

to the Copenhagen criteria that require candidate countries to have achieved stability of governmental institutions that guarantee human rights and that respect and protect minorities, including religious minorities such as Orthodox Christians;

Whereas, on August 2, 2007, European Union Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn indicated that Turkey must achieve “concrete results in areas of fundamental freedoms such as . . . religious freedom”;

Whereas the Ecumenical Patriarchate and its Sacred See is the spiritual head for tens of millions, a valuable place of great historic significance to hundreds of millions where much of the New Testament and sacred creeds, including the Nicene Creed, were codified, and as the head of the largest Christian Church headquartered in a majority Muslim country, a critical link between Christians and Muslims;

Whereas the United States was founded on the concept of religious freedom and has maintained its support for such freedom throughout its history;

Whereas the practice of religious freedom of millions of Orthodox Christians in the United States is dependent on the religious freedom of the spiritual head of their faith;

Whereas the United States Government has expressed its emphatic support for full religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate through numerous statements by both Democratic and Republican Presidents, in letters signed by the extraordinary number of 73 of 100 United States Senators and 42 of 50 members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, and in reports of the Department of State, the Helsinki Commission, and other government agencies;

Whereas Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew gathered international religious leaders soon after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, and produced the first condemnation of the attacks as “anti-religious”;

Whereas the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award bestowed by Congress;

Whereas the international community places particular importance on safeguarding and promoting religious freedom as is expressed in the creation of a Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief in the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations, in the “Declaration of Principles Guiding Relations between Participating States” principle VII, paragraph I of the Helsinki Commission, and in most highly regarded international organizations;

Whereas the Government of Turkey does not recognize the Ecumenical Patriarch as ecumenical, interferes with the process of selecting the Ecumenical Patriarch by requiring that the Patriarch be a citizen of Turkey, thereby restricting candidates due to the gradual disappearance of eligible Orthodox Christians who are citizens of Turkey; and

Whereas the Government of Turkey has confiscated without compensation significant quantities of property belonging to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and closed its seminary at Halki: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its view that the Government of Turkey should move expeditiously to meet the criteria set forth by the European Council in Copenhagen;

(2) calls on the European Union to focus on the elimination of all forms of discrimination in Turkey, particularly with regard to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, while continuing accession negotiations;

(3) calls on the Government of Turkey to remove an obstacle in its relations with the United States Government by taking positive steps to provide full religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate; and

(4) calls on the Government of Turkey to immediately—

(A) recognize the right to the title of “Ecumenical Patriarch”;

(B) grant the Ecumenical Patriarch appropriate international recognition and ecclesiastical succession;

(C) grant the Ecumenical Patriarch the right to train clergy of all nationalities, not just Turkish nationals; and

(D) respect property rights and human rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on National Parks. The hearing will be held on Wednesday, July 30, 2008, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the following bills: S. 1816, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a commemorative trail in connection with the Women’s Rights National Historical Park to link properties that are historically and thematically associated with the struggle for women’s suffrage, and for other purposes; S. 2093, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers in the State of Vermont for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; S. 2535, to revise the boundary of the Martin Van Buren National Historic Site, and for other purposes; S. 2561, to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a theme study to identify sites and resources to commemorate and interpret the Cold War; S. 3011, to amend the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site Act of 1991 to expand the boundaries of the historic site, and for other purposes; S. 3113, to reinstate the Interim Management Strategy governing off-road vehicle use in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, North Carolina, pending the issuance of a final rule for off-road vehicle use by the National Park Service; S. 3148, to modify the boundary of the Oregon Caves National Monument, and for other purposes; S. 3158, to extend the authority for the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission; S. 3226, to rename the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site in the State of Kentucky as the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park; S. 3247, to provide for the designation of the River Raisin National Battlefield Park in the State of Michigan; and H.R. 5137, to ensure that hunting remains a purpose of the New River Gorge National River.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify

by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to rachel.pasternack@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact David Brooks at (202) 224-9863 or Rachel Pasternack at (202) 224-0883.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 17, 2008 at 1 p.m. in room 328A of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the sessions of the Senate on July 17, 2008, at 10 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 17, 2008, at 9 a.m., in room SD-G50 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 17, 2008, at 10 a.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 17, 2008, at 2:30 p.m.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Colin Jones, a fellow from the Idaho National Laboratory, be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of the Energy bill, S. 3268.

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