

(4) supports efforts to increase the awareness of, and provide education for, the general public of the United States, with respect to preventing child abuse and neglect and building protective factors for families;

(5) supports the efforts to help survivors of childhood sexual abuse heal;

(6) supports justice for victims of childhood sexual abuse; and

(7) recognizes the need for prevention, healing, and justice efforts related to childhood abuse, neglect, and sexual abuse.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5438. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the executive resolution S. Res. 690, authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5439. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the executive resolution S. Res. 690, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5440. Ms. ERNST proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1199, to extend the statute of limitations for fraud under certain pandemic programs, and for other purposes.

SA 5441. Ms. ERNST (for Mr. MARKEY) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5440 proposed by Ms. ERNST to the bill S. 1199, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5438. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the executive resolution S. Res. 690, authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 5, beginning on line 4 strike the following:

“(25) Calendar Number 678: Brian Birdwell, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

(26) Calendar Number 679: Mark Ditlevson, of Minnesota, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.”

SA 5439. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the executive resolution S. Res. 690, authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In the matter proposed to be stricken, strike lines 2 through 3.

SA 5440. Ms. ERNST proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1199, to extend the statute of limitations for fraud under certain pandemic programs, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “SBA Fraud Enforcement Extension Act”.

SEC. 2. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS.

(a) SHUTTERED VENUE OPERATORS.—Section 324 of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9009a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any criminal prosecution or civil enforcement action for a violation of, or conspiracy to violate, section 371, 641, 1001, 1028A, 1029, 1341, 1343, 1349, 1956, or 1957 of title 18, United States Code, or section 3729 or 3802 of title 31, United States Code, with respect to any grant for shuttered venue operators under this section shall be filed not later than 10 years after the date of the violation or conspiracy.”.

(b) RESTAURANT REVITALIZATION.—Section 5003 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9009c) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any criminal prosecution or civil enforcement action for a violation of, or conspiracy to violate, section 371, 641, 1001, 1028A, 1029, 1341, 1343, 1349, 1956, or 1957 of title 18, United States Code, or section 3729 or 3802 of title 31, United States Code, with respect to any restaurant revitalization grant under this section shall be filed not later than 10 years after the date of the violation or conspiracy.”.

SA 5441. Ms. ERNST (for Mr. MARKEY) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5440 proposed by Ms. ERNST to the bill S. 1199, to extend the statute of limitations for fraud under certain pandemic programs, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

(c) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter until the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report on activities of the Department of Justice relating to the shuttered venue operators program under section 324 of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9009a) and the restaurant revitalization program under section 5003 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9009c), which shall include—

(1) the total number of investigations initiated, the total number of prosecutions initiated, the total dollar amount recovered by prosecutions, and the total number of referrals and source of such referrals; and

(2) with respect to such programs—
(A) the number of investigations initiated, the number of prosecutions initiated, and the disposition of each prosecution;

(B) the number of prosecutions and the number of investigations of applicants of such programs in each State and territory based on the address listed on the application of the entity that is the subject of an investigation or prosecution;

(C) the number of referrals—
(i) from the Department of Justice; and
(ii) from sources other than the Department of Justice, such as the Inspector General of another agency; and

(D) the disposition of each referral described in subparagraph (C), specifically whether the referral resulted in prosecution or declination.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I have nine 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 Sen-

ate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at 5 p.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at 10 a.m.

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 29, 2026, at 9:30 a.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 29, 2026, at 2:30 p.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 29, 2026, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at 2:45 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans’ Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at 4 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 29, 2026, at 3 p.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2026

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 30; 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, and the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; further, that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motion with respect to S. Res. 690 ripen at 11:30 a.m. tomorrow; finally, that if cloture is invoked on S. Res. 690, all postcloture time be expired and the Senate vote on adoption of the resolution at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader, no earlier than Friday, May 1.

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

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, expect a vote on the motion to discharge S.J. Res. 184 at 1:45 tomorrow.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Ms. ERNST. 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 my colleagues.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— S. RES. 551

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am here with regard to a unanimous consent resolution.

I have tried one before to pursue a simple truth that climate change is real. Earlier this year, I came to the floor and asked my colleagues if they could all agree on that simple scientific fact. Sadly, given the nature of this body, they could not.

So we are going to break it down into smaller bits because the reality of climate change is made up of many, many simple truths; and I hope that by breaking it down piece by piece, I can find areas where my colleagues will agree.

Today's simple truth: Sea levels are rising. Can we agree on that? The resolution specifically says: "recognizing that sea levels are rising at accelerated rates due to human-caused climate change."

As global air temperatures rise, obviously, so do the temperatures of the oceans. Here is a graph showing the increase in ocean heat content. It is measured in zettajoules. "Zettajoules" is a very big number. "Zetta" means it has 18 zeroes. It is a billion trillions or a trillion billions, depending on which way you want to go about it.

