

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—EX-PRESSING 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”;

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-

appointed, or elective, may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny.”; and

Whereas the United States was founded on the belief in the sanctity of our democracy, undeniable freedoms, independence of each branch of government, and checks and balances on each branch, a belief to which the system of authoritarianism in all of its forms is fundamentally opposed: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate denounces authoritarianism in all its forms and opposes the implementation of authoritarian policies in the United States.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 549—URGING THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION TO SEIZE SHADOW FLEET VESSELS TRANSPORTING SANCTIONED OIL FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 549

Whereas the Russian Federation is the world’s third-largest oil producer, and income from the sale of oil has generated revenue to allow the Russian Federation to fund its war in Ukraine;

Whereas, despite Western sanctions, European Union sanctions, and price caps imposed by the G7, seaborne crude and product exports from the Russian Federation have averaged 5,700,000 barrels per day in 2025, a barely marginal decrease from the 5,800,000 barrels per day in 2022 when the Russian Federation began its illegal invasion of Ukraine;

Whereas, on October 22, 2025, the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the Department of the Treasury imposed sanctions on the Russian Federation’s two largest oil companies, Open Joint Stock Company Rosneft Oil Company (Rosneft) and Public Joint-Stock Company Oil Company Lukoil (Lukoil), “as a result of Russia’s lack of serious commitment to a peace process to end the war in Ukraine”;

Whereas the shadow fleet of the Russian Federation comprises at least 561 ships, which have carried between 60 percent and 80 percent of Russian crude exports in recent quarters;

Whereas, in recent years, the United States Government has seized several shadow fleet vessels carrying sanctioned oil from other countries, including from the Islamic Republic of Iran;

Whereas, on December 10, 2025, the United States Government seized the shadow fleet vessel the M/T Skipper, which was previously subject to sanctions for serving as part of “an international oil smuggling network that facilitated oil trades and generated revenue” to support Hezbollah and the Quds Force of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, for transporting—

(1) sanctioned oil from the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Syrian Arab Republic in 2024; and

(2) nearly 2,000,000 barrels of crude oil from the Islamic Republic of Iran to the People’s Republic of China between February and July of 2025; and

Whereas the United States Government, using all authorities, including those inherent under article II of the Constitution of the United States, should seize shadow fleet vessels carrying sanctioned oil from the Russian Federation, whose proceeds in part will benefit designated foreign terrorist organizations: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the use of shadow fleet vessels to transport sanctioned oil from the Russian Federation and views the transport of such oil as conduct that undermines United States national security interests and sanctions regimes;

(2) urges the Trump Administration to seize shadow fleet vessels transporting sanctioned oil from the Russian Federation;

(3) recognizes that seizing shadow fleet vessels engaged in such transport is a lawful and appropriate measure to take against the Russian Federation’s evasion of sanctions and illicit financing of its war in Ukraine; and

(4) calls on allies and partners to also seize shadow fleet vessels transporting sanctioned oil from the Russian Federation.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 550—RECOGNIZING THAT CLIMATE CHANGE IS NOT A HOAX, BUT SOUND SCIENCE**

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 550

Whereas, 129 years ago, in 1896, Swedish scientist Svante Arrhenius concluded that greenhouse gas emissions from human activities contribute to a global “greenhouse effect” driving global warming;

Whereas, in 1959, at a celebration of the 100-year anniversary of the fossil-fuel industry, physicist Edward Teller warned attending representatives of major oil companies that greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuels cause a greenhouse gas effect and that increased use of fossil fuels would cause global warming and severe sea level rise;

Whereas, in 1968, Stanford researchers produced a report for the American Petroleum Institute, finding that atmospheric carbon dioxide levels were rising, that no explanation for this rise “seem[ed] to fit the presently observed situation as well as the fossil fuel emanation theory”, and that “potential damage to our environment” from this rise “could be severe”;

Whereas, from 1970 through 2003, Exxon scientists produced a series of reports and projections on greenhouse gas-driven climate change, predicting warming of 0.20 degrees Celsius per decade, which according to recent analysis by Harvard researchers, reflected “shocking skill and accuracy”;

Whereas, in 1988, a Shell working group produced a confidential report entitled “The Greenhouse Effect”, which quantified Shell’s own contribution to global carbon dioxide emissions, predicted that global carbon dioxide levels could double by 2030, and described a series of climate change impacts, including rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and forced migration;

Whereas 99.99 percent of peer-reviewed scientific papers agree that climate change is happening and that human activity, and specifically the burning of fossil fuels, is the main cause of climate change;

Whereas, as reported by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), data from ice cores, rocks, tree rings, and satellites and other instruments “all show the signs of a changing climate”;

Whereas, as of August 5, 2025, NASA maintains that “there is unequivocal evidence that Earth is warming at an unprecedented

rate” and that “[h]uman activity is the principal cause” of this warming;

Whereas, in its Sixth Climate Assessment in 2021, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change found that the “evidence is unequivocal: climate change is a grave and mounting threat to human wellbeing and the health of the planet;

Whereas the most comprehensive source of data on climate impacts in the United States can be found in the National Climate Assessments mandated by Congress under the Global Change Research Act of 1990 (15 U.S.C. 2921 et seq.) and coordinated under the United States Global Change Research Program (established under section 103 of the Global Change Research Act of 1990 (15 U.S.C. 2933)), comprising 15 Federal agencies and subject to “multiple rounds of expert and governmental review, including evaluation by Federal agencies, external experts, the public, and a National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine review committee” and published in 2000, 2009, 2014, 2017, 2018, and 2023;

Whereas a sixth National Climate Assessment was planned for 2028, but in 2025 the administration of President Donald Trump fired all the scientists and researchers working on the project, pulled the most recent National Climate Assessment offline, and shut down the United States Global Change Research Program website; and

Whereas greenhouse-gas driven climate change is driving extreme weather, sea-level rise, heat waves, catastrophic wildfires, and other disasters, which in turn are beginning to disrupt insurance, mortgage, and real estate markets: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That—

(1) climate change caused by fossil fuel combustion is not a hoax;

(2) the reality of human-caused greenhouse gas-driven climate change is sound science; and

(3) Congress should protect legislatively mandated climate research programs.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 551—RECOGNIZING THAT SEA LEVELS ARE RISING AT ACCELERATED RATES DUE TO HUMAN-CAUSED CLIMATE CHANGE**

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 551

Whereas tide gauges along the coasts of the United States measure accelerating rates of sea-level rise;

Whereas the rate of sea-level rise per year has more than doubled in the past century;

Whereas thermal expansion, or the volume of the ocean that is expanding as seawater warms, is contributing to rising sea levels;

Whereas the thermal expansion of ocean water has caused approximately 56 percent of global sea-level rise since 2014;

Whereas the thermal expansion of seawater can cause greater sea-level variability and unpredictability, increasing the risks for coastal communities;

Whereas thermal expansion of our oceans will affect century-scale acceleration of sea-level rise on the global, regional, and local scales, increasing coastal risks for all people of the United States;

Whereas, depending on greenhouse gas emissions, average sea-level rise could range between 2 and 7.2 feet by 2100;