of profound remembrance and gratitude.

Few places can claim such a lasting connection to the men and women who have defended this country. For generations of Missourians, Jefferson Barracks has been a place where servicemembers trained, veterans were cared for, families honored loved ones, and our military history was preserved for those who came after them.

As Jefferson Barracks marks its 200th anniversary, I am proud to honor its legacy and the countless Americans who have served there. Its history reflects the strength, patriotism, and commitment to service that define Missouri, and I look forward to seeing that legacy continue for generations to come.●

REMEMBERING MATT BAIR

● Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the life of one of Indiana's most iconic voices; Matt Bair.

For years, residents of Indianapolis and central Indiana relied on Matt Bair to get them to work in the morning and safely back home in the afternoon. As the beloved traffic reporter for 93.1 FM WIBC in Indianapolis, Matt not only provided listeners with information on which roads to take or avoid during their commute but also brightened their days with his good cheer and quick wit.

Matt's passing in August leaves a notable absence, not just for his family and colleagues at WIBC, but for his community as well. A graduate of Rochester High School and IUPUI, Matt started his career in broadcasting at his family's radio station WROI-FM in Fulton County. This was followed by 16 years at WIBC, a role he took seriously, particularly on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. Year after year, he was up at 2:30 a.m. to help race fans find their way to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway for the Indy 500.

He loved his job, but maybe not as much as he was loved by his colleagues. They admired not only his humor but his honesty. Matt was candid about his own struggles with addiction in the hope that his experiences could help others battling the same illness. The Supporting Sobriety Podcast, which Matt cohosted and for which he received a Marconi Radio Award nomination, was one of the many ways he used his journey and platform to comfort and encourage others.

Matt was also an advocate and supporter of the Salvation Army Harbor Light Center and of Horizon House, an Indianapolis homeless shelter where he worked to build a library.

Matt Bair's voice will be deeply missed in central Indiana. He leaves behind so many friends and fans, as well as an enduring legacy of generosity and compassion.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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 Committee on Armed Services.

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

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 5602. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds for the planning and construction of any structure or monument at Memorial Circle at Columbia Island/Lady Bird Johnson Park in the District of Columbia.

S. 5603. A bill to prohibit the demolition of Presidential memorials.

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–4952. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency with respect to the situation in and in relation to Syria that was declared in Executive Order 13894 of October 14, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4953. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a nomination for a position covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998 for the position of Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4954. A communication from the Biologist, Office of Protected Resources, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to the Duckabush Estuary Restoration Project in Washington'' (RIN0648–BN42) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4955. A communication from the Commandant, United States Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''National Emergency Proclamation Expenditures (CY 2026, First Half): Report to Congress'' received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4956. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Fiscal Year 2025 Progress Report on Understanding the Long-Term Health Effects of Living Organ Donation''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–4957. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Civil Rights, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Recodification of Title IX Rules'' (RIN1870–AA26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2026; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–4958. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Hazard Communication Standard: Extension of Compliance Dates'' (RIN1218–AC93) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2026; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–4959. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Hazard Communication Standard; Corrected'' (RIN1218–AC93) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2026; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–4960. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Hazard Communication Standard: Corrections'' (RIN1218–AC93) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2026; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–4961. A communication from the Research Director of the Administrative Conference of the United States, transmitting, a report of the recommendations adopted by the Administrative Conference of the United States at its 85th Plenary Session; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–4962. A communication from the Chief Regulatory Officer, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Employment-Based Immigrant Visa, Fifth Preference (EB–5) Fee Rule'' (RIN1615–AC93) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2026; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–4963. A communication from the Chief, Office of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Annual Notices on Explosive Materials Storage Facilities to Local Fire Authority'' (RIN1140–AA51) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2026; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–4964. A communication from the Chief, Office of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Implementing the Safe Explosives Act'' (RIN1140–AA00) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2026; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–105. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho urging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to curtail, or allow curtailment of, the number of pelicans within Idaho; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 22

Whereas, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA) was implemented to prevent the extinction of birds due to unsustainable feather-trading and hunting practices and makes it illegal to ''take,'' which includes harassing, pursuing, capturing, killing, selling, trading, buying, and transporting, among other activities, a protected migratory bird species, of which there are over 1,000, without prior authorization by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); and

Whereas, one such protected migratory bird species is the pelican, which is also classified as a predator species as they feast on fish; and

Whereas, a once-endangered species, the pelican has made a remarkable return and has established a stronghold in Idaho's abundant wetland refuge ecosystems such that its population is beginning to impact the overall use and health of the ecosystem; and

Whereas, Idaho's streams and rivers are renowned by fishermen across the nation, particularly the Henry's Fork River that meanders for eight miles through Harriman State Park, attracting fly-fishers from all four corners of the state and nation thereby generating revenues for the local community and business owners; and

Whereas, predatory birds, such as pelicans, have been documented to harvest more fish in Idaho than fisherman; and

Whereas, pelicans have been documented to consume over three pounds of fish per day; and

Whereas, over 30% of the electronic fish tags that originated in Idaho's renowned Silver Creek were documented by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) in pelican feces at the Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge pelican rookeries; and

Whereas, millions of sportsmen's dollars are spent by IDFG to create, promote, and enhance Idaho's fishing opportunities; and

Whereas, the pelican, a protected migratory bird under the MBTA, is actively managed and bred by the USFWS and cannot be taken, harassed, killed, or otherwise disturbed without prior authorization by the USFWS; and

Whereas, the rigorous protections of the MBTA and other environmental acts have successfully ensured this predatory bird's survival but are now hindering the survival of other species and conflicting with areas' traditional use due to the birds' overpopulation. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, That the Legislature supports and urges the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to curtail, or allow curtailment of, the number of pelicans within Idaho; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature supports and urges the federal government to compensate the State of Idaho for loss of its resources due to the pelican's overpopulation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States, and the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

POM–106. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho affirming the controlling standard announced by the Supreme Court in Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency that requires an indistinguishable surface connection to exist for waters adjacent to ''waters of the United States,'' to be subject to the Clean Water Act and federal regulation and jurisdiction, urging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to fully and immediately implement the standard set forth in Sackett and rescind or revise any pre-Sackett guidance, and urging Idaho's congressional delegation to support legislation that codifies the standards set forth in Sackett in the Clean Water Act and creates oversight mechanisms to ensure that federal agencies do not reintroduced overturned and outdated standards through rule, guidance, or informal policy or practice; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 13

Whereas, in 2004 the Sackett family purchased land near Priest Lake in Bonner County, Idaho; and

Whereas, when the Sacketts attempted to start building their home in 2007, they were quickly stopped by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) asserting jurisdiction pursuant to a 1996 determination by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) that the land was wetlands subject to the Clean Water Act (CWA), which the EPA itself affirmed in 2007; and

Whereas, the CWA allows for federal jurisdiction, oversight, and regulation of ''waters of the United States'' (WOTUS), which includes wetlands adjacent to WOTUS; and

Whereas, the Sacketts fought for over a decade for their right to build on their property; and

Whereas, finally, after nearly 16 years of litigation, the Supreme Court, in Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency, et al., 598 U.S. 651 (2023) (Sackett), sided with the Sacketts, finding that the EPA and Corps exceeded their authority, and announced a new standard for determining what is included in WOTUS and, thus, what is subject to federal jurisdiction; and

Whereas, courts have historically applied a ''significant nexus'' test to determine whether waters are, in fact, WOTUS subject to federal jurisdiction, wherein waters or wetlands would so qualify if the wetland has a continuous surface connection to waters that are WOTUS in their own right (i.e. traditional Interstate navigable waters) such that it is difficult to determine where the water ends and the wetland begins. Courts have consistently held that nonnavigable, isolated, intrastate waters, including intermittent or ephemeral streams, man-made drainage ditches, and culverts, were not, in fact, WOTUS subject to federal jurisdiction; and

Whereas, the Supreme Court in Sackett further clarified the law by announcing that the CWA extends only to wetlands with a continuous surface connection to waters that are WOTUS in their own right such that the wetland is indistinguishable from the WOTUS, and that the CWA use of WOTUS encompasses only those relatively permanent, standing, or continuously flowing bodies of water forming geographical features that are described in ordinary parlance as streams, oceans, rivers, and lakes; and

Whereas, despite the decades of Supreme Court cases finding the EPA and Corps overextended their jurisdiction under the CWA by a misguided interpretation of what qualifies as WOTUS and providing clarification on how that term should be interpreted, the two agencies still fail to properly adhere to the law as provided by statute and judicial decree; and

Whereas, notwithstanding the law and standards announced by the Supreme Court in its 2023 Sackett decision, among other decisions, the EPA and Corps continue to apply overturned and outdated rules and standards, such as by asserting jurisdiction over intermittent and ephemeral streams and channels that are not relatively permanent or continuously flowing bodies of water and are not what ordinary people would describe as streams, oceans, rivers, or lakes; and

Whereas, Idahoans are being materially injured by the two agencies' inability to follow current law and continuing to assert jurisdiction over ''waters'' that plainly do not qualify as WOTUS, such as stockwater ponds, ditches, and canals; and

Whereas, Idaho, as the state in which the Sackett dispute arose, has a compelling interest in ensuring that federal agencies operating within Idaho's borders faithfully implement and adhere to the binding standards set forth by the Supreme Court in Sackett; and

Whereas, federal agencies' refusal to follow current law increases compliance costs, delays permits, and causes injury to Idaho's agriculture, housing, transportation, energy, forestry, mining, and water infrastructure projects, with accompanying adverse effects on jobs and regional competitiveness; and

Whereas, Idaho's prosperity depends on predictable, lawful, and efficient permitting carried out with a spirit of cooperative federalism that respects the Supreme Court's Sackett decision and provides timely, transparent coordination with state authorities. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, That the Legislature affirms the controlling standard announced by the Supreme Court in Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency that requires an indistinguishable surface connection to exist for waters adjacent to ''waters of the United States'', which are relatively permanent, standing, or continuously flowing bodies of water, to be subject to the Clean Water Act and federal regulation and jurisdiction, and the Legislature opposes any federal assertion of jurisdiction inconsistent with that standard; be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to fully and immediately implement the standard set forth in Sackett and formally recognize that intermittent and ephemeral streams, which are dry for long periods of time, are not ''waters of the United States'' subject to federal jurisdiction, but are instead subject to state and local oversight and regulation; be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to: rescind or revise any pre-Sackett guidance, training materials, or field manuals that rely on outdated and overturned laws, standards, and practices; provide updated materials, manuals, and policies that reflect current law; and provide up-to-date training for Region 10 personnel and consultants operating in Idaho; be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges Idaho's congressional delegation to support legislation that codifies the standards set forth by the Supreme Court in Sackett in the Clean Water Act and creates oversight mechanisms to ensure that federal agencies do not reintroduce overturned and outdated standards through rule, guidance, or informal policy or practice; be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges the Trump administration to take the appropriate measures to ensure administrative rules that codify the standards set forth by the Supreme Court in Sackett are promptly promulgated and implemented by the agencies; be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Regional Administrator of EPA Region 10, the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Walla Walla District, the Director of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, the Director of the Idaho Department of Lands, the members of the Idaho Water Resource Board, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, and the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.

POM–107. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho urging the President of the United States, members of the United States Congress, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, and the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services to prohibit the inclusion of artificial sweeteners, specifically aspartame, acesulfame potassium, advantame, neotame, saccharin, and sucralose, in all school meal programs administered under federal law; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 10

We, your Memorialists, the House of Representatives and the Senate of the State of Idaho assembled in the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

Whereas, the health and well-being of Idaho's children is a matter of the highest priority for the State of Idaho; and

Whereas, the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program serve millions of meals daily to American schoolchildren, including thousands of Idaho students; and

Whereas, six artificial sweeteners are currently approved by the United State Food and Drug Administration for use in food and beverages, which are aspartame, acesulfame potassium, advantame, neotame, saccharin, and sucralose; and

Whereas, sufficient long-term research does not exist regarding the impacts of artificial sweeteners on children's development, metabolism, and dietary habits, warranting a precautionary approach to the use of artificial sweeteners in school nutrition programs; and

Whereas, Idaho ranks second in the nation for the production of sugar beets and is home to Amalgamated Sugar Company, the second-largest sugar beet processor in the United States; and

Whereas, the sugar beet industry contributes more than one billion dollars annually to Idaho's economy and supports thousands of jobs across rural communities, serving as a cornerstone of the state's agricultural sector; and

Whereas, real sugar produced from Idaho sugar beets is a natural, minimally processed ingredient that provides a safe, stable, and locally sourced sweetener for food manufacturers and consumers alike; and

Whereas, supporting the use of real sugar in school nutrition programs aligns with Idaho's values of agricultural sustainability, economic self-reliance, and transparency in food labeling; and

Whereas, it is in the public interest for the federal government to ensure that the meals served to children in public schools are free from artificial sweeteners and based on wholesome, natural ingredients. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature respectfully urges the President of the United States, members of the United States Congress, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, and the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services to prohibit the inclusion of artificial sweeteners, specifically aspartame, acesulfame potassium, advantame, neotame, saccharin, and sucralose, in all school meal programs administered under federal law. Be it further

Resolved, That the Idaho Legislature supports the use of real sugar as a natural and locally produced alternative to artificial sweeteners in school meal programs. Be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, and the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

POM–108. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho urging the U.S. Department of War and the Defense Industrial Base Consortium to award grant moneys to American Tungsten for the development of the IMA mine project; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 21

Whereas, Idaho, the 43rd state in the Union, was named the Gem State because of its abundance of gemstones and minerals; and

Whereas, responsible resource development is of the utmost importance for our state and country; and

Whereas, tungsten is a vital material for defense applications; with unparalleled hardness and high-temperature resistance, it is indispensable for armor-piercing ammunition, missile components, and aerospace manufacturing; and

Whereas, the U.S. Department of War and the Defense Industrial Base Consortium classify tungsten as a critical mineral; and

Whereas, currently, the United States remains heavily reliant on importing critical minerals, primarily from China, which dominates over 80% of the global supply; and

Whereas, China's recent ban on tungsten exports underscores the need to establish a stable, U.S.-domiciled supply chain of tungsten to safeguard national security interests; and

Whereas, the U.S. Department of War and the Defense Industrial Base Consortium have issued a solicitation to provide grant moneys for the development of a domestic supply of critical minerals, including tungsten; and

Whereas, mining activity for critical minerals, including tungsten, has historically taken place at American Tungsten's IMA mine in Lemhi County, near Patterson, Idaho; and

Whereas, a mining company, American Tungsten is seeking to bring IMA mining operations back to life so as to unearth critical resources, including tungsten, and increase our nation's crucially needed domestic supply of critical mineral resources; and

Whereas, the IMA mine project is a high-quality underground tungsten deposit located on private land with patented rights that is well above the water table and has significant existing infrastructure given its historic use; and

Whereas, as the IMA mine is on private property rather than federal property, the mine will not require permits or other authorizations from the federal government but rather permits and authorizations from state agencies and local governments; and

Whereas, once permitted, the IMA mine will be the only tungsten-producing mine in the United States; and

Whereas, modern rules and regulations require that companies like American Tungsten set aside adequate financial assurances to cover the cost of environmental restoration, ensuring that reclamation is properly completed; and

Whereas, American Tungsten is committed to the highest reclamation standards and to strictly following all applicable federal and state laws, regulations, and rules; and

Whereas, American Tungsten is committed to being a good steward of the environment and a dedicated member of the community where it operates; and

Whereas, as an example of American Tungsten's commitment to its community, it will provide, through financing, the city of Challis a new fire station to serve the community; and

Whereas, the American Tungsten company takes pride in providing high-paying job opportunities for Idaho workers, building collaborative relationships, and investing in the long-term resiliency of Idaho's rural communities; and

Whereas, once permitted, the IMA mine project will significantly benefit Idaho's economy, particularly in Lemhi and Custer counties, by using local vendors, thereby increasing revenue for local businesses; and

Whereas, through high-paying jobs, tax revenues, donations, community sponsorships, and other direct and indirect economic impacts, American Tungsten's resources are essential to the nation's national security, to the region's economic stability, and for keeping Idahoans working in Idaho. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, That the Legislature recognizes the profound role mining has played in the settlement of Idaho, its contemporary role, and the role it will play in our future; and be it further

Resolved, That the Idaho Legislature supports and encourages state agencies and local governments to move forward and approve American Tungsten's IMA mine in a timely and cost-effective manner so that the mine may be developed; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges the U.S. Department of War and the Defense Industrial Base Consortium to award grant moneys to American Tungsten for the development of the IMA mine project; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States, and the Secretary of the United States Department of War.

POM–109. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho respectfully urging the United States Congress, the Department of the Interior, and the Bureau of Reclamation to cooperate with the State of Idaho to move forward immediately with fast-track research on the feasibility and desirability of small reservoir raises at

Minidoka Dam, Jackson Lake, and American Falls Dam; support planning and design work for new medium-sized reservoirs across eastern Idaho; facilitate creative financing options through federal funds and public-private partnerships; and assist in the completion of an updated basin study in the next two to three years to identify priority projects; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 14

Whereas, water is the foundation of Idaho's farms, communities, and economy, yet the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer continues to decline, forcing water curtailments that now threaten farmers and ground water users every year; and

Whereas, Idaho faces longer, hotter summers and warmer winters that reduce snowpack and cause runoff to occur earlier in the year, leaving less water available when it is needed most; and

Whereas, the State of Idaho irrigates more acres than ever before, but shrinking and inconsistent snowpack has created shortages that harm farms, cities, fish, and industry; and

Whereas, Idaho loses between 1.5 and 2 million acre-feet of water each year as it flows down the Snake River and out to the ocean simply because the state lacks sufficient reservoir space to capture it; and

Whereas, while aquifer recharge has proven to be an effective tool, it cannot be sustained without additional late-season water derived from storage; and

Whereas, the Idaho Legislature has demonstrated its commitment to water infrastructure through significant annual appropriations, and the people of Idaho have demonstrated broad public support for the research and construction of new reservoirs and expanded storage capacity; and

Whereas, to secure the future of our farms, communities, and economy, Idaho must commit to a long-term vision to build 750,000 acre-feet of new water storage by the year 2100; and

Whereas, practical near-term solutions have been identified, including modest raises at Minidoka Dam, Jackson Lake, and American Falls Dam; and

Whereas, mid-range and long-term opportunities exits for new reservoirs at locations such as Lane Lake, Chester, Soda Springs, Upper Badger Creek, Spring Creek, Moody Creek, and other potential sites, which would offer hydropower, extended irrigation seasons, flood protection, and recreation. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature respectfully urges the United States Congress, the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Reclamation to cooperate with the State of Idaho to:

(1) Move forward immediately with fast-track research on the feasibility and desirability of small reservoir raises at Minidoka Dam, Jackson Lake, and American Falls Dam;

(2) Support planning and design work for new medium-sized reservoirs across eastern Idaho;

(3) Facilitate creative financing options through federal funds and public-private partnerships; and

(4) Assist in the completion of an updated basin study in the next two to three years to identify priority projects. Be it further

Resolved, That the State of Idaho commits to the goal of ''750k by 2100'' by creating 750,000 acre-feet of new water storage by the year 2100 to turn today's water shortage into tomorrow's water security. Be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States, to the Secretary of the Interior, to the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, and to the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.

POM–110. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho strongly urging the United States Congress to, as expeditiously as possible, enact legislation reaffirminq that the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) is the proper and primary avenue to facilitate effective federal land management and disposal, including by land exchange; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 9

Whereas, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administers 245 million acres of public lands, which equates to roughly one tenth of all land in the United States; and

Whereas, Idaho, like most other western states, has large portions of land managed by BLM within its borders; and

Whereas, BLM land, and other federally owned land, is often intermingled with state and private lands, so exchanges and other disposal options are vital tools for administering such lands and achieving important recreation, community development, wildlife conservation, and resource development objectives, such as timber harvesting, mining, and energy projects; and

Whereas, given BLM's large ownership interest of lands within the United States, particularly within Idaho, and the intermingled nature of these lands, it is critical to Idaho, as it should be to the nation, that these lands are predictably manged in accordance with laws that were adopted to ensure orderly and consistent administration of such lands; and

Whereas, the federal government once managed these public lands under a patchwork of some 3,000 public land laws; and

Whereas, in 1964, Congress charged a commission to bring order to the process and propose ways to rationalize and systemize the management of public lands; and

Whereas, in 1976, Congress acted on these recommendations by enacting the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). FLPMA is the comprehensive system for predictably managing public lands for multiple uses. The statute broadly applies to any land and interest in land owned by the United States, without regard to how the United States acquired ownership, that is administered by the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, wherein BLM resides; and

Whereas, FLPMA provided the tools vital to administering intermingled lands by establishing uniform procedures for the disposal of federally owned public land, including the authority and procedures to exchange public lands for non-federal lands, when it is in the public interest; and

Whereas, for the past 50 years, FLPMA's broad authority for conducting land exchanges has been universally recognized and acknowledged; however, a legal decision originating in Idaho threatens FLPMA's comprehensive process; and

Whereas, Congress needs to immediately reaffirm FLPMA's primary intent. Failure to act may have far-reaching consequences in Idaho, including encumbering the management of millions of acres across the West, along with threatening the certainty of other completed FLPMA land exchanges and disposals. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, That the Idaho Legislature strongly urges the Congress of the United States to, as expeditiously as possible, enact legislation reaffirming that FLPMA is the proper and primary avenue to facilitate effective federal land management and disposal, including by land exchange. Be it further,

Resolved, That as intended by Congress and provided for in FLPMA, previous land disposal laws should not be interpreted to conflict with or override FLPMA's disposal authority. Such expeditious action by Congress will prevent the West from being pushed back into the management chaos that Congress fixed in 1976 by enacting FLPMA. Be it further,

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, the congressional delegations representing the states of Idaho, Utah, Nevada, and Wyoming in the Congress of the United States, the United States Attorney General, and the Secretary of the Interior.

POM–111. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to take action to limit the harmful impacts and practices of pharmacy benefit managers and protect the citizens of this state; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 73

Whereas, pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) are third-party entities that manage prescription drug benefits on behalf of health insurers, employers, and government programs that have significant control over the pricing, availability, and distribution of prescription medications; and

Whereas, PBMs are responsible for negotiating drug prices and establishing formularies that influence the cost and accessibility of medications for patients in this state where many individuals rely on Medicaid and other programs that PBMs are responsible for managing; and

Whereas, numerous studies and reports have raised concerns about the contributing role of PBMs toward rising drug costs, lack of transparency in pricing, and the imposition of restrictive formularies that limit patient access to necessary medications; and

Whereas, the lack of transparency in PBM practices often leads to higher out-of-pocket costs for patients, especially those in underserved communities, and disproportionately affects residents of this state particularly seniors, low-income families, and individuals with chronic health conditions; and

Whereas, this state has long been committed to improving access to affordable healthcare for its residents, and the state has a vested interest in ensuring that any entities involved in healthcare delivery, including PBMs, operate in a way that prioritizes the well-being of its citizens; and

Whereas, legislation has been proposed in congress to increase transparency, accountability, and regulation of PBMs and to ensure that PBMs are held to high standards that protect consumers from unfair practices; and

Whereas, Louisiana's leadership in healthcare reform can have a profound impact on shaping national policy, and it is essential for our congressional delegation to act in the best interest of the residents of this state to mitigate the harmful effects of PBM practices. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the United States Congress to take immediate action to address the harmful practices of pharmacy benefit managers by:

(1) Increasing transparency in PBM operations, including detailed reporting of pricing negotiations, rebates, and fees paid to PBMs by drug manufacturers, insurers, and other entities.

(2) Requiring PBMs to pass along the savings from rebates and discounts to consumers, ensuring that patients benefit directly from any negotiated cost reductions.

(3) Regulating PBM business practices to prevent anti-competitive behavior, such as steering patients to higher-cost drugs or limiting access to medications that are medically necessary.

(4) Implementing measures to enhance oversight of PBM practices and ensuring they align with the best interests of consumers especially those in vulnerable populations such as the elderly and individuals with chronic conditions.

(5) Supporting legislation that holds PBMs accountable for any harm caused to patients, including restrictions on the use of prior authorization processes that delay access to necessary prescriptions; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana urges all members of Louisiana's congressional delegation to advocate for reform and support legislation aimed at addressing the harmful effects of PBM practices on the citizens of this state and the nation as a whole; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of Louisiana's congressional delegation to the United States Congress.

POM–112. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to take action relative to the use of artificial intelligence in healthcare; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 313

Whereas, this state has long been a leader in promoting the well-being of its citizens, particulary in the area of healthcare, and recognizes the ongoing advances in medical technology that have improved patient outcomes; and

Whereas, artifical intelligence (AI) and machine learning technologies are increasingly being integrated into the healthcare sector to assist in various areas such as dianostics, treatment planning, and patient management; and

Whereas, while AI presents significant opportunities for improving healthcare efficiency, enhancing diagnostic accuracy, and reducing healthcare costs, it raises concerns regarding the potential erosion of the critical role of physicians in making medical decisions; and

Whereas, physicians are highly trained professionals with years of education and experience to interpret complex medical data, consider the nuances of individual patient needs, and exercise professional judgement, which are essential components of medical care; and

Whereas, the use of AI should complement and augment, not replace, the decision-making authority of physicians, who must retain full control over diagnosing, treating, and managing the care of the their patients; and

Whereas, there is a need for federal legislation that ensures appropriate oversight of AI technologies in healthcare to protect patient safety, maintain high standards of care, and preserve the essential doctor-patient relationship; and

Whereas, AI systems must be held to rigorous standards of transparency, accountability, and ethical practice to ensure that patients' privacy and medical rights are respected, and to guarantee that AI recommendations are consisten with the best medical practices; and

Whereas, it should be the goal of the legislature to ensure that AI technologies in healthcare are used responsibly while safeguarding the professional autonomy of physicians in making critical medical decisions for the benefit of patients, and

Whereas, the Legislature of Louisiana recognizes the critical role that Congress play in regulating technologies like AI to safeguard public healtch and the practice of medicine. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take immediate action to achieve all of the following:

(1) Ensure that physicians retain full control over medical decision-making, with AI serving as a support tool rather than a replacement for professional judgement.

(2) Establish clear, nationwide standards for the use of AI in healthcare, with a focus on protecting patient safety, ensuring data privacy, and safeguarding the integrity of the doctor-patient relationship.

(3) Provide mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the impact of AI technologies on healthcare delivery and outcomes, with a particular emphasis on patient welfare.

(4) Promote transparency in AI algorithms, ensuring that medical professionals and patients can understand the basis for AI recommendations and decisions.

(5) Develop ethical guidelines for use of AI in healthcare, ensuring that technologies align with the core principles of medicine, including beneficence, non-maleficence, and patient autonomy. Be it further

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana remains committed to ensuring that the integration of new technologies in healthcare supports the professional and ethical practice of medicine, prioritizing the well-being of Louisiana's patients. Be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding offices of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM–113. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress and the administration of the President of the United States to stop government from weaponizing financial institutions; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 316

Whereas, President Donald Trump; United States Senator Tim Scott, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; and United States Representative French Hill, Chairman of the House Committee on Financial Services; are working to stop federal regulators from leveraging their authority to pressure banks to debank individuals and businesses; and

Whereas, the complexity of federal laws and regulations and the broad discretion of regulators have allowed federal regulators to weaponize banks for far too long; and

Whereas, banks are required by their regulators to manage risk, to know their customers, and to help detect and deter financial crimes, including money laundering, drug trafficking, human trafficking, and terrorism financing; and

Whereas, regulators require banks to file suspicious activity reports if banks suspect suspicious activity involving specific transactions, and banks are prohibited from communicating this to customers; and

Whereas, if a regulator decides a bank is not adequately managing risk, does not have a good enough system in place to detect and deter financial crimes, or is closing accounts too slowly, the bank can face significant monetary penalties and costly lawsuits, and potentially criminal charges; and

Whereas, this regulatory environment allows regulators to put intense pressure on banks that can result in financial institutions managing risk by reevaluating or even severing their relationships with businesses and individuals to minimize regulatory risks and costs; and

Whereas, examples of regulators taking advantage of this leverage include:

(1) Operation Choke Point in 2013, where several high-ranking bureaucrats attempted to pressure banks to stop doing business with ammunition and gun sellers, payday lenders, and other industries.