To put it at a more practical scale, the entire production of energy by the human species on all of planet Earth adds up to one half of a zettajoule. The price we pay for the fossil fuel component of that half zettajoule of energy is an ocean whose temperature is increasing by around 15 zettajoules a year. It is a 30-times magnifier because of the effect of fossil fuel emissions.

And as ocean heat content grows, seawater expands. The physical nature of seawater is to expand as it warms. And it also melts nearby glaciers, and both result in higher sea levels.

Combined, glacier melt and thermal expansion of water cause global sea levels to rise, and the rates are accelerating over time.

Here is the curve of global sea level rise. It is one of the most unambiguous indicators of what emissions are doing on our Earth to our natural systems.

Sea level rise has been going at accelerated rates since about 1863, which lines up right with the dawn of the Industrial Revolution when greenhouse gas emissions began to rise as we burned coal, natural gas, and oil.

Depending on the trajectory of greenhouse gas emissions, sea level rise in the United States could range between 2 and over 7 feet by the end of this century. That is a particularly dangerous proposition when you consider that 3.7 million Americans in the contiguous United States live on land less than 3.3 feet above high tide.

And it doesn't come up like the bathtub; it comes up and is still subject to tide and storm, so it can be driven ashore at far higher levels than 2 feet or over 7 feet.

Most of the impact will be in Florida, Louisiana, California, New York, and New Jersey. My home State of Rhode Island and my colleague Senator MARKEY's home State of Massachusetts will share that unfortunate experience.

Sea level rise isn't just evidence of a change in climate; it has real consequences. Thirty percent of people living in the United States live in coastal areas which puts them at risk from rising seas, increased flooding, shoreline erosion, and storm hazards.

And it is not just people at risk. Mr. President, \$10 trillion in goods and services are produced in coastal areas of the United States.

Rising sea level will not only cause what we call increased sunny day flooding, like when there is no rain to cause flooding; it is just tide and sea level rise, but it will also increase the amount of flooding from storms and from storm surges, and that will cost lives and money.

Indeed, it is already disrupting insurance, mortgage, and real estate markets. I have spoken elsewhere about the meltdown in Florida in those markets. Florida was recently described as the biggest loser for real estate values of all the 50 States, and it relates back to this cascade from climate risk to insurance being unavailable or too expensive to afford, to mortgages being compromised, to property values taking a hit.

There is some lessons we should learn from what has already happened. Mr. President, \$8.1 billion of the \$62 billion ascribed to Hurricane Sandy connects back to the rise in sea levels. Could have saved \$8 billion were the sea level rise not happening.

Everywhere, high water levels that were once rare—1-in-100-year events

are becoming 1-in-10- or 1-in-5-year events. Up to 13 million Americans will face displacement from sea level rise by 2100.

That is assuming that all goes smoothly, but all doesn't always go smoothly. There are tipping points in life. My favorite example is a rowboat.

If you put more and more weight in the rowboat, the water goes up and up the side of the boat. And there is not much change as the water goes up and up the side of the boat. But then you hit a tipping point where the water flows over the gunwale and into the boat. That is a big tipping point difference because suddenly it is not just more and more of the hull down in the water; it is the whole boat catastrophically falling, flooding, sinking to the bottom of the lake or the sea. So tipping points are to watch for.

Most ice is found in polar regions with as little as 1.5-degrees celsius of warming. The Greenland and West Antarctic ice sheets could be destabilized. That would be a major tipping point. Our Earth has already warmed 1.2 degrees celsius. So getting to 1.5 is not far away. And Greenland, for instance, is warming four times faster than the global average. So that puts us at the risk of the polar ice tipping point very soon.

Sea levels are expected to rise by 20 to 25 feet. Not 2 feet to 7.2 feet; 20 to 25 feet if the Greenland ice sheet melts and an additional 10 to 17 feet if the West Antarctic ice sheet melts.

The disintegration of either ice sheet would render major cities uninhabitable and completely destroy America's coastal communities.

So here is the simple truth: sea level rise is real. It is happening. Fossil fuel-caused climate change is accelerating its effects. Indeed, it is already disrupting American lives, pocketbooks, and families.

Mr. President, I will yield to Senator MARKEY from Massachusetts and return to make the actual unanimous consent request.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I thank the great Senator from Rhode Island, from the Ocean State. I represent the Bay State. We kind of have a relationship with the ocean in Rhode Island and in Massachusetts. That is why we are here.

I rise today in support of Senator WHITEHOUSE's resolution recognizing the grave threat of sea level rise due to human-caused climate change.

After decades of fossil fuel companies polluting our planet, ocean and atmospheric temperatures are rising. Our glaciers and ice sheets are melting.

Greenland's ice sheet is three times the size of Texas. And in some areas, the ice is 2 miles high. So just think of Greenland this way: 1,000 miles long, 300 miles wide, and a block of ice on it—the world's biggest ice cube—2 miles high is on top of Greenland, and it is melting.

So just think of a full glass of water: the Atlantic Ocean. Now, just drop the