

of America. Fittingly, both will be part of this year's America 250 celebrations. In this historic year, Roger Penske is spearheading the Freedom 250 DC Grand Prix. It will be this August. Our Nation's Capital will host its first-ever INDYCAR street race. It will be magnificent. This course will take drivers around the Nation's Capital, and it will be a historic race. This was Roger's vision, a vision for how to put American patriotism on full display.

As a lifelong racing fan, I can't think of a better way to celebrate American innovation, American speed, and enduring excellence. Many people might suggest that the Freedom 250 DC Grand Prix is a culmination of all of Roger's hard work. Those people would be mistaken because, at only 89 years old, Roger is just starting his engine.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 6644

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6644) to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The objection having been heard, the bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF ESCORT COMMITTEE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Presiding Officer of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with the like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort the President of the United States into the House Chamber for the joint session to be held at 9 p.m. on Tuesday, February 24, 2026.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF CARTHAGE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, among the robust pines of western Maine, Carthage was founded on February 20, 1826. Today, it is an honor to join the people of Carthage, ME, in celebrating the 200th anniversary of a community that is a great place to live, work, and raise families.

Prior to the founding of Carthage, the land was used as hunting grounds by the Wabanaki people. The Wabanaki hunted white-tailed deer, moose, beavers, ducks, and grouse throughout the region.

In 1804, Mr. William Bowley moved onto the land, accompanied by his brother Oliver and father Gideon. The Bowley family built the first sawmill, called Bowley's Mills, on Webb River at the base of Lake Webb. Webb River drains to the Androscoggin River, making the location particularly appealing. The family went on to build a gristmill close by the following year. The land was considered formally settled in 1812 and then founded in 1826 with the fabled city of antiquity as its namesake.

By the 1880s, the town had grown to more than 500 residents and had farms, two sawmills, five schools, a gristmill and limestone quarry. Centuries later, the town retains the charm and rugged beauty that attracted the first settlers. The town's economy was originally dominated by forests and farms. Today, the town attracts outdoor enthusiasts from throughout Maine and beyond to Rocky Mountain Terrain Park and nearby Mt. Blue State Park.

Carthage is also home to Newman Cemetery, a reminder of the townspeople's service to the State and country. In this historic cemetery, lie the remains of founding families, as well as veterans of the Revolutionary War and Civil War.

Hiram Pitt Bennet was born in Carthage in 1826, the year of the town's founding. Bennet moved west to Colorado, where he was elected a territory Delegate to Congress. During his time in Congress, Bennet worked tirelessly to push for Colorado's statehood. The legacy of his advocacy and public service continue to live on as testament to the fine people of Carthage.

Carthage stands as a shining example of the thriving communities and pristine nature our great State of Maine has to offer. I congratulate the people of Carthage, ME, on this 200th anniversary and wish you all the best in the years to come.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Holstead, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages

from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2025, the Secretary of the Senate, on February 12, 2026, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

H.J. Res. 142. 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.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2025, the enrolled joint resolution was signed on February 12, 2026, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. HUSTED).

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 6644. An act a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2775. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Proclamation 6867 of March 1, 1996, with respect to Cuba; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2776. A message from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13660 of March 6, 2014, with respect to Ukraine; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2777. A message from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015, with respect to the situation in Venezuela; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CRUZ, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 233. A bill to amend the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization