

(1) A description of current activities and initiatives to facilitate the expansion of the Multinational Force Operation Olympic Defender to allied countries in the Indo-Pacific region, including Japan and the Republic of Korea.

(2) An identification of any policy change the Government of Japan, the Government of the Republic of Korea, and the government of any other allied country in the Indo-Pacific region identified by the Commander of the United States Space Command would need to make in order for the United States to extend a formal invitation for such countries to join the Multinational Force Operation Olympic Defender.

(3) An identification of any funding or policy change necessary to facilitate the accession to the Multinational Force Operation Olympic Defender of Japan, the Republic of Korea, and any other allied country in the Indo-Pacific region identified by the Commander of the United States Space Command.

(4) An assessment of each of the following:

(A) The manner in which the accession to the Multinational Force Operation Olympic Defender of Japan, the Republic of Korea, and any other allied country in the Indo-Pacific region identified by the Commander of the United States Space Command would affect United States national security interests.

(B) Whether the accession to the Multinational Force Operation Olympic Defender of Japan and the Republic of Korea—

(i) is feasible; and

(ii) would be in the national interest of the United States.

(C) The additional resources or authorities needed from the executive and legislative branches to carry out the accession to the Multinational Force Operation Olympic Defender of Japan and the Republic of Korea.

(C) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SA 4792. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4201, to require the Chief of Space Operations to submit a feasibility report on expanding the Multinational Force Operation Olympic Defender; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: “To require the Commander of the United States Space Command to submit a feasibility report on expanding the Multinational Force Operation Olympic Defender.”

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I have 11 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 COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 10 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 Wednesday, April 15, 2026, immediately following the business meeting, to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans’ Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 3:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 3:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 3 p.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

NATIONAL SLAM THE SCAM DAY

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 627.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 627) designating March 5, 2026, as “National Slam the Scam Day” to raise awareness about pervasive scams and to prevent government imposter scams and other types of scams by promoting education about such scams.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. RICKETTS. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 627) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 5, 2026, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING MONTH

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 673, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 673) supporting the goals and ideals of National Safe Digging Month.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. RICKETTS. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 673) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

INVESTING IN ALL OF AMERICA ACT OF 2025

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2066 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2066) to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to exclude from the limit on leverage certain amounts invested in smaller enterprises located in rural or low-income areas and small businesses in

critical technology areas, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. RICKETTS. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 2066) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in recess until 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 16; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate resume consideration of H.J. Res. 140, and that at 11 a.m., all time be expired on the joint resolution, it be read a third time, and the Senate vote on passage; and that following disposition, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of Calendar No. 671, Andrew Davis, and notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture at 1:45 p.m.; further, that if cloture is invoked, all time be expired and the Senate vote on confirmation at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader no earlier than Monday, April 20.

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

ORDER FOR RECESS

Mr. RICKETTS. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand in recess under the previous order following the remarks of Senator SMITH.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

H.J. RES. 140

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise tonight thinking about my beloved Minnesota and thinking about all of the people in Minnesota and around the country that love the Boundary Waters.

And I want to talk for a while about the Congressional Review Act resolution—this is H.J. Res. 140—that is before us tonight, and I want to speak directly to my colleagues about the CRA and why I think it is so important that we vote no on this CRA.

So what this CRA would do is it would roll back protections for the Boundary Waters Wilderness, which is

in Northeastern Minnesota. This is a picture of just one of the many glorious scenes of what you find in the Boundary Waters, which I will be talking about more this evening. This CRA, as I said, would roll back protections for the Boundary Waters Wilderness in Northeastern Minnesota. What it would do is it would allow copper sulfide mining in the watershed of the Boundary Waters, and this would be devastating to the wilderness.

The decision that this body makes will have long-term implications for the Boundary Waters, and it will also have long-term implications for how we protect public lands around this country going forward.

So I want to start with the core point that Minnesota is a mining State. We support mining—just not mining in this place. Minnesota is a mining and natural resources State. Mining is so important to our economy. We are proud to be the No. 1 source of iron ore in the whole country, and we produced three-quarters of the iron that went into the tanks and planes that led us to victory in World War II. And we are still producing most of the Nation's iron ore today.

And it is also true that there are other potential mines currently under consideration and development in Minnesota—not iron ore mines but other mines—that would produce copper and nickel.

Responsible mining is an economic driver in our State. It is part of our history, and it is part of our future.

So why oppose this CRA? Why would we oppose this CRA, which, I will tell you, will pave the way for developing a copper sulfide mine right on the doorstep of the Boundary Waters?

Well, I want to start this discussion tonight by giving three simple and basic reasons. The first is that this is an incredibly special place, beloved by Minnesotans and beloved by people all around the country, and this mine poses an unacceptable threat to this place.

The Boundary Waters, if the Presiding Officer has not been there, is a million acres of lakes and bogs and rivers. It is a wealth of hunting and fishing resources. People go there to canoe all the time. They go there in the wintertime to dogsled and to ice-fish.

I was there last summer, and I saw two wolves just in one day, on a day trip to the Boundary Waters.

It is some of the cleanest water that you will find anywhere in this country. You can drink the water right out of the middle of the lakes. You will find lake trout and northern pike and walleye. There is no better place in the world for it.

Over 150,000 people visit this incredible place every year, and so what that means is that the outdoor recreation economy in Northern Minnesota benefits greatly from the Boundary Waters.

This generates thousands of jobs and supports hundreds of local, small businesses, and it generates millions in economic activity.

Outdoor recreation is also a significant economic driver in the region around the Boundary Waters Wilderness. What happens here with this mine that will be allowed by the CRA is that this mine puts this incredible resource and the economic benefits of this resource at great risk.

It is kind of unbelievable to know that this kind of mine in 100 percent of the instances where they have been built has caused pollution.

What happens is you bring up the rock from underground. The sulfide in the rocks interacts with the water and the oxygen. My colleague Senator HEINRICH is an expert on this. That rock interacts with the water and the oxygen, and it creates basically sulfuric acid. That sulfuric acid flows directly into the Boundary Waters and on into Voyageurs National Park.

We have a map here so you can see how the water flows. This sulfuric acid, of course, is extremely dangerous, not just for fish and wildlife and the whole ecosystem in the Boundary Waters but also for the humans that recreate there, that swim in this water, that canoe in this water.

This is why Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, why sportsman's groups, why Trout Unlimited, and Pheasants Forever, and outdoor people of all kinds have weighed in and said: No. Simply, this is the wrong thing to do. Not this mine in this place. Even descendants of the great President Theodore Roosevelt have said that we should protect this national treasure and "leave it as it is."

This is also why this mine is so unpopular in Minnesota. A recent poll showed that 70 percent of Minnesotans across the political spectrum—Independents, Republicans, and Democrats—agreed that protecting the Boundary Waters from sulfide-based mine pollution should be a very important priority for elected officials in the State. And 61 percent of Minnesotans have said that they support establishing a permanent protection for public land within the Boundary Waters Watershed.

So that is the first reason because this place is so special and because this mine is so dangerous to this place.

But the second reason why, colleagues, we should oppose this CRA is that it sets an incredibly unprecedented and dangerous use of the Congressional Review Act. Now, we know that the Congressional Review Act is a way for Congress to doublecheck the executive branch if Congress feels that the Executive has passed a regulation that goes too far, that didn't follow the laws that Congress passed.

If the Executive passes a regulation that Congress feels doesn't reflect the will of Congress, then Congress can within 60 days say: Nope. You can't do that. That doesn't make sense.

But that is not what is happening with the CRA before this body tonight because for the first time ever, the House is asking the Senate to apply