(2) Operation Choke Point 2.0 in 2022, where the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation sent letters to banks that called for a pause on cryptocunency-related banking activity.

(3) Issuance of ''guidance'' by the Consumer Protection Financial Bureau that evades the rulemaking process.

(4) Issuance of ''guidance'' by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal Reserve System, and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, forcing financial institutions to dedicate significant resources to climate change; and

Whereas, when federal regulatory agencies pressure banks to stop doing business with certain industries, it has a chilling effect that is ultimately a direct assault on free market capitalism, which has created the most prosperous nation in history. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does here by memorialize the United States Congress and President Trump to modernize anti-money laundering laws to better focus banks and law enforcement on potential financial criminal activity rather than the innocent banking activity of law-abiding customers; and be it further

Resolved, That all regulatory agencies with supervisory or regulatory authority over financial institutions should narrowly focus on their respective missions to protect the safety, soundness, and integrity of the United States financial system and refrain from using that authority to advance unrelated policy priorities; and be it further

Resolved, That all regulatory authority agencies with supervisory or regulatory authority over financial institutions should refrain from abusing that authority by threats implicit in the issuance of allegedly nonbinding ''guidance''.

POM–114. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to modify the H–2B temporary nonagricultural program to assist with the labor workforce shortage in the state of Louisiana; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 33

Whereas, according to the United States Department of Labor, the H–2B temporary nonagricultural program, also commonly referred to as the H–2B nonimmigrant program or H–2B visa program, permits employers to temporarily hire non-United States citizens to perform nonagricultural labor or services in the United States; and

Whereas, according to the United States Department of Labor, under the program,

employment is only of a temporary nature for a limited period of time, such as a one-time occurrence, seasonal need, peak-load need, or intermittent need; and

Whereas, in order to qualify for H–2B nonimmigrant classification, employers must show that there are not enough United States workers who are qualified, able, willing, and available to do the temporary work, and that employing H–2B workers will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of similarly employed United States workers; and

Whereas, according to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, there is a statutory numerical limit or ''cap'' on the total number of non-United States citizens who may be issued an H–2B visa or be granted H–2B status during a fiscal year; and

Whereas, the United States Congress currently has the H–2B cap set at sixty-six thousand visas per fiscal year, with thirty-three thousand H–2B visas granted to workers who begin employment in the first half of the fiscal year (October 1–March 31) and the remaining thirty-three thousand H–2B visas granted to workers who begin employment in the second half of the fiscal year (April 1–September 30); and

Whereas, any unused visas from the first half of the fiscal year are available for employers seeking to hire H–2B workers during the second half of the fiscal year; however, unused H–2B visas from the previous fiscal year do not carry over into the next fiscal year; and

Whereas, once the H–2B cap is reached, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services may accept petitions for H–2B status only from individuals who are exempted from the H–2B cap; and

Whereas, those individuals who are exempted from the H–2B cap include:

(1) Workers in the United States in H–2B status, who extended their stay, changed employers, or changed the terms and conditions of employment.

(2) Workers previously counted against the H–2B cap in the same fiscal year and the employer has indicated the workers were already counted.

(3) The spouse and children of H–2B workers classified as H–4 nonimmigrants.

(4) Fish roe processors or fish roe technicians or supervisors of fish roe processing.

(5) Workers performing labor or services in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or Guam until December 31, 2029.

Whereas, on December 2, 2024, the United States Department of Homeland Security and the United States Department of Labor jointly published a temporary final rule, which increased the numerical cap on H–2B nonimmigrant visas to allow for over sixty-four thousand additional visas for the entirety of the 2025 fiscal year; and

Whereas, this increase in the numerical cap, is only temporarily and limited to the 2025 fiscal year and, as of now, is not applicable and will not be utilized for future fiscal years; and

Whereas, these additional visas are available only to businesses in this country that are suffering irreparable harm or those that will suffer irreparable harm if they are unable to employ all the H–2B workers requested in their petition; and

Whereas, according to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, the agency has already received enough petitions to meet the H–2B statutory cap for the second half of the 2025 fiscal year, and the filing period for supplemental H–2B visas for the remainder of the fiscal year is now open; and

Whereas, considering that the statutory cap has already been met and the supplemental H–2B visas are now being utilized, there is clearly a great need and strong desire for H–2B workers; and

Whereas, according to an October 2024 article by the American Immigration Council, an analysis of the United States Department of Labor's data has revealed that the demand for H–2B workers has increased by forty-six percent since 2018 and the number of certified workers has increased from approximately one hundred forty-seven thousand in the 2018 fiscal year to over two hundred fifteen thousand in the 2023 fiscal year; and

Whereas, according to the United States Department of Labor, Louisiana ranked seventh in the top ten states that utilized the H–2B temporary nonagricultural program during the second quarter of the 2024 fiscal year; and

Whereas, the Save Our Seafood (SOS) Act, bipartisan congressional legislation that was introduced in June 2024 and, which, if it had passed, would have permanently authorized the exemption of nonimmigrants working as fish processors from the numerical cap on H–2B nonimmigrant visas; and

Whereas, according to the LSU Agricultural Center, one of the primary employers of the H–2B temporary nonagricultural program in this state is the seafood processing industry, which greatly utilizes and depends upon seasonal and temporary hired labor; and

Whereas, based on this statistical information and data, the H–2B temporary nonagricultural program is greatly utilized by Louisiana businesses and appears necessary for operation; and

Whereas, a modification of the H–2B temporary nonagricultural program could help business owners further extend their recruitment efforts and allow them to hire more H–2B workers as necessary to help meet workforce needs to ensure the successful continuation and prosperity of their businesses. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to modify the H–2Btemporary nonagricultural program to assist with the nonagricultural labor workforce shortage in the state of Louisiana; be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of theUnited States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM–115. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to compel the United States Food and Drug Administration to fulfill its duties regarding inspection and testing of imported seafood; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

Whereas, according to statistics by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), United States (U.S.) imports of edible fishery products were 6.9 billion pounds, valued at $29.7 billion; and

Whereas, the estimated percentage of consumption from seafood imports in the U.S. was eighty-six percent in 2022; and

Whereas, NOAA Fisheries statistics show that the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported that in 2023 the total value of imported seafood was $25.5 billion, with imports from Canada accounting for the largest share valued more than $3.6 billion in seafood products (14.1 percent), followed by Chile (13.0 percent), India (10.0 percent), Indonesia (7.9 percent), and Vietnam (6.4 percent); and

Whereas, the FDA is responsible for the safety of all fish and fishery products entering the U.S. and sold in Louisiana; and

Whereas, the FDA's seafood safety program is governed by its Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point regulations, which address food safety management through the analysis and control of biological, chemical, and physical hazards from raw material production and procurement and handling to manufacturing, distribution, and consumption of the finished product; and

Whereas, the FDA's regulations for imported seafood are supposed to measure the compliance of imported seafood with inspections of foreign processing facilities, sampling of seafood offered for import into the U.S., domestic surveillance sampling of imported products, inspections of seafood importers, foreign country program assessments, and the use of information from foreign partners and FDA overseas offices; and

Whereas, approximately ninety four percent of the volume of seafood sold in the U.S. is imported from other countries; and

Whereas, the Louisiana State University School of Renewable Natural Resources published a 2020 paper titled ''Determination of Sulfite and Antimicrobial Residue in Imported Shrimp to the USA'', which presented findings from a study of shrimp imported from India, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, China, Bangladesh, and Ecuador and purchased from retail stores in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and

Whereas, a screening of these shrimp for sulfites and residues from antimicrobial drugs found the following: (1) five percent of the shrimp contained malachite green, (2) seven percent contained oxytetracycline, (3) seventeen percent contained fluoroquinolone, and (4) seventy percent contained nitrofurantoin, all of which have been banned by the FDA in domestic aquaculture operations; and

Whereas, although the FDA requires that food products exposed to sulfites include a label with a statement about the presence of sulfites, of the forty-three percent of these locally purchased shrimp found to contain sulfites, not one package complied with this labeling requirement; and

Whereas, the drug and sulfite residues included in this screening can be harmful to human health during both handling and consumption and have been known to cause all of the following: liver damage and tumors, reproductive abnormalities, cardiac arrhythmia, renal failure, hemolysis, asthma attacks, and allergic reactions; and

Whereas, the results of this study confirm that existing screening and enforcement measures for imported seafood are insufficient; and

Whereas, whatever the percentage of imports inspected may be, seafood is currently being imported that contains unsafe substances that put American consumers at risk; and

Whereas, the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) directs the FDA to inspect each domestic high-risk food facility at least once every three years and each non-high-risk food facility at least once every five years; and

Whereas, according to a January 2025 report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the FDA has not met the mandated targets of the FSMA since 2018; and

Whereas, from Fiscal Year 2018 through Fiscal Year 2023, the FDA inspected an average of eight thousand fifty-three domestic food facilities per year versus just nine hundred seventeen foreign food facilities; and

Whereas, the GAO found that the FDA applies far more scrutiny to U.S.-based seafood processors than it does to their foreign competitors; and

Whereas, in contrast, imports of fishery products into the European Union (EU) are subject to strict standards including the requirement of an official certification based

on the recognition of the competent authority of the non-EU country by the European Commission; and

Whereas, for all fishery products exported into the EU, countries of origin must be on a positive list of eligible countries; and

Whereas, imports of fishery products from non-EU countries must enter the EU via an approved border inspection post under the authority of an official veterinarian in the EU member state in question and each consignment is subject to a systematic documentary, identity, and physical check; and

Whereas, consignments which are noncompliant with EU legislation shall either be destroyed or, under certain conditions, redispatched within sixty days; and

Whereas, the FDA needs to improve oversight of imported seafood to, at minimum, match our foreign counterparts while simultaneously ensuring the seafood consumed in the state is safe; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to compel the FDA to increase inspection and testing of imported seafood; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge the United States Congress to support the recommendations of the GAO in its January 8, 2025, report (GAO–25–107571); and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana Congressional delegation.

