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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBSTER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 21, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DANIEL WEBSTER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

CONGRESSIONAL FOSTER YOUTH SHADOW DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BASS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

First and foremost, let me say that my heart goes out to all of those in Oklahoma who experienced a terrible tragedy yesterday, and I know I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that they get everything that they need to recover.

On another note, I rise today to celebrate the second annual Congressional Foster Youth Shadow Day. Today, we are joined in the Halls of the U.S. Capitol by over 50 foster youth and alumni from across the country. They've been paired with Members of Congress as job shadows to get a behind-the-scenes look at the inner workings of the House of Representatives. The young leaders will attend hearings, join meetings, and participate in media interviews.

As we welcome these young leaders and recognize National Foster Care Month throughout the month of May, we are reminded that foster youth far too often experience traumatic incidences of abuse and neglect and are separated from their homes and siblings. Yet, even in the face of these challenges, the resiliency of foster youth remains strong.

The young foster youth here today are no different. They were selected to participate in Congressional Foster Youth Shadow Day based on their leadership and commitment to improving the lives of foster youth and families across the Nation.

Today, I'm honored to recognize and celebrate an incredible young woman with whom I have the privilege of sharing my morning. Marcelina Valenzuela is 24 years old and grew up in Los Angeles. She spent 7 years in the California foster care system. She entered foster care at birth due to drug addiction of her mother. She left foster care at age 4 only to return at age 15 because of ongoing neglect and abuse. Like far too many foster youth, she struggled with her education, sibling separation, and mental health because of the constant moving and upheaval while in foster care. Yet she was able to overcome these obstacles.

Now Marcelina actively works with organizations such as FosterClub, the National Foster Youth Action Network, and Foster Care Alumni of America to improve and reform the foster care system so that younger generations may not have to repeat the struggles and challenges that she faced.

Today, Marcelina has custody of her two younger sisters, ages 14 and 16. She's only 24. Her ultimate goal is to finish school and then build a career around improving the foster care system. In fact, she hopes to open up her own nonprofit that focuses on helping youth coming out of the juvenile justice system.

In honor of Marcelina's courage and tenacity, let us commit to doing what we can to ensure that 400,000-plus foster youth across the country have the opportunities, love, and families they deserve. As a first step, I invite my colleagues to join the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth and to cosponsor the bipartisan resolution in recognition of May as National Foster Care Month.

AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. I am back on the floor again to talk about the failed policy in Afghanistan.

This poster beside me, Mr. Speaker, is a cartoon that I got from the paper, and it says, ''CIA ATM.'' Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, The New York Times broke an article, a story that the CIA, over the last 10 years, has been giving hundreds of millions of dollars to Karzai, and I want to quote what Karzai said in that article. Karzai said he was assured that the CIA would continue delivering bags of cash—bags of cash—going to Karzai, the corrupt leader, in Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, what really makes this cartoon sad is in the background is an American soldier, and what he is thinking as Karzai is taking his cash money away from the CIA ATM machine, the solder is thinking, ''I'd like

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to make a quick withdrawal from here.''

I hope that during the debate in July on the appropriations bill dealing with the Defense Department that we will start passing amendments that say we need to stop this out-of-control spending in Afghanistan with very little accountability.

I am one that agrees with my party and some of the Democrats that we need to hold hearings on Benghazi and the Internal Revenue Service. But I have written to the leadership of the Armed Services Committee and the subcommittee chairmen asking for a hearing on this out-of-control waste in Afghanistan. Not only did the CIA acknowledge that they have been giving tens of millions of dollars in cash to Karzai for 10 years, but, Mr. Speaker, we are also authorizing $8 billion a month to go to Afghanistan. We are holding no hearings on the waste, fraud, and abuse in Afghanistan.

I hope that after we get through the appropriations process that we will start holding hearings. It's not fair to the American people that we borrow money from China to send to Karzai in Afghanistan. And, Mr. Speaker, we all know that Karzai is not going to survive. The Taliban, whom we are fighting, who are killing Americans today, will be the future leaders of Afghanistan. Every expert that I've spoken to, military and nonmilitary, has said that the Taliban, which primarily is made up of Pashtuns—that's the largest tribe of Afghanistan—in time, they will be the leaders of Afghanistan.

It is time for this Congress to wake up and join the American people. Seventy-five percent of the American people say, We want out of Afghanistan. We want to bring our troops home. We want to stop wasting money.

So, Mr. Speaker, before I close, I would also like to reiterate this cartoon. It's Karzai standing at a CIA ATM machine. He's got bags of cash down at his feet, and the little guy has a credit card that he's going to put into the machine, like we all do here in America to get money from our own accounts. But he's not getting it from his own account; he's getting it from the CIA account. And then I see this poor soldier standing behind him who's saying, ''I'd like to make a quick withdrawal from here.''

Mr. Speaker, I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God to hold in His arms those families who've given a child dying for freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan. I ask God to please bless the House and Senate, that we will do what is right in the eyes of God. I ask God to please bless the President, that he will do what is right in the eyes of God. And three times I will ask, God, please, God, please, God, please continue to bless America.

REMEMBERING THE WORDS OF HARVEY MILK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I, too, along with my colleague from California, Congresswoman BASS, express my sorrow for the victims of the terrible tragedy in Oklahoma, and I stand ready to work with my friends across the aisle to do all we can to alleviate the tragedy.

Mr. Speaker:

> Somewhere in Des Moines or San Antonio there is a young gay person who all of a sudden realizes that he or she is gay; knows that if their parents find out they will be tossed out of the house, their classmates will taunt the child, and the Anita Bryants and John Briggs are doing their part on TV. And that child has several options: staying in the closet and suicide.
>
> And then one day that child might open the paper that says, ''Homosexual elected in San Francisco,'' and there are two new options: the option is to go to California, or stay in San Antonio and fight. Two days after I was elected, I got a phone call and the voice was quite young. It was from Altoona, Pennsylvania. And the person said, ''Thanks.''
>
> And you've got to elect gay people, so that thousands upon thousands like that child know that there is hope for a better world; there is hope for a better tomorrow.
>
> Without hope, not only gays, but those who are Blacks, the Asians, the disabled, the seniors, the us's: without hope, the us's give up. I know that you can't live on hope alone, but without it, life is not worth living. And you, and you, and you, and you have got to give them hope.

□ 1010

Those words, Mr. Speaker, were spoken by Harvey Milk. It is with tremendous honor and gratitude that I enter them into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on his behalf and all of the ''us's'' in our Nation.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN AND SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, there's good news in our pursuit of a repository to hold our Nation's spent nuclear fuel and nuclear waste, although it went largely unreported.

Officials from both the Department of Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission have publicly admitted that neither agency has identified any technical issues that would prevent us from being able to develop a safe repository at Yucca Mountain in Nevada. This admission came during a recent hearing before the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee in response to a question from my friend and colleague, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, the subcommittee chairman.

To stakeholders in the nuclear waste debate, this fact should come as no surprise. Why else would Greg Jaczko, Senator REID's former staffer, abuse his authority as NRC chairman and deceive his Commission colleagues to scuttle publication of the agency's safety review?

If Yucca Mountain were as scientifically flawed as Senator REID says it is, then he would have benefited by having the agency's conclusions released publicly. Instead, Senator REID got a promise from President Obama to shut down the program.

President Obama obliged, with no basis other than the cryptic statements about Yucca Mountain being ''unworkable.'' Meanwhile, Senator REID's protege, Mr. Jaczko, made sure the NRC's independent technical conclusions never saw the light of day.

These actions have been challenged in court. The State attorneys general for both Washington and South Carolina, together with the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, Aiken County, South Carolina, and Nye County, Nevada, have all alleged that the NRC has violated the Nuclear Waste Policy Act by ceasing its review of the Yucca Mountain license application, which is mandated under the law. The case is currently before the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals.

When President Obama took office, he said that this administration would ''restore scientific integrity in government decisionmaking.''

Shortly after taking office, he issued a Presidential Memorandum stating:

> Political officials should not suppress or alter scientific or technological findings and conclusions. If scientific and technological information is developed and used by the Federal Government, it should ordinarily be made available to the public.
>
> Except for information that is properly restricted from disclosure, each agency should make available to the public the scientific and technical findings or conclusions considered or relied upon in policy decisions.
>
> The public must be confident that public officials will not conceal or distort the scientific findings that are relevant to policy choices.

He reaffirmed these statements recently when addressing the National Academies of Science:

> In all the sciences, we've got to make sure that we are supporting the idea that they're not subject to politics, that they're not skewed by an agenda, that, as I said before, we make sure that we go where the evidence leads us.

Mr. Speaker, I find it very difficult to reconcile these pronouncements with the Yucca Mountain situation as it stands today. Electricity consumers and taxpayers have invested $15 billion to find a safe disposal site for our Nation's civilian spent fuel and the nuclear waste left over from the Cold War. After investing 30 years and $15 billion in Yucca Mountain, they deserve, at a minimum, for the independent nuclear safety regulator, the NRC, to release its conclusions on whether the site is safe or not.

Given the admissions from these DOE and NRC officials, it appears we have found a safe solution to our Nation's nuclear waste problem: Yucca Mountain. The bad news is that this administration would rather play politics

than solve the problem. Transparency and scientific integrity should not be debased into political buzz words easily cast aside for the sake of political favors.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve better. They deserve to know the truth about Yucca Mountain. It's outrageous that they must go to court to get it.

PUT ASIDE POLITICS FOR DISASTER RELIEF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, our hearts go out to the people of Oklahoma and our colleague, Representative TOM COLE, whose district has been devastated by the latest catastrophe that has befallen our country.

I recall the great courage of TOM COLE on this floor and in his conference, putting aside politics and ideology and voting for relief after Hurricane Sandy. As the death toll rises and the search and rescue valiantly continues, let us not just offer our prayers, as much as they are needed and welcomed, but let us act as united citizens and send, with all due speed, relief for the people of Oklahoma.

Disasters and tragedies should never be about ideology or politics or geographic locale. When Americans are in need of help, this Congress needs to respond. That is who we are as a people. That's what leads us to become a more perfect union.

Any American befallen by tragedy or national disaster needs the assistance of their Nation and their fellow Americans. Let us act in this Congress before we leave. Before we go on an extended break, let us take action on behalf of the citizens of Oklahoma.

Let us put aside and let us damn politics and ideology and act on behalf of the American people and these people of Oklahoma who are enduring so much through this natural disaster.

God bless America.

HONORING THE 200TH-PLUS ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEATACK COMMUNITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. RIGELL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, this morning I consider it a joy and really a special privilege to rise today to honor the 200th-plus anniversary of the Seatack community, the oldest African American community in the United States.

The community, named for the sea attack of the coast by the British Navy, is a stalwart in Hampton Roads, steadfastly protecting civil rights and promoting the African American community. Throughout its proud history, the Seatack community has stood for doing what is right in the face of adversity.

Going back to the early 1800s, Seatack fishermen braved the rough waters of the Atlantic to save the passengers of a ship that had wrecked off the coast. The men of Seatack have fought in every major American war, including serving as air raid wardens in World War II to protect the citizens of Virginia Beach from potential airstrikes.

And when the Seatack community needed a fire department, the Seatack veterans from World War II came together to build the first fire department owned and operated by African Americans.

Even in its early days, Mr. Speaker, Seatack has shown a commitment to educating its youth. In 1908, Seatack parents formed their first school at Mount Olive Baptist Church, and a few years later formed the Seatack Public School League. Later, the community provided the land for the Seatack Elementary School. And today, Seatack continues its commitment to education by providing funding for college students.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to represent this amazing community within my district. Their continuous hard work to promote education, civil rights, and a safe Hampton Roads community is nothing short of admirable.

□ 1020

In October 2011 and October 2012, the community celebrated 200-plus years of being a vibrant, active, engaged, and historical community. Thanks to the contributions of the community historian, whom I have gotten to know and greatly respect, Sadie Shaw, a preeminent holder of all the history of the wonderful community, because of her and so many others, the legacy of the historical community of Seatack will continue to be perpetuated for generations to come.

I congratulate them as the legacy continues. We ask that God continue to bless that wonderful community and this wonderful country that we're privileged to live in.

EXTENDING SYMPATHY TO THE PEOPLE OF OKLAHOMA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it's with great sadness that I rise today to extend sympathy to the people of Oklahoma, and especially to our colleague, Congressman COLE, and his constituents who have been affected by the tornado. We just heard our President talk about how our prayers and our deeds are with the people of the community. We also just heard Mr. LARSON talk about our acting immediately to provide the assistance to the people there; and to the extent that Congress can act quickly upon that, we should.

We've seen natural disasters come and go. They're all terrible. The loss of life is tragic, as well as the loss of homes and belongings. It's very hard to see how people can be made whole, but we are always hopeful that they will be. People say, Where do you find hope in a situation like that? It sits there comfortably between faith—we believe, and therefore we have hope—and the charity of others, that we can work together to come through this.

Whether it's earthquakes in California, storms in the Northeast, or hurricanes in the South, like Katrina, it's always tragic. There's something especially deeply saddening about what happened in Oklahoma City. It reminded me immediately of something that I carry in my heart.

I went to Italy as a representative of President Carter in 1980. It was a congressional delegation to deliver U.S. assistance following an earthquake in southern Italy. In one small town in the mountains that we visited, the roof of the church collapsed. And what was tragic about it that resembles what happened in Oklahoma is that in that church that day was the first grade. They were practicing for First Holy Communion. So every 7-year-old child in that village was a casualty. Every one died.

And so when there's loss of life, of course, it's always tragic. Everyone is a valuable life. But when every 7-year-old in the village dies, it just does something to your psyche. It's so sad. You grieve so deeply. It's so hard to console people. And it's sad to see what happened to the school in Oklahoma City. Twenty little children lost their lives, each one of them precious, all of them the future of the community. How deep the grief must be there. We must try to help wipe the tears away from that community. So many little children.

It was a beautiful sight to see the first responders trying to dig people out—and successfully. There was a picture today of a little boy pulled out from the rubble. Teachers made a valiant effort to cover children so that falling debris did not harm those who were still alive. And so whether it was first responders or teachers or families, it was a community coming together. This community has suffered a great loss of lives, a horrible loss of homes. What was a home became debris in a matter of minutes.

And so I hope that we all know what our responsibility is, because these children are America's children. Those that died have such an impact on the community. We must all appreciate the depth of the grief, the depth of the tragedy that has befallen. I'll never, ever forget the desperate look in the eyes of the people in the village of the mountains of Italy. As I said, we're always hopeful through prayer, which gives us strength; faith, which gives us hope; and the charity of others, which helps us to go forward.

So I hope it is a comfort to the people of the region that their loss is one

that is shared and mourned by our entire country, definitely in this Congress of the United States, and across the world. Whatever is in our power to be helpful to them, we will do—and we will do it quickly. Most importantly, they will always and ever be in our prayers.

GIVE US THEIR NAMES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, one of the most disturbing aspects of the unfolding scandal involving the misuse of the IRS is what can only be described as an insatiable appetite for names, names, and more names.

Conservative groups—and only conservative groups—seeking to organize under section 501 were subjected to pages of intrusive and irrelevant questions but with a common theme: give us their names. Give us the names of your volunteers. Give us the names of your donors and your family members and your business associates. Give us the names of speakers and audience participants in your meetings.

One man applying to form a group to educate teenagers in constitutional principles was told to turn over the names of his students. As he told a reporter, Can you imagine my responsibility to parents if I disclosed the names of their children to the IRS?

This tactic was not limited to new applications. The venerable Leadership Institute, which has been schooling young people in constitutional principles for 40 years, was put through a year-long audit. The IRS wasn't only interested in financial information, they wanted the names of the students and their college interns and the names of anyone who had subsequently hired these young people. And when the IRS wasn't demanding the names of ordinary Americans or asking what they were reading or thinking or saying, in some cases applicants were given names and told to reveal what they knew about these people.

Mr. Speaker, these are facts that are undisputed by the administration and its apologists. For a period of more than 2 years, these questions were put to Americans whose political opinions had been singled out by one of the most powerful and feared agencies of the Federal Government.

What I would like to know is why? Why did the IRS demand lists of names of thousands of Americans whose only common characteristic is that they disagreed with this administration? Where are these lists now? With whom were they shared? Who wanted to know these names? What possible use would the IRS have to track the names of high school students who simply wanted to learn about their Constitution? But most importantly, what were these names used for and what are they being used for?

I don't have an answer to these questions, but I find their implications deeply disturbing; and they must be answered during the course of the investigations now underway, and they must be answered in full and with certainty.

□ 1030

I cannot conceive of the reasons why the Federal Government would be so interested in compiling such lists; but we know for a fact that they were, and that fact is undisputed. What we don't know is why; and knowing the answer to that question and the other questions raised by this undisputed fact is absolutely essential to a society that values its freedom of speech, its freedom of assembly, its freedom of press, and its freedom of conscience.

We know the ancillary effect of these illegal demands. They dried up donations to these conservative groups. They heavily suppressed volunteer activities. We know some lists were leaked to liberal publications like The Huffington Post and ProPublica. What we don't know is what was the direct purpose of gathering these names.

The administration's spokesman this weekend said the law is irrelevant and called it a distraction. Well, on the contrary, this strikes at the very foundation of a free society, the rule of law, and the right of the people to question the policies of their government without fear of retribution or intimidation.

Seventy-five years ago, Winston Churchill warned of a ''state of society where men may not speak their minds, where children denounced their parents to the police, where a businessman or small shopkeeper ruins his competitor by telling tales about his private opinions.''

If it is possible that we have taken even a single step down the road that leads to such places, then that situation should occupy our full and undistracted attention until it is fully and completely rectified, new safeguards are erected against its recurrence, and those responsible are held fully accountable.

MAXIMIZING OPTIMAL MATERNITY SERVICES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to challenge my colleagues to make optimal maternity outcomes a priority in our country.

Tragically, childbirth in this wealthiest of nations has significantly greater risks for mothers and babies when compared to almost all other developed nations.

In the U.S., more than two women die every day from pregnancy-related causes, and more than one-third of all women who give birth experience some type of complication with an adverse effect on their health. These tragedies are most often found in communities of color.

Regrettably, mothers aren't the only victims of our maternity care system. Sadly, out of every 1,000 babies born in the United States, nearly seven babies die. Particularly disturbing is that since 1991, premature birth—the leading cause of low birth rate and infant mortality—has actually increased in our country by more than 30 percent. Adding to this concern is that the U.S. spends more than double of any country in the world on maternity care and still ranks far behind most developed countries in maternal and infant outcomes. Clearly, something must be done to protect mothers and babies.

While it is important to continue studying the causes, we already know many factors that contribute to poor birth outcomes and to high costs. One well-established factor is that current U.S. medical practice does not follow the vast body of research that exists on the best evidence-based maternity care. This includes the research of credible studies showing that multiple noninvasive maternity practices can produce considerable improvement in birth outcomes without detrimental side effects to mother or baby.

Two examples of these noninvasive and relatively simple practices significantly underused during pregnancy are group models of prenatal care and smoking cessation programs. Unfortunately, the U.S. also has a widespread overuse of Cesarean sections and scheduled inductions. The overuse of these practices, which are beneficial only in limited situations, has been associated with complications that jeopardize the health of mother and baby and with longer hospital stays and multiple costly procedures.

These tragically poor childbirth outcomes and high costs must no longer be tolerated in our country. Therefore, this week I am introducing the Maximizing Optimal Maternity Services for the 21st Century Act, better known as the MOMS Act. This bill will create a coordinating committee to ensure that Federal agencies are on the same page in promoting the best evidence-based maternity practices in their programs. And it will facilitate across maternity professions collaboration in the education of a diverse maternity care workforce. In addition, the MOMS Act authorizes grant programs for professional organizations to recruit and retain minority maternity care providers.

The MOMS Act also establishes an online database to make available the best evidence-based maternity care information to women and families, and it authorizes a consumer education campaign focused on how to achieve the healthiest maternity outcomes.

The MOMS for the 21st Century Act further expands research on the best maternity practices and on the identification of the geographic areas that lack adequate maternity health care providers.

Mr. Speaker, we can and must do better for our mothers and newborns. As a country, we must reach beyond our self-imposed boundaries and embrace a cost-effective, evidence-based model of maternity care that reflects our values and saves the lives of mothers and babies.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort by cosponsoring and helping to pass the MOMS for the 21st Century Act.

HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, there are probably very few issues that touch Americans, families, our States, and small businesses more personally than health care.

This House has dealt numerous times with addressing the Affordable Care Act. But when we talk about it on that very personal level—of a mom taking a sick child down to visit the doctor, to a senior citizen who's counting on that hospital being able to be there, to be able to deliver the care that they need—we need to recognize that the overarching view that Washington typically performs when passing a bill and delivering it to the American people, that it has very real consequences, very real impacts.

In my district in rural Colorado—and in fact throughout rural America—there is a looming health care crisis that is just on the horizon. That ability to be able to go to the doctor, to be able to have a hospital that's going to be there to be able to provide the service that's necessary—they're feeling that real impact right now at home.

We've had a lot of discussion about that big, overarching bill: the IPAB boards that are going to be making the medical choices for our senior citizens—indeed for all Americans—rather than that choice being made between the doctor and the patient; about the State mandates that are coming through; the Medicare payment cuts; higher health costs; the budget that is now going to be estimated at $1.76 trillion in costs over a 10-year period, and rising, on a struggling American economy, on struggling families and small businesses; the 150 new boards that are being established; the better than 12,000 pages of new regulations that our hospitals, our doctors, and our families are going to have to be dealing with; and the short form, to simply be able to fill out and be able to apply for the Affordable Care Act, 21 pages just to be able to get insurance.

We need, Mr. Speaker, to be talking about those real impacts, not from the 30,000-foot view, but on the ground at home.

I recently went to Delta Memorial Hospital in my district, a small community hospital that's proud of their service. In fact, they've had multiple surveys that went through and rated their service among the best. They are now being challenged by the Affordable Care Act in terms of that health care delivery.

They have a program called the Recovery Audit Contracts conducted by individual companies that don't even have to have health care background, but they're going back in and reassessing costs. And they're having to pay back money now, money that they simply do not have.

We're seeing reimbursements to doctors drop at Delta Memorial Hospital, making it harder for the physicians to be able to deliver that service.

