japan's Okinawa and Miyako Islands;

Whereas, on December 9, 2025, a spokesperson for the Department of State stated, "China's actions are not conducive to regional peace and stability. The U.S.-Japan Alliance is stronger and more united than ever. Our commitment to our ally Japan is unwavering, and we are in close contact on this and other issues";

Whereas, on December 11, 2025, United States strategic bombers joined Japanese fighters in a joint military exercise near Japan's western airspace, with the Japanese Joint Staff saying that the exercises "reaffirmed the strong resolve to prevent unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force and the readiness between the [Self-Defense Force] and the U.S. forces"; and

Whereas, on December 14, 2025, the People's Republic of China imposed sanctions on Shigeru Iwasaki, a former chief of staff of Japan's Self-Defense Forces Joint Staff and adviser to Taiwan's cabinet, for alleged collusion with "Taiwan independence" separatist forces: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the Government of the People's Republic of China's use of economic, military, and diplomatic coercion and aggression against Japan, a United States defense treaty ally;

(2) commends the Government of Japan's opposition to the efforts of the Government of the People's Republic of China to—

(A) undermine regional stability; and

(B) unilaterally change the status quo in the Taiwan Strait by force or coercion;

(3) recognizes Japan's commitments to peace and security and its continuing role as a key ally in maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific;

(4) applauds the Government of Japan's efforts to increase its own defense spending to invest in capabilities to enhance deterrence across the region;

(5) applauds the Government of Japan's efforts to diffuse tensions with the Government of the People's Republic of China despite continuous unilateral provocations;

(6) reaffirms the United States' unwavering commitment to Article V of the United States-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security, and that the Senkaku Islands fall within Article V's scope; and

(7) stands with the Government of Japan and the Japanese people against the Government of the People's Republic of China's attempts to harass and escalate tensions with Japan.

### SENATE RESOLUTION 548—DENOUNCING THE HORRORS OF AUTHORITARIANISM

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

S. RES. 548

Whereas authoritarian ideology necessitates a concentration of power that has, time and time again, collapsed democracies into totalitarian rule, kleptocracies, and brutal dictatorships;

Whereas most modern democracies do not die at the hands of armed militias, but instead at the hands of elected officials who erode the separation of powers to tighten their authoritarian grip;

Whereas researchers find that authoritarianism has repeatedly led to lower health outcomes, decreased life expectancy, higher infant mortality, and harmful economic impacts;

Whereas, in Venezuela, Hugo Chávez and Nicolás Maduro dismantled independent institutions, stripped powers from the elected legislature, repressed opposition parties and civil society, detained political rivals, and presided over a humanitarian and economic collapse under a repressive and authoritarian state;

Whereas, in Turkey, Recep Erdoğan has undermined judicial independence, imprisoned journalists, political opponents, and civil servants on politically motivated charges, closed independent media outlets, and concentrated sweeping authority into the presidency;

Whereas, in Russia, Vladimir Putin eliminated genuine political competition, outlawed major opposition movements, criminalized dissent, oversaw the imprisonment and deaths of prominent political opponents, entrenched a corrupt and repressive authoritarian regime, and launched the illegal, unprovoked invasion of Ukraine in violation of international law;

Whereas researchers find, "Free countries across all measures do better than authoritarian regimes in delivering prosperity for their people.";

Whereas the Constitution of the United States guarantees the separation of powers in the Government and has checks on power that ensure a Government by and for the people rather than authoritarian rule, as such separation of powers is essential;

Whereas the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States guarantees that Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech or of the press;

Whereas kleptocracies are organized and controlled by top political elites, who raid state resources with immunity and impunity;

Whereas Founding Father and President James Madison wrote, "The accumulation of all powers, legislative, executive, and judiciary, in the same hands, whether of one, a few, or many, and whether hereditary, self-