

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed H.R. 1195, Highway Technical Corrections.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S3105–S3170

Measures Introduced: Sixteen bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2876–2891, and S. Res. 519–522. **Pages S3144–45**

Measures Passed:

Farm Security and Rural Investment Act Extension: Senate passed H.R. 5813, to amend Public Law 110–196 to provide for a temporary extension of programs authorized by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 beyond April 18, 2008, clearing the measure for the President.

Page S3105

Welcoming Pope Benedict XVI to the United States: Senate agreed to S. Res. 519, welcoming Pope Benedict XVI to the United States and recognizing the unique insights his moral and spiritual reflections bring to the world stage. **Pages S3105–06**

Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy For Users: By 88 yeas to 2 nays (Vote No. 108), Senate passed H.R. 1195, to amend the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users to make technical corrections, after taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto:

Pages S3106–36

Adopted:

By 64 yeas to 28 nays (Vote No. 105), Boxer Modified Amendment No. 4539 (to Amendment No. 4146), to call for a review by the Department of Justice of allegations of violations of Federal criminal law. **Pages S3106, S3118–19**

Boxer Amendment No. 4146, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S3106, S3121**

Withdrawn:

Coburn Amendment No. 4540 (to Amendment No. 4539), relative to the Coconut Road Investigation. **Pages S3106, S3110–11**

By 49 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. 106), Coburn Amendment No. 4538 (to Amendment No. 4146), to create a bipartisan, bicameral special committee to investigate the improper insertion of an earmark for Coconut Road into the conference report of the 2005 highway bill after both chambers of Congress had approved identical versions of the conference report. (A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the amendment, having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, be withdrawn).

Pages S3106, S3411–18, S3119

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 90 yeas to 2 nays (Vote No. 107), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on Boxer Amendment No. 4146 (listed above). **Pages S3119–20**

Authorizing Photograph in Senate Chamber: Senate agreed to S. Res. 521, authorizing the taking of a photograph in the Chamber of the United States Senate. **Page S3170**

Measures Considered:

Veterans' Benefits Enhancement Act—Agreement: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1315, to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance life insurance benefits for disabled veterans. **Page S3169**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, April 17, 2008, a vote on cloture will occur at 12 noon on Tuesday, April 22, 2008. **Page S3169**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that on Tuesday, April 22, 2008, following a period of morning business, Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of

the bill, and the time until 12 noon be equally divided and controlled between the two Leaders, or their designees. **Page S3169**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's intent to add the Solomon Islands to the list of least-developed beneficiary developing countries under the Generalized System of Preferences program; which was referred to the Committee on Finance. (PM-44) **Page S3143**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Kelly Harrison Rankin, of Wyoming, to be United States Attorney for the District of Wyoming for the term of four years.

- 1 Air Force nomination in the rank of general.
- 1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.

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Messages from the House: **Page S3143**

Measures Referred: **Page S3144**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S3144**

Executive Communications: **Page S3144**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S3145-46**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S3146-64

Additional Statements: **Page S3143**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S3164-69**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S3169**

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—108) **Pages S3118, S3119, S3119-20, S3122**

Recess: Senate convened at 12:45 p.m. and recessed at 6:40 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Friday, April 18, 2008. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S3170.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

FAA SAFETY AND MODERNIZATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) safety and modernization performance, after receiving testimony from Robert A. Sturgell, Acting Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration; and Calvin L. Scovel, III, Inspector General, Department of Transportation.

U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water and Power concluded a hearing to examine the United States Bureau of Reclamation, focusing on issues associated with aging water resource infrastructure, after receiving testimony from Senator Reid; Robert W. Johnson, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior; Mayor Todd Cutler, Fernley, Nevada; Major General Charles I. McGinnis, USA (Ret.), United States Army Corps of Engineers, Charlottesville, Virginia, on behalf of the National Research Council; Thomas F. Donnelly, National Water Resources Association, Arlington, Virginia; Wesley Randal Reed, St. Mary Rehabilitation Working Group, Chinook, Montana; and Tony Willardson, Western States Water Council, Midvale, Utah, on behalf of the Western Governors' Association (WGA).

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Deanna Tanner Okun, of Idaho, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, who was introduced by Senator Roberts, David Gustafson, of Virginia, Richard T. Morrison, of Virginia, and Elizabeth Crewson Paris, of the District of Columbia, who was introduced by Senator Grassley, each to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court, and Eric M. Thorson, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, and Edwin Eck, of Montana, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board, both of the Department of the Treasury, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

FUSION CENTERS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Ad Hoc Subcommittee on State, Local, and Private Sector Preparedness and Integration concluded a hearing to examine the national strategy for information sharing relating to fusion centers—collaborative efforts to detect, prevent, investigate, and respond to criminal terrorist activity, focusing on a recent progress report from federal, state, and local agencies, after receiving testimony from Eileen R. Larence, Director, Homeland Security and Justice Issues, Government Accountability Office; Vance E. Hitch, Chief Information Officer, Department of Justice; Jack Thomas Tomarchio, Deputy Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis; Captain Charles W. Rapp, Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC), Baltimore; Matthew Bettenhausen, California Governor's Office of Homeland Security, Sacramento; and Russell M. Porter, Iowa Department of Public Safety, Des Moines.