These are small hospitals. They don't have big HR departments; they're there for the health of the community. But they are seeing real challenges in being able to continue. In fact, in many of our rural hospitals, they're beginning to wonder if they're going to be able to continue to deliver that service.

□ 1040

I've talked to doctors in Delta, Montrose, Grand Junction, Pueblo, throughout my entire district, who are frustrated that they are now seeing their reimbursements—money that they need to have to be able to conduct their business—being cut by the Federal Government, the Federal Government determining what the value of that service is going to be and saying you can afford it. That's not real life.

What we are seeing now are senior citizens who just became senior citizens by the virtue of a birthday over the last few months, they cannot find a doctor who is willing to take Medicare, simply because they can no longer afford it.

We have a system, Mr. Speaker, that completely forgot the original premise that every American, I believe, can agree on. We need to have real reform, but we need to go back to that initial premise of affordability and accessibility. The Affordable Care Act fails on both levels.

We are seeing right now, in my home State of Colorado, estimates for individual insurance policies this year are going to go up an estimated 23 percent or more. Small businesses, who are trying to provide group insurance, are seeing their costs going up this year estimated better than 17 percent.

Have we achieved more affordability, as was promised? We have not.

When we are talking about that accessibility issue, when that senior citizen in Delta, Colorado, walks into a doctor's office and is told that they aren't accepting any new patients, are we achieving that accessibility? We are not.

Mr. Speaker, we need to go back to that original premise, because so many small businesses right now that would like to be able to deliver that service are feeling the impact. I have a friend who owns several small Pizza Huts throughout the West, and she is dealing with those additional costs that are hurting her business and her ability to be able to deliver that real service for her employees.

We have a challenge in this country, Mr. Speaker, and it can and will be addressed if we will go back to that original premise of affordability and accessibility. The Affordable Care Act fails on both points.

Let's roll up our sleeves and get the job done for the American people.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 42 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Pastor Mark Turner, South Valley Community Church, Gilroy, California, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, what an incredible honor it must be for these men and women gathered in this Chamber today to represent the entire population of this country. I pray that they would not only feel the magnitude of this responsibility, but that You would give them the strength of character to carry out that responsibility in an honorable and Christ-like way.

I pray, too, for the guardians of freedom on duty today all around the globe, the men and women of our Armed Forces. May You sustain them and keep them safe. May we as a Nation never forget the tremendous sacrifice they have made on our behalf to ensure our freedom and democracy.

May it be upon these Members of this House that the lantern of hope and the light of liberty continue to burn bright in this land we call America.

Finally, Lord, it is with heavy hearts that we stand here today, each one of us assembled in this Chamber pray for the families in Oklahoma who have been affected by the devastating tornado that struck yesterday. Comfort those who have lost loved ones, strengthen rescue workers and emergency personnel, and may neighbor reach out to neighbor to assist in the healing and rebuilding process.

As the eyes of the world are upon the residents of Oklahoma, let them demonstrate dependence upon You and help them to display the resilience, the resolve, and the American spirit that made their State and this Nation so great.

We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING PASTOR MARK TURNER

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to introduce Pastor Mark Turner of South Valley Community Church in Gilroy, California, as our guest who delivered this morning's opening prayer.

Over a decade ago, Pastor Turner left his career to answer a higher calling to serve his fellow persons in the ministry. In serving others, Pastor Turner has become a respected leader in our community, making a difference in people's everyday lives.

Working with local partners and businesses, Pastor Turner and hundreds of volunteers serve our community through outreach projects that feed children, seniors, and underprivileged residents. They help local children through programs that encourage them to be active and strive for success, and they bring compassion and services to people in need.

Answering a call to serve something larger than one's self is a trait we deeply admire and value as Americans. So it is a pleasure to welcome Pastor Turner to our Nation's Capitol today and to thank him for his service to our community and our country.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEADOWS). The Chair will entertain 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HOLDING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE

(Mr. BOEHNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, our hearts go out today to those in Oklahoma who are suffering as a result of this storm. I've asked that the flags here in the Capitol complex be lowered to half staff in honor of the victims of this terrible tragedy.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, this House is going to continue to be focused on the issue of jobs. It's the number one issue of concern to our fellow citizens. We're going to continue to be focused on the things that get in the way of job creation in our country.

Most notably, this week we will work on trying to get the Keystone pipeline approved that will create some 20,000 direct jobs and over 100,000 indirect jobs, and trying to make sure that those who have student loans won't see their interest rates double. That will be the work of the House this week.

But in addition to that, we have a responsibility to the American people to provide oversight of the executive branch. I think Americans understand and my colleagues understand that the American people deserve the truth. Whether it's Benghazi, whether it's the IRS, whether it's the Justice Department investigating journalists, the Congress of the United States and the American people need to know what the truth is—to hold this administration accountable.

Those of us in public office understand that our job is to serve the American people, and not the other way around.

SEQUESTRATION EFFECTS IN PENNSYLVANIA

(Mr. CARTWRIGHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, over the past few weeks, newspapers in my district in Pennsylvania have reported that local housing authorities are facing a ''nightmare'' due to sequestration cuts in HUD, the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Mr. Speaker, fewer people are going to be able to access housing as a result of this Congress' nightmare policies.

In Northampton County, Pennsylvania, alone, 85 people are going to have to leave the section 8 voucher program through turnover or there will be evictions. In Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, 900 people will be removed from the program's waiting list.

Our social safety net is disappearing. And what happens if these people fall into homelessness? According to HUD, the annual cost of a shelter bed funded by the Emergency Shelter Grants program is approximately $8,067 more than the average annual cost of a section 8 voucher. This Congress is being penny-wise and pound-foolish.

HONORING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JEFFREY BAKER

(Mr. CRAWFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, last week, the EOD community lost one of its best and brightest. Sergeant First Class Jeffrey Baker was killed 1 week ago today in an IED explosion that killed four of his fellow soldiers and injured multiple others. Sergeant First Class Baker was assigned to the 766th EOD Company out of Fort Stewart, Georgia, and was serving in Sanjaray, Afghanistan, at the time of his death.

EOD soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines are the preeminent explosive experts in our Armed Forces. Our joint EOD forces lead the fight against the use of IEDs and protect their fellow servicemembers and our interests both at home and abroad.

Too often, the lives of these brave men and women are claimed by the very devices they are trained to neutralize. Sergeant First Class Baker gave his life along with four of his fellow soldiers in defense of our freedoms. It's important that we honor their sacrifice and the sacrifices of those who came before them.

Next week, as the Nation honors the veterans who have given their lives for this country, it's important that we take time to recognize the risks our troops take on our behalf every day and the need to support our veterans and their families.

Jeffrey Baker was from Hesperia, California, and was just 29 years old. He is survived by his wife and his young daughter. My thoughts and prayers are with Jeffrey's entire family, the families of his fellow soldiers who were killed, and the soldiers recovering from the blast.

God bless our Armed Forces, and God bless America.

WELCOMING LONGABERGER POTTERY BACK TO U.S.

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Democrats' Make It In America Working Group, I was pleased to attend a ceremony yesterday welcoming Longaberger Pottery to Niagara Ceramics Corporation in Buffalo.

In 2005, Longaberger moved its production line to China. Its return will create 22 American jobs. Under CEO Tammy Longaberger, this fifth-generation family business manufactures in the true American artisan tradition.

This story is further evidence that we are approaching what the writer Charles Fishman calls ''the insourcing boom.'' American companies are reconsidering their decisions to move operations overseas. The issues of rising transportation costs, quality control, and the productivity of American workers is driving this trend. Congress should be working to ensure the new trend becomes a sustainable, large-scale movement.

And austerity is exactly the wrong response. We should be investing in our infrastructure, in education, and in science. We should adopt the House

Democrats' Make It In America agenda, including legislation that replaces tax breaks for moving jobs overseas with incentives for bringing them home.

□ 1210

LANCE CORPORAL JOSHUA C. TAYLOR MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

(Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce legislation I introduced that will designate the post office in Marietta, Ohio, as the Lance Corporal Joshua C. Taylor Memorial Post Office Building.

Lance Corporal Joshua Taylor is a true American hero who lost his life on March 18 in an explosion during a training exercise at the Hawthorne Army Depot in Nevada.

From an early age, Josh had dreamed of serving his country and becoming a marine. He entered the Marine Corps upon graduating from Marietta High School in 2010. After basic training, Josh was stationed in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and specialized in mortar weaponry. He honorably served tours of duty in Afghanistan and Kuwait.

In addition to being a dedicated marine, Josh was an exceptional individual. He will be remembered for his gentle spirit, unfailing love, and his love for his family.

Dedicating the Marietta Post Office for Josh Taylor serves as a small tribute to honor and remember the life of a remarkable young man and the sacrifice he made for America.

BUDGET AND SEQUESTER

(Ms. FUDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, our economy is improving, the national debt is going down faster than expected, and yet sequestration is still in effect and causing real and long-reaching harm in our communities. Republicans appear prepared to sacrifice our country's economic growth, sacrifice job creation, in favor of sequester cuts.

What happened to the Members on the other side all the last term asking, ''Where are the jobs?'' Now I'm asking, Where are the jobs?

Mr. Speaker, the sequester is slashing jobs, cutting education, and starving research. All this happens while my counterparts feel comfortable to stand idly by instead of appointing conferees to work out the differences between the House and Senate budget proposals and coming up with a plan that grows the economy and responsibly reduces the deficit.

The American people need Congress to act in a big way, and we need to act now.

IRS SCANDAL

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, to my colleague who just spoke, I say she's going to have an opportunity with voting on the Keystone XL bill to address the jobs issue this week.

But let me talk about this most recent IRS scandal. I have a local, well-respected attorney named Tad Armstrong in my district, who founded the Constitution study group called Earn It, Learn It or Lose It.

He applied for a tax-exempt status in August of 2010. In October of 2010, Cincinnati headquarters called with a lot of questions. It wasn't until October of 2011 that he received an 11-page rejection letter.

He hired an accountant to try to appeal. He told the accountant that his appeal was probably denied because he was teaching about the Constitution. She laughed at that. But after this most recent IRS story broke, she called back and said, ''My goodness, you are right.''

I quote Tad in saying: ''Here you have Jay Carney saying the President is a staunch defender of the First Amendment. I can't help but be reminded several times the President saying the Constitution is outdated and gets in his way.''

PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

(Mr. O'ROURKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, in 1962, President Kennedy established Peace Officers Memorial Day to honor the sacrifices made by officers who died in the line of duty.

Last week, during this year's Peace Officers Memorial Day, I was privileged to meet Elisa and Miguel Garcia, who recently lost their first-born son, El Paso Police Officer Angel David Garcia. It was Officer Garcia's lifelong dream to serve our Nation in the city of El Paso, a dream he pursued with enthusiasm and dedication. Tragically, only 9 months after he joined the force, Officer Garcia was killed while on patrol this last December.

Officer Garcia dedicated his life to making El Paso and our Nation a better and safer place. He was both a Marine reservist and a patrol officer with the El Paso Police Department, and he was a loving older brother to his sister, Allyson, and to his brother, Mickey.

Angel Garcia's selfless service serves as an example to all of us. On behalf of all El Pasoans, I thank Officer Garcia and all those who serve our communities in law enforcement. Our community is proud to remember him as one of our finest.

MORE AMERICAN ENERGY MEANS MORE AMERICAN JOBS

(Ms. JENKINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, the President seems to be getting a lot of information from the news rather than from his own administration lately. He says he was unaware of the IRS targeting conservatives, unaware of the Department of Justice seizing reporters' phone records, and unaware of the HHS Secretary fundraising for ObamaCare until he saw it on the news.

The next story the President should read will be about our bipartisan solution to create jobs and greater energy security for America—the Keystone XL pipeline. It really is incomprehensible that the President, after 1,700 days, would continue to stand in the way of the largest shovel-ready project in this country.

It's really this simple: more American energy means more American jobs. With millions of hardworking Americans out of work, gas prices skyrocketing, and China outcompeting the United States for access to Canada's oil supply, we need the Keystone XL pipeline.

It is time to put hardworking American families ahead of politics and focus on real solutions.

OKLAHOMA TORNADO

(Ms. GABBARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my constituents in the State of Hawaii as we all express our deepest condolences to those who have been impacted by the horrific tornado that hit Oklahoma yesterday. The destruction has been absolutely heartbreaking, and there really are no words that can adequately provide comfort during a time like this.

However, it is important for all of us to send a message of solidarity to those who have lost their loved ones, who have lost their children, lost their homes, and those who are still searching for their children, family, and friends in the rubble. Know that your country stands with you, your country grieves with you, and we are committed to doing what it takes to make sure that you have the support to rebuild.

The strength of our Nation lies in our unity, especially in these times of great need. Now is the time, as we go about our business here in the people's House, where we must stand as one, united to help our brothers and sisters in Oklahoma, provide them with assistance, prayers, and support as their recovery and rebuilding process begins.

□ 1220

GETTING AMERICANS BACK TO WORK

(Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. I rise today because I want to get Americans back to work.

When I was a little girl on the farm in Kettle Falls, Washington, my parents used to tell me, ''Cathy, life isn't always fair.''

But, you see, the difference was the things that weren't fair were outside of my control. Years later, we have a President who likes to talk a lot about fairness, but what he fails to mention is what isn't fair.

It isn't fair that this administration continues to make life harder for Americans all across this country—whether it's paying the bills at the end of the month, higher health care costs, higher gas prices, or an economy that's struggling with the smallest workforce participation rate since 1979. It is unfair for Washington to continue down a path that isn't working.

This week, we are voting to clear the way for the Keystone pipeline. It will create at least 20,000 new jobs from construction alone. It's just one piece of a true all-of-the-above energy plan. Keystone will put people back to work immediately while reducing our dependence on foreign oil and adding billions of dollars to our economy.

It is time for the President to stop talking about fairness and to actually start supporting it, and he can start by signing the Keystone project into law and get Americans to work all across this country.

CLIMATE CHANGE

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the growing threats that climate change poses to public health.

Increasingly, severe and frequent weather events and heat waves not only threaten people's health and safety but also jeopardize our food crop production and the availability of clean drinking water. Foodborne illnesses, asthma, and cardiovascular disease are expected to worsen in a changing climate.

Despite these anticipated impacts, however, most American health professionals do not have the tools they need to prepare for the changing needs of their patients, and climate change's threats to human health will only escalate with every day that we fail to take action.

That's why last week I reintroduced the Climate Change Health Protection and Promotion Act, which will help health professionals prepare for and respond to the public health impacts of climate change.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot continue to turn a blind eye to the impacts of climate change, especially when it comes to the health of our friends, our neighbors, and our families. I hope we can work together to pass this and other commonsense measures to address the critical issue of changes to our climate.

GETTING RICH OFF MEDICARE

(Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, some people and companies are getting rich off Medicare.

Washington Post columnist Charles Lane wrote about power wheelchair suppliers who are reimbursed as much as $5,000 for a basic chair that costs them $700 and sells at ordinary retail for $2,500.

In addition, hospitals are charging wildly varying prices for the same procedures. George Washington University Hospital averages $115,000 for a patient on a ventilator while Providence Hospital in the same city averages $53,000 for the same service. In St. Augustine, Florida, one hospital typically billed $40,000 to remove a gallbladder, using minimally invasive surgery, and another hospital in Orange Park, Florida, charged $91,000. In one hospital in Dallas, the average bill for treating ordinary pneumonia was $14,610 while another charged $48,000.

I do not want to see one poor person denied any necessary medical treatment. However, we should not treat Medicare and Medicaid as holy and untouchable and allow many hospitals, medical providers, and suppliers to get filthy rich off government medicine.

LET'S PUT AMERICA TO WORK

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. I rise today to once again urge House leadership and the majority party in the House to refocus on what should be our top priority—jobs and the long-term economic stability of our Nation.

Each day, we report to our constituents that economic growth and putting Americans back to work is job one in Congress; yet very rarely does our agenda reflect that priority in this House. In fact, the request to name conferees to complete the budget process to grow jobs and grow the economy doesn't get heeded over and over again.

We are putting more and more people to work each month, but I have no doubt that we can do better. As I talk to neighbors and friends back home, unemployment remains their top concern. Instead, many in this Chamber are plotting to take the debt ceiling hostage. We already know the dire consequences from that act.

The bottom line is this: jobs and economic growth are our constituents' top concerns, and they should be ours as well. We can and must do better. Let's put America to work.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

(Mrs. BACHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great joy that I have shadowing me today a girl named Desirae, and she is with me as a foster child. It was one of the greatest honors of my life to serve as a foster mother to 23 great kids. May is Foster Care Month. There are 400,000 children in the United States who need a foster parent. We need more foster parents.

She and I have been talking about the news of the day so far. We talked about the tragedy in Oklahoma and how our former colleague, now-Governor Mary Fallin, is working so beautifully, together with the staff in Oklahoma, to meet the needs of the tragedy that is occurring. We talked about gas prices being $4.30 a gallon and how building the Keystone pipeline will provide new jobs.

Foster children need love. They need stability. They need to be a part of the fabric of this Nation. Let's make them a priority in this country.

THE DISTURBING SILENCE TO THE SEQUESTER

(Ms. MENG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MENG. To me, what has been more shocking than the sequester, itself, has been the response to it, or lack thereof, on the part of House leadership.

Are they listening to those on our streets and in our neighborhoods? Maybe the country is simply numbed by its repugnance of this Congress and the last.

The sequester harms the American people, particularly the middle class and our children. My district in Queens, New York, is decidedly and truly middle class; and every day constituents tell me how the sequester is hurting their families and their futures. It will cost America over 750,000 jobs this year, including police, firefighters, public defenders, and border agents.

We need to come to a compromise on a real spending plan that will increase revenue rather than slashing critical programs. The American people need us to speak up for our priorities and our values. The silence is disturbing. The sequester is not okay.

THE IRS SCANDAL

(Mr. HOLDING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLDING. The deliberate targeting of conservative groups by the IRS is inexcusable, and it raises serious red flags about the agency's abuse of power.

Mr. Speaker, what we see here is an institutional arrogance within the IRS. The American people should be able to trust that the agency responsible for collecting their hard-earned tax dollars will not discriminate against them based on their values or political views. While the Obama administration would have us believe that the IRS' targeting of conservative groups was the result of an increase in the number of nonprofit applications, the data clearly reveal this to be simply untrue.

As if the targeting of conservative groups weren't bad enough, the IRS will also soon become the enforcer of ObamaCare—with the very same person previously in charge of the tax-exempt division at the IRS now in charge of the ObamaCare enforcement division.

Mr. Speaker, we need accountability from this agency and this administration. The American people demand it.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in recent history, Congress has a real opportunity to pass comprehensive legislation to fix our broken immigration system.

Legislation being backed by a bipartisan group of Senators has done what many previous proposals have failed to do, and that is to gain broad support and to balance the needs of all of the interests of our country. I have been working closely with Members on both sides of the aisle in the House and in the Senate and with agricultural organizations and farm workers to make sure that the concerns of California's agricultural communities are met. The Senate's plan provides a legal and stable workforce for agricultural and critical protections for those who work very hard every day to put safe, healthy food on our Nation's dinner tables. Without these provisions, it would have been a deal-breaker for our valley.

Naysayers might say it's time to wait, but that's motivated simply by political interests, not reality. It's time for immigration reform now. It's time for the House to act and to come together. It's time to pass this bipartisan effort to fix America's broken immigration system.

□ 1230

THE KEYSTONE PIPELINE

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, it's been almost 5 years since the application to build the Keystone XL pipeline was filed. It's also been almost 5 years that Americans have been waiting for the jobs and energy security Keystone would provide. How much longer will President Obama make us wait?

American families expect our government to pursue the least expensive, most reliable domestic energy. Jobless Americans expect that their President won't stand in the way of economic relief. But on both fronts, President Obama's choice to cede to environmental special interests and block the Keystone pipeline in 2011 did the opposite. It denied thousands of jobless Americans the chance at high-paying work and blocked a direct connection between refineries in Texas and affordable energy in Canada.

But what's more audacious about the President's economically indefensible action is the fact that it is groundless. The President's own State Department concluded ''no significant'' environmental damage would be caused by Keystone's completion.

The Keystone pipeline has jobs to offer. Why is the President turning those jobs away?

JOBS, JOBS, JOBS

(Ms. WILSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it's now been 870 days since I arrived in Congress, and the Republican leadership has still not allowed a single vote on serious legislation to address our unemployment crisis.

Mr. Speaker, this is not an exaggeration to say that unemployment is a matter of life and death. In a new study, researchers at Oxford and Stanford found that approximately 4,750 suicides in the United States between 2007 and 2010 were attributed to unemployment.

Now here in America, the sequester is slated to cut billions in nutrition subsidies, medical research, cancer clinics, low-income heating, and other lifesaving services. If we continue to cut jobs because of the sequester, Mr. Speaker, the facts are clear: the sequester kills.

Mr. Speaker, it's time to bring H.R. 900, the Cancel the Sequester Act, to the floor for a vote. It is time to turn our attention back to jobs with the President's American Jobs Act.

Our mantra, Mr. Speaker, should be: job, jobs, jobs.

AMERICAN ENERGY PRODUCTION

(Mr. MILLER of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, our economy continues to struggle, with nearly 12 million of our fellow Americans remaining out of work. Why, then, does the President still insist on standing in the way of creating new jobs by expanding America's energy sector by using all of our valuable resources—water, wind, solar, gas, and oil?

More American energy production would create jobs and grow our economy, in addition to lowering energy costs for hardworking Americans and strengthening our national security. These are the kind of goals that all Americans, Republican and Democrat, should be able to get behind.

But this President is clearly not serious about creating new jobs. He still has refused to approve the Keystone pipeline which would create 20,000 new jobs in America right away. It's been over 1,700 days. We've waited long enough. It's time to build the pipeline. It's time to create jobs.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

MAY 21, 2013.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, The Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 21, 2013 at 9:45 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 309.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

IMPROVING JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1412) to improve and increase the availability of on-job training and apprenticeship programs carried out by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1412

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Improving Job Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. AUTHORITY TO INCREASE AVAILABILITY OF PRIVATE SECTOR ON-JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS.

During the four-year period beginning on the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out section 3677(b)(1)(A) of title 38, United States Code, by substituting ''75 per centum'' for ''85 per centum''.

SEC. 3. ON-JOB TRAINING AT FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.

Beginning on the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall enter into agreements with the heads of other Federal departments and agencies to operate programs of training on the job under section 3677 of title 38, United States Code, to train eligible veterans or persons to perform skills necessary for employment by the department or agency operating the program.

SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF REDUCED PENSION FOR CERTAIN VETERANS COVERED BY MEDICAID PLANS FOR SERVICES FURNISHED BY NURSING FACILITIES.

Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ''November 30, 2016'' and inserting ''December 31, 2016''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

H.R. 1412, as amended, is another product of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs' work to improve the effectiveness of GI Bill benefits for veterans.

I want to express my appreciation to the Subcommittee Chairman BILL FLORES, Ranking Member MARK TAKANO, and our new full committee Ranking Member MIKE MICHAUD for working with us to bring this amended bill to the full House.

In general, H.R. 1412, as amended, responds to concerns about how to ensure that veterans make the best use of their hard-earned GI Bill benefits. Specifically, H.R. 1412 improves the GI Bill's on-the-job training option that offers veterans the opportunity to gain work experience and at the same time offers employers a lower cost while the veteran undergoes their training.

The bill, as amended, has two major sections. Section 2 would reduce the final required training salary of a veteran engaged with an employer's on-the-job training apprenticeship program from the current 85 percent of the fully trained wage for the job to 75 percent. This new requirement would be put in place for a period of 4 years, following the effective date of this section. The temporary decrease in the wage requirement will provide more employers the flexibility to offer OJT programs when they otherwise would not have been able to do so.

Section 3 would direct the Department of Veterans Affairs to conclude agreements with other Federal agencies to have them further participate in the OJT program. If we're going to ask private employers to offer more opportunities to our veterans, the Federal Government ought to lead by example.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is another step in reducing the unemployment rate among our veterans and is fully paid for. I greatly appreciate the bipartisan manner in which our colleagues have worked to reach an accord on the final provisions of this bill, and I encourage all Members to support the bill.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all, I want to thank the chairman of the full committee for all his hard work and for working in a bipartisan manner not only on this piece of legislation but all of the bills that we've been dealing with in the committee this Congress.

I rise today in support of H.R. 1412, as amended, the Improving Job Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2013. I want to thank Mr. COFFMAN for introducing this legislation. I also want to thank committee Chairman MILLER and subcommittee Chairman Mr. FLORES and Ranking Member TAKANO for their leadership in assisting and bringing this bill before us today.

In these challenging employment markets, we need to use all available means to assist our veterans in obtaining the training that they need to find a good paying job. H.R. 1412 assists veterans by improving and increasing the VA's on-the-job training and apprenticeship programs.

In these programs, a veteran employee's salary is paid in part by the employer and in part by the VA, with not less than 50 percent being paid by the program. As a veteran completes the apprenticeship and becomes a fully qualified employee, the employer pays an increasing percentage of the salary, eventually assuming all of it.

H.R. 1412 reduces slightly the percentage of the salary the employer pays near the end of the training program. This eases the burden on the employers and is an incentive to employers to increase the number of veterans in the program. The Veterans' Affairs Committee will be closely monitoring this program to ensure that more veterans are being offered training opportunities as a result.

□ 1240

Mr. Speaker, we know that on-the-job training and apprenticeship is a highly efficient and cost-effective means of connecting veterans with meaningful, long-term employment. This is good for both veterans and employers. H.R. 1412 enhances the opportunities for both, making it easier for companies to employ veterans and for veterans to find new jobs and careers.

Unfortunately, however, too few employers know about this program and how to connect to it. As we pass this legislation, I encourage the VA to do more to inform employers and veterans about the benefits of this program.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, at this time I'm pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN), the author of the bill and a stalwart supporter of America's veterans.

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member MICHAUD for their leadership on the committee. Their efforts to advance this important bill will help veterans who are returning from Iraq and Afghanistan find jobs.

As a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and as a Marine Corps combat veteran myself, it is important to me and to our country that we take care of those who have served this Nation after they come home from war.

Our veterans have great skills when it comes to working as a member of a team and getting the job done; but, unfortunately, in many instances, their technical skills aren't readily transferable to civilian occupations. The Bureau of Labor Statistics stated that the unemployment rate for Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans between the ages of 20 and 24 was 19 percent in April. This is why I am happy to have my legislation, H.R. 1412, the Improving Job Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2013, on the floor today for a vote.

This legislation seeks to increase the availability of on-the-job training and apprenticeship programs to help veterans make the transition into the civilian workforce. This legislation will build on an existing, yet little known and underutilized, on-the-job training program that allows veterans to use their educational benefits they earned through their military service to learn a trade or skill by participating in an approved apprenticeship or on-the-job training program.

There are two pillars of this legislation. The first is it will decrease the final percentage of the veteran's salary paid by the employer from 85 to 75 percent as a means to further incentivize employers to participate. Secondly, the legislation will expand this training program by requiring the VA to enter into agreements with other Federal agencies to expand on-the-job training opportunities throughout the Federal Government.

This legislation will be a great tool for both private sector and Federal employers to hire our veterans who are struggling to make that transition from the military to the civilian workforce. Employers in Colorado have already explained to me how beneficial this legislation can be for their operations because they know that hiring veterans is a proven bonus. They know that veterans are hardworking, team-oriented, and quick learners who are capable of gaining highly technical skills that are prevalent in many industries today.

For example, the CEO of Tri-State Generation in Colorado, based in my

home district, told me that the Improving Job Opportunities for Veterans Act will add to his company's existing outreach to our veterans. Currently, they employ 150 veterans. Now they will do even more. I applaud their efforts and of other companies who want to hire vets.

I hope this bill helps employers connect to the great pool of talent of those returning from military service.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maine for yielding.

I rise today to support the increased job opportunities embodied in H.R. 1412 and the changes it makes to the on-the-job training and apprenticeship programs at the Department of Veterans Affairs. I want to thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN) for introducing this bill and the Veterans' Affairs Committee leadership, Chairman MILLER, Ranking Member MICHAUD, and subcommittee Chairman FLORES for moving this bill through committee.

This legislation will expand access for veterans to on-the-job training and apprenticeships, and assist employers in hiring veterans who have shown time and again that their real-world experience, leadership, and countless other skills are great resources for American companies. By reducing the percentage of salary paid to a veteran participating in one of these programs, this bill would make it more attractive for companies to hire veterans doing on-the-job training and apprenticeships.

It is our hope that these opportunities will help bridge the employment gaps veterans are currently experiencing. Unfortunately, it is also clear from our subcommittee work that the Department of Veterans Affairs could be doing a better job advertising this great benefit. The more veterans and employers know about these benefits, the more opportunities veterans can have in the job market.

I am proud to support this legislation and urge my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to support it as well.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of the bipartisan spirit of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, we have no more speakers at this time, and so if Mr. MICHAUD is ready to close, we are prepared to close.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I, too, have no further Members who wish to speak, but I do want to, in closing, emphasize that veterans are an asset to any organization, whether it is in the private or public sector. They make the organization better, and they improve the bottom line. This bill is very timely and is very important for our veterans.

I also want to thank, once again, Mr. TAKANO for his leadership on this issue. In his life before he became a Member of Congress, he was in the community college system, and he knows about training and how important apprenticeship programs are. So I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, once again I encourage all Members to support H.R. 1412, as amended.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of H.R. 1412, The Improving Job Opportunities for Veterans Act.

This bipartisan bill helps our Nation's veterans get the training they need to build a stronger future.

It improves and increases the awareness and availability of on-the-job training and apprenticeship programs.

After all they have sacrificed for our country, we should do our part to ensure veterans have good training and good job opportunities.

I thank my colleagues from both sides of the aisle—Mr. COFFMAN and Mr. TAKANO—for introducing this bill.

Helping our veterans isn't a partisan issue—it's a national responsibility.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1412, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

AMERICAN HEROES COLA ACT

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 570) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 570

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''American Heroes COLA Act''.

SEC. 2. AUTOMATIC ANNUAL INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) INDEXING TO SOCIAL SECURITY INCREASES.—Section 5312 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d)(1) Whenever there is an increase in benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) as a result of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)), the Secretary shall, effective on the date of such increase in benefit amounts, increase the dollar amounts in effect for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation by the Secretary, as specified in paragraph (2), as such amounts were in effect immediately before the date of such increase in benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act, by the same percentage as the percentage by which such benefit amounts are increased, but only if such percentage increase is calculated using the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers.

''(2) The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to paragraph (1) are the following:

''(A) WARTIME DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under section 1114 of this title.

''(B) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under section 1115(1) of this title.

''(C) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar amount in effect under section 1162 of this title.

''(D) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO SURVIVING SPOUSE.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under subsections (a) through (d) of section 1311 of such title.

''(E) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO CHILDREN.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

''(3) Whenever there is an increase under paragraph (1) in amounts in effect for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation, the Secretary shall publish such amounts, as increased pursuant to such paragraph, in the Federal Register at the same time as the material required by section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) is published by reason of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

''(4) During the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this subsection and ending on September 30, 2018, each dollar amount increased under paragraph (1), if not a whole dollar amount, shall be rounded to the next lower whole dollar amount.

''(5) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons under section 10 of Public Law 85–857 (72 Stat. 1263) who have not received compensation under chapter 11 of this title.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (d) of section 5312 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a) of this section, shall take effect on December 1, 2014.

SEC. 3. INCREASE IN RATE OF SPECIAL MONTHLY COMPENSATION FOR SEVERELY INJURED VETERANS.

(a) INCREASE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1114(r) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''$2,002'' and inserting ''$3,163''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''$2,983'' and inserting ''$4,713''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on December 1, 2014.

(b) TEMPORARY RATES.—During the period beginning on December 1, 2014, and ending on September 30, 2018, section 1114(r) of title 38, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a), shall be applied—

(1) in paragraph (1), by substituting ''$2,742'' for ''$3,163''; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by substituting ''$4085'' for ''$4,713''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

□ 1250

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and add any extraneous material that they may have on H.R. 570, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

The author of the underlying bill, Mr. RUNYAN of New Jersey, has put forward a bipartisan proposal to make permanent the veterans cost-of-living adjustment. Currently, Congress must adopt annual COLA bills to ensure that payments to disabled veterans and survivors do not erode due to inflation.

Mr. RUNYAN's bill, which my amendment incorporates, would make this annual, and sometimes dangerously delayed, practice a thing of the past. A coalition of veterans groups expressed strong concern with some other elements of the underlying bill, which my amendment now seeks to address.

First, the concern was expressed that the bill would permanently extend the 20-year practice of rounding veterans COLA increases down to the next lower whole dollar. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that extending the round-down authority saves, relative to the baseline, over $1.3 billion over a 10-year period.

The veterans coalition was concerned about the cumulative effect that the permanent round-down would have, as well as the moral principle associated with logging savings on the backs of our disabled veterans.

To meet that concern, I worked with our ranking member to, first, sunset the round-down authority after 5 years, and second, we agreed with the committee's markup to find a way to reinvest savings associated with the round-down by improving benefits for other disabled veterans.

I am pleased to announce that my amendment contains such an improvement that it is now enthusiastically supported by the veterans groups.

Our bipartisan work would significantly increase the special monthly compensation payments made to our most severely disabled veterans by 30 percent through the year 2018, then 50 percent thereafter. This is a payment that goes to support catastrophically disabled veterans who are in need of aid and attendance. These are veterans who are missing limbs, totally blind, deaf, or who are so disabled that they require the need of special care in the home, all as a result of their military service.

Clearly, it's our duty to ensure that these most deserving service-disabled veterans are well-cared for, and my amendment to H.R. 570 will be a significant step in that direction.

And finally, the service organizations were concerned about the potential application of the so-called chained CPI at some point in the future that could potentially affect veterans COLAs. To allay that concern, my amendment specifies that the permanent veterans COLA only would be continued to the extent that the current inflationary index that is used now, the CPI for urban wage earners and clerical workers, continues in force.

I'm very pleased to say that, with the changes in my amendment, we now have a bill that can be supported by the veterans it is intended to benefit.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 570, as amended, the American Heroes COLA Act.

I wish to thank Mr. RUNYAN, the sponsor of H.R. 570, and the chairman of the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee, as well as Ms. TITUS, our subcommittee ranking member, for their hard work on this measure.

I'd also like to thank Chairman MILLER for working closely with me, and with the veterans groups, to make the key improvements in this particular bill.

H.R. 570 would permanently index the annual veterans cost-of-living adjustment, or COLA, to the increase provided to Social Security beneficiaries, but only if the Social Security COLA continues to be determined using the current methodologies.

This guards against automatically passing on any decrease to veterans that result from any future actions to implement a chained CPI regime.

Second, H.R. 570 extends a COLA round-down provision set to expire this year for 5 years, instead of making it permanent. This round-down provision was implemented many years ago as a means of budget savings, and many veterans groups voiced opposition to making such a decrease permanent.

Third, the savings generated from the round-down extension will be reinvested in veterans programs, namely, increasing the monthly amount provided to some of our veterans most in need of assistance and care.

H.R. 570 would increase the amount of what is called a ''special monthly compensation'' paid to catastrophically disabled veterans in need of aid and attendance. This monthly amount would be increased from $2,002 to $3,163, and for those most in need of care from $2,983 to $4,713. These final payments would be phased in to comply with PAYGO requirements.

H.R. 570, as amended, is a good bill, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, at this time I'm happy to yield such time as he might consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. RUNYAN), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

Mr. RUNYAN. Chairman MILLER, thank you and Ranking Member Mr. MICHAUD for bringing this bill to the floor.

H.R. 570 is the American Heroes COLA Act. This bill, which I introduced at the beginning of the 113th Congress, seeks to make permanent the annual increase to veterans disability compensation rates and other benefits by tying these increases to the cost-of-living adjustments for Social Security benefits.

With the passage of this act, veterans will no longer again have to depend on congressional action to receive an increase to the cost-of-living adjustment they have more than earned through their service. Instead, these increases will become automatic from year to year.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, I am honored again to sponsor this legislation. I'm proud to have our subcommittee ranking member, Ms. TITUS, as the lead cosponsor of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I also support the amendment offered by Chairman MILLER of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs to use the savings generated by H.R. 570 to increase the rate of special monthly compensation paid to our most tragically wounded veterans, and I encourage all Members to support H.R. 570.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, at this time I'd like to yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS).

Ms. TITUS. Thank you, Ranking Member MICHAUD, for yielding and for your work and leadership on this critical issue that affects our Nation's heroes.

I support the American Heroes COLA Act, H.R. 570, which I introduced, along with my colleague and subcommittee chairman, JOHN RUNYAN. This is important legislation that will protect our disabled veterans and their families' financial security.

Unlike with Social Security COLA increases, which are calculated automatically, Congress must act each year to provide veterans with their COLA increases they need and deserve. Our Nation's heroes should receive their full compensation payment each year as well in a timely fashion, removed from the occasional logjam here on Capitol Hill. Their livelihood should not be held hostage by political forces.

Nevada's veterans have struggled during this tough economic climate. Their rates of unemployment and homelessness are disproportionately

high, and as the cost of living has increased, so have their problems. And I know this is true of veterans around the country.

By permanently adjusting benefits to include automatic cost-of-living increases we are providing critical peace of mind to those who have bravely served our country. They will have the knowledge of knowing that assistance will be there.

Chairman RUNYAN and I have worked closely to improve this legislation since we first introduced the bill in February, and I fully support the amended version we are considering today. Changes concerning the roundown practice and the chained CPI are changes that will strengthen the bill.

I appreciate also the input we received from a number of veterans service organizations and believe that this improved version of the legislation clearly addresses their concerns.

In effect, H.R. 570 will direct the VA to increase rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities, as well as the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of veterans with specific service-connected claims.

The bill will protect veterans benefits from deteriorating over time as the costs of housing, medicine, food and clothing and utilities all increase.

□ 1300

I want to echo Ranking Member MICHAUD's sentiments regarding the importance of having these adjustments occur annually, regularly, and dependably. It's essential that Congress provide for the needs of our heroes, the brave men and women who answered the call to serve in our armed services, and for their families as well.

I thank Chairman MILLER and Chairman RUNYAN for their work on this important issue, and I urge my colleagues to support the American Heroes COLA Act.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. O'ROURKE).

Mr. O'ROURKE. I would also like to thank the chair of the subcommittee and the ranking member for sponsoring this legislation and the chairman and ranking member of the full committee for bringing it forward. I'm pleased to be a cosponsor of the American Heroes COLA Act.

Yesterday, I had the opportunity to visit Arlington National Cemetery with other Members of Congress and had the opportunity to place a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This incredibly moving and grounding experience reminded me of the ultimate sacrifice given by so many of our veterans.

For those who return from service wounded or develop disabilities as they age, veterans benefits are what allow them and their families to live in some level of comfort. These modest benefits are often the difference between paying the mortgage and putting food on the table or going without. The legislation before us offers veterans security and guarantees that cost-of-living adjustments will happen automatically and not depend on yearly congressional approval.

In addition, H.R. 570 will substantially increase benefits for the most severely disabled veterans receiving special monthly compensation. The bill also protects veterans from benefits cuts should a chained CPI be adopted for Social Security. While I oppose adoption of the chained CPI for Social Security, I think it is important we act now to take the issue off the table for veterans benefits.

I represent thousands of El Paso veterans who have served our country and rely on VA benefits to make ends meet. They deserve the security of knowing those benefits will be adjusted when their cost of living rises.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, we have no further requests for time. We're prepared to close, if the ranking member is as well.

Mr. MICHAUD. In closing, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 570, as amended, is a solid piece of legislation that the veterans service organizations support, that the committee supports, and I would urge my colleagues to support this bill.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I once again urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 570, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of H.R. 570, the American Heroes Cola Act.

I am proud to cosponsor this bipartisan bill because it helps our Nation's veterans.

More specifically, it helps veterans with service-related disabilities.

H.R. 570 would make their annual cost-of-living adjustments automatic for their disability compensation.

Making this process automatic would finally allow veterans to count on their cost of living adjustment every year instead of waiting around on Congress.

I thank my colleagues from both sides of the aisle—Mr. RUNYON and Ms. TITUS—for introducing this bill.

Helping our veterans isn't a partisan issue—it's a national responsibility.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 570, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: ''A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AWARDING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO FIRST SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE

Mr. COTTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 324) to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Special Service Force, in recognition of its superior service during World War II, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 324

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The First Special Service Force (the ''Force''), a military unit composed of volunteers from the United States and Canada, was activated in July 1942 at Fort Harrison near Helena, Montana.

(2) The Force was initially intended to target military and industrial installations that were supporting the German war effort, including important hydroelectric plants, which would severely limit the production of strategic materials used by the Axis powers.

(3) From July 1942 through June 1943, volunteers of the Force trained in hazardous, arctic conditions in the mountains of western Montana, and in the waterways of Camp Bradford, Virginia.

(4) The combat echelon of the Force totaled 1,800 soldiers, half from the United States and half from Canada.

(5) The Force also contained a service battalion, composed of 800 members from the United States, that provided important support for the combat troops.

(6) A special bond developed between the Canadian and United States soldiers, who were not segregated by country, although the commander of the Force was a United States colonel.

(7) The Force was the only unit formed during World War II that consisted of troops from Canada and the United States.

(8) In October 1943, the Force went to Italy, where it fought in battles south of Cassino, including Monte La Difensa and Monte Majo, two mountain peaks that were a critical anchor of the German defense line.

(9) During the night of December 3, 1943, the Force ascended to the top of the precipitous face of Monte La Difensa, where the Force suffered heavy casualties and overcame fierce resistance to overtake the German line.

(10) After the battle for La Difensa, the Force continued to fight tough battles at high altitudes, in rugged terrain, and in severe weather.

(11) After battles on the strongly defended Italian peaks of Sammucro, Vischiataro, and Remetanea, the size of the Force had been reduced from 1,800 soldiers to fewer than 500.

(12) For 4 months in 1944, the Force engaged in raids and aggressive patrols at the Anzio Beachhead.

(13) On June 4, 1944, members of the Force were among the first Allied troops to liberate Rome.

(14) After liberating Rome, the Force moved to southern Italy and prepared to assist in the liberation of France.

(15) During the early morning of August 15, 1944, members of the Force made silent landings on Les Iles D'Hyeres, small islands in the Mediterranean Sea along the southern coast of France.

(16) The Force faced a sustained and withering assault from the German garrisons as the Force progressed from the islands to the Franco-Italian border.

(17) After the Allied forces secured the Franco-Italian border, the United States Army ordered the disbandment of the Force on December 5, 1944, in Nice, France.

(18) During 251 days of combat, the Force suffered 2,314 casualties, or 134 percent of its authorized strength, captured thousands of prisoners, won 5 United States campaign stars and 8 Canadian battle honors, and never failed a mission.

(19) The United States is forever indebted to the acts of bravery and selflessness of the troops of the Force, who risked their lives for the cause of freedom.

(20) The efforts of the Force along the seas and skies of Europe were critical in repelling the advance of Nazi Germany and liberating numerous communities in France and Italy.

(21) The bond between the members of the Force from the United States and those from Canada has endured over the decades, as the members meet every year for a reunion, alternating between the United States and Canada.

(22) The traditions and honors exhibited by the Force are carried on by 2 outstanding active units of 2 great democracies, the Special Forces of the United States and the Canadian Special Operations Regiment.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design to the First Special Service Force, collectively, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (in this Act referred to as the ''Secretary'') shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) AWARD OF MEDAL.—Following the award of the gold medal in honor of the First Special Service Force under subsection (a), the medal shall be given to the First Special Service Force Association in Helena, Montana, where it shall be available for display or temporary loan to be displayed elsewhere, particularly at other appropriate locations associated with the First Special Service Force, including Fort William Henry Harrison in Helena, Montana.

SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 2, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medal, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses, and amounts received from the sale of such duplicates shall be deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.

Medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COTTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials for the RECORD on H.R. 324, as amended, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today to seek swift approval of H.R. 324, a bill to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Special Service Force in recognition of its superior service during World War II. The bill, introduced by my colleague from Florida (Mr. MILLER), has 324 cosponsors, befitting the storied history of this unit.

