

ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 560

Whereas mercury is a powerful neurotoxin; Whereas mercury occurs naturally in coal, petroleum, and natural gas, and burning those fossil fuels releases mercury into the atmosphere;

Whereas mercury emitted into the atmosphere enters the ground, water, and food system;

Whereas consuming fish from mercury-contaminated waterbodies is the most common way people are exposed to dangerous levels of mercury;

Whereas all 50 States maintain webpages to issue fish advisories for mercury-contaminated waterbodies and the Department of Public Health and Environment of the State of Colorado reports that, as of 2025, there were more than 3,700 mercury advisories in effect across the United States;

Whereas fossil fuel-fired power plants are the largest source of mercury emissions in the United States;

Whereas an estimated 80,000,000 individuals in the United States live within 3 miles of a fossil fuel-fired power plant, approximately 17,000,000 of whom are children;

Whereas exposure to mercury can cause severe health problems, including permanent brain damage, kidney damage, birth defects, and heart disease;

Whereas gestational mercury exposure is particularly dangerous and babies born after mercury exposure in the womb can exhibit severe intellectual impairment, as well as ataxia and cerebral palsy, seizures, vision and hearing loss, delayed developmental milestones, language disorders, and problems with motor function, visual spatial abilities, and memory; and

Whereas there is no known safe level of exposure to mercury: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate recognizes that mercury pollution can cause severe health problems, including permanent brain damage, kidney damage, and birth defects; and

(2) it is the sense of the Senate that the Environmental Protection Agency should not loosen controls on mercury pollution from power plants.

SENATE RESOLUTION 561—RECOGNIZING THAT PARTICULATE MATTER POLLUTION CAN CAUSE HEART ATTACKS, ASTHMA, STROKES, AND PREMATURE DEATH

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 Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 561

Whereas particulate matter pollution consists of tiny airborne particles made of a mix of sometimes hundreds of different chemicals and elements;

Whereas particulate matter particles are so small that when inhaled they can penetrate deep into the lungs and bloodstream;

Whereas particulate matter exposure can cause heart attacks, asthma, bronchitis, decreased lung function, and premature death for people with heart or lung disease;

Whereas people who experience long-term exposure to particulate matter pollution are

twice as likely to experience hemorrhagic stroke;

Whereas evidence suggests that particulate matter exposure contributes to lung cancer incidence and mortality, even for non-smokers;

Whereas a study by the California Air Resources Board found that children growing up in communities with high levels of particulate matter pollution had smaller lungs at age 18 than children living in communities with low levels of particulate matter pollution;

Whereas health scientists agree that particulate matter is a leading health risk factor in the United States and around the world;

Whereas combustion of fossil fuels is the largest source of particulate matter pollution in the United States; and

Whereas an estimated 80,000,000 individuals in the United States live within 3 miles of a fossil fuel-fired power plant, approximately 17,000,000 of whom are children: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate recognizes that particulate matter pollution can cause heart attacks, asthma, strokes, and premature death; and

(2) it is the sense of the Senate that the Environmental Protection Agency should maintain and enforce safe nationwide standards for particulate matter.

SENATE RESOLUTION 562—RECOGNIZING THAT OZONE POLLUTION CAN CAUSE LUNG DISEASE, ASTHMA ATTACKS, CARDIOVASCULAR PROBLEMS, AND REPRODUCTIVE ISSUES

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 Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 562

Whereas ozone in the stratosphere, “the ozone layer”, forms naturally and protects the Earth from dangerous solar radiation;

Whereas ground-level ozone, better known as “smog”, forms when air pollution reacts with sunlight;

Whereas smog, in contrast to stratospheric ozone, is dangerous to human health;

Whereas exposure to smog causes asthma attacks, lung disease, nervous system issues, cardiovascular problems, and reproductive issues;

Whereas children are particularly vulnerable to smog pollution;

Whereas, in 2021, analysts found that long-term exposure to smog contributed to 489,000 deaths globally and 14,000 deaths in the United States, with the United States death rate being higher than that of other high-income countries;

Whereas smog pollution lowers crop yields and crop losses due to smog pollution total between 79,000,000 and 121,000,000 metric tons per year;

Whereas methane pollution (the primary constituent of natural gas) reacts with other pollutants to create smog pollution;

