

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed H.R. 4281, Surface Transportation Extension Act.
Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 38, Adjournment Resolution.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2187–S2285

Measures Introduced: Thirty-four bills and eight resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2250–2283, S. Res. 411–417, and S. Con. Res. 37.
Pages S2242–43

Measures Reported:

H.R. 2297, to promote the development of the Southwest waterfront in the District of Columbia. (S. Rept. No. 112–154)

S. 2159, to extend the authorization of the Drug-Free Communities Support Program through fiscal year 2017, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.
Page S2242

Measures Passed:

Surface Transportation Extension Act: Senate passed H.R. 4281, to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a multiyear law reauthorizing such programs.
Pages S2209–12

Adjournment Resolution: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 38, providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives.
Page S2275

Southwest Waterfront in the District of Columbia: Senate passed H.R. 2297, to promote the development of the Southwest waterfront in the District of Columbia, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:
Pages S2275–76

Reid (for Lieberman) Amendment No. 1998, to deauthorize a portion of the project for navigation of the Corps of Engineers at Potomac River, Washington Channel, District of Columbia. **Pages S2275–76**

Baha'i Minority in Iran: Senate agreed to S. Res. 80, condemning the Government of Iran for its

state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S2276**

Reid (for Paul) Amendment No. 1999, of a perfecting nature. **Page S2276**

People of Tibet: Senate agreed to S. Res. 356, expressing support for the people of Tibet.
Pages S2276–78

Journalists and Freedom of the Press in Syria: Senate agreed to S. Res. 391, condemning violence by the Government of Syria against journalists, and expressing the sense of the Senate on freedom of the press in Syria. **Page S2278**

North Atlantic Treaty Organization Summit: Senate agreed to S. Res. 395, expressing the sense of the Senate in support of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the NATO summit to be held in Chicago, Illinois, from May 20 through 21, 2012.
Pages S2279–80

Promoting Peace in Sudan: Senate agreed to S. Res. 397, promoting peace and stability in Sudan, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S2280–82**

University of North Carolina at Pembroke 125th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 414, commemorating the 125th anniversary of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. **Page S2282**

National Association of Junior Auxiliaries Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 415, designating April 4, 2012, as "National Association of Junior Auxiliaries Day". **Page S2282**

Parkinson's Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 416, supporting the designation of April as Parkinson's Awareness Month. **Page S2282**

Measures Considered:

Paying a Fair Share Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2230, to reduce the deficit by imposing a minimum effective tax rate for high-income taxpayers.

Pages S2188–99, S2223–24

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, March 29, 2012, a vote on cloture will occur on Monday, April 16, 2012, when the Senate resumes legislative session immediately following the vote on the confirmation of the nomination of Stephanie Dawn Thacker, of West Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Page S2223–24

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at approximately 2 p.m., on Monday, April 16, 2012.

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Oil Tax Subsidies: Senate resumed consideration of S. 2204, to eliminate unnecessary tax subsidies and promote renewable energy and energy conservation, after agreeing to the motion to proceed, and taking action on the following amendments and motions proposed thereto:

Page S2199

Pending:

Reid Amendment No. 1968, to change the enactment date.

Page S2199

Reid Amendment No. 1969 (to Amendment No. 1968), of a perfecting nature.

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Reid motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Finance with instructions, Reid Amendment No. 1970, to change the enactment date.

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Reid Amendment No. 1971 (to (the instructions) Amendment No. 1970), of a perfecting nature.

Page S2199

Reid Amendment No. 1972 (to Amendment No. 1971), of a perfecting nature.

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

By 51 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. 63), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to close further debate on the bill.

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Signing Authority—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that from Thursday, March 29, 2012 through Monday, April 16, 2012, the Majority Leader, Senator Webb and Senator Rockefeller be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

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Authorizing Leadership to Make Appointments—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, notwithstanding the upcoming recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President Pro Tempore, and the Majority and Minority Leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

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Pro Forma Sessions—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, March 29, 2012, it convene for pro forma sessions only with no business conducted on the following dates and times and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Monday, April 2, 2012 at 2 p.m., Thursday, April 5, 2012 at 11 a.m., Monday, April 9, 2012 at 10 a.m., Thursday, April 12, 2012 at 2 p.m.; and that the Senate adjourn on Thursday, April 12, 2012 until 2 p.m., on Monday, April 16, 2012, unless the Senate has received a message from the House of Representatives that it has adopted S. Con. Res. 38, and if the Senate has received such a message, the Senate stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, April 16, 2012, under the provisions of S. Con. Res. 38.