Mr. Speaker, the bravery and valor of the Army Special Forces, more commonly known as the Green Berets, are well known to most Americans. But many don't realize that this unit was born out of the First Special Service Force and the courageous soldiers that fought with it during World War II. The award of the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of their heroic service will help ensure that this unit attains the historical recognition it deserves.

Formed in 1942 to take on the hardest jobs in the most adverse conditions, the First Special Service Force was composed of American and Canadian soldiers. The unit fought bravely in the Italian Apennine Mountains against elite German units—the 104th Panzer Grenadiers and the Hermann Goering Paratroops—who were defending Hitler's Gustav Line south of Rome. They defeated German forces at Monte La Difensa after fighting south of the center of the line at Monte Cassino and participated in the successful assault of Monte La Remetanea and several nearby mountains. Sadly, of the 1,800 of the First Special Service Forces fighting soldiers and their 800 support troops, there were 2,300 casualties suffered in the 250 combat days before the unit was disbanded in December of 1944.

Mr. Speaker, the men of the Special Forces fought with their faces blackened by their own boot polish. They were so feared that the Nazi defenders called them the Black Devils and the unit took that name as its own, calling itself the Devil's Brigade. Proud of their strength and bravery, Special Forces soldiers left cards with their patch insignia and the phrase ''The Worst is Yet to Come'' on corpses in enemy territory.

Following World War II, a permanent elite unit was formed based on the experiences of the Special Forces and OSS operatives during the war. Today, that unit has evolved into the Army's Green Berets and a similar unit in Canada, the Special Operations Regiment.

Today, we hear stories of brave men and women in uniform defending freedom around the world. I've seen some of this awe-inspiring bravery firsthand in both Iraq and Afghanistan as a soldier myself. But as we hail our soldiers of today, let us remember the heroism and bravery of the Greatest Generation during World War II. This legislation authorizes the striking and award of a single gold medal that will go to the First Special Service Force Association in Helena, Montana, the original training site of the First Special Force, and the sale of bronze duplicates of that medal.

I ask for immediate passage of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

COMMITTEE ON
HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, DC, May 20, 2013.

Hon. JEB HENSARLING,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HENSARLING: I write to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on House Administration in H.R. 324, to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Special Service Force in recognition of its superior service during World War II. The bill, as introduced in the House on January 18, 2013, contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on House Administration.

I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner, and accordingly, I will waive Committee consideration of provisions that fall within the Committee's jurisdiction. However, agreeing to waive jurisdiction over these amendments should not be construed as waiving, reducing, or affecting the jurisdiction of the Committee on House Administration.

Additionally, the Committee on House Administration expressly reserves its authority to seek conferees on any provision within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this, or any similar legislation. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Committee for conferees on H.R. 324 for provisions within the Committee's jurisdiction.

I ask that a copy of this letter and your response be placed in the Congressional Record during any floor consideration of H.R. 324.

I look forward to working with you on matters of mutual concern.

Sincerely,

CANDICE S. MILLER,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, May 21, 2013.

Hon. CANDICE S. MILLER,
Chairman, Committee on House Administration, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you for your May 20 letter regarding H.R. 324, a bill to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Special Service Force, in recognition of its superior service during World War II.

I am most appreciative of your decision to forego consideration of H.R. 324 so that it may move expeditiously to the House floor. I acknowledge that although you are waiving formal consideration of the bill, the Committee on House Administration is in no way waiving its jurisdiction over any subject

matter contained in the bill that falls within its jurisdiction. In addition, if a conference is necessary on this legislation, I will support any request that your committee be represented therein.

Finally, I shall be pleased to include your letter and this letter in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 324.

Sincerely,

JEB HENSARLING,
Chairman.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. I rise today to give great support for H.R. 324.

Let me say, Mr. Speaker, at the outset that the Congressional Gold Medal is our highest honor; and there is no greater recipient that we can give this honor to than the First Special Service Forces, known as the Devil's Brigade. They were courageous. They risked their lives. As a matter of fact, they were the unit that led the liberation of France and Italy from the Nazis with daring, with courage, with skill. So it is very important for us to stand here today and to give great recognition to this unit.

There is a special bond between Canada and the United States, and that special bond started in World War II. For it was the first unit—and the only unit—where two nations, Canada and the United States, formed a force that accomplished what many felt was impossible.

□ 1310

You know, the Lord Jesus Christ said that there is no greater love—no greater love—that you can show than one who would give his life for another.

What a great honor this is, Mr. Speaker. I am just proud to join with my colleague, Mr. MILLER from Florida—my good friend—and Mr. COTTON from Arkansas to give this recognition, this high nobility of purpose to the first unit.

Today, Mr. Speaker, we are proud to have our Navy SEALs, our Green Berets, our Special Ops, those special soldiers who go where many times few others would go. But the foundation of that was the Devil's Brigade.

I can just imagine that Nazi soldier who wrote that note, scared out of his wits when he called them the ''Black Devils,'' when they would go and put shoe polish on their faces so that they could be expertly disguised to go in and to help to liberate Europe from Nazi Germany.

So it is with great pleasure that I stand here to join my colleagues in urging unanimous passage of this extraordinary legislation to honor this extraordinary group of soldiers.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COTTON. I appreciate that reference to John 15:13, ''Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friend.'' Certainly, many members of the Devil's Brigade did that, as they do today in our Special Forces.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I also thank my friend, Mr. SCOTT, for his kind words. I also want to thank Chairman HENSARLING and Ranking Member WATERS and Subcommittee Chairman CAMPBELL, with his Ranking Member CLAY, all the members of the Financial Services Committee and the House leadership for their support in bringing to the floor here today H.R. 324. It is a bill that grants the Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the First Special Service Force.

I also want to thank the members of the First Special Service Force Association, specifically Mr. Bill Woon for his advocacy, and for the association's efforts in continuing to spread the inspirational story of a truly heroic group of American and Canadian servicemen.

I would be remiss not to thank Congressman AL GREEN of Texas and Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ of Florida for encouraging support from their caucus members for this broad bipartisan piece of legislation, and the 324 Members of this body who have cosponsored the bill.

I join my colleagues today in support of a bill that bestows upon the First Special Service Force the Congressional Gold Medal. It's Congress' highest expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievement and contributions for their superior service during World War II.

The First Special Service Force was a covert World War II military unit born through the efforts of President Franklin Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill. The Force conducted ultrahigh-risk military missions in Italy and in France. Once sent into action, the First Special Service Force never failed a combat mission.

The First Special Service Force achieved remarkable success in battle and contributed prominently in the liberation of Italy and France. Most notably, the Force conducted battles south of Cassino, including Monte La Difensa and Monte Majo, two mountain peaks critical to the German defensive line.

During the night of December 3, 1943, the Force ascended to the top of the precipitous face of Monte La Difensa, where the Force suffered heavy casualties and overcame fierce resistance to overtake the German line.

The First Special Service Force lost a total of 2,314 men, which was 134 percent of the original combat force. These heroic servicemen represent the breadth of intrepidity and courage, and they have earned our country's deepest gratitude and highest praise.

Though many of the brave troops of the First Special Service Force have been lost to us, this gold medal is an important step in immortalizing their service and honoring the forefathers of today's Special Forces.

With just 6 days remaining until Memorial Day, I cannot think of a more appropriate way to honor the heroism and sacrifice of the warriors of the First Special Service Force, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

To all of the men and women who have guarded our great Nation in the name of protecting and defending liberty that we hold so dear, we say thank you. And to all of those who have given the ultimate sacrifice, may you forever remain in our hearts and in our prayers.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I'll just take this opportunity to join all of us in the Congress of the United States to salute the First Special Service Force for the outstanding work that they have done.

I urge unanimous passage on this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COTTON. I yield myself the balance of my time.

I join my colleagues, the gentleman from Georgia and the gentleman from Florida, in urging unanimous passage of this very important legislation the week before Memorial Day to honor the Devil's Brigade.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 324, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

HELPING HEROES FLY ACT

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1344) to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to provide expedited air passenger screening to severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1344

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Helping Heroes Fly Act''.

SEC. 2. OPERATIONS CENTER PROGRAM FOR SEVERELY INJURED OR DISABLED MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND SEVERELY INJURED OR DISABLED VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 449 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"§ 44927. Expedited screening for severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans

''(a) PASSENGER SCREENING.—The Assistant Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and organizations that advocate on behalf of members of the Armed Forces and veterans, including organizations that advocate on behalf of severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans, shall develop and implement a process to facilitate the ease of travel and to the extent possible provide expedited passenger screening services for severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces, severely injured or disabled veterans, and their accompanying family members or nonmedical attendants. Such process shall be designed to protect the privacy of the individual being screened to the maximum extent practicable.

''(b) OPERATIONS CENTER.—As part of the process required under subsection (a), the Assistant Secretary shall maintain an operations center to provide support and facilitate the movement of severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans through screening prior to boarding a passenger aircraft operated by an air carrier or foreign air carrier in air transportation or intrastate air transportation. Such operations center shall be operational at all times.

''(c) PROTOCOLS.—The Assistant Secretary shall—

''(1) establish and publish protocols, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and organizations that advocate on behalf of members of the Armed Forces and veterans, including organizations that advocate on behalf of severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans, under which a severely injured or disabled member of the Armed Forces or severely injured or disabled veteran, or the family member or other representative of such a member or veteran, may contact the operations center maintained under subsection (b) and request expedited screening services described in subsection (a) for the member or veteran; and

''(2) upon receipt of such a request, require such operations center to notify the appropriate Federal security director of the request to facilitate the expedited passenger screening services described in subsection (a) for the member or veteran.

''(d) TRAINING.—The Assistant Secretary shall integrate training on the protocols established under subsection (c) into the training provided to all employees who will provide the screening services described in subsection (a).

''(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section affects the authority of the Assistant Secretary to require additional screening of a severely injured or disabled member of the Armed Forces, a severely injured or disabled veteran, or their accompanying family members or nonmedical attendants, if intelligence, law enforcement, or other information indicates that additional screening is necessary.

''(f) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the Assistant Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation of this section. Each such report shall include each of the following:

''(1) Information on the training provided under subsection (d).

''(2) Information on the consultations between the Assistant Secretary and organizations that advocate on behalf of members of the Armed Forces and veterans as described in subsection (a).

''(3) The number of people who accessed the operations center during the period covered by the report.

''(4) Such other information as the Assistant Secretary determines is appropriate.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 44926 the following new item:

''44927. Expedited screening for severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) and the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. GABBARD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As a member of the Committee on Homeland Security's Transportation Security Subcommittee, I am proud to be a cosponsor of this commonsense piece of legislation that will increase accessibility and privacy for our wounded warriors at airport checkpoints.

□ 1320

This legislation directs TSA to develop and implement a process to facilitate the ease of travel and, to the extent possible, provide expedited screening through our Nation's airports for severely injured or disabled members of our Armed Forces and veterans. The last thing our heroes need is to face unnecessary scrutiny or hassle, or be forced to answer endless questions about their conditions, when all they want to do is board a plane to fly home to their loved ones or maybe to a job interview.

This bill would ensure that our wounded warriors—those dedicated men and women who have been severely injured while fighting to protect our Nation—are treated with the highest dignity and respect when traveling through our Nation's airports.

I was pleased to find out that shortly after Administrator Pistole testified before the Transportation Security Subcommittee on TSA's efforts to advance risk-based security, TSA began to offer expedited screening services to severely injured members of the Armed Forces and veterans, provided they contact the TSA in advance of traveling. While I support TSA's newly adopted protocols, I feel this bill is necessary because it codifies current TSA policy and ensures that it will remain intact during future administrations.

Mr. Speaker, this bill not only benefits severely injured and disabled members of the United States Armed Forces, veterans, and their accompanying families, but it also supports the TSA administrator's intent to develop a more risk-based method of screening for all passengers.

Expedited travel for our military heroes is an important step toward reasonable transportation security reforms that will allow us to focus precious taxpayer dollars on the unknown travelers and the real threats.

As we look forward to this upcoming Memorial Day, let us honor the all-too-often painful sacrifices our wounded warriors have made for our Nation by adopting this important and commonsense piece of legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of 1344, the Helping Heroes Fly Act, and yield myself such time as I may consume.

In response to documented grievances my fellow servicemembers made because of various challenges and trying experiences that they went through at airport checkpoints across the country, I introduced the Helping Heroes Fly Act to ensure that the Transportation Security Administration—working alongside veterans advocacy organizations—develop sensible screening policies that honor and respect the service and sacrifice of our Nation's injured and disabled heroes.

On March 27 of this year, just a few days after this legislation was introduced, the Transportation Security Administration made an announcement of some improvements that they have made in this area as they took steps to expedite airport screening for severely injured members of our Armed Forces. With these changes, individuals can presently request assistance ahead of time and move through security checkpoints without having to remove their shoes, light outerwear, jackets, or hats. Taking off a jacket—while maybe a simple inconvenience for you and I—can be a very physically challenging task for someone who, for example, has lost the use of an arm.

While this announcement was a good step, it didn't go nearly far enough, as there are still more improvements that need to be made. As I've spoken with wounded warriors and listened to their experiences, I've heard stories that have been varied and included things like having to take off a prosthetic leg, putting the leg through the X-ray machine, and then having to balance on one leg going through the full body scan without help from anyone.

This is unacceptable. Severely injured and disabled Active Duty and veterans both experience widely varied screening protocols among different

airports, and even among screeners in the same airport. This makes it very hard for a wounded warrior to anticipate and prepare what will be required of them, to make sure that they are ready physically and mentally. Again, this may not seem like much to us, but to someone—a trained and hardened warrior—learning to adjust to these severe injuries, it can sometimes be difficult and can be the difference between a smooth and dignified screening experience or one that is filled with frustration, shame, and pain for the injured servicemember and delays for all people waiting in that screening line.

Another issue that frequently has come up has been privacy. Veterans have shared with me their own experiences of having to take off prosthetics, despite TSA guidance that it's not necessary. And in the instances where extra screening of these prosthetics is necessary, it has been done in public view, even when clothing needs to be removed.

No one—no one—should be required to remove their shirt or pants in public, nor should scans of sensitive or private areas be viewed by other airline passengers. Again, this has been already a humiliating, shameful experience for some veterans when there's absolutely no requirement or necessity for it.

The Disabled American Veterans have spoken in strong support of this legislation stating:

> At some airports, our amputee members receive relaxed screening, while at others these screenings are horrific. Perhaps it is TSA's purpose to make screenings unpredictable. Some screenings have required these amputees to expose their prostheses when they lack the ability to reposition their clothing, and TSA agents are not allowed to help them, nor do they allow spouses or traveling companions to enter search areas to assist the amputees.

Our objective with this legislation is to ensure consistent treatment by screeners, greater attention to privacy concerns, and consulting with these advocacy organizations who speak for our wounded warriors to ensure they have a voice in the process.

This bill before us today, the Helping Heroes Fly Act, achieves these improvements by requiring TSA to take into account the privacy of the individual being screened. It also mandates training of screening officers on the expedited protocols to make sure that no matter where you travel, no matter what city you are in, you will have consistent screening procedures so you know what to expect. TSA is also required to consult with these advocacy organizations to make sure that as these changes are implemented, that the unique needs of our wounded warriors are implemented to the best of its ability.

To ensure these changes over the long term, this legislation requires regular reporting to Congress, as well as maintenance of the TSA's operations center that these wounded warriors and veterans can contact for assistance as they prepare to travel.

Mr. Speaker, as you well know, members of our U.S. Armed Forces are entrusted to protect the security of our country with their lives. By definition, these individuals pose very little risk to aviation security and should be consistently screened in a manner befitting and honoring their service and sacrifice.

I urge my colleagues to ensure our Nation's wounded warriors are treated respectfully, and urge them to vote ''yes'' in support of H.R. 1344.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS).

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. I appreciate you yielding on this. And I appreciate not only the gentlewoman from Indiana, but the gentlewoman from Hawaii for bringing this legislation.

I bring a little bit different perspective to this. As a chaplain in the military and working with our heroes who have been wounded and coming from bodies that were strong and healthy and vibrant to a situation in which now they're put in a position that they've never been in, in some ways a dependency, and counseling in those roles and seeing them having to go through this process, which is inconsistent and frankly unfair, I think this is the reason I strongly support this legislation.

But I also support it from a different perspective. Having a daughter who has been in a wheelchair since she was able to walk—as we call it, ''roll''—she's never known anything different. And so we've had to adjust over time, and she's adjusted in ways of going through screenings and going through processes like that.

But when you balance what our wounded warriors have done, heroes who came home who had healthy bodies and now have bodies that are not healthy, this is something that will provide them a measure of dignity—and it is an honor to stand here and support this legislation—because I believe that an inconsistency in this area is an inconsistency in what we believe as Americans in what those men and women have done for us.

We have to remember that in times of war now it is not like it used to be where these men and women would actually have died on the battlefield. Now they're coming home. They're coming home to lead productive lives, great lives, because of the sacrifices that they have made. It is time that we—and this legislation proves this—stand for them in the fairness that they deserve for what they have given to us.

I congratulate the gentlewoman from Hawaii and also the gentlewoman from Indiana for sponsoring this. I look forward to voting for it, and encourage my colleagues to do so.

□ 1330

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security of the Committee on Homeland Security, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased to be able to come to the floor today as we approach the week that we memorialize those fallen heroes and as well, at the same time, acknowledge those who yet live who have served and who are wounded. Even today, as we stand on the floor in the backdrop of enormous tragedies among our civilian population in Oklahoma over the last couple of days and in Texas and elsewhere, this is a very important legislative initiative.

As the former ranking member and chair of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security and as a cosponsor, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1344, the Helping Heroes Fly Act of 2013.

I congratulate my new colleague for this outstanding legislation, Ms. GABBARD from Hawaii; and to the manager, thank you very much. It is important, and I am glad we are standing here together in a bipartisan manner.

I support this legislation because it eases and facilitates the expedited passenger screening at airports for servicemembers who are severely injured or disabled, along with their families. Of course, the thoughtfulness in introducing this legislation is appreciated because it is necessary legislation. I thank you for indicating that, even as the TSA, of which we have oversight, is formulating policies, it's good to codify it, to make it law, because these heroes deserve their law.

The Helping Heroes Fly Act requires the Transportation Security Administration to maintain an operations center to provide support and to facilitate the movement of these disabled servicemembers and veterans, and it requires the TSA to publish protocol so disabled servicemembers and veterans and their families will be able to contact the operations center and request expedited screening. The bill also requires that these protocols be integrated into the training of TSA agents.

Now, I know that there are many home ports, if you will, for our returning heroes. I happen to know that Texas has had a very large number of our men and women go to Iraq and Afghanistan and to places beyond. I've been to Hawaii and know the transition there of many who are on R&R, coming from places around the world, and I know that it is a place where many come home because it was their home, and, yes, they come home disabled, with prostheses and other wounds, that require their privacy. I am glad that this bill acknowledges, not only that they are heroes, but that they are desirous and deserving of the respect—why don't I say an admiration and commendation and respect again—of those who would expedite their going into a secured area.

Mr. Speaker, more than 2.2 million veterans—one in 10—have been disabled or seriously wounded in the service of our Nation; and disabled veterans typically find it much harder, by some estimates twice as hard, to readjust to civilian life. The least we can do for these heroes is to make it a little less burdensome and difficult to navigate the obstacles, barriers, and checkpoints that have been erected in the aftermath of 9/11 to enhance the security of air travel—and rightly so.

Most of these inconveniences are necessary but are no less burdensome to those who have suffered physical disabilities in defending the Nation from those who would make air travel dangerous and deadly. Let's give them respect for what they have done to secure the homeland and to make us safer. The legislation before us strikes an appropriate balance between these competing interests.

I have seen the operation of TSA and TSO officers and some of what they call these ''specialty officers.'' Allow me to thank you publicly for the work you have already done and for the sensitivity you've had.

I've seen these soldiers, these heroes, coming home at DCA and at Dulles. I've certainly seen them in the airports in Texas. I've seen them in their uniforms. I've seen them, as I said, disabled, and I've seen them with families. I saw one young man who was wandering in my airport. He was, obviously, in uniform, but had not a good day. I don't know what might have been impacting him, but we stopped, and I hailed an officer in uniform, a TSO officer, and said, You won't be alone now. We're going to find out where you need to go.

One of the factors of this particular legislative initiative that is good is that, wherever you land, sometimes it may not be your home airport—every airport is different—and I think they work themselves up to make sure that they make it exciting and confusing.

Thank you for the Helping Heroes Fly Act to help improve airport security screening processes for wounded and severely disabled servicemembers, but also thank you for giving them a helping hand. You are helping the veterans as well. This authorizes a Wounded Warrior Screening program and requires the TSA to maintain an operations center. These improvements will facilitate and expedite air travel for our disabled veterans and servicemembers. More importantly, they will help our Nation's heroes to be shown the respect, as I said earlier, and the appreciation of a Nation that is so grateful.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this legislation, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting for the Helping Heroes Fly Act of 2013. I am glad to be back in the well again in this week of honoring our soldiers and those who have fallen, and I am delighted for the leadership of my colleague on the Homeland Security Committee and of the manager on this great bill, and I hope that we have a very strong vote.

Mr. Speaker, as a member and former chair of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Transportation Security, and a cosponsor, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1344, the "Helping Heroes Fly Act of 2013." I support this legislation because it eases and facilitates expedited passenger screening at airports for service members who are severely injured or disabled, along with their families. I thank my colleague, Congresswoman GABBARD of Hawaii, for introducing this thoughtful and necessary legislation.

The Helping Heroes Fly Act requires Transportation Security Administration to maintain an operations center to provide support and facilitate the movement of these disabled service members and veterans, and it requires TSA to publish protocols so disabled service members and veterans, and their families, will be able to contact the operations center and request expedited screening. The bill also requires that these protocols be integrated into the training of TSA agents.

Mr. Speaker, more than 2.2 million Veterans, one in ten, have been disabled or seriously wounded in the service of our nation. And disabled veterans typically find it much harder, by some estimates twice as hard, to readjust to civilian life. The least we can do for these heroes is to make it a little less burdensome and difficult to navigate the obstacles, barriers, and checkpoints that have been erected in the aftermath of 9/11 to enhance the security of air travel. Most of these inconveniences are necessary but no less burdensome to those who suffered physical disabilities defending the nation from those who would make air travel dangerous and deadly. The legislation before us strikes an appropriate balance between these competing interests.