POM–116. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to fund the sheriffs' offices in the parishes where the Kisatchie National Forest is located; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 267

Whereas, the Kisatchie National Forest spans seven parishes in Louisiana including Claiborne, Grant, Natchitoches, Rapides, Vernon, Webster, and Winn parishes with a total of six hundred eight thousand four hundred eighty-seven acres; and

Whereas, the Kisatchie National Forest is owned and managed by the United States federal government; and

Whereas, despite the United States federal government's ownership of the Kisatchie National Forest, local Louisiana parish sheriffs' offices patrol the forest and respond to emergency calls; and

Whereas, the local oversight of the Kisatchie National Forest is a substantial burden to the local sheriffs' offices; and

Whereas, Payments in Lieu of Taxes, referred to as ''PILT'', are federal payments that help local governments offset losses in property taxes due to nontaxable federal land within their boundaries; and

Whereas, the amount of funding available for national forests is roughly four hundred thousand dollars; and

Whereas, the available funding is not sufficient for the patrol of the Kisatchie National Forest which is a substantial financial burden on the local sheriffs' offices; and

Whereas, PILT payments would help the parishes where the Kisatchie National Forest is located to patrol the forest and respond to emergency calls. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to fund local sheriffs' offices in order to properly and efficiently patrol the Kisatchie National Forest. Be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States Congress and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM–117. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to pass the Flood Insurance Affordability Act, the Risk Rating 2.0 Transparency Act, and the Flood Insurance Affordability Tax Credit Act, and to end the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Risk Rating 2.0 methodology to alleviate the financial burden of flood insurance on citizens who reside in the coastal parishes of Louisiana and across the United States; to the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 291

Whereas, for years, the state of Louisiana has been at the heart of an insurance crisis that has led to homeowners in the coastal parishes being obliged to pay exorbitant, excessive, and expensive flood insurance premiums; and

Whereas, in August of 2020, Hurricane Laura struck the state of Louisiana. The Department of Insurance reported more than one hundred seventy-seven thousand residential property claims, resulting in Individual Assistance from FEMA for the coastal parishes of Acadia, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis, and Vermilion; and

Whereas, in October of 2020, Hurricane Delta struck the state of Louisiana. The Department of Insurance reported more than eighty-nine thousand residential property claims, resulting in Individual Assistance from FEMA for the coastal parishes of Acadia, Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Saint Martin, and Vermilion; and

Whereas, in October of 2020, Hurricane Zeta struck the state of Louisiana. The Department of Insurance reported more than fifty-six thousand residential property claims, resulting in Individual Assistance from FEMA for the coastal parishes of Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, and Terrebonne; and

Whereas, in August of 2021, Hurricane Ida struck the state of Louisiana. The Department of Insurance reported more than four hundred seventy-eight thousand residential property claims, resulting in Individual Assistance from FEMA for the coastal parishes of Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines, Saint Bernard, Saint Charles, Saint James, Saint John the Baptist, Saint Martin, Saint Mary, Saint Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Washington, and West Baton Rouge; and

Whereas, in April of 2023, FEMA finished updating the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) risk rating methodology through the implementation of a new pricing methodology called Risk Rating 2.0; and

Whereas, despite FEMA's claims, Risk Rating 2.0 has led to significant premium increases for low- and middle-income families, with estimates suggesting that approximately one-fifth of NFIP policyholders may be forced to drop coverage over the next ten years, potentially leading to an actuarial death spiral that threatens the program's sustainability; and

Whereas, many homeowners in coastal Louisiana parishes have invested significant sums to elevate their homes and reduce flood risk and have still seen their premiums nearly double under Risk Rating 2.0, undermining the financial benefits of mitigation efforts; and

Whereas, the Legislature of Louisiana has significant concerns with Risk Rating 2.0, including its lack of transparency in data inputs, failure to deliver promised premium reductions for mitigated structures, unpredictability for new or code-compliant structures, and potential to render flood insurance unaffordable for many families; and

Whereas, the Risk Rating 2.0 Transparency Act, introduced on March 1, 2023, in the One Hundred Eighteenth United States Congress by Senator John Kennedy, requires FEMA to publish all data and methods used to prescribe chargeable premium rates, create an online database for policyholders to access premium rate information, conduct a comprehensive assessment of the economic and social impacts of Risk Rating 2.0, and publish premium rate distributions for every county or parish in the United States; and

Whereas, the Risk Rating 2.0 Transparency Act has failed to move through the U.S. Senate, despite the fervent advocacy of Senator John Kennedy and Senator Bill Cassidy; and

Whereas, the Flood Insurance Affordability Act, introduced on March 1, 2023, in the One Hundred Eighteenth United States Congress, sponsored by Senator John Kennedy of Louisiana and Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith of Mississippi, caps annual residential flood insurance premium increases at nine percent, rather than the current eighteen percent; and

Whereas, the Flood Insurance Affordability Tax Credit Act, introduced on February 13, 2025, in the One Hundred Nineteenth United States Congress by Senator Bill Cassidy, provides a thirty-three percent refundable tax credit to low- and middle-income households enrolled in the NFIP to offset rising flood insurance premiums, directly reducing the financial burden at the time of payment; and

Whereas, flooding is a national issue, with at least one hundred sixty-six Americans across thirteen states killed in 2024 due to floods and storms, and millions more affected by power outages or evacuations, highlighting the need for an affordable and sustainable NFIP for all fifty states; and

Whereas, the NFIP, as the primary source of flood insurance for many communities, must be reformed to ensure affordability, accountability to taxpayers, and sustainability for future generations; and

Whereas, the Legislature of Louisiana supports efforts to end Risk Rating 2.0, as advocated by Senator Bill Cassidy, who previously worked with the Trump administration in 2019 to delay its implementation due to transparency concerns; and

Whereas, it is the intention of the Legislature of Louisiana to ensure that homeowners in the coastal parishes of Louisiana and across the United States have access to fair, equitable, actuarially justified, and affordable flood insurance; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to pass the Flood Insurance Affordability Act, the Risk Rating 2.0 Transparency Act, and the Flood Insurance Affordability Tax Credit Act, and to end FEMA's Risk Rating 2.0 methodology to assist and benefit the citizens of the coastal parishes in the state of Louisiana and all Americans; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM–118. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to provide federal disaster insurance coverage for flooding, tornadoes,

fire, and other disasters that have a negative impact on states; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 345

Whereas, the need for federal disaster insurance is urgent and crucial due to the impacts of hurricanes, flooding, fire risks, and other disasters that have been proven to be devastating nationally and to the state of Louisiana; and

Whereas, from 1980–2025, as of April 8, 2025, there have been one hundred and six confirmed weather and climate disaster events with losses exceeding one billion dollars each to affect Louisiana, according to the National Centers for Environmental Information; and

Whereas, weather and climate disasters often result in losses due to the hazards associated with storm surge flooding, inland flooding from heavy rains, destructive winds, tornadoes, hurricanes, and high surf and rip currents, according to the National Weather Service; and

Whereas, Hurricanes Katrina, Sandy, Harvey, and Irma were four of the costliest hurricanes in the United States' history; collectively exceeding trillions of dollars in damages, according to the United States Government Accountability Office; and

Whereas, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the estimated cost of damages was approximately one hundred and seventy billion dollars for Katrina, seventy-four billion dollars for Sandy, one hundred thirty-one billion dollars for Harvey, and fifty-two billion dollars for Irma; and

Whereas, while the impact of hurricanes is devastating, flooding disasters, nationally and in the state of Louisiana, are also catastrophic; and

Whereas, in Louisiana, the flood of August 2016 caused an estimated four billion dollars in residential property damages, with damages exceeding one billion dollars in both Livingston and East Baton Rouge Parish; and

Whereas, the Joint Economic Committee's staff estimates that the total cost of flooding in the United States is between one hundred eighty and four hundred ninety-six billion dollars each year in 2023; and

Whereas, in addition to hurricane and flooding disasters, fires are also proven to have devastating effects; and

Whereas, according to the National Interagency Fire Center, since January 1, 2025, over nineteen thousand wildfires have burned approximately eight hundred eighty-one thousand acres, which is above the ten-year average of thirteen thousand wildfires and approximately eight hundred and twenty-eight thousand acres burned; and

Whereas, in Louisiana, fire damages have resulted in millions of dollars in property damage; and

Whereas, nationally, fire damages have resulted in approximately twenty-three billion dollars in property damage; and

Whereas, the impacts of disasters on a national level and state level are evident and need a solution; and

Whereas, the United States Congress should model a federal disaster insurance program, in part, after the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which should be expanded to include federal disaster coverage for hurricanes, flooding, fires, and other disasters; and

Whereas, key components of the NFIP that should be considered when implementing a federal disaster relief insurance program are:

(1) Providing affordable disaster insurance to homeowners, businesses, and insurers for all types of diasters.

