

and Affordable Care Act, and for other purposes.

S. 3520

At the request of Ms. LUMMIS, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3520, a bill to prohibit the Secretary of Agriculture from implementing a Forest Service rule relating to criminal prohibitions, and for other purposes.

S. 3606

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3606, a bill to subject aliens convicted of fraud to deportation and to bestow concurrent jurisdiction to revoke the citizenship of any naturalized United States citizen convicted of fraud on any court that enters such a conviction.

S. 3653

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3653, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out efforts to inform veterans of their rights with regards to the receipt of health care, benefits, and services furnished under provisions of law administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

S. 3660

At the request of Mr. FETTERMAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3660, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to reduce excessive credit card late fees, and for other purposes.

S. 3687

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3687, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to prohibit the appointment of political appointees as Inspectors General, and for other purposes.

S. 3720

At the request of Mr. SCHIFF, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3720, a bill to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Bay Area Ridge as a national scenic trail, and for other purposes.

S. J. RES. 102

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 102, a joint resolution disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the D.C. Income and Franchise Tax Conformity and Revision Temporary Amendment Act of 2025.

S. J. RES. 103

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from New

Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 103, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Veterans Affairs relating to "Reproductive Health Services".

S. RES. 61

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 61, a resolution expressing support for the continued value of arms control agreements and negotiated constraints on Russian and Chinese strategic nuclear forces.

S. RES. 573

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 573, a resolution expressing the need for the United States' continued leadership on matters of religious freedom.

AMENDMENT NO. 4245

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4245 intended to be proposed to H.R. 7148, a bill making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 3723. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of constructing a project to supply municipal, rural, and industrial water from the Missouri River to the Western Dakota Regional Water System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

S. 3723

*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 "Western South Dakota Water Supply Project Feasibility Study Act".

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) NON-FEDERAL PROJECT ENTITY.—The term "non-Federal project entity" means the Western Dakota Regional Water System, Inc., a nonprofit corporation.

(2) PROPOSED RURAL WATER SUPPLY PROJECT.—The term "proposed rural water supply project" means the proposed project to supply municipal, rural, and industrial water from the Missouri River to the Western Dakota Regional Water System.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

#### SEC. 3. WESTERN SOUTH DAKOTA WATER SUPPLY PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the non-Federal project entity, shall carry out a study to determine the feasibility of the proposed rural water supply project.

(2) FEASIBILITY REPORT.—After completion of the feasibility study for the proposed rural water supply project under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) develop a feasibility report that includes a recommendation of the Secretary on—

(i) whether the proposed rural water supply project should be authorized for construction; and

(ii) the appropriate non-Federal share of construction costs, which shall be—

(I) at least 25 percent of the total construction costs; and

(II) determined based on an analysis of the financial capability-to-pay the allocated construction and operations, maintenance, and replacement costs of the recommended plan;

(B) submit the report under subparagraph (A) to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(C) make the report under subparagraph (A) publicly available, along with associated feasibility study documents.

(3) CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION.—In addition to the non-Federal project entity, the Secretary shall consult and cooperate with appropriate Federal, State, Tribal, regional, and local authorities during the conduct of the feasibility study and development of the feasibility report under this subsection.

(b) COST-SHARING AGREEMENT FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY COSTS.—The Secretary shall enter into a cost-sharing agreement (or an appropriate financial assistance agreement, as determined by the Secretary) with the non-Federal project entity to conduct a study under subsection (a) that complies with the reclamation feasibility standards.

(c) FEDERAL SHARE OF FEASIBILITY STUDY COSTS.—The Federal share of the total costs of carrying out the feasibility study under subsection (a) shall not exceed 50 percent.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section \$10,000,000.

(e) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority provided by this section expires on the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. ROUNDS, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3725. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of constructing a project to supply municipal, rural, and industrial water to expand the capacity and reach of the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System, Inc. (doing business as "Lewis & Clark Regional Water System"), in the States of Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

S. 3725

*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 "Lewis & Clark Regional Water System Expansion Feasibility Study Act".