The Helping Heroes Fly Act improves airport security screening processes for wounded and severely disabled service members and veterans; authorizes a Wounded Warrior Screening Program and requires TSA to maintain an Operations Center. These improvements will facilitate and expedite air travel for our disabled veterans and service members. More importantly, they help that our nation's heroes are shown the respect and appreciation of a grateful nation.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 1344, and urge all my colleagues to join me in voting for the Helping Heroes Fly Act of 2013.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to a distinguished gentleman who has also served his country admirably in the military and is someone who serves on the Homeland Security Committee with Congresswoman GABBARD and me, the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

Mr. PERRY. I would like to start out by thanking the gentleladies from Indiana and, of course, from Hawaii for this very significant and impactful legislation. It is particularly a privilege to speak in favor of this knowing that Ms. GABBARD is from Hawaii and, today, currently serves as a comrade in arms just like me.

The TSA started an expedited free screening program in 2011 called PreCheck, but just recently expanded the program to include Active Duty members of the military and most recently, just this March, to severely injured members of the military.

As a matter of fact, there is a Member of this House who was severely injured, and I served right along with her soldiers. I flew with those soldiers in Iraq myself. Many of these injured soldiers and servicemembers want to continue to serve. They want to—that's their calling in life—but they cannot for their own good and for the good of the mission, but their hearts are in the right place. So while it's great that the TSA has recognized severely injured members of the military in that regard, what about these veterans who want to serve but cannot continue to serve? This bill rightfully extends similar benefits to severely injured or disabled veterans and members of the Armed Forces.

Increased and more stringent security is understandable in the wake of 9/11, and it's kind of a bitter irony that many of these members who have been severely injured joined just because of those events. Now how ironic is it that they are caught up in this web of security for the injuries they received because they answered the call of their country?

Servicemembers I know don't ask for special recognition or any recognition for being soldiers or servicemembers and certainly not for the injuries they have received as a result of their service. So I stand in very strong support of this legislation, and I urge all of my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this bill.

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL).

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 1344, the Helping Heroes Fly Act.

I am a proud sponsor of this bipartisan legislation introduced by my friend Congresswoman GABBARD. Congresswoman GABBARD is a person who knows a thing or two about what it's like to be a combat veteran who comes back from the battlefield and who has to use our airports. Fortunately, she is back in one piece, but we know all too well that many of our veterans are not, and this bill eases their ability to move through our airports.

It would extend benefits through TSA screenings at airports, benefits similar to the expedited PreCheck program, to severely injured or disabled veterans and to members of the armed services who fly. As it stands now, many of our Nation's wounded warriors report that screening protocols aren't properly standardized at airports around the Nation. Consistent treatment by screeners would help create certainty for the newly injured and give greater attention to addressing their privacy concerns. Despite TSA guidance to the contrary, some veterans report having been required to take off prosthetics in public view during screenings. This is a difficult process that our injured and veterans should not have to endure.

□ 1340

In January, I met with Staff Sergeant Jason Ross from Livermore, California, in my district. Sergeant Ross was severely injured by an IED while honorably serving in Afghanistan and lost both of his legs. This bill would help ease the transition back home for wounded warriors and heroes like Sergeant Ross.

The continued sacrifice and selfless service of our Nation's heroes, a group Sergeant Ross exemplifies with distinction, is immeasurable. That's why we as a Nation must live up to our responsibilities to properly support the men and women of our Armed Forces when they return home. We must leave no soldier behind, and we owe our troops more than just ''thank you for your service.''

Today, it is too easy to spend money, and we've spent over a billion dollars a year recruiting people into our armed services while we're not doing enough to take care of them and keep the promises we make, whether it's providing GI funding or making sure that disability claims are taken care of. Currently, the average wait time for a disability claim ranges between 316 and 327 days. This is far too long.

The Oakland VA, which serves the veterans of my district, has one of the worst backlogs in the Nation. At a time when our wounded warriors are left waiting so long to receive the care that they have rightly earned, helping to ensure our Nation's heroes are able to travel seamlessly and without hindrance when they return home is a step we must take.

I want to thank again my colleague, Congresswoman GABBARD from Hawaii, for sponsoring this bill. I'll always support legislation that helps our returning servicemembers and their families receive the care and thanks they were promised and have earned.

I urge my colleagues to vote for the Helping Heroes Fly Act.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. If the gentlewoman from Hawaii has no further speakers, I'm prepared to close once the gentlewoman does.

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It's been an honor to stand here on the floor today in a bipartisan manner with my colleagues.

I want to thank the gentlewoman from Indiana for managing this and her strong support and advocacy for this issue, which is symbolic of us taking action to honor our heroes, especially as we head into Memorial Day.

You've heard from many Members why this is a good bill and why it should pass. It's been subject to scrutiny by all the stakeholders, and it has resulted in a bill that will be efficient and effective.

One example of steps we have taken to make sure that this is an efficient bill is making sure that, as we provide training as a central requirement to make sure that consistency in all airports exists, the provision requiring employee training was modified to make it clear that only screening personnel who participate in these expedited services will be mandatory—required to be trained under this bill—as opposed to requiring every single employee of the TSA to be trained, even when their job has nothing to do with passenger screening responsibilities. This modification ensures that the department's limited resources are spent in the most efficient manner, while also ensuring the consistent policies and treatment that are our objectives of this legislation.

I'd like to take a moment to highlight the support that this bill has gotten from veteran organizations. In addition to the Disabled American Veterans, I also have letters of support from the Wounded Warrior Project, the American Legion, and the Paralyzed Veterans of America. The Wounded Warrior Project sums it up perfectly, as they say:

> Wounded warriors should not have to sacrifice their privacy, encounter conflicting screening policies and procedures, or be subject to significant travel delays. We welcome the steps proposed in H.R. 1344 to foster expedited screening and to protect the privacy of our wounded warriors going through this process. We also commend the proposal to require the TSA to continue to consult with veterans' service organizations as they develop these improved screening processes.

Mr. Speaker, before yielding back, I just want to take a moment to thank the chairman of the committee, Mr. MCCAUL, and the ranking member, BENNIE THOMPSON, whose strong support for this bill allowed it to move very quickly and to be considered here on the floor here today. Subcommittee Chairman Mr. HUDSON and Ranking Member RICHMOND, as well as SHEILA JACKSON LEE, along with my colleague, Mrs. BROOKS from Indiana, have also been incredible champions and supporters. Last but not least, I would like to take a moment to recognize senior professional staff Brian Turbyfill, who has been invaluable in providing his assistance in guiding this bill through the process.

Mr. Speaker, this is a commonsense measure that aligns with the intelligence-driven, risked-based approach to security that TSA is striving for. It addresses a clearly identified problem and provides a solution that will serve and honor the sacrifices of our Nation's selfless heroes and great servant leaders.

I ask my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT,
Washington, DC, April 8, 2013.

Hon. TULSI GABBARD,
Cannon House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN GABBARD: As an organization whose mission is to honor and empower wounded warriors, Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) is committed to assisting service members and veterans thrive within the community. For wounded veterans living with prosthetics or other service-connected conditions, airport screening is often a frustrating, degrading, and lengthy process. With that concern, we welcome the introduction of the Helping Heroes Fly Act, H.R. 1344, and the improvements it proposes to screen these men and women in a manner befitting their service.

Wounded warriors should not have to sacrifice their privacy, encounter conflicting screening policies and procedures, or be subject to significant travel delays. We welcome the steps proposed in H.R. 1344 to foster expedited screening and to protect the privacy of warriors going through the screening process. We also commend the proposal to require the Transportation Security Administration to consult with veterans' service organizations in the development of improved screening.

We look forward to working with you to advance this legislation and toward improving the airport screening process for those who have served.

Sincerely,

CHARLIE ABELL,
EVP for Government Affairs.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,
Washington, DC, April 24, 2013.

Hon. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman, Homeland Security Committee, Ford House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Ranking Member, Homeland Security Committee, House of Representatives, Ford House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL AND RANKING MEMBER THOMPSON: On behalf of the 2.4 million members of The American Legion I express our support for H.R. 1344, the Helping Heroes Fly Act. This bill will ensure our nation's wounded warriors and veterans are consistently screened in a manner befitting their service and sacrifice. This bill is supported by The American Legion's National Resolution No. 14 which encourages airport courtesy to military personnel.

Although the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has announced it will offer expedited screening to severely injured servicemembers, there are still issues that need to be addressed which will be resolved with this legislation. The legislation makes the following improvements:

Requires TSA to provide privacy for the individual being screened;

Requires TSA to consult with advocacy groups;

Mandates TSA training on expedited screening protocols;

Requires TSA to maintain an operations center that wounded warriors and veterans can contact for assistance in advance of flying; and

Requires TSA to report to Congress on its progress implementing the screening process.

Thank you for your support of our nation's servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

Respectfully,

JAMES E. ''JIM'' KOUTZ,
National Commander.

PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA,
Washington, DC, April 18, 2013.

Hon. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman, House Committee on Homeland Security, Ford House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland Security, Ford House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL AND RANKING MEMBER THOMPSON: On behalf of Paralyzed

Veterans of America (PVA), I write to support H.R. 1344, the bipartisan ''Helping Heroes Fly Act'', which was introduced by Representatives Tulsi Gabbard (D–HI), David P. Joyce (R–OH), and Cedric L. Richmond (D–LA) and referred to the Subcommittee on Transportation Security on April 1, 2013.

H.R. 1344 authorizes the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) Wounded Warrior Screening Program, which facilitates and expedites the screening of severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and veterans at our nation's airports. TSA recently announced efforts to ease the security screening process for people with disabilities, but the program may still have inconsistencies in how its protocols are implemented and leaves privacy concerns and stakeholder input lacking. The ''Helping Heroes Fly Act'' addresses these shortcomings by, among other things, requiring consultation between TSA and advocacy groups like PVA, which will allow us to share our veterans' screening experiences and guarantee that their concerns are heard. Further, the bill mandates that TSA make every effort to protect the privacy of wounded warriors and ensure that our nation's heroes are shown their due respect and appreciation.

While some paralyzed veterans may not need the assistance provided by the program, we have had reports from our members that greatly appreciate the service offered. One member recently reported that a TSA officer unexpectedly met him at the gate on arrival in Milwaukee, managed his luggage and even helped him jump the battery in his car—greatly reducing the time and anxiety he would have otherwise encountered.

Every one of our veterans appreciates TSA's and the Committee on Homeland Security's attention to this matter. We encourage your support of this legislation and urge you to see that it receives consideration in the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

BILL LAWSON,
National President,
Paralyzed Veterans of America.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS,
Washington, DC, April 9, 2013.

Hon. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman, House Committee on Homeland Security, Ford House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland Security, Ford House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL AND RANKING MEMBER THOMPSON: I am writing on behalf of the DAV, a congressionally chartered national veterans service organization with 1.2 million members, all of whom were wounded or injured as a result of active duty in the United States Armed Forces. The DAV is dedicated to a single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. We accomplish this by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capitol Hill; and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life.

H.R. 1344, the Helping Heroes Fly Act, would direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, Transportation Security Administration (TSA), to provide expedited air passenger screening to severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans.

With many of the members of DAV suffering from the loss of limbs due to their wartime service in defense of our nation, we are finding it increasingly difficult to understand the screening policies of the TSA affecting those with prosthetic limbs, wheelchairs and scooters boarding aircraft.

While TSA offers a variety of outstanding services, such as Notification Cards, TSA Cares, pat-down screening, multiple types of imaging and metal detection screening, and the compassionate TSA Military Severely Injured Program, amputees are not exempt from additional screening when necessary. In fact, screenings experienced by our members lack uniformity, understanding and compassion.

At some airports, our amputee members receive relaxed screening, while at others these screenings are horrific. Perhaps it is TSA's purpose to make screenings unpredictable. Some screenings have required these amputees to expose their prostheses when they lack the ability to reposition their clothing, and TSA agents are not allowed to help them, nor do they allow spouses or traveling companions to enter search areas to assist the amputees.

We applaud Representatives Gabbard, Richmond, and Joyce for introducing this legislation and for their continued support of America's wounded and injured veterans. While the DAV does not have a specific resolution from our members on this subject, it would be beneficial to many of our members. Accordingly, we support the passage of this legislation. I look forward to working with you and your staff to continue the DAV mission of empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives.

Sincerely,

BARRY A. JESINOSKI,
Executive Director,
Washington Headquarters.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

On behalf of myself, as well as Congressman MCCAUL, the chair of the Homeland Security Committee, we would like to commend Congresswoman GABBARD of Hawaii not only for her service in moving this issue, but for her military service. I'm very proud to be serving with her, and we are so pleased that this is being done in such a bipartisan manner. The Congresswoman from Hawaii and I have enjoyed a new strong friendship, and I hope there are many more bills to come that we can work on together.

I must say that we know that there are so many brave men and women throughout this country who have been severely injured while fighting. In fact, according to the Employment and Disability Institute at Cornell University, there are 6,800 working-age civilian veterans in Indiana, alone, who have had the most severe service-connected disability rating.

And this past weekend when I was out at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in honor of Armed Forces Day on Sunday and as we swore in the young men and women who have agreed to step up and serve in the National Guard and they were reporting to basic training that day, I knew that this bill was on the House floor this week. It was quite emotional to see these young men and women who we know between them and their families are providing the most incredible sacrifice. I am just very pleased that we are working on this bill in this manner.

To sit by while one of these heroes—and to me, all of these young 18-year-olds to 22-year-olds that I saw in front of me are heroes. We pray that they will not be injured. But those who are injured and who provide that incredible sacrifice cannot be treated like potential enemies here at home, and particularly at our airports. It should put us all to shame. Our wounded warriors are a special group of citizens in this country. They are a trusted group of citizens, and we can and must do more to treat them as such and to recognize their commitment to our Nation. With the Memorial Day holiday fast approaching, this bill is a timely tribute to their sacrifice.

I must also say that this weekend at the Indianapolis 500, before the race, it is the most moving ceremony when our armed services march down Pit Lane, and the quarter of a million people that will be there say it is probably the most moving ceremony they have ever witnessed. So we look not only for safety this weekend at our race, but it is a wonderful reminder of the incredible sacrifice all of the men and women in the military give day in and day out.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 1344, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi: Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1344, the "Helping Heroes Fly Act."

Mr. Speaker, at the outset, I would like to commend the gentlewoman from Hawaii, Representative GABBARD, for introducing this thoughtful, bipartisan legislation.

I also commend the Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, the gentleman from Texas, Mr. MCCAUL, for working diligently to have this bill receive timely consideration by the House.

We owe a great debt to the women and men who have served to defend our freedom.

Those who were injured or rendered disabled because of their service, in particular, deserve our deepest gratitude and respect.

They deserve to be treated with the upmost respect and dignity upon their return home.

Unfortunately, when it comes to flying domestically, all too often, the security screening experience for injured and disabled veterans is anything but respectful and dignified.

H.R. 1344, the "Helping Heroes Fly Act," seeks to improve the screening experience for these brave men and women by requiring the Transportation Security Administration to develop and implement a process to facilitate the ease of travel and provide expedited screening to these members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

It specifically requires consultation with organizations like the Wounded Warrior Project, American Legion, and Paralyzed Veterans of America that advocate on behalf of service members and veterans.

Importantly, to help ensure consistency across the aviation security system, it also requires training for screeners on the protocols for screening injured and disabled service members and veterans.

Passage of this legislation is the right thing to do to for those who sacrificed and were injured while serving our nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1344, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

FREEDOM TO FISH ACT

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 982) to prohibit the Corps of Engineers from taking certain actions to establish a restricted area prohibiting public access to waters downstream of a dam, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 982

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Freedom to Fish Act''.

SEC. 2. RESTRICTED AREAS AT CORPS OF ENGINEERS DAMS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(1) RESTRICTED AREA.—The term ''restricted area'' means a restricted area for hazardous waters at dams and other civil works structures in the Cumberland River basin established in accordance with chapter 10 of the regulation entitled ''Project Operations: Navigation and Dredging Operations and Maintenance Policies'', published by the Corps of Engineers on November 29, 1996, and any related regulations or guidance.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers.

(b) EXISTING RESTRICTED AREA.—If the Secretary has established a restricted area or modified an existing restricted area during the period beginning on August 1, 2012, and ending on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) cease implementing and enforcing the restricted area until the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) remove any permanent physical barriers constructed in connection with the restricted area.

(c) ESTABLISHING NEW RESTRICTED AREA.—If, on or after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary establishes any restricted area, the Secretary shall—

(1) ensure that any restrictions are based on operational conditions that create hazardous waters;

(2) publish a draft describing the restricted area and seek and consider public comment on that draft prior to establishing the restricted area;

(3) not implement or enforce the restricted area until the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(4) not take any action to establish a permanent physical barrier in connection with the restricted area.

(d) EXCLUSIONS.—For purposes of this section, the installation and maintenance of measures for alerting the public of hazardous water conditions and restricted areas, including sirens, strobe lights, and signage, shall not be considered to be a permanent physical barrier.

(e) ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Enforcement of a restricted area shall be the sole responsibility of the State in which the restricted area is located.

(2) EXISTING AUTHORITIES.—The Secretary shall not assess any penalty for entrance into a restricted area under section 4 of the Act entitled ''An Act authorizing the construction of certain public works on rivers and harbors for flood control, and for other purposes'', approved December 22, 1944 (16 U.S.C. 460d).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

□ 1350

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend and include extraneous materials on S. 982.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

S. 982, the Freedom to Fish Act, would prohibit the Corps of Engineers from restricting public access in the vicinity of the 10 dams on the Cumberland River in Kentucky and Tennessee. This bill, this legislation, was introduced in the Senate by the leader, Senator MCCONNELL, and also by Senator RAND PAUL of Kentucky, and our own in-House version authored by our colleague, ED WHITFIELD from Kentucky.

The bill provides for a 2-year moratorium to give the public, the two States, and the Corps of Engineers more time to carefully review conditions at these facilities, and to deal with the immediate threat to fishing, tourism, and the economy.

I applaud our leadership for bringing this legislation to the floor today. This is an excellent example of Congress exercising our constitutional authority to oversee Federal agencies. Far too often, the executive branch and the Federal bureaucracy operate without input and guidance from Congress. My colleagues on the floor of this House every day criticize rules, regulations, and actions by unelected bureaucrats that hurt our districts, our constituents, and our economy. Congress has the right, the constitutional duty, to oversee Federal agencies and provide them with clear guidance and direction.

As chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, problems with the Army Corps of Engineers are frequently brought to my attention by my colleagues from both sides of the aisle, Republicans and Democrats. I am pleased to work whenever possible to address these issues with clear guidance from Congress.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The pending measure was introduced in the Senate on May 16 of this year, 2013, and passed the very same day. While the bill is apparently a Senate-revised version of the legislation introduced in February of 2013, no committee hearings or markups were held on either bill.

Since 1996, the Army Corps of Engineers has been required to establish restricted areas for hazardous waters upstream and downstream of all Corps dams. As written, S. 982 would revise the current agency policy and would also prohibit the Army Corps of Engineers from establishing any restricted areas in hazardous waters at dams and other structures in the Cumberland River basin for a period of 2 years, and also require them to remove any physical barriers that already exist to prevent access to the hazardous areas. If after the 2-year moratorium, the Corps decided to implement new restricted areas around these dams and other structures, it would continue to be prohibited from erecting any physical barriers to prevent people from entering hazardous areas.

Mr. Speaker, I have serious concerns over this legislation because it does pose risks for public safety and national security. Currently, the Corps restricts access to certain areas above and below the dams of the Cumberland River basin in order to keep people from being sucked into the spill waste or from having their boats swamped or sunk by unplanned releases from the hydropower units, which are very much un-timed. The reason they do this is very simple: to prevent people from drowning and to restrict access to Federal dams that would be targets for terrorism or destruction. Without full-time law enforcement patrols, areas above and below dams are not constantly monitored, and the Corps has not been able to alert and rescue people who get into trouble. They have to base it on people who are in boats nearby to help effect a rescue. Fourteen people drowned in the last few years, and there have been 20 near misses where there is no Corps staff to help.

In fact, according to a report by WRCB–TV in Chattanooga, Tennessee, there have been three fatalities in the hazardous waters immediately downstream of those dams on the Cumberland River. The waters are so hazardous at these locations that wearing a life jacket is ineffective. And I repeat: ineffective.

To legislatively preclude a Federal agency from protecting public health and national security seems a very unwise course of action, and I have significant concerns about the precedent that would be set by this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD), the author of the House version of this bill.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Chairman SHUSTER, I want to thank you and Ranking Member NAPOLITANO for agreeing to bring this important legislation to the floor. I will tell you, last September the Army Corps of Engineers made a decision that at the 10 dams located on the Cumberland River, they would put up a barrier of fishing near these dams in the tailwaters.

Despite opposition from the Governors of Tennessee and Kentucky, the Fish and Wildlife Services of Kentucky and Tennessee, Senator ALEXANDER, Senator CORKER, Congressman JIM COOPER, MARSHA BLACKBURN of Tennessee, STEVE FINCHER, myself, RAND PAUL, MITCH MCCONNELL and others—we wrote letters to the Corps. We had public meetings with the Corps. We sent petitions to the Corps. We had phone calls with the Corps, and asked them to delay the implementation, primarily because of the sequestration and the amount of money that it would take to put these barriers up, which would be almost $3 million.

Despite our best efforts, and we had meetings at which 400 to 500 people attended, they refused to delay the implementation. So I rise today to support this Senate bill because it delays the implementation for 2 years.

I want to thank the gentlelady for bringing up the safety issue. All of us are very much concerned about the safety issue. But I would like to point out that in the 42 years of the history of these dams on the Cumberland River in Tennessee and Kentucky, there have been 881 drownings in the collective lakes and waters not including the area immediately around the dam. There have only been 14 drownings—and any drowning is too many—but in 42 years around the dam where they are focused on, there have been 14 drownings. I might say that of those 14 drownings, five of them occurred on the banks; two of them were of unknown causes; three were because people were not even wearing life jackets; three were because they were wearing the life jackets improperly; and only one drowning occurred in 42 years where the person was wearing the life jacket properly.