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Thacker Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at 4:30 p.m., on Monday, April 16, 2012, Senate begin consideration of the nomination of Stephanie Dawn Thacker, of West Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit; that there be 60 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote without intervening action or debate, on confirmation of the nomination; and that no further motions be in order.

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Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Phyllis Nichamoff Segal, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring October 6, 2013.

Lisa M. Quiroz, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring February 8, 2014.

Marguerite W. Kondracke, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring June 10, 2014.

Richard Christman, of Kentucky, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for the remainder of the term expiring October 6, 2012.

Thomas M. Harrigan, of New York, to be Deputy Administrator of Drug Enforcement.

Jon D. Leibowitz, of Maryland, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for a term of seven years from September 26, 2010.

Deepa Gupta, of Illinois, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2016.

Anuj Chang Desai, of Wisconsin, to be a Member of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States for the term expiring September 30, 2011.

Anuj Chang Desai, of Wisconsin, to be a Member of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States for the term expiring September 30, 2014.

Dennis J. Erby, of Mississippi, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Mississippi for the term of four years.

Kathleen Kerrigan, of Massachusetts, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for the term of fifteen years.

Christopher Merrill, of Iowa, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2016.

Martin J. Gruenberg, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for a term expiring December 27, 2018.

Gregory K. Davis, of Mississippi, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi for the term of four years.

Thomas J. Curry, of Massachusetts, to be Comptroller of the Currency for a term of five years.

Mary John Miller, of Maryland, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury.

Charles DeWitt McConnell, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Fossil Energy).

Michael A. Hammer, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Public Affairs).

Stephanie Orlando, of New York, to be a Member of the National Council on Disability for the remainder of the term expiring September 17, 2011.

Stephanie Orlando, of New York, to be a Member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2014.

Bruce J. Sherrick, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation.

Chester John Culver, of Iowa, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation.

Maureen K. Ohlhausen, of Virginia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for a term of seven years from September 26, 2011.

David T. Danielson, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy).

LaDoris Guess Harris, of Georgia, to be Director of the Office of Minority Economic Impact, Department of Energy.

Michael E. Horowitz, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Department of Justice.

Gregory Howard Woods, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of Energy.

Eduardo Arriola, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring October 6, 2016.

J. Kelly Ryan, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for the remainder of the term expiring September 20, 2012.

James R. Hannah, of Arkansas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the State Justice Institute for a term expiring September 17, 2013.

Daniel J. Becker, of Utah, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the State Justice Institute for a term expiring September 17, 2013.

Catherine Allgor, of California, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation for a term expiring September 27, 2014.

David J. McMillan, of Minnesota, to be a Member of the Advisory Board of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation.

Wenona Singel, of Michigan, to be a Member of the Advisory Board of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation.

Michael James Warren, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation for a term expiring December 17, 2014.

Kathryn Keneally, of New York, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Alastair M. Fitzpayne, of Maryland, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury.

Maurice A. Jones, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Gary Blumenthal, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2013.

Earl W. Gast, of California, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Roberta S. Jacobson, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Western Hemisphere Affairs).

Elizabeth M. Cousens, of Washington, to be Representative of the United States of America on the

Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador.

Elizabeth M. Cousens, of Washington, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Wendy M. Spencer, of Florida, to be Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Gina K. Abercrombie-Winstanley, of Ohio, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Malta.

Julissa Reynoso, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay.

Robert E. Whitehead, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Togolese Republic.

Thomas Hoenig, of Missouri, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for a term of six years.

Rebecca M. Blank, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

Larry Leon Palmer, of Georgia, to be Ambassador to Barbados, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Anne Claire Richard, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Population, Refugees, and Migration).

Tara D. Sonenshine, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy.

Margaret Ann Sherry, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security.