Whereas researchers have found that methane emissions significantly affect the air quality across most of the United States, with especially pronounced effects in central States, and methane emissions can have a determining influence on the ability of a region to meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone that are set by the Environmental Protection Agency;

Whereas, in 2024, the Environmental Protection Agency set methane standards that were projected to eliminate 58,000,000 tons of methane pollution over 15 years, a 79 percent reduction from business as usual; and

Whereas the Trump Administration is reconsidering the 2024 methane standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate recognizes that ozone pollution can cause lung disease, asthma attacks, cardiovascular problems, and reproductive issues; and

(2) it is the sense of the Senate that the Environmental Protection Agency should act to reduce smog pollution, including by supporting robust implementation of the 2024 methane standards.

SENATE RESOLUTION 563—AFFIRMING THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD SUPPORT SCHOOL DISTRICT INVESTMENT IN CLEAN SCHOOL BUSES

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 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 563

Whereas diesel exhaust from school buses is a major source of local air pollution, including fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and volatile organic compounds (VOCs);

Whereas children face higher health risk from air pollution because of their smaller, still developing lungs, leading to increased rates of asthma, heart disease, and lung disease;

Whereas approximately 3 out of 10 children in the United States take a school bus to get to school;

Whereas the air pollution from diesel school buses can enter school buildings and degrade classroom air quality;

Whereas air pollution-related diseases lead to missed days of school and hamper the education of children;

Whereas the replacement of diesel school buses with clean school buses, including electric school buses, would dramatically reduce local air pollution, and improve the health and educational attainment of children; and

Whereas Congress, on a bipartisan basis, has historically supported funding for replacing diesel school buses with cleaner alternatives, including through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58; 135 Stat. 429): Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate affirms that the Federal Government should support school district investment in clean school buses.

SENATE RESOLUTION 564—RECOGNIZING THE ABILITY OF SOLAR, STORAGE, AND WIND TO QUICKLY AND CHEAPLY MEET UNITED STATES POWER DEMAND GROWTH

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, 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 Energy and Natural Resources:

S. RES. 564

Whereas, as of 2025, United States power demand growth is higher than at any point in the previous 2 decades;

Whereas, over the next 10 years after the date of enactment of this resolution, nearly every region of the United States faces potential power capacity shortfalls;

Whereas, as of 2025, solar and wind are the most cost-effective forms of new power generation on an unsubsidized basis and electricity storage (battery) costs are sharply declining;

Whereas, in 2024, solar, storage, and wind made up 93 percent of new power capacity installations in the United States;

Whereas, as of 2025, solar, storage, and wind make up 95 percent of power capacity awaiting grid interconnection in the United States;

Whereas, in 2024, solar and wind produced more electricity than coal;

Whereas, in 2025, costs of new natural gas construction reached 10-year highs;

Whereas, as of 2025, wait times for turbines for new natural gas-fired power plants are as long as 7 years; and

Whereas forcing large fossil fuel plants that are scheduled to retire in 2026, 2027, and 2028 to keep running could increase costs to ratepayers by over \$3,000,000,000 per year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes that accelerating solar, storage, and wind deployment is essential to meet rising power demand, and that the United States should increase production of renewable energy.

SENATE RESOLUTION 565—RECOGNIZING THAT FACILITIES THAT PRODUCE RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY ARE THE CHEAPEST POWER-GENERATING FACILITIES TO OPERATE AND RELIANCE ON FOSSIL FUEL-GENERATING FACILITIES TO MEET GROWING POWER DEMAND DRIVES UP WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY PRICES

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHETER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

S. RES. 565

Whereas electricity prices are generally determined by the level of demand for power and the cost of generating such power used to meet the demand;

Whereas the demand for power in the United States is growing faster than at any point in the past 2 decades;

Whereas power generators with the lowest operating costs are typically dispatched first, thereby meeting the demand for power at the lowest cost;

Whereas, as the demand for power increases, power generators with higher operating costs are dispatched, thereby driving up wholesale electricity prices;

Whereas fossil-power generation from coal, fossil gas, and oil has high operating costs due to the cost of fuel and maintenance; and

Whereas the generation of wind, solar, and other renewable resources has near-zero operating costs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes that—

(1) facilities that produce renewable electricity are the cheapest electricity-generating facilities to operate to meet the demand for power; and

(2) reliance on fossil fuel-generating facilities to meet the growing demand for power drives up wholesale electricity prices.