So I would say to the Corps, the real safety issue relates to the collective waters not around the dams. Of course, we all are very much concerned about protecting the homeland, homeland security, and I will tell you in these very rural areas of Tennessee and Kentucky where these dams are located, many people are out there fishing.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SHUSTER. I yield the gentleman an additional minute.

Mr. WHITFIELD. I thank the gentleman.

These are very rural areas. I will tell you that the Fish and Wildlife Service provides a great deal of protection and enforcement of broken laws in this area. Many of these people are quite familiar with each other, and I'm not going to be able to address the homeland security issue in detail, except to say that it is enforced. Many of the people who fish there through the fishing competitions and for the economic growth know each other.

But on the safety issue, I would just say 14 drownings in 42 years around the dam itself, 881 in other areas, and so we're not asking that this be a permanent restriction. We are simply asking the Corps to work with the Governors, the Fish and Wildlife Services of both States, the Senate and House, and local county judges to address it in a more permanent way.

So I would respectfully request that you approve the Senate bill, which would simply delay this for 2 years for additional study.

□ 1400

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume to say it'd be nice to know why the Army Corps has not really been effective in getting back to the parties that have asked for information and working with them; and it would be very much interesting to know whether or not it's because of sequestration or budget or whatever, but we might delve into it later.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee, Congressman COOPER.

Mr. COOPER. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

This is a completely bipartisan measure, and I hope that we have an overwhelming vote in support of it.

The Freedom to Fish Act is a very responsible piece of legislation put forward in the Senate by my colleague, Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER.

In the hearing on the Senate side, Senator FEINSTEIN pointed out to the Army Corps of Engineers' witness how reasonable Senator ALEXANDER was trying to be, how reasonable this approach was. So I think we can say with some certainty that this is something that should be overwhelmingly supported by this House.

For my colleagues, the Cumberland River is perhaps unknown to you. It's a beautiful river. Every elected official that I'm aware of in our area, Democrat and Republican, supports this legislation.

Safety is an issue, but so is overreaching by our friends at the Corps. Occasionally they're a little bit tone deaf, especially if they get transferred in and out a little bit too quickly.

This is an amazing little way to fish here, below the dams. Some of you not realizing, you think fish is this big or this big. Some of these fish are 30 and 40 pounds.

This is a magnificent recreational resource that has been unfairly harmed by proposed Corps actions and by, really, an official who will be soon moving away from our area and living in another part of the country. He's a fine gentleman, but this is an opportunity for us to reclaim our local rights, our traditions, our freedom to fish.

I would urge colleagues on both sides of the aisle to have a little common sense here. Support S. 982. It's a very reasonable approach to trying to solve this problem, solving this dispute with the Corps. Support S. 982.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I do rise today to support this legislation and to support the sportsmen from Tennessee and Kentucky. And as you can see, this is an issue where there is bipartisan agreement.

One of my constituents said it so well. They're so frustrated with this situation, and we've heard from so many of them on it. And they said, you know, you can turn on the TV any night and you see government overreach, whether it's the IRS admitting that they have targeted conservative groups or DOJ wiretapping reporters. And then you get home to Tennessee and, at the local level, what you see is the Corps of Engineers coming in and saying, well, by the way, we're going to change something, and you're not going to be able to fish.

Fishing in Tennessee is a tradition. It is a favorite pastime. Sportsmen have been fishing along this beautiful Cumberland River for years. As Mr. COOPER said, it is a beautiful place to be. And since the dams were built, I have to tell you, there are now generations of Tennesseeans, you will see families out together fishing. We have about 900,000 registered anglers in our State, and I have to tell you, I think our office has heard from almost every one of them on this issue. They have been very persistent.

One thing I would want my colleagues to know is that our sportsmen in our State are wonderful stewards of conserving our natural resources and the great outdoors, and they exercise personal responsibility and great care in protecting their favorite place to go fishing.

It is really to the disbelief of the Army Corps of Engineers that we already know when it is safe or not to go fish in these tailwaters. So what we're saying is let's right this wrong, and let's allow individuals to get back and enjoy the Freedom to Fish Act. Pass it today.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of the time.

I really appreciate the information from my colleagues on the other side. It is only for 2 years, which is time enough to be able to have the Corps and the individual participants be able to come to some agreement.

The fact that there is, according to my colleague, no fishing, I think it's only in certain areas, which would be at the lip of the dam and below the

dam where the spill is where there is danger of boats getting swamped, and so it is something that we need to look forward and see what happens.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR).

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, spring is upon us, a season that is important to several of Kentucky's signature industries. Not only does spring signify horse racing and the Kentucky Derby, but it also marks the beginning of the adventure and outdoor tourism season as well.

Tourism is an $11.7 billion signature industry in my State, employing over 166,000 Kentuckians and accounting for 1 in 10 jobs across the Commonwealth. A major part of Kentucky tourism stems from one of America's favorite pastimes—fishing.

In my district, the Kentucky River is enjoyed by many, many, as it stretches from the Daniel Boone National Forest and meanders through horse farms in the central Bluegrass, specifically in Woodford and Franklin Counties.

Fishermen especially enjoy fishing in the Kentucky River's tailwaters surrounding locks and dams, areas notorious for having an abundance of fish. Unfortunately, the Army Corps of Engineers has decided to prohibit tailwater fishing in a sister river just south of my district, the Cumberland River, where many of my constituents travel to engage in their favorite pastime.

This is yet another example of government overreach, where this time the government is telling us how to fish in water systems that have been safely utilized for generations. We must not allow the Corps to set a precedent for regulating how Kentuckians and Americans alike spend their time outdoors.

As our fragile economy continues to recover, my constituents tell me that they plan on sticking closer to home to recreate this spring and summer. Overregulation of fishing is a deterrent to family time and harms our local businesses that depend on the revenue from seasonal recreation and tourism.

I ask my colleagues to join me in support of the Freedom to Fish Act, which places a 2-year moratorium on the Corps' plan to restrict access to tailwaters in the Cumberland River.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SHUSTER. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. BARR. This will allow us time to implement a permanent plan to halt Army Corps from setting a precedent of restricting access to any tailwaters going forward.

I'm an original cosponsor of this legislation—and I applaud the leadership of Mr. WHITFIELD, my colleague from Kentucky—and that does exactly this: protect fishermen in rural economies and Americans' right to choose how they recreate.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, it's now a great pleasure for me to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Frog Jump, Tennessee (Mr. FINCHER).

Mr. FINCHER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for yielding.

I have had the privilege of fishing actually on the Cumberland River at Barkley Dam. My grandfather took me many times to fish there. And how this would work, and why it's such a good fishing spot is, when they would release the water from the top of the dam and when it would come under and come in the back of the dam, the waters would roll up, and the big fish that we talk about would roll up off the bottom, and that's why the fishing is so good.

And it's like we don't have enough things to do in Washington that we're dealing with this issue today. I want to thank Mr. WHITFIELD for bringing this up, but commonsense solutions to problems are what we should be talking about. And the Corps, in many respects, they do good work, but bringing this up, stopping the fishing from occurring at the dams and on the rivers, the Cumberland River in specific, is ridiculous.

We need to get down to the business of America—let's let people fish where they've always fished, like my grandfather took me to Barkley Dam over and over and over, time and time again—and get to the real issues.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation today, and let's give the power back to the people—commonsense solutions for real problems.

□ 1410

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, in closing, once again, I just want to applaud our leadership for bringing this legislation to the floor today. As I said earlier, this is an excellent opportunity, excellent example for Congress to exercise our constitutional authority over these Federal agencies.

With that, I would urge all my colleagues to join in supporting this important legislation, S. 982, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 982.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR UNVEILING OF STATUE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 16) authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for the unveiling of a statue of Frederick Douglass.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 16

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That

SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR THE UNVEILING OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS STATUE.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used for an event on June 19, 2013, to unveil a statue of Frederick Douglass.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the conduct of the event described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 16, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for the unveiling of a statue of Frederick Douglass, a great abolitionist. Frederick Douglass is a pivotal figure in American history who had an unyielding dedication to equal rights, the abolition of slavery, and the enhancement of women's suffrage. His brave actions and compelling writings inspired and forever changed this grateful Nation.

Born into slavery, Frederick Douglass escaped to New York in 1838 disguised as a free uniformed sailor. Upon achieving his own freedom, he quickly and unwaveringly turned his life's mission to seeking freedom, justice, and equality for all. Frederick Douglass inspired in African Americans the fundamental that one's achievement cannot be limited by one's color and that the American Dream is within reach for all Americans, regardless of race.

Over a century has passed since his death, and yet his contribution to American society is very much alive today. His tireless dedication, brilliant words, and inclusive vision of humanity continue to inspire people of all races. In considering the remarkable achievements of Frederick Douglass and his contributions to our rich history, his presence within the United States Capitol will honor this institution and serve as endearing testimony to this Nation's struggle for freedom and for equality.

I want to thank the Senator from the State of New York, Mr. SCHUMER, for

introducing this concurrent resolution, as well as my colleague, Ms. NORTON from the District of Columbia, for her work on this, and I would certainly urge my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. I rise in strong support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 16.

I would like to begin by thanking Chairman MILLER for her help in bringing this resolution to the floor. I also thank Ranking Member BRADY for his longstanding commitment to placing a District of Columbia statue in the United States Capitol. When he chaired the committee, it approved my bill that would have given the District two statues in the Capitol, the usual practice. But, we are pleased to have our first statue and are grateful to the House leadership for permitting this bill on the floor today. We especially thank Senators SCHUMER and DURBIN for their help in getting this resolution, as well as the bill authorizing the placement of the Douglass statue in the Capitol, passed in the Senate. The District of Columbia has no Senators so we're fortunate we have distinguished allies like Senators SCHUMER and DURBIN.

Like the residents of the 50 States, the residents of the District of Columbia have fought and died in all our Nation's wars and have always paid Federal income taxes. Unlike the residents of the 50 States, however, District of Columbia residents are still fighting for their equal rights as American citizens. Since 2002, one component of that fight has been to have statues representing the District of Columbia placed in the Capitol, like the States, which fulfill every obligation of citizenship, as the District does.

D.C. residents chose Douglass to represent them in the Capitol not only because he is one of the great international icons of human and civil rights; but for us, Douglass is especially important because he was not content to rest on his historic national achievements alone. He knew where he lived and was deeply involved in the civic and political affairs of the District of Columbia.

Douglass, a strong Republican, served as Recorder of Deeds of the District of Columbia, as United States Marshal here, as a member of the D.C. Council—its upper chamber then—appointed by the Republican president at the time, Ulysses S. Grant. Douglass was also a member of the Board of Trustees of Howard University for 24 years. Douglass made his home in the Anacostia neighborhood of southeast Washington, which is now the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, administered by the National Park Service.

In choosing Douglass, it was important to our residents that Douglass also dedicated himself to securing self-government and voting rights for the residents of the District of Columbia. Many Americans may not know that D.C. residents have only rarely had even nonvoting representation in the Congress, or a local government, and even today have no vote on the floor of the House and no Senators, although our residents pay Federal income taxes like everybody else and fight in all the Nation's wars like everybody else. The city had both home rule and a delegate for a brief period during Reconstruction and then was without any home rule government or any representation in the Congress for over 100 years, until the 1970s.

In his autobiography, ''The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass,'' Douglass commented on the unequal political status of his hometown, the District of Columbia, and of its residents. Most of what Douglass wrote in the 19th century holds true today.

I am quoting Douglass from his autobiography:

> These people are outside of the United States. They occupy neutral ground and have no political existence. They have neither voice nor vote in all the practical politics of the United States. They are hardly to be called citizens of the United States. Practically, they are aliens, not citizens but subjects. The District of Columbia is the one spot where there is no government for the people, of the people, and by the people. Its citizens submit to rulers whom they have had no choice in selecting. They obey laws which they had no voice in making. They have plenty of taxation but no representation.

□ 1420

In the great questions of politics in the country they can march with neither army, but are relegated to the position of neuters. I have nothing to say in favor of this anomalous condition of the people of the District of Columbia, and hardly think that it ought to be or will be much longer. Mr. Douglass did not mince his words.

The Douglass statue in our Capitol will recognize the universality of his dedication to human rights and democratic rights. His statue in the Capitol will remind District of Columbia residents that they, too, will partake of these values one day. His statue will offer the same pride that other citizens of our country experience when they come to the Capitol and see memorials that commemorate the efforts of their residents and their significant contributions. And the Douglass statue offers other Americans the opportunity to see the residents of their Nation's Capital honored as well in their Capitol.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, again I want to thank my colleague from the District of Columbia for her very eloquent words. We are all looking forward to the unveiling of the statue of this remarkable American that is such a critical component of our proud history.

With that, I would urge all of my colleagues to support this Senate concurrent resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the concurrent resolution, S. Con. Res. 16.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of the privileges of the House and offer the resolution previously noticed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

> *Resolved,* That the House of Representatives shall not consider H.R. 3, the 'Northern Route Approval Act' because: (1) it violates Rule XXI of the House, and (2) it affects the dignity and integrity of the proceedings of the House since it is unconstitutional.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Florida wish to present argument on the parliamentary question whether the resolution presents a question of the privileges of the House?

Mr. GRAYSON. Yes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for that purpose.

Mr. GRAYSON. I rise today to address H.R. 3, the Northern Route Approval Act, and my resolution raising a question of privilege regarding the matter.

Please note that this is a privileged motion and therefore outside the scope of the Rules Committee's jurisdiction regarding ''the order of business of the House'' under rule X. Rather, this is a question of privilege ''affecting the rights of the House collectively, its safety, dignity, and the integrity of its proceedings'' pursuant to rule IX. It is not invoked to ''effect a change in the rules or their interpretation'' as prescribed by House Rules and Manual at page 420.

Consideration of this bill exceeds ''the rights of the House collectively'' and brings into question the ''dignity and the integrity of the proceedings'' of the House of Representatives under House rule IX because, first, it is unconstitutional, and second, it is an earmark.

I presented this matter to the full House in H. Res. 225 as a question of privilege last night, and I noticed the question immediately following the only vote series of the day.

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to rule IX of the House you must now make your determination as to whether or not this is an appropriate ''question of privilege'' and hold a vote on the resolution offered before the House. Before that happens, I would like to address the two claims I have made against the bill

offered by the gentleman from Nebraska, and then I will outline the reasons why I feel you should find in favor of my question of privilege.

H.R. 3 is unconstitutional. ''The Constitution does not permit Congress to execute the laws.''

The above is taken from the Supreme Court's ruling in Bowsher v. Synar. The bill before us violates this principle. Congress creates the laws, and it's up to the Executive to execute the laws.

Under section 3 of this bill, however, ''the final environmental impact statement issued by the Secretary of State on August 26, 2011'' and ''the Presidential permit required for the pipeline described in the application filed on May 4, 2012''——

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman must confine his remarks to whether the resolution qualifies as a question of privilege.

Mr. GRAYSON. I believe I have. May I continue?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may not debate the underlying bill but must confine himself to the matter of privilege.

Mr. GRAYSON. Respectfully, Mr. Chairman, I think they are inextricably entwined. I don't see how I can do one without the other.

May I continue?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may proceed in order.

Mr. GRAYSON. ''by TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, L.P. to the Department of State as supplemented to include the Nebraska reroute evaluated in the Final Evaluation Report issued by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality in January 2013 and approved by the Nebraska Governor'' shall ''be considered or deemed to satisfy all requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the National Historic Preservation Act.'' This is a clear attempt by this body to execute the law of the land, and that is proscribed by the Constitution.

Again, Mr. Speaker, the Executive must execute the laws. H.R. 3 runs afoul of this requirement. The Supreme Court held in Bowsher v. Synar that interpreting a law enacted by Congress to implement the legislative mandate is the very essence of ''execution of the law,'' and that's exactly what is being proposed here and forbidden by the Constitution.

The exercise of judgment in the bill before us concerning facts that affect application of statute——

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's remarks should be confined to the question of privileges of the House. The gentleman's remarks address the underlying bill, which is not before the House currently. If the gentleman is unwilling to confine his remarks to the question of privilege, the Chair is prepared to rule.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, it's not a question of whether I'm willing to. As I indicated before, the two are inextricably linked.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind the gentleman that there are two different questions. One is the merits of the measure that the gentleman keeps trying to propose in his remarks; the other is the question of privilege. The debate is on the question of privilege, whether this resolution constitutes a question of privilege.

Mr. GRAYSON. I understand that. But I don't think that the Chair can properly be informed of that question without the material that I'm providing to the Chair right now.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may proceed in order.

Mr. GRAYSON. Thank you.

The Supreme Court held in Bowsher v. Synar that ''interpreting a law enacted by Congress to implement the legislative mandate is the very essence of 'execution' of the law,'' and that's exactly what is being proposed here.

The exercise of judgment in the bill before us concerning facts that affect application of statute constitutes execution of the law. It is an unconstitutional act that this body should not entertain. It violates separation of powers and violates the principle underlying the prohibition of bills of attainder.

Statements are deemed by this bill to be in compliance with laws the Executive has been tasked with executing—the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, known as NEPA, and the National Historic Preservation Act. If you see section 3 of H.R. 3, it's referenced there. This is an impermissible execution of the law.

Congress, through this bill, is attempting to apply the facts of the Keystone XL pipeline environmental impact statement to the body of law and deciding that they comply. This is unconstitutional and brings into question the ''dignity and the integrity of proceedings'' of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will give the gentleman one more opportunity. The question of constitutionality is not the same as a question of privileges of the House. The gentleman should confine himself to the question of privileges of the House. And if the gentleman is unprepared to do so, the Chair is prepared to rule.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, the last words that I just said were that this offends the ''dignity and the integrity of the proceedings'' of the House. This relates directly to the matter before the Chair.

May I proceed?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may proceed on the question of privilege, and the Chair believes the gentleman knows the difference.

□ 1430

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I stand by what I just said.

May I proceed?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may proceed, but the Chair is prepared to rule if the gentleman strays off the course of the question of privilege.

Mr. GRAYSON. Again, Mr. Speaker, I don't believe you can properly do that without being fully informed as to the facts here.

May I proceed?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may proceed in order.

Mr. GRAYSON. Apparently, we are no longer satisfied with writing the laws. We have now taken it upon ourselves to execute them as well. This discredits the institution, not only within the Federal Government—complicating our constitutional relationship with both the executive and the judicial branches—but also in the eyes of the American people. We must not allow the House to be degraded this way.

Even when the facts of the bill are examined, this measure fails. The bill states that the environmental impact statement satisfies NEPA. That environmental impact statement, however, was for a different project—the Keystone XL Pipeline as proposed in 2009, a pipeline that would have terminated in the Gulf Coast.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has heard sufficient argument. The argument that the gentleman is making is proper for the merits of the proposed legislation but not on the question of privilege. The Chair will rule.

The gentleman from Florida seeks to offer this resolution as a question of the privileges of the House under rule IX. The resolution proposes a special order of business with regard to a specified legislative measure. Specifically, it mandates that a measure not be considered by the House because it is unconstitutional and violates a rule of the House.

To qualify as a question of privilege, a resolution must affect the rights of the House collectively, its safety, dignity, or integrity of its proceedings. In evaluating the resolution under the standards of rule IX, the Chair is guided by a fundamental principle illuminated by annotations of precedent in section 706 of the House Rules and Manual, to wit: that a question of the privileges of the House may not be invoked to effect a change in the rules or standing orders of the House or their interpretation, nor to prescribe a special order of business for the House.

The averment that this resolution presents a question of the privileges of the House under rule IX embodies precisely the contrary principle, under which each individual Member of the House would constituent a virtual Rules Committee, able to place before the House at any time whatever proposed order of business he or she might deem advisable based on allegations of unconstitutionality or violations of the rules. In such an environment, anything could be privileged; so nothing would enjoy true privilege.

Accordingly, under the long and well-settled line of precedent, as elucidated

most recently by the ruling of August 10, 2010, the Chair finds that such a resolution does not affect the rights of the House collectively, its safety, dignity, or the integrity of its proceedings within the meaning of clause 1 of rule IX and, therefore, does not qualify as a question of the privileges of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 1412, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 324, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1344, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

IMPROVING JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2013

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1412) to improve and increase the availability of on-job training and apprenticeship programs carried out by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 416, nays 0, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 164]

YEAS—416

Aderholt
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Andrews
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bonner
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Radel
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—17

Brady (PA)
Bridenstine
Clyburn
Cole
Diaz-Balart
Engel
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Herrera Beutler
Hudson
Lankford
Lucas
Markey
Mullin
Peters (CA)
Sarbanes
Young (AK)

□ 1458

Messrs. DUNCAN of South Carolina and CONYERS changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 164, I inserted card and voted—light turned green but did not register. On this vote, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 164, (H.R. 1412—Improving Job Opportunities for Veterans) had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

AWARDING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO FIRST SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEADOWS). The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 324) to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Special Service Force, in recognition of its superior service during World War II, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 0, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 165]

YEAS—415

Aderholt
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Andrews
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bonner
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly

Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Radel
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—18

Brady (PA)
Bridenstine
Clyburn
Cole
Diaz-Balart
Engel
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Herrera Beutler
Hudson
King (IA)
Lankford
Lucas
Markey
Mullin
Sarbanes
Stockman
Young (AK)

□ 1506

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 165, (H.R. 324—To grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Special Service Force, in recognition of its superior service during World War II, as amended) had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HELPING HEROES FLY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1344) to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to provide expedited air passenger screening to severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 413, nays 0, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 166]

YEAS—413

Aderholt
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Andrews
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bonner
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Radel
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta

Sanford
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—20

Brady (PA)
Bridenstine
Clyburn
Cole
Diaz-Balart
Engel
Graves (GA)
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Herrera Beutler
Hudson
Lankford
Lucas
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Markey
Mullin
Sarbanes
Shuster
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

□ 1513

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 166, (H.R. 1344—Helping Heroes Fly Act, as amended) had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1412, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROTHFUS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

THE GOVERNMENT MAY BE READING THE PEOPLE'S EMAILS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, big, snoopy government agencies can read emails that are over 180 days old without a person's knowledge or consent. That is just wrong. It takes a warrant to eavesdrop phone conversations, but no warrant required to peruse a person's email?

If Peeping Tom-crats can't listen to phones without a warrant, they shouldn't be able to read emails. That's why Congresswoman LOFGREN, Congresswoman DELBENE, and I introduced the Online Communications and Geolocation Protection Act. It would require a search warrant to seize a person's email.

When a person mails a letter, the government cannot open the mail from the time it is placed in the mailbox, travels throughout the fruited plain, and ends up in another mailbox. The law protects the privacy of this snail mail.

When a person sends an email through cyberspace, the government should not be allowed to seize the content without a search warrant. At a time when we see more and more government invasion of privacy, Congress should ensure that government does not press the delete button and eliminate the Constitution.

And that's just the way it is.

ONLINE SALES TAX

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, innovative small businesses all across New Hampshire are using the Internet to reach new markets, create good jobs, and grow our economy.

Congress should be working to create an environment that helps these companies expand and hire, not adding new bureaucratic barriers and red tape that will impede growth. But that's exactly what the so-called Marketplace Fairness Act would do.

This legislation would force online retailers to collect sales taxes on behalf of over 9,000 taxing jurisdictions nationwide, creating a web of bureaucracy that would stifle small businesses.

Later this week, I will return home to New Hampshire to hear how this tax would impact Granite State entrepreneurs. I urge my colleagues to do the same in their States and to stand up for small businesses by opposing this misguided legislation.

□ 1520

IN MEMORY OF CHRISTOPHER LOREK AND STEPHEN SHAW

(Mr. COLLINS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor two brave Federal law enforcement officers who lost their lives during a training accident last Friday.

Christopher Lorek and Stephen Shaw were both members of the FBI's Hostage Rescue Team. This elite unit has taken part in more than 800 hostage situations over the last two decades. Members of the Hostage Rescue Team dedicate their lives to training for critical terrorist, hostage, and criminal situations. Most recently, the team successfully rescued a 5-year-old boy held hostage by a 65-year-old man in Alabama.

Both Christopher Lorek and Stephen Shaw spent many years serving their Nation by putting themselves at risk for others who were in danger. Tragically, they died during a maritime counterterrorism exercise their team was performing off the coast of Virginia Beach.

Both these men leave behind young families, and our thoughts and prayers are with their loved ones during this difficult time.

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF CARROLLTON, TEXAS

(Mr. MARCHANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the centennial of the city of Carrollton, Texas.

The city of Carrollton was incorporated 100 years ago, on June 14, 1913. Carrollton has truly blossomed into a prosperous and exemplary city. From a population of 1,610 in 1950, it has grown now to over 130,000 residents and is home to thousands of successful businesses.

I'm proud to say that my family has been able to be part of this great history. It was my privilege to serve as mayor of Carrollton from 1984 to 1986. My brother Ronnie served for years as a city council member. Currently, my son Matthew has the honor of being the city's mayor.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the city of Carrollton, Texas.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, Memorial Day is a day our grateful Nation devotes to observing the extraordinary sacrifices paid by so many brave military men and women. Those who served so honorably died to protect the values and ideals on which our country was built, and we will never forget them.

Mr. Speaker, while we continue to work on behalf of the American people here in Washington, let us remember we work for people outside the beltway, many of whom are still searching for employment. With the unemployment rate for post-9/11 veterans at 9.2 percent, I'm heartbroken when reminded of veterans who come back from deployments abroad and cannot find work back home.

This Memorial Day weekend, let us remember to always honor those so devoted to their country that they gave their lives; and let us honor those veterans who defend us on the front lines

abroad by putting these brave men and women first in line at home to find a job, provide for their families, and to realize the American Dream.

CLEARING THE NAMES OF JOHN BROW AND BROOKS GRUBER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, 13 years ago, on April 8, 2000, 19 marines lost their lives in a tragic plane crash at Marana Regional Airport in Arizona. The Marine Corps attributed partial blame for the crash to error on the part of the pilot, Lieutenant Colonel John Brow, and the copilot, Major Brooks Gruber. The Corps' decision to assign blame to the pilots has been a point of controversy ever since the year 2000.

Mr. Speaker, 2 years after the accident, I received a letter from Major Gruber's wife, Connie, who actually lives in the district that I represent, the home of Camp Lejeune Marine Base and New River Air Station. I will quote from her letter to me that I received in 2000:

> I contacted you in hopes that leaders of integrity, free of bias, would have both the intelligence and the courage it takes to decide the facts for themselves. If you do that, you will agree the ''human factor/pilot error'' findings should not stand as it is in military history. Again, I respectfully ask you for your support. Please do not simply pass this matter along to General Jones without offering the support my husband and his comrades deserve. Please remember, these 19 marines can no longer speak for themselves. I certainly am not afraid to speak for them, and I believe someone has to. Even though it is easier put to rest and forgotten, please join me in doing the right thing by taking the time to address this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, she further stated:

> With so many wrongs in the world we cannot make right, I ask that you prayerfully consider an injustice that you can help make right. I realize you alone may not be able to amend the report, but you can certainly support my efforts to permanently remove this black mark from my husband's honorable military service record. Military leaders continue to refuse to amend this report, but I am certain that there must be other means of making this change. Given the controversy of this aircraft and the Marine Corps' vested interest, surely there is an unbiased, ethical way to rightfully absolve these pilots. Please help me by not only forwarding my request but also by supporting it.

Mr. Speaker, I hold up now a photograph of the V–22 Osprey. The Osprey is a very unique plane. At the time of this accident in the year 2000, it was an experimental plane. These two pilots, John Brow and Brooks Gruber, were not experimental pilots. They had no training in flying an experimental plane. This plane itself should never have been asked to do what was done that night. In fact, Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney was trying to eliminate the V–22 program. I was in Congress at the time, and I remember vividly that it was a major fight here in Congress as to whether we were going to fund the V–22 program or not fund the program.

Again, Secretary of Defense Cheney wanted to scrap the program. The Marine Corps wanted the V–22. They were convinced this was a plane that they needed desperately. There were two pilots, one of Nighthawk 71, which was the lead plane that actually landed without too much trouble, even though it did have a hard landing, and in the second plane behind them was Nighthawk 72. That was the plane that crashed and killed 19 marines.

Since receiving Connie Gruber's letter, I have done everything in my power over the last 12 years to clear the names of Lieutenant Colonel John Brow and Major Brooks Gruber. What has frustrated me was the Marine Corps will not acknowledge that these pilots could not be and should not be held at fault because they had no training in the V–22.

There was an issue known as vortex ring state. Mr. Speaker, anyone that flies, particularly helicopters, would understand that term, ''vortex ring state.'' But at the time of this accident, Bell-Boeing, who produced this V–22, and the Marine Corps had no idea of how pilots would react to vortex ring state with the V–22.

Mr. Speaker, I have brought a little model to the floor, with the approval of the House, that will show that the plane can go from a helicopter mode to a plane mode, where it flies just like a regular plane. But at this point, again, Bell-Boeing and also the Marine Corps did not understand vortex ring state and how it could impact this plane. When this plane is coming down, following behind, Nighthawk 72, what happened was that the vortex ring state really made this plane just flip over, and the plane crashed and 19 marines were burned to death.

□ 1530

Mr. Speaker, the wives of these two pilots, John Brow and Brooks Gruber, all they're asking—the lawsuits are over. Bell-Boeing has been sued for millions and millions of dollars—it hasn't been disclosed, so no one knows the exact figure. But I can tell you, after talking to the attorney for Connie Gruber and Trish Brow, that the lawsuits are over. I've spoken to Brian Alexander, who handled the lawsuits for 17 of the 19 families in New York. He said the lawsuits are over.

So basically all we're asking the Marine Corps to do is to please just issue a letter to Connie and Trish that clearly states that: Your husband, flying this V–22, was not prepared on how to handle vortex ring state because Bell-Boeing and we, the Marine Corps, did not understand it either, so how can we train pilots if we don't understand what we're trying to train them in.

So, therefore, it's been a very frustrating 10 or 12 years of trying to get the Marine Corps to bring peace to John Brow and Brooks Gruber.

Mr. Speaker, Rich Whittle, with whom I've had many conversations, wrote the book called ''The Dream Machine.'' It's the history of the V–22 and all the problems it's had along the way and all the fights that we've had in Congress and outside of Congress to make this plane a reality for the Marine Corps. But something I want to read from his book, ''The Dream Machine.'' We're talking about vortex ring state, Mr. Speaker:

> Where the actual line existed for the Osprey was something the program's developmental test pilots had not determined, though hundreds of test flights to explore that part of the Osprey's envelope had been planned.

They had planned, Mr. Speaker, to have hundreds of tests, but it further states:

> Nolan Schmidt, the Osprey program manager and a Marine Corps colonel at the time, told me years later that those tests were scrapped in 1998 to save time and money. The Navy Department was going to cut the Osprey program's budget for the coming fiscal year by $100 million, Schmidt said. After consulting with the Boeing engineer in charge of flight-testing, Philip Dunford, Schmidt said, the program managers decided they could save about $50 million and a lot of time if they didn't do all the tests planned for the Osprey at high rates of descent.

Mr. Speaker, again, these pilots in Nighthawk 72, following behind Nighthawk 71, were descending, and yet no one knew what the parameters were—the pilots did not know the parameters, the Marine Corps did not know the parameters, and neither did Bell-Boeing. So how in the world could these pilots be held responsible? It is absolutely unfair.

I can honestly tell you at the time I knew General McCorkle. He was the general that oversaw marine aviation. His assistant at the time was Brigadier General Amos, who now is the Commandant of the Marine Corps. They knew at the time that the V–22 was under tremendous pressure by Secretary of Defense Cheney to scrap the program.

Sadly I say this—because I know both these gentlemen, they're very fine fellows, but I will say this: that dead men can't talk. These two pilots had no one to speak for them but their wives—Connie Gruber down in Jacksonville, North Carolina, and Trish Brow over in Maryland. And they have children. Trish has two young boys and Connie has a beautiful little girl named Brook.

Mr. Speaker, that's why this has become an obsession with me, quite frankly. I'm not an expert in flying, I know nothing about how to keep a plane in the air to be honest with you. But Mr. Speaker, I have had so many people to join me in this effort, and one of those people is an expert named Rex Rivolo. In fact, he was working with the V–22 program when he was in the Department of Defense, and I want to read his comments, Mr. Speaker, for the RECORD:

The failure of the manufacturer, Bell-Boeing, and the Navy to characterize the slow-speed, high rate of descent handling qualities of the V–22 through flight testing, the failure to describe them for the air crew and the failure to provide an adequate warning system in the aircraft were the causes of the mishap—not air crew error.

Following the mishap and my discovery of the facts, I became very vocal within the V–22 community in my attempt to clear the air crew of blame. However, it quickly became clear that the community well-understood the causes but was committed to placing the blame on the air crew, as blaming the aircraft at this time would have jeopardized the MV–22 Program, which was, and remains, the highest priority of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Mr. Speaker, that in itself is so sad, that this expert, an engineering expert in aerodynamics, would make this kind of statement, but I just read it for the RECORD, Mr. Speaker. He knew and he knows that at that time these two men, who had no one to defend them, had to take the blame to save the program.

Mr. Speaker, America's greatness is because we are a country of integrity and honesty. I've done research on this and found out that people that knew these men, that flew with them—their fellow marines—would tell you today that John Brow and Brooks Gruber were not prepared for what happened—and no other one who flew a V–22 at the time understood vortex ring state and how to react to it.

Mr. Speaker, now that the program has been saved, there is no reason that the Marine Corps cannot give a letter to Connie Gruber and Trish Brow clearly stating that at the time, April 8, 2000, that we, the Marine Corps, and Bell-Boeing, the manufacturer, we did not understand vortex ring state because no one had done the testing because they cut the programs, they cut the testing.

Mr. Speaker, truthfully, what is so ironic, shortly after this crash on April 8, Bell-Boeing paid Tom MacDonald, an experimental pilot who spent over 700 hours flying the V–22 time after time, time after time and getting it into the vortex ring state and then figuring out how the pilot should react to it. Mr. Speaker, because of that work by Tom MacDonald, we now have warning systems in the V–22 that pilots, when they get into vortex ring state, the warning system starts lighting up on the panel. They hear a sound in the headphones that says ''sink, sink, sink.'' So they know exactly how to handle vortex ring state. But John Brow and Brooks Gruber did not know how to handle vortex ring state.

I continue to call on the Marine Corps to do what is right. The Corps has one of the greatest respects of the American people because of integrity and courage. Well, Mr. Commandant, the right thing to do is to prove integrity and courage by giving the two wives one paragraph.

Mr. Speaker, further, I've had so many people to help with this effort. The Assistant Secretary of Defense and the director of operational test and evaluation at the time of the crash in 2000 was Philip Coyle. He has joined in this effort with Rex Rivolo. And I read what Philip Coyle said:

There is a rush to blame pilots, and to cite factors that relate to pilot performance, rather than cite the true root causes of accidents. The design and detailed engineering in an aircraft or vehicle often is at the root cause of an accident. If a particular make or model of automobile was crashing too often, say Toyota or Chevy, people wouldn't blame the drivers; they would say that something is wrong with the automobile. The Marine Corps has always seems to blame the pilots.

Mr. Speaker, this is why this has become a passion for me personally. And I could not be where I am today without so many experts—I mentioned two today, Phil Coyle and Rex Rivolo—who have joined me. I want to mention Jim Schafer. Jim's call name was ''Trigger.'' He was actually in the air at the time of this plane crash. He saw his friends go down and burn.

Mr. Speaker, this is not right for these two wives to carry the pain now almost 13 years—April 8 of 2000, and we've already passed April 8 of 2013. All they're asking the Marine Corps for is a simple letter to just state: At the time, we did not understand, Bell-Boeing didn't understand, so, therefore, we couldn't train your husbands. So, therefore, your husbands could not have known how to react.

Now they have all these warning systems that I just mentioned a moment ago.

Mr. Speaker, I am not going to let this go. In fact, I have a meeting with the Secretary of Defense, Chuck Hagel, on the 10th of July—he has already confirmed the date. I have accumulated so much information on this issue that I probably could have a small library that people could come in and research this accident. But I have great respect for Chuck Hagel. I remember him as a Senator when I came out against the Iraq war and I was getting beaten up down in my own district down in eastern North Carolina. I did not know Senator Hagel at the time, but he called me up and left word. I returned his call. He said, ''Congressman, you're right, Iraq was an unnecessary war, I want to meet with you.'' So I went over and met with him, Mr. Speaker. He had his staff spend weeks to show me maps on Iraq and the fact that there were never weapons of mass destruction.

□ 1540

For that I'm of the firm belief that I will meet with him for 30 minutes—that's all he could give me—and I think he will understand that this is not about me, WALTER JONES. This is about honor, this is about respect; and the two dead pilots deserve this, Mr. Speaker.

Just a few more points, Mr. Speaker, before I close. Curt Weldon, when they were fighting this program—Secretary Cheney was fighting this program—in '98, '99, and 2000, especially after this crash, the one man in the Congress, Mr. Speaker—and I was here at the time and I can attest to this—was Curt Weldon, a Congressman from Pennsylvania, who took on the administration, that took on Dick Cheney and said, we've got to have this program, we've got to have this program for the Marine Corps, the Marine Corps wants the V–22, and this is their present and this is their future plane.

Curt Weldon now, Mr. Speaker, has joined me, and I want to share from a letter. Curt Weldon, these are his words:

I have found it outrageous that the Marine Corps has willingly failed to fully clarify the improper characterization that pilot errors may have contributed to the tragic accident of Nighthawk 72. I join with Lieutenant Colonel Ron Radich, Retired United States Marine Corps, a member of the JAG Investigation Team for the April 8, 2000, MV–22 accident in his assessment that ''it would be morally wrong'' to place the blame on the pilots of Nighthawk 72. Everyone, save the most senior leadership of the United States Marine Corps, has acknowledged that the Marine Corps must formally acknowledged the facts and summaries of the investigations and publicly and clearly restore the outstanding commitments and reputation of these two brave marines—there can be no wavering and no innuendo—facts are facts.

You have my unwavering support to appear at any public event and/or congressional hearing to set the record straight regarding the need for United States Marine Corps leadership to stop ''playing games'' and once and for all correct the public record regarding the Nighthawk 72 incident and fully clear the names of these two American heroes.

Mr. Speaker, I want to read that one more time, just to close, by Curt Weldon, a former United States Congressman, who fought and saved the V–22 program for the Marine Corps. He saved the program.

You have my unwavering support to appear at any public event and/or congressional hearing to set the record straight regarding the need for United States Marine Corps leadership to stop ''playing games'' and once and for all correct the public record regarding the Nighthawk 72 incident and fully clear the names of these two American heroes.

Mr. Speaker, there are so many people who have joined me in this effort. I'm going to name a few. The three investigators, now retired, but at the time Colonel Mike Morgan, a helicopter pilot himself; a lawyer, Phil Stackhouse; and Lieutenant Colonel Ron Radich, who I just made reference to in Curt Weldon's statement.

These three men were sent to Arizona the day after the accident. Mr. Speaker, they were sent there to investigate the wreckage, the burned wreckage that killed 19 marines. All three of these men, Mr. Speaker, have joined me in strong letters to clear the names of John Brow and Brooks Gruber.

I made reference earlier to Colonel Jim Shafer, a V–22 pilot, friends of these two pilots. He also has joined in saying that at the time we did not understand vortex ring state, at the time we did not understand how vortex ring state would impact on the V–22 Osprey. Mr. Speaker, again, I hold this up because the Osprey is a unique plane. It

goes from a helicopter mode until it goes to like a plane just flying with the propellers in front of it, and then it goes back up. But Jim Shafer has said that John Brow and Brooks Gruber do not deserve the blame for this accident.

I made reference to Dr. Rex Rivolo in my comments earlier, Mr. Speaker. He's a strong proponent of clearing the pilots' names.

Brian Alexander, I made reference that he had handled the lawsuits for 17 of the 19 families whose young sons were killed.

Jim Furman, who was the attorney for the two pilots, John Brow and Brooks Gruber, their families.

Eric Thorson, a former aircraft investigator for the United States Air Force, he's actually joined us in this as well.

And I mentioned Phil Coyle, because Phil Coyle has said he was on the inside, he saw it. These pilots could not be held at fault because they were not to blame.

Danielle Brian, executive director, Project on Government Oversight, she's joined in this effort.

And Bob Cox, a reporter for the Fort Worth Star.

Mr. Speaker, I will close in just a few minutes, because I want to thank the staff for staying on to give me this opportunity to talk about this issue.

I have made a promise to Connie Gruber in Jacksonville. Her husband, Brooks Gruber, is buried down in the cemetery, Veterans Cemetery in Jacksonville, North Carolina. I have met Trish Brow and her two boys, Mark and Matthew. I've taken them to lunch here in the Members' dining room. Both those ladies have my promise, Mr. Speaker, that if we ever get just one paragraph, that I would like to go to the cemetery at Arlington and stand there with Trish and Matthew and Mark and say: ''Colonel, rest in peace. You will never be blamed again for this accident because you were not at fault.''

Then I want to go to the cemetery in Jacksonville, North Carolina, with Connie and her little girl, Brooke. Brooke was a baby when her daddy was killed. She's a beautiful little girl of 12 now, I guess soon to be 13. She never knew her daddy. She has just seen pictures of him holding her as a little baby and smiling at her. That just made it very, very special.

These two men deserve in the eyes of God to be cleared. I am not the smartest man in Congress, and I do not profess to be one; but God gave me a big heart, and he put this on me almost 13 years ago. And what I have found out, Mr. Speaker, is we are right. We are right. The Marine Corps is wrong in this situation. The experts who helped develop the V–22 have said: We are right and the Marine Corps is wrong. Curt Weldon who fought so valiantly to save the program deserves the credit. He's joined and said these two men deserve to be cleared.

Mr. Speaker, I remember vividly a quote from Voltaire:

To the living we owe respect, to the dead we owe the truth.

That's all this is all about, the truth that these two marines were not trained, did not understand, nor did Bell-Boeing, nor did the Marine Corps. They were not trained as to how to handle the vortex ring state.

We have gotten a little bit further in the last year, but recently the Marine Corps rejected a letter that the wives had signed off on if they could change two words. And the two words are the same word, the word ''solely,'' the word ''solely.'' The pilots are not ''solely'' at fault.

Mr. Speaker, that bothers me because I know, and the Marine Corps knows, that they were not trained. Now, if they had been trained as to how to react and respond to vortex ring state in the V–22, then I might be able to accept that word ''solely.'' But how in the world can you say that pilots who were not trained because Bell-Boeing did not know how to handle vortex ring state in the V–22, the Marine Corps did not understand it, so if they didn't understand it and they didn't train the pilots, how could they be ''solely'' responsible?

□ 1550

That is absolutely unacceptable to the wives, and it is unacceptable to me. So therefore, again, Mr. Speaker, I am going to meet with Secretary Hagel on the 10th of July. I will be prepared. I only have 30 minutes, but that's fine. I know he's a busy man with all of the problems facing our military and the world; but if he'll give me 30 minutes, I will show him in 20 minutes why these pilots should not be held responsible for this accident.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you and the staff for giving me this extra time. This is one of these things that is a religion with me. I don't fly much. I've been in a few small planes, and I cannot imagine the panic of these two fellows, knowing that they've got 17 young marines, privates and corporals, sitting in the back of this plane and how they must have felt. I don't know. God knows their hearts, because He was with them when they went down, but all I can think of is the panic of something you had not been trained to handle, the panic of, What do we do now?

Brooks, John, what do we do now? We've got seconds, seconds.

And then the plane flips and burns.

I ask God to touch the hearts of the United States Marine Corps and of the commandant. The commandant now is a fine gentleman—I know him, and I have respect for him—but he was there the day and the night of this crash.

The whole reason for this mission was to show the anti-V–22s and Secretary Dick Cheney that this was a remarkable plane, this V–22 Osprey, because they could show how they could descend so quickly and recover some Americans that would be held by terrorists. That was the mission they were on in Marana, Arizona—to show the world that this plane was unique and that it could land and descend quickly and hit the ground and get these people out. Well, the problem was that no one understood the parameters of this plane and how it should descend; so, therefore, these 19 marines were killed.

