

Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 4851b).

(B) TESTING.—Lead paint testing of target housing that is in a remote area, and that is being rehabilitated, renovated, repaired, or painted in a manner that will repair or disturb building components that are painted or coated, shall be conducted through—

(i) paint chip testing, lead-based paint inspection, visual assessment for deteriorated paint, or a lead risk assessment for lead-based paint hazards, as applicable in accordance with section 302 of the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. 4822); or

(ii) a visual assessment for deteriorated paint and use of lead test kits approved by the Environmental Protection Agency in accordance with section 402 or 404, as applicable, of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2682, 2684) on each building component that is painted or coated and is to be disturbed.

(5) FEDERAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STANDARD.—A project carried out by an Indian tribe or tribally designated housing entity under any program administered by the Secretary shall not be subject to the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Policy, and the Secretary shall revise regulations governing floodplain management and the protection of wetlands to exclude the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard from applying to activities carried out by Indian tribes or tribally designated housing entities under such programs.

(6) FLOOD INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding any provision of law, the Secretary may provide financial assistance for acquisition or construction purposes to Indian tribes and tribally designated housing entities under any program administered by the Secretary for a property that—

(A) is owned by the Indian tribe or tribally designated housing entity; and

(B) is—

(i) not covered by flood insurance; or
(ii) not located in a jurisdiction that participates in the national flood insurance program.

(7) EXEMPTIONS FROM CERTAIN SEPARATION DISTANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR HUD PROJECTS FROM STORAGE TANKS.—

(A) RESIDENTIAL TANKS.—An Indian tribe or tribally designated housing entity carrying out activities under any program administered by the Secretary shall be exempt from the acceptable separation distance and mitigation requirements of the Secretary for residential tanks when the tank—

(i) has a capacity of not more than 1,320 gallons;

(ii) is intended to contain common liquid fuels such as gasoline, fuel oil, kerosene, diesel, liquefied petroleum gas (propane), or crude oil;

(iii) is sited on land or property that contains a 1- to 4-family dwelling;

(iv) is intended to be used solely by residents of such dwelling; and

(v) is intended to be used by residents of such dwelling exclusively for non-commercial, non-industrial purposes.

(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to limit the authority of an Indian tribe or tribally designated housing entity to consider, adopt, or enforce acceptable separation distance standards or implement mitigation measures for risks associated with residential tanks.

(C) ABOVE GROUND STORAGE TANKS.—The acceptable separation distance requirements of the Secretary between a residential structure assisted by an Indian tribe or a tribally designated housing entity with amounts under any program administered by the Secretary and an above-ground storage tank used to store hazardous substances, as de-

finied in subpart C of part 51 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation, including mitigation measures, shall not apply if the Indian tribe or tribally designated housing entity determines that—

(i) the application of the requirements would prevent or materially impede the ability of the Indian tribe or tribally designated housing entity to address its housing needs;

(ii) the use of an alternative standard, or the absence of a standard, will not present an unacceptable risk to the health or safety of residents; and

(iii) the Indian tribe or tribally designated housing entity has—

(I) provided notice and an opportunity for comment to residents of the affected area regarding the proposed inapplicability of the requirements; and

(II) developed and adopted a safety and response plan addressing the potential risks associated with an above ground storage tank.

(D) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to limit the authority of an Indian tribe or tribally designated housing entity to consider, adopt, or enforce acceptable separation distance standards or implement mitigation measures for risks associated with above ground storage tanks.

(8) WETLAND REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary may not apply additional requirements involving protection of wetlands in instances where—

(A) an affected wetland requires a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers General, regional, or individual permit; and

(B) the Indian tribe or tribally designated housing entity complies with the conditions of the permit.

(9) ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, where an Indian tribe has assumed, in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary, as applicable, all responsibilities for environmental review, decisionmaking, and action with respect to a project carried out by an Indian tribe or tribally designated housing entity using amounts provided under any program administered by the Secretary, a certification required to accompany a request to the Secretary for release of funds for the project may be executed by the chief executive officer or other officer of the Indian tribe or by a tribally designated housing entity official designated by the Indian tribe.

SA 4341. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING.

(a) ELIGIBLE FAMILIES.—Section 201(b)(3) of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4131(b)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) OTHER FAMILIES.—

“(A) ESSENTIAL FAMILIES.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a recipient may provide housing or housing assistance provided through affordable housing activities assisted with grant amounts under this Act for a family on an Indian reservation or other Indian area if the recipient determines that—

“(i) the presence of the family on the Indian reservation or other Indian area is essential to the well-being of Indian families; and

“(ii) the need for housing for the family cannot reasonably be met without such assistance.

“(B) HOMEOWNERSHIP ASSISTANCE.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a recipient may provide assistance for homeownership activities under section 202 with grant amounts under this Act for families with a household income that does not exceed 120 percent of the median income for the area, as determined by the Secretary, and such housing shall be considered affordable housing for purposes of this Act, provided a recipient shall not use more than 50 percent of its annual grant under this Act to serve such families.”

(b) HOMEOWNERSHIP ASSISTANCE FOR NATIVE HAWAIIANS.—Section 809(a)(2)(B) of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4228(a)(2)(B)) is amended to read as follows:

“(B) EXCEPTION TO LOW-INCOME REQUIREMENT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Director may provide assistance for homeownership activities under—

“(I) section 810(b) for families with a household income that does not exceed 120 percent of the median income for the area, as determined by the Secretary, and such housing shall be considered affordable housing for purposes of this title; or

“(II) loan guarantee activities under section 184A of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 1715z–13b) to Native Hawaiian families who are not low-income families, to the extent that the Secretary approves the activities under that section to address a need for housing for those families that cannot be reasonably met without that assistance.

“(ii) LIMITATIONS.—The Director shall not use more than 50 percent of a grant provided under this title to serve families described in section 809(a)(2)(B)(i)(I).”

SA 4342. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ APPLICATION OF BUILD AMERICA, BUY AMERICA REQUIREMENTS.

The Build America, Buy America Act (41 U.S.C. 8301 note) shall not apply to any program, project, or activity assisted in whole or in part with Federal financial assistance provided by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under any program administered by the Secretary to—

(1) an entity located in a rural area (as defined in section 520 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490));

(2) an Indian tribe or a tribally designated housing entity (as such terms are defined in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103)) or a Tribal organization (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)); or

(3) the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (as defined in section 801 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4221)).

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I have six 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 in executive session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 4, 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, March 4, 2026, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

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, March 4, 2026, at 10 a.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, March 4, 2026, at 9:45 a.m., to conduct a joint hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 3 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND
MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

The Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

NATIONAL SPEECH AND DEBATE
EDUCATION DAY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 626, 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. 626) designating March 6, 2026, as "National Speech and Debate Education Day".

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

Mr. BARRASSO. 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. 626) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH
5, 2026

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 5; that following the prayer and the 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, morning business be closed, and the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 6644.

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

Mr. BARRASSO. For the information of my colleagues, we expect a vote on reconsideration of cloture on the motion to proceed to DHS appropriations at approximately 1:45 p.m. tomorrow.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BARRASSO. 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 Senator COONS.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

IRAN

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I rise to talk about the human cost of war. There is a real and a deep and a lasting cost to every armed conflict, to every war, one paid by brave men and women around the world and by the people who love them; one also paid, all too often, by civilians, by families, by those considered collateral damage.

But before we launch our Nation into an intentional war of choice, we should only ask our Armed Forces members—our soldiers, sailors, our airmen, our marines—to take on the risks and the loss of war if we are sure why.

It is clear today we are engaged in a war in Iran. The Trump administration doesn't seem to be able to agree amongst themselves why. What is the scope, what is the mission, what is the duration, what is the cost that so many may need to bear?

At the outset, President Trump was talking regime change and urging Iranians to rise up against the brutal and oppressive regime of the mullahs and the Ayatollah. Now they are not mentioning regime change.

Recently, Secretary Rubio and Speaker JOHNSON said Israel forced our hand, and then Trump said: No, no. We forced theirs.

There has been talk of taking out their navy, of going after ballistic missile launchers, of preventing the resurrection of a supposedly obliterated nuclear weapons program—but without real clarity.

After months of planning, allegedly, there are hundreds and thousands of Americans in the region—civilians,

diplomats, families—in harm's way with no clear path to evacuation. Our Embassies and consulates are being bombed and attacked, a number are closed, and there has been no compelling explanation of the urgency, of why this was imminent, of why this body, this Senate, couldn't carry out its constitutional role and authorize this war.

I represent Delaware. The Dover Air Force Base in the center of our State, in our State capital, is where every American who falls in service to our Nation first returns to our soil. And Dover has the honor, the sacred duty, to carry out and support what are called dignified transfers, when planes with dead Americans in flag-draped transfer cases first come off the back of a C-17 to a waiting family and an honor guard.

I have stood on the flight line at Dover next to President Trump, President Biden, President Obama, and a whole range of senior military officers as we have witnessed this grave, solemn duty. I was last there in December with President Trump and the two Senators from Iowa as we witnessed those Iowans who had fallen in Syria, and I soon hope to return to be able to join in witnessing and honoring the homecoming of CPT Cody Khork, SFC Noah Tietjens, SFC Nicole Amor, and SGT Declan Coady.

There are two more Americans fallen so far in this war whose names have not yet been released. All four I just named are from Iowa.

I am so grateful to the men and women of AFMAO, the Armed Forces Mortuary Affairs Operations unit, and to Fisher House, a nonprofit, funded special place for the families of the fallen on the grounds of Dover Air Force Base, where those who have just learned of their deep loss are hosted.

These are special missions and special places—the volunteers from our community at Fisher House, the servicemembers who staff and support AFMAO, the folks at the Personal Effects Depot who do an incredible job preparing the remains of the fallen for return to their home States for burial, the members of the Chaplaincy Corps, the military liaison officers who help comfort and engage and support the families. It is the very least we could do as a nation to respect and to honor our brave and bold who volunteered to be a part of the greatest military in the world.

I am always grateful when other Members of this body join for these dignified transfers, and in the last year, two Senators from Illinois, two Senators from Georgia, as well as Members of the House, have come and joined in these strikingly often ceremonies.

There is a sound that a mother and a widow make when they first recognize the movement of a flag-draped coffin holding the remains of their loved one that you can never unhear. And that presence, that sound, that grief, that keening into the wind should be on the