SENATE RESOLUTION 566—RECOGNIZING THAT CARE PROVIDED BY EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IS ESSENTIAL FOR MEETING THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 566

Whereas, as of 2025, the Department of Veterans Affairs serves more than 7,000,000 patients;

Whereas, in 2024, veteran trust in Department outpatient health care was nearly 92 percent;

Whereas Department hospitals have outperformed non-Department hospitals in quality and patient satisfaction in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' annual star ratings since 2023 when Department facilities began being included in the annual star ratings;

Whereas recent studies have concluded that Department health care is consistently as good as, or better than, commercial health care in areas of quality and safety;

Whereas veterans who are engaged in Department health care in Department medical facilities or through the Department's community care providers should receive high-quality continuity of care and positive outcomes regardless of where they receive their care;

Whereas the Department's 2024 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report found that in 2022 there were, on average, 17.6 veteran suicides per day, of which 7.0 per day were among veterans who received care from the Veterans Health Administration in 2021 or 2022, and 10.5 were among other veterans.

Whereas the Department is the largest educator of health care professionals in the United States, with more than 70 percent of practicing physicians having completed at least some of their training at a Department medical facility;

Whereas, for more than a century, Department researchers have made countless medical breakthroughs, which have benefitted not only veterans, but all people of the United States; and

Whereas the Department has a statutory "fourth mission" to support national, State, and local emergency efforts in times of war, terrorism, natural disasters, and public health emergencies, while continuing service to veterans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the Department of Veterans Affairs is essential in meeting the health care needs of veterans, training the medical workforce, conducting critical research, working to end veteran suicide, and improving public health and the preparedness of the United States for emergencies;

(2) urges the Department to support all its employees, respect their expertise and experience, and empower them with appropriate resources to serve veterans; and

(3) reaffirms the commitment of the Senate to ensuring that every veteran has time-

ly access to high-quality, affordable, and veteran-centered care, whether provided in Department medical facilities or through Department community care providers when direct care is not available or in the best medical interest of the veteran.

SENATE RESOLUTION 567—EXPRESSING THAT ANY ATTEMPT BY FOREIGN ENTITIES TO CENSOR OR PENALIZE CONSTITUTIONALLY PROTECTED SPEECH OF UNITED STATES PERSONS SHALL BE OPPOSED

Mr. LEE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 567

Whereas freedom of speech is a fundamental, constitutional right of every United States person;

Whereas freedom of speech is a hallmark of American exceptionalism;

Whereas freedom of speech is necessary to ensure that truth can always be spoken, lies can always be exposed, and important questions can always be asked, and that the strong can always be challenged and the vulnerable can always be heard;

Whereas no person is fit to govern the thoughts or beliefs of another;

Whereas public forums, including social media platforms, give people the opportunity to exercise their right to free speech;

Whereas undue foreign influence threatens the constitutionally protected right to freedom of speech;

Whereas the Digital Services Act of the European Union requires large platforms to remove certain speech based on the incorrect assertion that politicians are entitled to govern the thoughts and beliefs of other persons;

Whereas the European Union is attempting to force United States entities to use products and technology to censor and undermine free speech occurring in the United States;

Whereas the European Union is threatening steep penalties under the Digital Services Act if United States entities do not implement the censorship regime required under the Act;

Whereas, on August 12, 2024, the European Union threatened Elon Musk with penalties under the Digital Services Act for conducting an interview with President Trump on X, insinuating that the conversation between United States citizens on United States soil would produce "harmful content" that would "spillover" from the United States;

Whereas, on December 5, 2025, the European Union announced a \$140,000,000 fine against X under the Digital Services Act;

Whereas the European Union is actively investigating and discouraging the use of Community Notes-style policies employed by social media companies to avoid censorship and institutional bias, instead pushing for aggressive content censorship models;

Whereas the Digital Services Act authorizes fines of up to 6 percent of a company's global revenue for not complying with efforts to target speech by United States persons;

Whereas the actions of the European Union under the Digital Services Act conflict with the sovereign duty of the United States Government to protect the constitutional rights of United States persons; and

Whereas such actions by the European Union, if left unchecked, may cause a chilling effect on free speech in the United States: Now, therefore, be it