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) NON-FEDERAL PROJECT ENTITY.—The term "non-Federal project entity" means—

(A) the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System, Inc. (doing business as "Lewis & Clark Regional Water System"); and

(B) any nonprofit successor entity to the corporation described in subparagraph (A).

(2) PROPOSED RURAL WATER SUPPLY PROJECT.—The term "proposed rural water supply project" means the proposed project to supply municipal, rural, and industrial water to expand the capacity and reach of the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System in the States of Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

**SEC. 3. LEWIS & CLARK REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM EXPANSION FEASIBILITY STUDY.**

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the non-Federal project entity, shall carry out a study to determine the feasibility of the proposed rural water supply project.

(2) FEASIBILITY REPORT.—After completion of the feasibility study for the proposed rural water supply project under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) develop a feasibility report that includes a recommendation of the Secretary on—

(i) whether the proposed rural water supply project should be authorized for construction; and

(ii) the appropriate non-Federal share of construction costs, which shall be—

(I) at least 25 percent of the total construction costs; and

(II) determined based on an analysis of the financial capability-to-pay the allocated construction and operations, maintenance, and replacement costs of the recommended plan;

(B) submit the report under subparagraph (A) to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(C) make the report under subparagraph (A) publicly available, along with associated feasibility study documents.

(3) CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION.—In addition to the non-Federal project entity, the Secretary shall consult and cooperate with appropriate Federal, State, Tribal, regional, and local authorities during the conduct of the feasibility study and development of the feasibility report under this subsection.

(b) COST-SHARING AGREEMENT FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY COSTS.—The Secretary shall enter into a cost-sharing agreement (or an appropriate financial assistance agreement, as determined by the Secretary) with the non-Federal project entity to conduct a study under subsection (a) that complies with the reclamation feasibility standards.

(c) FEDERAL SHARE OF FEASIBILITY STUDY COSTS.—The Federal share of the total costs of carrying out the feasibility study under subsection (a) shall not exceed 50 percent.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section \$10,000,000.

(e) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority provided by this section expires on the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 3737. A bill to amend the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991 to provide financial and technical assistance to eligible entities for the conduct of innovative approaches to voluntary water partnership agreements among multiple water

users and projects conducted by individual agricultural entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the "GROW SMART Act". This bill would fund the design and development of voluntary demonstration projects for innovative agricultural water efficiency measures and agricultural partnerships with municipal, industrial, and commercial entities.

Our water supply deficit in California and the West is growing increasingly severe, and we need cost-effective adaptation strategies. Studies have shown that agricultural-sector water conservation approaches can be among the most cost-effective strategies available. They cost only \$385 to \$417 per acre-foot saved, as compared to thousands of dollars per acre-foot for most water supply projects.

For example, one potential project could replace some of the alfalfa that an Arizona integrated dairy relies on for forage with hydroponically-grown sprouted grain. The grain could be grown on-site to keep the land in production. If the capital cost of the hydroponic facilities is amortized over their 20-year expected life, the cost per acre-foot of water savings is \$200-\$500. Other examples include low water use crops like paulownia and other alfalfa substitutes; a mesquite-like crop that could provide a domestic, low-cost alternative for paper products; guayule, a rubber substitute; and so on.

If market prices governed water investments, cities and industries would be investing in these low-cost agricultural water-efficiency projects and sharing the benefits with agriculture. The bill seeks to overcome barriers to introducing market incentives into Western water in a way that is respectful of and profitable to holders of senior water rights.

Barriers like distrust and lack of information often prevent market pricing from influencing water investments. Farmers are often wary about outreach from cities and industrial and commercial entities, especially given the legacy of "buy-and-dry" efforts where wealthier urban areas have bought virtually all the water rights in rural areas and completely dried up the communities.

