

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

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

#### 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-2215. A communication from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, the report of proposed legislation entitled "The Community Development Block Grant Reform Act of 2007"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2216. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standards for Business Practices and Communication Protocols for Public Utilities" (RIN1902-AD31) received on June 7, 2007; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2217. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Qualifying Gasification Project Program" (Notice 2007-53) received on June 7, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2218. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guidance Under Guaranteed Payments" (Notice 2007-40) received on June 7, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2219. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Qualifying Advanced Coal Project Program" (Notice 2007-52) received on June 7, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2220. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of technical data, defense services, and defense articles to support the sale of the Sensor Fused Weapon to the United Arab Emirates; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2221. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of technical data, defense services, and defense articles necessary to support the Royal Australian Air Force's Hornet Upgrade Program; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2222. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement for the transfer of technical data, assistance and manufacturing know-how to Japan for the manufacture of the AN/APX-72 Identification Friend or Foe Transponder; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2223. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant

to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of technical data, defense articles and defense services, including manufacturing know-how, to Germany for the manufacture of 120mm tank training ammunition; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2224. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of technical data, defense services, and defense articles to support the manufacture of F-15 aircraft major structural components for Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2225. A communication from the Interim Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits" (29 CFR Parts 4022 and 4044) received on June 7, 2007; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2226. A communication from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Commission's Inspector General for the period ending March 31, 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### 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-112. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Louisiana urging Congress to take a proactive role in assisting the communities of New Orleans East in protecting their health and safety and in promoting economic development; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

##### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

Whereas, the health, safety, welfare, and economic recovery of the residents and businesses of New Orleans East are dependent upon the continued assistance and encouragement from our federal partners; and

Whereas, the Legislature of Louisiana created the New Orleans Regional Business Park as a special municipal district for the primary purpose of engaging industrial, manufacturing, processing, assembling, distribution, and wholesale businesses; and

Whereas, as of early May 2006, approximately forty companies out of one hundred four pre-Katrina were back in business and the future of the others is largely uncertain; and

Whereas, New Orleans East has become the illegal burial grounds for homes and businesses washed out by hurricanes Katrina and Rita; and

Whereas, illegal dumping makes it extremely hard to attract businesses to New Orleans East and to the business park; and

Whereas, in the business park alone there are twenty-three known illegal dumping sites and thirteen illegal automobile dumping sites; and

Whereas, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded the business park \$400,000 in grants to catalogue contamination, but none of the federal funds will be used for clean-up; and

Whereas, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Enforcement Division, Surveillance Division and Criminal Investigations Section of the Legal Affairs Division have inspected over one hundred sev-

enty-five sites and found potential environmental violations on one hundred fifty of these sites in the Almonaster/Gentilly area alone; and

Whereas, on one of these sites, sixty-five thousand cubic yards of debris or approximately an eleven foot tall mound of debris was found to have been illegally dumped on this one site in New Orleans East; and

Whereas, the illegal piles of debris do not have protective barriers to keep whatever poisons are in the piles contained and from leaking out into the wetlands surrounding this area; and

Whereas, numerous federal agencies have roles and responsibilities in the health, safety, and economic development after hurricanes Katrina and Rita which range from debris removal, oversight of regulations, and recovery funding; and

Whereas, the removal of all dump sites within the New Orleans Regional Business Parks will improve the health, safety, and economic development: Therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to urge and request the respective executive branch departments to take a proactive role in assisting the communities of New Orleans East in protecting their health and safety and in promoting economic development; Therefore, be it further

*Resolved*, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby request the Congress of the United States and the appropriate federal agencies, in coordination with appropriate Louisiana state agencies, to immediately take the following actions: (a) cease funding any waste disposal activities within the New Orleans Regional Business Park; (b) develop and implement procedures for expeditious environmental sampling, analysis, and reporting; (c) resolve the blurring of debris management responsibilities between the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Environmental Protection Agency, and state environmental and public health agencies; (d) review and enhance the Environmental Protection Agency's oversight role of illegal and improper debris disposal; and (e) provide guidance and mechanisms for the development of public/private partnerships in restoring and redeveloping the New Orleans Regional Business Park and the New Orleans East community; be it further

*Resolved*, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-113. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii urging Congress to create a replacement for the outdated Fast Track Trade Authority system so United States trade agreements are developed and implemented using a more democratic, inclusive mechanism that enshrines the principles of federalism and state sovereignty; to the Committee on Finance.

##### HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 63

Whereas, in general, democratic accountable governance in the states, and specifically, the authority granted to the legislative branch by the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, is being undermined by international commercial and trade rules enforced by the World Trade Organization and established by the North American Free Trade Agreement, and is further threatened by similar provisions in an array of pending trade agreements; and

Whereas, today's trade agreements have effects that extend significantly beyond the bounds of traditional trade matters such as tariffs and quotas; and