(2) Complementing existing Federal Disaster relief programs.

(3) Providing flood insurance to help reduce the financial impacts of flooding.

(4) Providing disaster insurance that covers the cost of rebuilding.

(5) Encouraging communities, homeowners, and insurers to adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations to reduce future flood risks; and

Whereas, federal disaster insurance would provide the insurer certainty that the insurance carrier would not withdraw insurance coverage before, during, or after a disaster occurs; and

Whereas, federal disaster insurance should be implemented by Congress to provide insurers with financial protection, expedited recovery efforts, and dependable insurance when disasters strike; Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to provide insurance coverage for flooding, tornadoes, fire risks, and other disasters that have a negative impact on states. Be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM–119. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to create penalties for improperly mailing cremated human remains; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 60

Whereas, families have to make the difficult decision to transport the cremated remains of their loved ones; and

Whereas, cremated human remains can be mailed only through the United States Postal Service (USPS); and

Whereas, the USPS has issued guidance on how to package and ship cremated remains; and

Whereas, USPS requires a specific cremated remains box and a proper label for cremated human remains; and

Whereas, remains can be damaged or destroyed if they are not properly packaged or labeled; and

Whereas, currently, there are no penalties for the mislabeling of cremated human remains; and

Whereas, USPS does have certain penalties for mailing fireworks and hazardous materials; and

Whereas, human remains should be treated with respect and the best way to ensure that respect is to properly package and label cremated human remains so that they are handled with the care that is warranted and needed; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to create penalties for those who improperly package and label cremated remains; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM–120. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress and the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to reconsider any policies that may lead to reductions in Medicaid funding for hospitals in Louisiana; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 369

Whereas, hospitals play a vital role in delivering essential healthcare services to urban and rural communities throughout Louisiana; and

Whereas, directives outlined in recent federal memoranda and guidance propose to reduce the longstanding maximum amount hospitals may be reimbursed by the Medicaid program; and

Whereas, hospitals in Louisiana serve as lifelines for many communities especially our rural hospitals that provide essential healthcare services to residents in geographically isolated and medically underserved areas; and

Whereas, hospitals face unique challenges, including workforce shortages, financial instability, and limited access to specialized care; and

Whereas, reductions to Medicaid funding would exacerbate those challenges, potentially leading to service cutbacks, staff reductions, or even closures of hospitals; and

Whereas, the closure or reduced capacity of hospitals would disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, including the elderly, children, and those with chronic illnesses, as well as place additional strain on remaining healthcare facilities; and

Whereas, Medicaid funding is not only essential for sustaining healthcare services but also plays a critical role in supporting the economic viability of our communities since hospitals often serve as major employers and economic contributors; and

Whereas, Louisiana is committed to ensuring access to quality healthcare for all residents, regardless of their geographic or economic circumstances; and

Whereas, collaboration between state and federal governments is crucial to address the healthcare disparities and challenges faced by communities while safeguarding access to essential services; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize Congress and urge the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to avoid reductions in Medicaid funding that would adversely affect Louisiana's hospitals and the communities they serve; and

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize Congress and urge the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to immediately approve the pending Louisiana State Directed Payment Preprints for both hospital and physician payment and to not reduce total payment amounts for future rating periods; and be it further

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana emphasizes the importance of sustaining the current levels of Medicaid funding to ensure continued access of comprehensive healthcare services throughout the state; and be it further

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana calls upon Congress, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to actively engage with state officials, healthcare providers, and community stakeholders to develop solutions that address the healthcare needs of Louisiana without undermining the financial stability of our hospitals; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the United

States, the vice president of the United States, the speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the majority leader of the United States Senate, each member of Louisiana's congressional delegation, the secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, and the administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

POM–121. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress and the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services to increase pay rates for direct care support workers; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 72

Whereas, direct care support workers (DCSWs) such as nursing assistants, home health aides, and personal care aides provide essential services to individuals with disabilities, the elderly, and other vulnerable populations in inpatient care facilities, home care settings, and community-based programs; and

Whereas, DCSWs play a critical role in ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of those they serve often providing assistance with daily living activities, medical care, and emotional support; and

Whereas, despite the essential nature of their work, DCSWs are significantly underpaid, leading to high turnover rates, staffing shortages, and compromised care quality; and

Whereas, in 2020, the average hourly rate for DCSWs in Louisiana was approximately nine dollars per hour; and

Whereas, the demand for DCSWs continues to rise due to an aging population and increasing needs for long-term support services; and

Whereas, inadequate pay has led to a workforce crisis, reducing the availability of qualified professionals and increasing strain on existing caregivers; and

Whereas, increase wages would improve workforce retention, enhance the quality of care, and provide economic stability for these essential workers; and

Whereas, the Louisiana Legislature, in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Health, has taken steps to increase wages for DCSWs and meet the need for quality care for one of this state's most vulnerable populations; and

Whereas, federal programs such as Medicaid and Medicare set reimbursement rates that directly impact the wages of DCSWs, and federal action is needed to ensure adequate funding for increased pay. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress and urge federal agencies, including the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, to revise reimbursement structures, and implement higher wages for DCSWs; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America, each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation, the secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, and administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

POM–122. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to explore options for transitioning airport security responsibilities from the Transportation Security Administration to alternative models, such as delegating duties to trained airline personnel in order to enhance the freedom of travel and improve the air travel experience for citizens of the United States; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 81

Whereas, the state of Louisiana recognizes that the freedom to travel securely and efficiently is a fundamental right for citizens of the United States, essential to personal liberty and economic opportunity; and

Whereas, the TSA was established to safeguard the nation's transportation systems with a primary focus on airport security, and is tasked with implementing safety measures for air travel in the United States; and

Whereas, the TSA conducts security screenings for passengers at airports in the United States to ensure safe travel, yet public perception of air travel has increasingly deteriorated due to lengthy security processes, perceived inefficiencies, and passenger discomfort; and

Whereas, Louisiana values the protection of passengers and seeks to explore ways to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, and respect for personal freedoms in airport security processes. thereby restoring confidence in the air travel experience; and

Whereas, concerns have been raised regarding the efficacy of current security measures, including reports of challenges in detecting prohibited items and ensuring consistent respect for passengers' rights and dignity; and

Whereas, 2015 internal TSA review indicated that undercover investigators were able to pass mock prohibited items through security checkpoints in a significant percentage of trials, raising questions about the effectiveness of existing protocols and their impact on travelers' confidence; and

Whereas, isolated incidents involving TSA personnel have contributed to public concerns about privacy and property, underscoring the need to investigate alternative security models that prioritize both safety and the freedom of citizens of the United States to travel without undue intrusion; and

Whereas, other nations, such as Israel, employ intelligence-driven and behavior-based security approaches that may offer less invasive and potentially more effective methods, thereby improving the travel experience while maintaining high safety standards; and

Whereas, airline employees, with appropriate training, may be well-positioned to conduct security screenings, leveraging their familiarity with airport operations to streamline processes and enhance passenger navigation, thereby fostering a more positive travel experience; and

Whereas, although the TSA was created to strengthen transportation security, air travel continues to face challenges related to cost, efficiency, and passenger satisfaction, contributing to a growing perception that air travel is burdensome rather than liberating; and

Whereas, many countries utilize state or locally-managed airport security systems, which may provide valuable insights for improving airport security operations in the United States and enhancing the freedom and enjoyment of travel; and

Whereas, with proper training, airline personnel could potentially perform security functions currently handled by TSA agents, maintaining safety as a top priority while improving efficiency and passenger interactions; and

Whereas, airport staff familiar with specific airport layouts and operations could enhance the passenger experience by assisting with navigation and amenities while ensuring effective and respectful security measures, thereby supporting the right to travel freely and enjoyably; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to explore options for transitioning airport security responsibilities from the TSA to alternative models, such as delegating duties to trained airline personnel in order to enhance the freedom of travel and improve the air travel experience for citizens of the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM–123. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Iowa urging the members of Congress to support the Major Richard Star Act to allow medically retired service members to receive full access to their much-deserved retirement pay and benefits; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 106

Whereas, Major Richard Star was an Iraq and Afghanistan veteran who, after exposure to burn pits during his service, received a diagnosis of lung cancer; and

Whereas, due to his diagnosis, Major Richard Star was forced to retire before completing 20 years of service and was therefore unable to collect his retirement and disability benefits; and

Whereas, for every dollar of disability pay they receive, veterans with less than 20 years of service and a disability rating of less than 50 percent will have their retirement pay reduced by a dollar; and

Whereas, an estimated 50,000 retired service members are ineligible for concurrent benefits under the current rules; and

Whereas, according to the Congressional Budget Office, in 2022, the average offset was approximately $1,900 a month; and

Whereas, the Major Richard Star Act would remove these restrictions and ensure that all service members who have medically retired can receive full access to retirement pay and department of veterans affairs disability benefits; and

Whereas, after dying from his battle with lung cancer in 2021, Major Richard Star's widow claimed that his greatest goal was to get legislation passed providing for the removal of these restrictions; and

Whereas, the United States owes these benefits to its veterans regardless of the cost associated with their allocation; Now therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, that the House of Representatives urges the Congress of the United States to support the Major Richard Star Act to allow medically retired service members to receive full access to their much-deserved retirement and pay benefits; and be it further

Resolved, That the House of Representatives call upon our colleagues in the Senate to urge the Congress of the United States to support the Major Richard Star Act; and be it further

Resolved, That upon passage of this resolution, the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of Iowa's congressional delegation.

