

President Trump is the only President in my lifetime who had the courage to actually do what was needed. What this agreement will get to is what we should all hope for, all of us—Republicans, Democrats, and just anybody who is a citizen of the United States of America. We should be here, hopeful that we have an opportunity to get to this historic place.

It is always just incredibly disappointing to me, as somebody who is new to politics, that everything has to be turned into a political game. It is not a game. People have put their lives at risk to make this country safer. Instead of cheerleading for failure, we should be cheerleading for success.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

SAVING THE OOI ACT OF 2026

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I rise to address an issue of importance to our commercial fisheries and to our weather and to scientific studies. Specifically, that is the issue of sustaining the Ocean Observatories Initiative. It is a system of 900 sensors that we have in five different arrays around the oceans surrounding the United States that provide immense information—these anchored sensors—on the salinity, which is the salt content of the water, on the temperature, on the current direction, and on the phytoplankton at the bottom of the food chain. All of that information gives us enormously improved understanding of our ocean conditions. In fact, that information has been used in over 500 academic studies.

Now, what value is this?

Well, understanding our commercial fisheries is essential for maintaining the success of our commercial fisheries, and a huge amount of our weather is affected by the temperature of the ocean in different locations. That is why you hear weathermen talking about El Nino and La Nina—because they are large, massive bodies of water that are either colder than usual or warmer than usual and are changing all the patterns of weather.

It is also important for understanding climate change because the ocean stores some—I think it is—90 percent of the temperature increases that come from carbon dioxide and monoxide.

To get to the point, the National Science Foundation has started pulling out these arrays—it started yesterday—with an array called the Coastal Endurance Array off the coast of Oregon. But to everyone who represents any oceanfront in the United States, these are incredibly valuable investments. We have spent \$386 million in developing these arrays. They are supposed to provide information for 30 years, and pulling them out makes no sense.

So this bill that we have teamed up on—Alaska and Oregon, myself and Senator LISA MURKOWSKI—is simple.

It says: National Science Foundation, stop dismantling this enormously valuable array until we can have a full study of the pros and cons and stakeholder input because we cannot make a mistake and undermine the success of our commercial fisheries, our recreational fisheries, and our understanding of the weather and climate.

With that, I would like to turn this over to my colleague from Alaska.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I appreciate being here on the floor with my colleague from Oregon and working on this very important Ocean Observatories Initiative.

As he has outlined, understanding what is happening in our oceans is so key; it so critical. It is not just about how it impacts the fish and the habitat within our oceans; it is about the impact that our oceans have on the planet, recognizing that when you see warming waters, that has impact on the weather, on the jet stream, understanding all of that—understanding from the purposes of what it means from an industry perspective.

In my State and in the State of Oregon—also a State that has strong fisheries—it is important to understand the science so that we are making sound fisheries management decisions—sound for the fisheries and the resource itself, sound for the economies in those coastal communities that rely on them. So good science is really, really important.

As Senator MERKLEY has mentioned, we have an extraordinary system in place with this Ocean Observatories Initiative—a network of 900 deep-sea instruments that are providing real-time data to help us monitor the ocean conditions, predict extreme weather, and protect the coastal communities and maritime industries.

These are all over our oceans. As the Senator from Oregon has noted, the Coastal Endurance Array is in the Pacific Northwest. There is an array that is in the Gulf of Alaska, the Global Station Papa Array. This is 600 nautical miles off the coast, more than 2½ miles beneath the surface of the water. So these are down deep. These are gathering information that is hard to get. These are systems that are not only in the Pacific, but we have the array that is situated between Greenland and Iceland. I was just out in that region, and people were talking about the significance of the data that comes from this.

So, again, we have an extraordinary system that has been put in place, and then you have an announcement that caught everyone by surprise when the National Science Foundation said: We are going to begin dismantling one of our most complex ocean-monitoring systems.

This is all happening at a time when everybody is talking about El Nino and what that is going to bring in terms of the potential for extreme weather

events. This is not the time to be turning off one of our most valuable scientific assets.

So this is an investment that has been made. It represents actually decades of investment. It makes the data publicly available so that every American—whether you are a fisherman, a university researcher, our U.S. Coast Guard who is performing rescue operations—they can all safely operate.

So Congress has made really clear that we intend to maintain this cost-effective system by ensuring that we have funding for the program in our annual appropriations bill. As appropriators, that is our job. And enough Senators and Congressmen have agreed that it was a prudent use of taxpayer dollars to do just that.

Normally, we would reiterate our intent through the appropriations process by funding the system and including language prohibiting funds from being used for the dismantling, but we just felt that time was of the essence. As the Senator from Oregon has noted, when they are dismantling—they have already begun as of yesterday—expedient measures are necessary.

Mr. President, I would ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 4822, which was introduced earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4822) to prohibit the National Science Foundation from using Federal funds to descope or decommission the Ocean Observatories Initiative instruments.

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the bill, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 4822) was passed as follows:

S. 4822

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 “Saving the OOI Act of 2026”.

SEC. 2. NO NSF FUNDING TO DESCOPE OR DECOMMISSION THE OCEAN OBSERVATORIES INITIATIVE INSTRUMENTS; RESTORATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the National Science Foundation shall not use any Federal funds to decommission or descope the Ocean Observatories Initiative instruments anchored off the States of Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and North Carolina, and in the Irminger

Sea, until the National Science Foundation conducts a thorough review of the initiative, and the national assets that it provides, with robust stakeholder engagement from the scientific and coastal communities.

(b) MAINTENANCE OF OPERATIONS.—The Director of the National Science Foundation shall maintain the Ocean Observatories Initiative with full and consistent operations, including monitoring in all States that had instruments decommissioned, until the full review described in subsection (a) has been completed.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleague from Oregon. This was fast-moving. He and I were able to join together with letters. We were able to gather additional colleagues who weighed in on this. And then to be able to move with the consent of the rest of this body this evening to advance rapidly this measure I think speaks to the importance of the initiative itself.

But I also want to acknowledge the strong support from Senator MERKLEY in this initiative as we work to ensure that we have good, sound science and the investments that we have made to allow for that to continue. I just wanted to publicly thank him.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I would like to very much thank my colleague from Alaska. We were both shocked to hear about this plan to remove these sensors.

The sea off Alaska and certainly off the coast of the Northwestern United States—Oregon, Washington—are incredible assets that we need to understand. And I think about how, off Oregon, you have the California current and the Pacific upwelling that give some of the most productive fisheries to be found anywhere on the planet—from the salmon to the rockfish, to the groundfish, to the whiting, to the shrimp, to the crabs. And I know there are very similar, very rich conditions in the seas off Alaska.

So it is a pleasure to collaborate with my colleague and for us to gain the support of our fellow Senators on both sides of the aisle to say it is very important to protect this system of sensors, the Ocean Observatories Initiative, for the good work it is going to help provide for weather, for commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries, and understanding climate. So thank you.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions,

which are at the desk: S. Res. 776 and S. Res. 777.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MORNING BUSINESS

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC.

CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Please find enclosed the following notification from the Department of State.

Department Notification Number: RSAT 26-58.

Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 26-58 concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Austria for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$1.5 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Recipients:

Speaker of the House of Representatives
House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

Sincerely,

PAUL D. GUAGLIANONE,
Senior Bureau Official,
Bureau of Legislative Affairs.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 26-58

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Austria.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment *\$0.79 billion.

Other \$0.71 billion.

Total \$1.50 billion.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Twelve (12) UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters.

Twenty-six (26) T700-GE-70 ID engines.

Five (5) AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning Systems.

Five (5) Common Infrared Countermeasure Systems.

Five (5) AN/APR-39E(V)2 Radar Warning Receivers.

Thirty (30) EAGLE-M+429.

Thirty (30) AN/ARC-231A RT-1987 VHF/UHF/LOS SATCOM radios.

Non-MDE:

The following non-MDE items will also be included: AN/ARC-201D RT-1478D; AVR-2B laser detecting sets; APX-128 Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) transponder; AN/PYQ-10 simple key loader; KIV-79 Common IFF Appliance Crypto Computers; AN/ARN-147(V) very high frequency omni-directional range/instrument landing system receiver radio; AN/ARN-149(V) low frequency/automatic direction finder radio receiver; AN/ARN-153 tactical air navigation system receiver transmitter; AN/APN-209 radar altimeter; EBC-406HM emergency locator transmitter; improved heads up display (IHUD); signal data converters for IHUD; color weather radars; MX-10D EO/IR with laser designator; engine inlet barrier filters; ballistic armor protection systems; internal auxiliary fuel tank systems; fast rope insertion extraction system; external rescue hoist; rescue hoist equipment sets; dual patient litter system sets; Martin-Baker Palletized Crew Chief/Gunner Seats with crashworthy floor structural modifications; external stores support system; Degraded Visual Environment system; LINK-16 (small tactical terminal KOR-24A); traffic alert collision avoidance system; cargo hook scale; sling load observation capability; direction finder DF-935; environmental control system; snow skis provisions; Bambi bucket provisions; helicopter terrain awareness system; CONRAD troop radio capability; TETRA BOS radio capability; very important person kit; 28 VDC/10A utility power socket (cabin); universal serial bus charging outlet; crashworthy extended range fuel system tanks; instrument panel; cockpit multifunction display; cartridge, aircraft fire extinguisher; cartridge, impulse; thruster control unit 3/A; cartridge, aircraft; Black Hawk aircrew trainer; M-134 mini-guns and spares; training devices; helmets; transportation; organizational equipment; spare and repair parts; support equipment; tools and test equipment; technical data and publications; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (AU-B-VCV).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: AU-B-VCS.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None, known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: June 17, 2026.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Austria—UH-60M Black Hawk Helicopters.

The Government of Austria has requested to buy twelve (12) UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters consisting of (26) T700-GE-701D engines; five (5) AN/AAR-57 Common Missile