Relying completely on voluntary efforts, the bill would authorize Federal funding support to demonstrate that there are agricultural water efficiency measures, including switching to low water use crops, that could reduce water use by 25-80% and continue to support farmers and rural communities by keeping land in production:

The bill would preclude "buy-and-dry" by requiring that demonstration projects keep agricultural land in production for the majority of the growing season (or the majority of years of the agreement for drought-year agreements).

The bill would also prioritize projects that would dedicate a portion of the

water savings back to the relevant irrigation district or broader agricultural community.

A few farmers in each area could test out which measures work and at what yield and cost; the bill would only fund practices/crops without a demonstrated local track record. Once they have learned about the costs and benefits of these voluntary partnerships on small demonstration plots, farmers can decide whether they want to pursue them further.

Finally, the bill would authorize \$5 million per year for 7 years to fund the development of these projects. Reclamation, with its experience with WaterSMART and municipal partnerships with other entities, would take the lead on project development. USDA, with its expertise in agriculture, would fund project implementation.

Because cities and industries can pay for the investments in these projects once they have been demonstrated to be effective, these projects are much less costly for the federal budget than buying out water rights or relying completely on paying for expensive water infrastructure.

I believe that given the magnitude of our water supply deficit in many Western states, including in the Colorado Basin, it is well worth trying innovative demonstration projects that could help meet our water needs in a cost-effective manner.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 3738. A bill to amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to reauthorize the large-scale water recycling and reuse program, to establish a Water Conveyance Improvement Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the "MORE Water Act".

The California Department of Water Resources estimates that the drinking water deficit will reach 6 million acre feet of water per year by 2040—enough drinking water for 36 million people. The Making Our Communities Resilient through Enhancing Water for Agriculture, Technology, the Environment, and Residences Act (MORE WATER Act) would help fill this deficit by reauthorizing expiring Bureau of Reclamation programs that support the development of new water supply and recycling projects and by creating a new federal grant program to help repair California's water delivery system.

**WATER RECYCLING PROGRAMS**

The MORE WATER Act would reauthorize Reclamation's large-scale recycled water program, providing federal grants for up to 25% of the cost of these recycling projects. Multiple water districts in cities across Southern California and the Bay Area have large-scale water recycling projects (which cost \$500 million or more) that together could create over half a million

acre-feet of water per year, enough water for 3 million people, including Metropolitan Water District's project that involves a collaboration with Arizona and Nevada to work together to address water shortages on the Colorado River. The program benefits water supply as well as the environment by reducing the need to divert water from rivers and the Delta.

California also has dozens of other water recycling projects for which the bill would reauthorize federal grants for up to 25% of the costs. The MORE WATER Act also increases the cap on funding for these projects to \$50 million.

Furthermore, the bill would reauthorize a program that funds in-stream and floodplain habitat restoration and other projects to benefit threatened and endangered salmon and other fish species.

#### IMPROVING CALIFORNIA'S WATER DELIVERY SYSTEM

As more and more of California's precipitation comes from a few major atmospheric rivers, restoring the capacity of the California Aqueduct and other large canals is critical in order to capture this precipitation and move it to places where it can be stored in the ground for future use. To support this effort, the bill would create a new multi-benefit conveyance program that would provide federal grants for up to 30% of the cost of restoring these canals. Additionally, the new program would issue federal grants for up to 20% of the projects' costs to provide environmental benefits and/or safe drinking water benefits for the many low-income communities in the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California.

Designing projects for multiple benefits can incentivize the inclusion of win-win features that benefit both water supply and either the environment or drinking water for low-income communities. For example, the voluntary buyout of lands adjoining the canals and conversion to significant blocks of terrestrial habitat for native species in the San Joaquin Valley consistent with California's Mult-Benefit Land Repurposing Program could save hundreds of millions of dollars in additional repair costs for the canals by liming further groundwater pumping while simultaneously advancing important environmental goals.

Furthermore, water districts can be quite creative in delivering safe drinking water to low-income communities if incentivized to do so. For example, the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency exchanged some of its water supplies to low-income communities along the California Aqueduct in return for state funding of a pipeline on the western edge of the Mojave Desert.

#### BUILDING PROJECTS FASTER

Besides authorizing federal funding, the bill also expedites Congressional approval for these projects so they can be built faster and cheaper. The bill reauthorizes an expired programmatic approval for water recycling projects

and establishes a new programmatic approval so Congress does not have to enact specific bills for every project. This can trim five years or more off the process of developing projects and getting federal funding, without any reduction in the environmental reviews that projects must undergo.

I want to thank Congressman VALADAO (R-CA) for working with me on this effort.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 592—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF 2026 AS THE "INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE WOMAN FARMER" TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE CRITICAL ROLE OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. LUMMIS, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. SMITH, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. BRITT, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WELCH, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. MORAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KING, Mr. COONS, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

#### S. RES. 592

Whereas the United States proudly recognizes its agricultural heritage and acknowledges the vital role that women have played in advancing agriculture both domestically and globally;

Whereas women are essential to agriculture, serving as leaders on and off the farm, with more than 1,200,000 female agricultural producers in the United States comprising 36 percent of the agricultural producers of the United States;

Whereas, in addition to their leadership in farming and ranching operations, women in agriculture continue to make significant contributions across a wide range of sectors, including research and development, manufacturing, sales and distribution, agricultural education, agribusiness, and advocacy, benefitting communities in the United States and around the world;

Whereas 2026 has been designated as the International Year of the Woman Farmer;

Whereas women professionals and leaders in agriculture in the United States should be recognized and celebrated for their contributions during this designated year: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of 2026 as the "International Year of the Woman Farmer";

(2) recognizes the critical role of women in agriculture; and

(3) encourages all citizens to—

(A) honor and recognize the contributions of women working in agriculture; and

(B) celebrate the positive impact these women have on the food systems and agricultural workforce of the United States by encouraging and empowering women to—

(i) pursue careers in agriculture, a high-demand and essential field;

(ii) cultivate leadership opportunities; and

(iii) help feed a growing and hungry world.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 593—HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE 2025 POTOMAC RIVER MID-AIR COLLISION

Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. YOUNG, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BUDD, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. HUSTED, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. REED, Mr. WICKER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. KAINNE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. WARNER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

#### S. RES. 593

Whereas, on January 29, 2025, a United States Army Black Hawk helicopter and a passenger aircraft, operated as American Airlines Flight 5342 from Wichita, Kansas, to Washington, D.C., collided in flight above the Potomac River near Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport;

Whereas this tragedy took the lives of all 64 passengers and crew aboard the airliner and the lives of the 3 crew members aboard the helicopter, including individuals from Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Virginia, and several foreign countries;

Whereas 11 young United States figure skating athletes, along with their parents and coaches, were among the victims of the collision;

Whereas 3 United States Army soldiers, who selflessly chose to serve and defend their country, lost their lives in this tragic accident;

Whereas 78 agencies and organizations responded in the aftermath of the January 29, 2025 mid-air collision, including first responders of the District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Fire and Rescue Department, the United States Coast Guard, the Maryland State Police, and other local, State, and Federal agencies, all of which acted promptly and selflessly in responding to the disaster and assisting in the recovery efforts;

Whereas Federal, State, and local officials have cooperated to conduct a thorough investigation of this incident;

Whereas countless individuals suffered the loss of a spouse, parent, sibling, friend, family member, or loved one; and

Whereas the lives of those lost will be remembered and cherished by those who loved them: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) honors the memory of all victims of the 2025 Potomac River mid-air collision near Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, recognizing their lives and contributions to their families and the United States of America;

(2) offers sincere condolences to the families, loved ones, and friends of those who lost their lives in this tragic incident;