POM–124. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan supporting the President of the United States' policies to increase the nation's energy infrastructure and security, which have facilitated emergency permitting for the Enbridge Line 5 project; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 91

Whereas, The Enbridge Line 5 pipeline is critical for meeting Michigan's energy needs. It delivers crude oil and natural gas liquids across 645 miles from northern Wisconsin, through the Great Lakes, across both peninsulas of Michigan, and to Ontario. According to Enbridge, Line 5 supplies sixty-five percent of the propane demand in the Upper Peninsula and fifty-five percent of Michigan's statewide propane needs; and

Whereas, A segment of Line 5 has run under the Straits of Mackinac since 1953. This segment uses ''dual'' or ''twin'' pipes to deliver oil and propane throughout Michigan, thus preventing the need to use truckloads and rail cars to move these necessary resources across our state; and

Whereas, Enbridge has proposed building a tunnel underneath the bed of the Straits of Mackinac which would contain a new pipeline to deliver oil and liquified natural gas, replacing the current twin pipeline; and

Whereas, Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel has filed two lawsuits seeking to shut down Line 5 and its proposed tunnel by voiding the easement, in place since 1953, that allows Enbridge to operate the pipeline under the Straits of Mackinac; and

Whereas, On January 20, 2025, President Trump issued an executive order, entitled Declaring a National Energy Emergency, which seeks to expand the nation's energy infrastructure in order to meet our pressing energy needs. Critically, the executive order directs federal agencies to exercise their lawful emergency authorities to ''expedite the completion of all authorized and appropriated infrastructure, energy, environmental, and natural resources projects''; and

Whereas, In response to the executive order, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has designated projects eligible to receive an emergency permit under the order, and has included Enbridge's Line 5 tunnel project, among others; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives, That we support President Trump's policies to increase the nation's energy infrastructure and security, which have facilitated emergency permitting for the Enbridge Line 5 project; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM–125. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan supporting the President of the United States' policies that are enabling potash mining in Michigan; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 99

Whereas, Potash is a potassium-rich salt and is a critical component of fertilizer, which is essential for healthy plant growth and crop yields, and

Whereas, In the United States, domestic supplies of potash are nearing depletion, making the United States dependent on foreign potash. According to the United States Geological Survey, the country imports ninety-three percent of its potash from foreign countries and eighty-three percent from Canada alone; and

Whereas, Michigan has large deposits of potash reserves that are potentially worth billions of dollars. Accessing these reserves would make Michigan a leading domestic supplier of potash fertilizer; and

Whereas, On March 20, 2025, President Trump issued an executive order, entitled Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production, which would boost domestic mineral production and reduce reliance on foreign imports of minerals through an expedited permitting process for priority mining projects; and

Whereas, In response to the executive order, the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council announced its first wave of priority mineral production projects, which includes Michigan Potash & Salt Company and its mine in Osceola County. The mine aims to tap a 12,500-acre deposit of potash; and

Whereas, Increased mining operations in Michigan, such as the potash mining in Osceola County, will increase jobs and the state's economy while reducing the nation's reliance on foreign potash; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives, That we support President Trump's policies seeking to reduce the United States' reliance on foreign minerals by increasing the nation's potash supply and expediting the permitting process for the Michigan Potash & Salt Company; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM–126. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Nevada urging the United States Congress to enact the Protecting the Right to Organize Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11

Whereas, An imbalance of earning power exists in the United States economy, where annual income for the bottom 90 percent of U.S. workers increased by 44 percent between 1979 and 2023, while income for the top 1 percent of U.S. workers increased by over 180 percent during that period; and

Whereas, Unions play a critical role in increasing wages for workers and reducing income inequality and, according to a 2023 report published by the Economic Policy Institute, workers covered by a union contract earn 13.5 percent more on average than similarly situated workers who are not covered by a union contract; and

Whereas, Polls reveal that public support for unions has surged in recent years, with approval for unions at some of the highest levels since the 1960s; and

Whereas, On March 5, 2025, the Richard L. Trumka Protecting the Right to Organize Act of 2025 was introduced in the United States Congress as H.R. 20, 119th Cong. (2025), to increase protections relating to the rights of employees to collectively bargain; and

Whereas, This comprehensive legislation would prevent employers from misclassifying employees so as to exempt those employees from existing protections under labor laws; and

Whereas, The Act would allow a collective bargaining agreement to require the collection of fair share fees by unions to cover the cost of representing all represented workers; and

Whereas, The Act would also prohibit employers from permanently replacing or discriminating against workers who participate in strikes; and

Whereas, The Act would additionally prevent employers from requiring workers to attend mandatory meetings designed to discourage them from joining a union; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by The Assembly and Senate of the State of Nevada, Jointly, That the members of the 83rd Session of the Nevada Legislature respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to enact the Richard L. Trumka Protecting the Right to Organize Act of 2025 to increase protections relating to the rights of employees to collectively bargain; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States as presiding officer of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

POM–127. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature petitioning the United States Congress and the President of the United States to restore and expand federal compensation and health programs for individuals exposed to radiation resulting from United States nuclear weapons testing in the Pacific, including the people of the Commonwealth of the Norther Mariana Islands; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 24–17

Whereas, as part of its mandate to protect and defend the United States of America, the United States Armed Forces conducted testing of atomic nuclear weapons on Enewetak and Bikini Atolls in the Marshall Islands from 1946 to 1958. A total of sixty-seven (67) atomic and thermonuclear bombs were detonated which resulted in radioactive fallout across a wide area of the Pacific beyond the immediate test sites; and

Whereas, due to the deleterious effects of the nuclear radiation, on October 5, 1990, the United States Congress passed the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (''RECA''), which establishes new programs for persons physically present in areas near the Nevada Nuclear Test Site during atomic testing at the site. Atmospheric testing of atomic devices—important to national security during the darkest days of the ''cold war''—ended in 1963 when, under President Kennedy, the United States signed and ratified the Limited Test Ban Treaty. Prior to the Treaty, the United States detonated over 200 atomic devices in the open air, in both the South Pacific and in Nevada. The bill provides compassionate payments to persons with specified diseases who fear that their health was harmed because of fallout from atmospheric atomic testing at the Nevada test site, regardless of whether causation can be scientifically established; and

Whereas, on July 10, 2000, Pub. L. 106–245, the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2000 was passed, adding two new claimant categories, providing for, among other things, additional compensable illnesses, removing certain lifestyle restrictions, and adding additional geographic areas to the ''downwinder'' claimant category; and

Whereas, residents of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and other Pacific jurisdictions have long asserted that they were exposed to radioactive fallout generated by such testing; and

Whereas, although RECA coverage has been expanded, it still does not provide relief to all Americans affected by fallout, particularly residents of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Territory of Guam; and

Whereas, there is no doubt that the Territory of Guam has received radioactive debris from fallout during the nuclear weapons testing in the Pacific Ocean to such an extent that, in March of 2004, Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo spoke before the Committee to Assess the Scientific Information

for the Radiation Exposure Screening and Education Program to request that they include an assessment of Guam for ''downwinders'' and ship decontamination as part of their congressionally mandated study; and

Whereas, because the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are close in proximity to the Territory of Guam, separated by a scant 56 miles, and both are affected by the same wind, weather and ocean current patterns, it logically follows that radiation which affects the Territory of Guam necessarily affects the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and

Whereas, as a result, the Nuclear and Radiation Studies Board published in 2005 its report entitled ''Assessment of the Scientific Information for the Radiation Exposure Screening and Education Program'' that because radiation fallout may have been higher for people outside RECA-designated areas, the NRSB recommends that all residents of the continental U.S., Alaska, Hawaii, and overseas U.S. territories who have been diagnosed with specific RECA-compensable diseases and who may have been exposed, even in utero, to radiation from U.S. nuclear-weapons testing fallout be compensated; and

Whereas, the United States Congress has the authority to amend RECA to include residents of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands affected by radiation as eligible ''downwinder'' claimants, and its failure to do so resulted in the continued exclusion of similarly situated CNMI residents from federal compensation benefits, leaving their claims unrecognized under existing law; and

Whereas, pursuant to the RECA Extension Act of 2022 (P.L. 117–139); authorization for the RECA program expired on June 07, 2024, with the Department of Justice only processing claims postmarked by June 10, 2024 leaving many affected individuals and their families without access to compensation or medical assistance programs; and

Whereas, RECA was reinstated through P.L. 119–21 otherwise known as the ''One Big Beautiful Bill Act'', specifically in Sections 100201–100205, enacted on July 04, 2025. This reinstatement sets funding to expire on December 31, 2028, with the allowance of the latest claim to be filed by December 31, 2027; and

Whereas, residents of the Commonwealth continue to experience concerns regarding cancer, thyroid disease, and other illnesses that may be associated with radiation exposure and deserve the same consideration afforded to other United States citizens and nationals impacted by federal nuclear testing programs; and