Frederick D. Barton, of Maine, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Conflict and Stabilization Operations).

Frederick D. Barton, of Maine, to be Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization.

Jonathan Don Farrar, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Panama.

Phyllis Marie Powers, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Nicaragua.

William E. Todd, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Jacob Waller, of Delaware, to be Ambassador to the Tunisian Republic.

Nancy J. Powell, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to India.

Linda Thomas-Greenfield, of Louisiana, to be Director General of the Foreign Service.

Pamela A. White, of Maine, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Haiti.

John Christopher Stevens, of California, to be Ambassador to Libya.

Tracey Ann Jacobson, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Kosovo.

Christy L. Romero, of Virginia, to be Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program. (Prior to this action, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration.)

Jeremiah O'Hear Norton, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for the remainder of the term expiring July 15, 2013.

Kenneth Merten, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Croatia.

Mark A. Pekala, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Latvia.

Richard B. Norland, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to Georgia.

Jeffrey D. Levine, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Estonia.

4 Coast Guard nominations in the rank of admiral. (Prior to this action, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration.)

Routine lists in the Coast Guard. (Prior to this action, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration.)

Routine lists in the Foreign Service.

Pages S2272–74, S2283–85

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Patrick A. Miles, Jr., of Michigan, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Michigan for the term of four years.

Danny Chappelle Williams, Sr., of Oklahoma, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma for the term of four years.

Patrick J. Wilkerson, of Oklahoma, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Oklahoma for the term of four years.

Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, of California, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

Patricia K. Falcone, of California, to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Douglas M. Griffiths, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mozambique.

Maria Rosario Jackson, of California, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2016. **Page S2283**

Messages from the House: **Pages S2238–39**

Measures Referred: **Page S2239**

Measures Read the First Time: **Page S2239**

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| Executive Communications: | Pages S2239–41 |
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| Additional Statements: | Pages S2235–38 |
| Amendments Submitted: | Page S2272 |
| Authorities for Committees to Meet: | Page S2272 |
| Privileges of the Floor: | Page S2272 |
| Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—63) | Page S2199 |

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned, pursuant to the provisions of S. Con. Res. 38, at 6:26 p.m., until 2 p.m. on Monday, April 2, 2012 (Unless the Senate has received a message from the House of Representatives that the House has adopted S. Con. Res. 38, Adjournment Resolution. And if the Senate has received such a message, the Senate stand adjourned until 2 p.m., on Monday, April 16, 2012.) (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2283.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the Department of Agriculture, after receiving testimony from Thomas Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Frank Kendall III, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, and James N. Miller, Jr., of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Policy, who were both introduced by Senator Reed, Erin C. Conaton, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, who was introduced by Representative Hoyer, Jessica Lynn Wright, of Pennsylvania, and Katharina G. McFarland, of Virginia, both to be an Assistant Secretary, and Heidi Shyu, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army, all of the Department

of Defense, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Jerome H. Powell, of Maryland, and Jeremy C. Stein, of Massachusetts, both to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Jeremiah O'Hear Norton, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and Richard B. Berner, of Massachusetts, to be Director, Office of Financial Research, and Christy L. Romero, of Virginia, to be Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program, both of the Department of the Treasury.

SAFE AND EFFICIENT MOBILE PAYMENTS

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine developing the framework for safe and efficient mobile payments, after receiving testimony from Sandra F. Braunstein, Director, Division of Consumer and Community Affairs, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; and Kenneth C. Montgomery, First Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.

FUEL PRICE TRENDS

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine current and near-term future price expectations and trends for motor gasoline and other refined petroleum fuels, after receiving testimony from Howard Gruenspecht, Acting Administrator, U.S. Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy; Daniel Yergin, IHS Cambridge Energy Research Associates, and Frank A. Verrastro, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), both of Washington, D.C.; and Paul Horsnell, Barclays, London, United Kingdom.

NIGERIA

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on African Affairs concluded a hearing to examine Nigeria, focusing on security, governance, and trade, after receiving testimony from Johnnie Carson, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs; Sharon Cromer, Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for Africa, U.S. Agency for International Development; and Paul Marin, Regional Director, Sub-Saharan Africa, U.S. Trade and Development Agency.