Whereas, the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, a territory of the United States of America, request for the restoration of RECA benefits, expansion of eligibility to include affected Pacific populations, and to provide funding for scientific research, health monitoring, cancer screening, and medical treatment programs in the Pacific territories and freely associated states; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature hereby joins the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in respectfully petitioning the United States Congress to declare that all Americans shall be given the same consideration when it comes to compensation for exposure to radiation from U.S. nuclear testing, including the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and be it further

Resolved, That the United States Congress is hereby respectfully petitioned to amend the ''Radiation Exposure Compensation Act of 1990,'' Public Law 101–426, as amended to include the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in the jurisdiction ''Downwinders'' covered by the Act; and be it further

Resolved, That the United States Congress is hereby respectfully requested to study whether the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands should be granted RECA ''on site'' status; and be it further

Resolved, That the affected population previously and currently in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (those residing who have been exposed to radiation resulting from the Atomic Energy Commission tests in the Marshall Islands) be recognized as being ''downwinders'' of such tests; and be it further

Resolved, That the President of the Senate shall certify and the Senate Legislative Secretary shall attest to the adoption of this Resolution, and thereafter the Senate Clerk shall transmit certified copies to the Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker of the House of Representatives, 119th United States Congress; the Honorable J.D. Vance, President of the Senate, United States Senate; the Honorable Senator Chuck Grassley, Chairperson, Committee on Judiciary, United States Senate; the Honorable Senator Dick Durbin, Ranking Member, Committee on Judiciary, United States Senate; the Honorable Senator Bill Cassidy, Chairperson, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, United States Senate; the Honorable Senator Bernie Sanders, Ranking Member, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, United States Senate; the Honorable Congressman Jim Jordan, Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, United States House of Representatives; the Honorable Congressman Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary, United States House of Representatives; the Honorable Congressman Brett Guthrie, Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce, United States House of Representatives; the Honorable Congressman Frank Pallone, Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce, United States House of Representatives; the Honorable Kimberlyn King-Hinds, CNMI Delegate to the House of Representatives Washington, 119th United States Congress the Honorable David M. Apatang, Governor of the CNMI; the Honorable Lou Leon Guerrero, Governor of the Territory of Guam; the Honorable Edmund S. Villagomez, Speaker of the House of Representatives; and Mr. Robert N. Celestial, Atomic Veteran from Guam and President of the Pacific Association for Radiation Survivors.

POM–128. A joint resolution adopted by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature affirming the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' commitment to eliminate the commercial facilitation of birth tourism as evidenced by the enactment of the Business Integrity and Regulation of Tourism Harms Act (''BIRTH Act''); to present updated data demonstrating the effectiveness of existing federal and local measures; and to request continued federal coordination consistent with those efforts; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 24–13

Whereas, the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America recognizes United States sovereignty while guaranteeing the Commonwealth a substantial measure of local self-government; and

Whereas, Article IX, Section 902 of the Covenant provides for consultation between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Commonwealth on matters affecting the economic and social well-being of the Commonwealth; and

Whereas, the Commonwealth remains committed to cooperation with the United States in maintaining the integrity of federal immigration systems while preserving the constitutional guarantees that apply within the Commonwealth; and

Whereas, the Legislature recognizes that so-called ''birth tourism,'' more precisely described as the compensated commercial facilitation of travel for the primary purpose of childbirth, is materially distinct from lawful tourism and undermines confidence in immigration systems when driven by organized commercial enterprises; and

Whereas, the Legislature further recognizes that the appropriate response lies not in restricting constitutional birthright citizenship, but in targeting the commercial machinery, fraud, and profiteering that drive such practices; and

Whereas, the Legislature has before it House Bill 24–105, the Business Integrity and Regulation of Tourism Harms Act (''BIRTH Act''), a uniquely tailored statute that prohibits compensated commercial birth tourism facilitation, criminalizes deceptive practices, regulates maternity housing, and provides both civil and criminal enforcement tools while expressly preserving federal authority over immigration and citizenship;

Whereas, the BIRTH Act reflects a deliberate and constitutionally grounded approach that focuses on business regulation, consumer protection, and fraud prevention, rather than immigration control, thereby aligning Commonwealth action with federal law and policy; and

Whereas, official data from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) Health & Vital Statistics Office demonstrates that tourist births in the Commonwealth have declined by approximately ninety-two percent (92%), from a peak of 581 births in 2018 to 47 births in 2025, representing approximately eight percent (8%) of total deliveries and fewer than four births per month;

Whereas, current CHCC obstetric utilization reflects approximately forty-four percent (44%) of 2018 capacity levels, and available data does not support claims that tourist births presently impose a significant strain on the Commonwealth's healthcare system;

Whereas, the Legislature finds that the substantial decline in tourist births corresponds with prior federal visa policy changes and demonstrates that coordinated federal and local measures can effectively reduce birth tourism; and

Whereas, the Legislature affirms that birthright citizenship is guaranteed under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Covenant, and that enforcement efforts must not diminish or redefine that constitutional right; and

Whereas, immigration enforcement in the Commonwealth is administered by the United States Department of Homeland Security and United States Customs and Border Protection, and the Commonwealth's role is to complement those efforts through lawful regulation of commercial activity within its jurisdiction; and

Whereas, the Legislature intends through this Resolution to demonstrate that the Commonwealth has taken concrete, enforceable legislative action to eliminate commercial birth tourism operations and stands ready to support continued federal enforcement efforts; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas

Commonwealth Legislature, the Senate concurring, That the Legislature hereby affirms the Commonwealth's commitment to eliminating the commercial facilitation of birth tourism through the enactment and enforcement of the BIRTH Act; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature respectfully requests that the Government of the United States, including the Department of Homeland Security and United States Customs and Border Protection, continue to strengthen and consistently apply existing standards governing temporary entry, discretionary parole, and visitor admissions to deter travel undertaken primarily for childbirth where lawful criteria are not satisfied; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature requests continued coordination between federal agencies and the Commonwealth to ensure effective enforcement against fraud, misrepresentation, and commercial facilitation schemes associated with birth tourism; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature emphasizes that the Commonwealth's enactment of the BIRTH Act demonstrates that local enforcement mechanisms—when aligned with federal policy—can effectively address birth tourism without infringing upon constitutional rights; and be it further

Resolved, That the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate shall certify and the House Clerk and the Senate Legislative Secretary shall attest to the adoption of this joint resolution and thereafter the House Clerk shall transmit a certified copy to the President of the United States; the appropriate committees of the United States Congress; the Secretary of Homeland Security; the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; the President of the Senate, Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature; the Mayors of the Municipalities of Rota, Tinian and Aguiguan, Saipan, and the Northern Islands; and the CNMI Delegate to the United States Congress.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. CASSIDY for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

*Douglas Ralph, of Kentucky, to be a Member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2028.

*Nicole Saphier, of New Jersey, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, subject to qualifications therefor as provided by law and regulations, and to be Surgeon General of the Public Health Service for a term of four years.

*Timothy Westlake, of Wisconsin, to be Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, Department of Health and Human Services.

*Mary Lazare, of Florida, to be Assistant Secretary for Aging, Department of Health and Human Services.

*Loren E. Sweatt, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2029.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. 5604. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to make improvements to that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. SMITH:

S. 5605. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to provide that any mandatory predispute or coerced postdispute arbitration clause, class action waiver, representation waiver, or discretionary clause with respect to a plan is unenforceable, to prohibit any such clause or waiver from being included in a plan document or other agreement with plan participants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 5606. A bill to authorize the adjustment to lawful permanent resident status for certain permanent residents of Hong Kong who were granted Deferred Enforced Departure; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 5607. A bill to amend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 to restore the full 75-percent payment to counties from the Oregon and California land-grant fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 5608. A bill to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. MOODY:

S. 5609. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require States to report on anti-fraud measures relating to home and community-based services furnished under the Medicaid program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MOODY:

S. 5610. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to limit the ability of persons that pose a threat to national security to receive and enforce patents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 5611. A bill to authorize certain actions with respect to Serbia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. MOODY:

S. 5612. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require hospitals receiving payment for direct graduate medical education costs under the Medicare program to report information with respect to the citizenship status of residents in an approved medical residency training program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HYDE–SMITH:

S. 5613. A bill to increase the rate of duty on shrimp originating from Ecuador, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 5614. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to issue guidance and recommendations for institutions of higher education on removing criminal and juvenile justice questions from their application for admissions process; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MOODY:

S. 5615. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to protect worker access to employer equity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MORENO, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 5616. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the treatment of digital assets; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHMITT (for himself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 5617. A bill to amend section 1362 of title 18, United States Code, to address vandalism of copper, fiber, and coaxial cables used to provide telecommunications and information services; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KIM, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 5618. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide an Inspector General for the judicial branch, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 5619. A bill to restore the allowance of the premium tax credit for lawfully present individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mr. COTTON):

S. 5620. A bill to amend title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish the UNPLUGGED Schools Grant Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 5621. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to clarify certain requirements relating to the Nonprofit Security Grant Program of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. MOODY:

S. 5622. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide for criminal liability where a controlled substance is a substantial factor in the death or bodily injury of another person; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 5623. A bill to express the sense of Congress reaffirming extended nuclear deterrence; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. CURTIS):

S. 5624. A bill to provide a lump sum death gratuity payment for Federal wildland firefighters killed as a result of duty, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. REED):

S. 5625. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance the low-income housing tax credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 5626. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to change certain grant requirements for certain students with disabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 5627. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to improve access to care