Mr. Speaker, I hope to be back on the floor right after the Memorial Day break before I meet with the Secretary of Defense, Chuck Hagel, and talk about this again. I believe sincerely that we are all stronger people and better people when we admit we've made a mistake, and when an organization that the American people love so much like the Marine Corps—and I love the Marine Corps, but quite frankly, when they will not give Connie and Trish a little paragraph, like I have already said three times today, which clearly states that their husbands were not at fault, it is very disappointing to say the least.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, as I do on the floor when I think about all of our men and women overseas in Afghanistan and Iraq, I am going to ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform and to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform.

I ask God in His loving arms to hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq.

I am going to ask at this time that God touch the hearts of the United States Marine Corps to give peace to the families of John Brow and Brooks Gruber.

I will ask God to please bless the House and Senate, that we will do what is right in the eyes of God for God's people today and God's people tomorrow.

I will ask God to please bless the President of the United States of America, that he will do what is right in the eyes of God for God's people today and God's people tomorrow.

And three times I will say, God, please, God, please, God, please, continue to bless America.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1703

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BURGESS) at 5 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3, NORTHERN ROUTE APPROVAL ACT

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113–88) on the resolution (H. Res. 228) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3) to approve the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Keystone XL pipeline, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE JIM COSTA, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable JIM COSTA, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 20, 2013.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena for documents issued by the California Workers' Compensation Appeals Board, regarding a third-party workers' compensation matter.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

JIM COSTA,
Member of Congress.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DIAZ-BALART (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for May 20 through May 22 on account of a death in the family.

Mr. COLE (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and the balance of the week on account of inspecting damage in the district from the recent tornadoes.

Mr. CLYBURN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, May 22, 2013, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the first quarter of 2013 pursuant to Public Law 95–384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2013

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Darrell Issa	1/5	1/7	Turkey		860.00						860.00
	1/7	1/8	Israel		498.00						498.00
	1/8	1/10	Cyprus		508.00						508.00
	1/10	1/11	Algeria		372.00						372.00
	1/11	1/12	Morocco		262.00						262.00
	1/12	1/13	Spain		276.00						276.00
Hon. John Mica	1/5	1/7	Turkey		860.00						860.00
	1/7	1/8	Israel		498.00						498.00
	1/8	1/10	Cyprus		508.00						508.00
	1/10	1/11	Algeria		372.00						372.00
	1/11	1/12	Morocco		262.00						262.00
	1/12	1/13	Spain		276.00						276.00
Hon. Raul Labrador	1/5	1/7	Turkey		860.00						860.00
	1/7	1/8	Israel		498.00						498.00
	1/8	1/10	Cyprus		508.00						508.00
	1/10	1/11	Algeria		372.00						372.00
	1/11	1/12	Morocco		262.00						262.00
	1/12	1/13	Spain		276.00						276.00
Hon. Scott DesJarlais	1/5	1/7	Turkey		860.00						860.00
	1/7	1/8	Israel		498.00						498.00
	1/8	1/10	Cyprus		508.00						508.00
	1/10	1/11	Algeria		372.00						372.00
	1/11	1/12	Morocco		262.00						262.00
	1/12	1/13	Spain		276.00						276.00
Hon. Blake Farenthold	1/5	1/7	Turkey		860.00						860.00
	1/7	1/8	Israel		498.00						498.00
	1/8	1/10	Cyprus		508.00						508.00
	1/10	1/11	Algeria		372.00						372.00
	1/11	1/12	Morocco		262.00						262.00
	1/12	1/13	Spain		276.00						276.00
Hon. Tim Walberg	1/5	1/7	Turkey		860.00						860.00
	1/7	1/8	Israel		498.00						498.00
	1/8	1/10	Cyprus		508.00						508.00
	1/10	1/11	Algeria		372.00						372.00
	1/11	1/12	Morocco		262.00						262.00
	1/12	1/13	Spain		276.00						276.00
Hon. Paul Gosar	1/5	1/7	Turkey		860.00						860.00
	1/7	1/8	Israel		498.00						498.00
	1/8	1/10	Cyprus		508.00						508.00
	1/10	1/11	Algeria		372.00						372.00
	1/11	1/12	Morocco		262.00						262.00
	1/12	1/13	Spain		276.00						276.00
Linda Good	1/5	1/7	Turkey		860.00						860.00
	1/7	1/8	Israel		498.00						498.00
	1/8	1/10	Cyprus		508.00						508.00
	1/10	1/11	Algeria		372.00						372.00
	1/11	1/12	Morocco		262.00						262.00
	1/12	1/13	Spain		276.00						276.00
Adam Fromm	1/5	1/7	Turkey		860.00						860.00
	1/7	1/8	Israel		498.00						498.00
	1/8	1/10	Cyprus		508.00						508.00
	1/10	1/11	Algeria		372.00						372.00
	1/11	1/12	Morocco		262.00						262.00
	1/12	1/13	Spain		276.00						276.00
Carlos Uriarte	1/5	1/7	Turkey		860.00						860.00
	1/7	1/8	Israel		498.00						498.00
	1/8	1/10	Cyprus		508.00						508.00
	1/10	1/11	Algeria		372.00						372.00
	1/11	1/12	Morocco		262.00						262.00
	1/12	1/13	Spain		276.00						276.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2013—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Delegation Expenses							3,498.41		19,957.66		23,456.07
Committee total					27,760.00		3,498.41		19,957.66		51,216.07

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA, Chairman, May 3, 2013.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1558. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Admiral James G. Stavridis, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1559. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's annual report on material violations or suspected material violations of regulations relating to Treasury auctions and other Treasury securities offerings during the period January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3121 nt. Public Law 103-202, section 202; to the Committee on Financial Services.

1560. A letter from the Attorney, Office of the General Counsel, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Consumer Financial Civil Penalty Fund [Docket No.: CFPB-2013-0011] (RIN: 3170-AA38) received May 13, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1561. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Oswego County, NY, et al.) [Docket ID: FEMA-2013-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8283] received May 13, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1562. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Duval County, NY, et al.); [Docket ID: FEMA-2013-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8281] received May 3, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1563. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Wayne County, PA, et al.); [Docket ID: FEMA-2013-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8279] received May 13, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1564. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's report entitled, ''Report to Congress on the Social and Economic Conditions of Native Americans: Fiscal Years 2007 and 2008'', pursuant to Section 811A of the Native American Programs Act of 1974; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

1565. A letter from the Assistant Legal Advisor for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1566. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report on the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Activities in countries described in Section 307(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1567. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergency Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c) pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1568. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Belarus that was declared in Executive Order 13405 of June 16, 2006; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1569. A letter from the Acting Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1570. A letter from the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General of the Farm Credit Administration for the period October 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1571. A letter from the Senior Vice President, Controller and Chief Accounting Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston, transmitting the 2012 management report and statement of internal controls of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1572. A letter from the Division Chief, Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Segregation of Lands—Renewable Energy [LLWO301000.L13400000] (RIN: 1004-AE19) received April 29, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1573. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Greenland Turbot in the Bering Sea Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 121018563-3148-02] (RIN: 0648-XC638) received May 14, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1574. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in the West Yakutat District of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 120918468-3111-02] (RIN: 0648-XC582) received May 2, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1575. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher/Processors Using Trawl Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 120918468-3111-02] (RIN: 0648-XC605) received May 13, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1576. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Boards and Committees [Docket No.: NASA-2013-0001] (RIN: 2700-AD82) received May 14, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

1577. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Amendments to the Rules on Determining Hearing Appearances [Docket No.: SSA 2007-0044] (RIN: 0960-AH40) received May 13, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 228. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3) to approve the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Keystone XL pipeline, and for other purposes (Rept. 113–88). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. ISSA (for himself and Mr. CUMMINGS):

H.R. 2061. A bill to expand the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to increase accountability and transparency in Federal spending, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio (for himself, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. TURNER, Mr. STIVERS, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. LATTA, Mrs. BEATTY, and Ms. FUDGE):

H.R. 2062. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 275 Front Street in Marietta, Ohio, as the ''Lance Corporal Joshua C. Taylor Memorial Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 2063. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the health care provided to veterans of World War II at facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Mr. WAXMAN):

H.R. 2064. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to provide social service agencies with the resources to provide services to meet the urgent needs of Holocaust survivors to age in place with dignity, comfort, security, and quality of life; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself and Mrs. NAPOLITANO):

H.R. 2065. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require recipients of per diem payments from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the provision of services for homeless veterans to comply with codes relevant to operations and level of care provided, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DENHAM (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GRIMM, and Mr. CAMPBELL):

H.R. 2066. A bill to require Amtrak to propose a pet policy that allows passengers to transport domesticated cats and dogs on certain Amtrak trains, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MEADOWS:

H.R. 2067. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to make permanent the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury to establish a separate compensation and performance management system with respect to persons holding critical scientific, technical, or professional positions within the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. LUMMIS (for herself, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mr. AMODEI):

H.R. 2068. A bill to reauthorize the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BENISHEK:

H.R. 2069. A bill to amend the Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities Assistance Act of 1978 to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to waive certain eligibility requirements; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BISHOP of New York (for himself, Mr. WALZ, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. YARMUTH, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. KUSTER, and Mr. CICILLINE):

H.R. 2070. A bill to protect consumers from price-gouging of gasoline and other fuels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BENISHEK:

H.R. 2071. A bill to prohibit the use of any Federal funds to finalize, implement, or enforce the proposed rule entitled ''Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BENISHEK:

H.R. 2072. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the accountability of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BRADY of Texas (for himself, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. KING of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. BISHOP of New York):

H.R. 2073. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish an interagency coordinating committee on pulmonary hypertension to develop recommendations to advance research, increase awareness and education, and improve health and health care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California (for herself, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. CAMPBELL):

H.R. 2074. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, to submit to Congress, and make available to the public on the Internet, a report on the animals killed under the Wildlife Services program of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. ENGEL:

H.R. 2075. A bill to enhance the energy security of the United States, reduce dependence on imported oil, improve the energy efficiency of the transportation sector, and reduce emissions through the expansion of grid supported transportation; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KLINE (for himself, Mr. WALZ, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. ELLISON):

H.R. 2076. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to conduct a review of the Integrated Disability Evaluation System of the Armed Forces and to submit to Congress a report on such system; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PERLMUTTER (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. KEATING, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HOLT, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. POLIS, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. ENYART, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. CLAY, Mr. COHEN, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. TONKO, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. DOYLE, and Ms. HAHN):

H.R. 2077. A bill to prohibit employers from compelling or coercing any person to authorize access to a protected computer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. QUIGLEY:

H.R. 2078. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to direct the Administrator of General Services to incorporate bird-safe building materials and design features into public buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. RADEL (for himself and Mr. SALMON):

H.R. 2079. A bill to provide for a three-year extension of the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the conduct of medical disability examinations by contract physicians; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 2080. A bill to provide for the admission to the United States of certain Tibetans; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THORNBERRY:

H.R. 2081. A bill to secure unrestricted reliable energy for American consumption and transmission; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HIGGINS (for himself and Mr. COLLINS of New York):

H. Con. Res. 37. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that a site in Arlington National Cemetery should be provided for a memorial marker to honor the memory of the 14 members of the Army's 24th Infantry Division who have received the Medal of Honor; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself and Mr. COLE):

H. Res. 229. A resolution calling for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and others to be tried before the International Criminal Court for committing war crimes and crimes against humanity; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. PERLMUTTER (for himself, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, and Mr. RIGELL):

H. Res. 230. A resolution to recognize and honor our nation's veterans on the 70th anniversaries of World War II battles; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. PETRI introduced A bill (H.R. 2082) to authorize and request the President to award the Medal of Honor to James Megellas, formerly of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and currently of Colleyville, Texas, for acts of valor on January 28, 1945, during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 2061.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 9, Clause 7: ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio:

H.R. 2062.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the authority to establish post offices and post roads, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 2063.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause XII–XIV of the Constitution of the United States, which gives Congress the authority to:

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:

H.R. 2064.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 2065.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The bill is authorized by Congress' power to ''provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States'' pursuant to Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DENHAM:

H.R. 2066.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1 (relating to providing for the common defense and general welfare of the United States) and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

By Mr. MEADOWS:

H.R. 2067.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. I, Sec. 8

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mrs. LUMMIS:

H.R. 2068.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2: ''The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular state.''

By Mr. BENISHEK:

H.R. 2069.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8, clause 3, the Commerce Clause.

By Mr. BISHOP of New York:

H.R. 2070.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. BENISHEK:

H.R. 2071.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution—

The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

In addition, Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution—

The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. BENISHEK:

H.R. 2072.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BRADY of Texas:

H.R. 2073.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power * * * To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:

H.R. 2074.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. ENGEL:

H.R. 2075.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. KLINE:

H.R. 2076.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This legislation directs the Secretary of Defense to conduct a comprehensive review of the backlog of cases in the Integrated Disability Evaluation System and report to the Congress on the Department of Defense's plan to improve the system and resolve all pending cases ensuring our servicemembers injured in defense of our nation are provided the care they need. Specific authority is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution (clauses 12, 13, 14, and 16), which grants Congress the power to raise and support an Army; to provide and maintain a Navy; to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces; and to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia.

By Mr. PERLMUTTER:

H.R. 2077.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 section 8 clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. QUIGLEY:

H.R. 2078.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. RADEL:

H.R. 2079.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 12, 13, and 14, which grants Congress the power to raise and support an Army, to provide and maintain a Navy; and to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 2080.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4.

By Mr. THORNBERRY:

H.R. 2081.

Article I, Section 8 and Article IV, Section 3 of the United States Constitution.

Mr. PETRI:

H.R. 2082.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 14 of Section 8 of Article I

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 7: Mr. FORBES, Mr. ROSS, Mr. TERRY, and Mr. STOCKMAN.

H.R. 43: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.

H.R. 55: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 164: Mr. KEATING, Mr. STOCKMAN, and Mr. GUTIERREZ.

H.R. 184: Mr. JOYCE.

H.R. 241: Mr. YOHO and Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 269: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 292: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.

H.R. 324: Mr. KILMER and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 351: Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 358: Mr. OWENS and Mr. RENACCI.

H.R. 435: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 451: Mr. ROONEY and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

H.R. 508: Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 530: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.

H.R. 596: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 630: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. HIMES, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 647: Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 664: Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H.R. 675: Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H.R. 676: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 679: Mrs. LUMMIS.

H.R. 685: Mr. LANCE, Mr. SALMON, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 686: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. TERRY, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 693: Mr. KIND and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 708: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 721: Mr. WHITFIELD and Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.

H.R. 736: Mr. CÁRDENAS and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 755: Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 792: Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 846: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Mr. MARINO.

H.R. 850: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 851: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 900: Mr. MARKEY.

H.R. 911: Mr. DAINES.

H.R. 958: Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 961: Mr. KEATING, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 975: Mr. KILMER and Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 1000: Mr. MEEKS and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 1008: Mr. CARTWRIGHT and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 1015: Mr. BENTIVOLIO.

H.R. 1029: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 1074: Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mr. VEASEY, and Mrs. CAPITO.

H.R. 1091: Mr. NUGENT.

H.R. 1093: Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. DEFAZIO.

H.R. 1094: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DOGGETT, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 1125: Mr. YODER.

H.R. 1129: Mr. LATHAM and Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 1130: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 1146: Mr. MORAN, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, and Mr. KIND.
H.R. 1199: Mr. RUNYAN.
H.R. 1209: Mr. LATTA, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 1252: Mr. POCAN, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. BISHOP of New York, and Mr. MCINTYRE.
H.R. 1255: Mr. RIBBLE and Mr. MATHESON.
H.R. 1274: Mr. MORAN and Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 1286: Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 1288: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 1313: Mr. LANKFORD.
H.R. 1339: Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 1354: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 1355: Mr. PEARCE and Mr. BROUN of Georgia.
H.R. 1416: Mr. LATHAM, Mr. NUNNELEE, and Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 1421: Mr. FATTAH, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CUELLAR, and Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 1424: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 1449: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. PALAZZO.
H.R. 1453: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1485: Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. SIRES, and Mr. LANCE.
H.R. 1496: Mr. GUTHRIE and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.
H.R. 1506: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 1528: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. YODER, and Mr. SALMON.
H.R. 1538: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 1553: Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. NUGENT, Mrs. HARTZLER, and Mr. NUNNELEE.
H.R. 1566: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 1588: Ms. EDWARDS.
H.R. 1589: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 1590: Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 1593: Mr. BARBER, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. YARMUTH.
H.R. 1620: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 1624: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 1642: Mr. DELANEY and Mr. RENACCI.
H.R. 1643: Mr. DELANEY.
H.R. 1652: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 1696: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 1701: Mr. BURGESS and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
H.R. 1708: Mr. MARCHANT.
H.R. 1725: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. O'ROURKE, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. KIND.
H.R. 1726: Ms. BROWN of Florida and Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 1731: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Ms. HAHN.
H.R. 1739: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 1742: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 1748: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 1750: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 1756: Mr. BENTIVOLIO.
H.R. 1768: Mr. BENTIVOLIO.
H.R. 1771: Mr. ROSKAM.
H.R. 1781: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.
H.R. 1787: Mrs. CAPITO and Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 1789: Mr. HOLDING.
H.R. 1797: Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. MCINTYRE, and Mrs. ELLMERS.
H.R. 1798: Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 1801: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. WITTMAN, and Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 1809: Mr. BISHOP of New York and Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 1823: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 1825: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. LATTA, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 1826: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 1830: Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. WITTMAN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. DELAURO, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 1833: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 1851: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 1857: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 1867: Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 1869: Mr. HARRIS, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. FLORES, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. WILLIAMS.
H.R. 1871: Mr. AMASH.
H.R. 1875: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 1893: Mr. SABLAN and Mr. PETERS of Michigan.
H.R. 1896: Mr. PAULSEN.
H.R. 1904: Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. ENYART, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 1910: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 1915: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 1918: Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 1919: Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 1920: Mr. VELA.
H.R. 1922: Mr. BURGESS.
H.R. 1943: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 1950: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
H.R. 1953: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 1961: Mr. ENYART.
H.R. 1962: Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
H.R. 1980: Mr. RUIZ, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. KLINE, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 1982: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 1992: Mr. GRIMM and Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H.R. 2002: Mr. LARSEN of Washington and Mr. NUNNELEE.
H.R. 2004: Mr. WALDEN and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 2010: Mr. LONG, Mr. JOYCE, and Mr. STOCKMAN.
H.R. 2014: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
H.R. 2016: Ms. KUSTER and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 2020: Mr. CARNEY, Ms. TITUS, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. DOYLE, and Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 2025: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
H.R. 2026: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 2027: Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 2036: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 2053: Mr. JONES and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.
H. Con. Res. 34: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. WAXMAN, and Ms. LOFGREN.
H. Res. 36: Mr. YOHO.
H. Res. 71: Mr. LAMBORN.
H. Res. 90: Mr. VELA, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. WATT, and Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H. Res. 104: Mr. TAKANO and Mr. CARNEY.
H. Res. 109: Ms. ESHOO.
H. Res. 174: Mrs. BUSTOS.
H. Res. 190: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. TAKANO, and Mrs. LOWEY.
H. Res. 200: Mr. ISRAEL and Mr. TAKANO.
H. Res. 221: Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. RANGEL.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2013 No. 72

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our Father, we honor Your wonderful Name. The angels bow before You; Heaven and Earth adore You. Your voice echoes over the oceans and thunders above the roar of the raging sea.

We pray today, O God, for the families of the dozens killed in the massive tornado in Oklahoma. Bring healing to the injured and comfort to those who mourn.

Today, may our Senators honor You with worthy service. By their words and actions, empower them to glorify Your Name. Lord, guide them with Your loving providence, as they trust in Your wisdom and might. May they commit themselves to Your will and leave the results to You.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 21, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COWAN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

OKLAHOMA TORNADOES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, yesterday afternoon I called home to check to see how things were going, visited with my wife a little bit.

She said: You can't imagine what I am watching on TV. It is hard to watch.

She was talking about the terrible storm that hit Oklahoma, the devastation and deaths, the injuries. She tried to explain to me. It was hard to relate even though she was watching it on TV. Homes were destroyed, schools were destroyed, even elementary schools were destroyed.

I think what Landra did was she described how all of America feels and felt upon watching it. Our hearts go out to the families whose loved ones were lost. The extent of that we don't know. We are still waiting. Those missing in the devastating tornadoes in Oklahoma, we feel so sad for them. Our thoughts are with those who were affected by this tragedy, and so many people have been affected. Families are still searching for their family members, their children.

I recognize and commend the heroic efforts of the first responders who rushed to the scene and have been working tirelessly to help those who were injured. They worked all night. Of course, they are still searching for the missing. I commend the efforts of neighbors, everyday citizens, young and old, who have been heroic in helping.

Although we may not know the extent of the damage now, we will continue to do everything in our power to help the people of Oklahoma as they recover from these terrible tornadoes, these acts of nature. I will stand vigilant today and tomorrow, ready to help as more storms threaten the region.

Every Federal resource will be made available to help the communities affected by this tragedy. I look forward to hearing the President—his speech will start momentarily—on the disaster. I am pleased that FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate is already in Oklahoma assessing the extent of the damage and deciding how the Federal Government can best assist.

I will continue to monitor the search and rescue efforts. Whenever tragedy strikes any part of our Nation, it really strikes us all. I pledge to the people of Oklahoma my continued support, our continued support, as they begin to recover from this awful storm.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Following leader remarks today the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour. The majority will control the first half, the Republicans the final half. Upon conclusion of morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 954, the farm bill. I spoke to Chairman STABENOW last night. She indicated that she believes there is an opportunity to finish the bill, even this week. I certainly hope that is the case. The Senate will recess from 12:30 to 2:15 today to allow for our weekly caucus meetings.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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OKLAHOMA DISASTER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, we are all thinking today about the tragic loss of life in Oklahoma yesterday, so this morning I would like to take a moment to express my condolences to all who lost family and friends in this horrible disaster. It has been a truly heartbreaking loss of life—dozens injured and killed yesterday, including many children. The tornado that tore through Moore flattened entire neighborhoods and destroyed at least two elementary schools—Briarwood and Plaza Towers—just as students were about to be released for their last week of school before the summer recess. I don't think any of us can comprehend the searing grief of their parents. I am told that two crews from the Louisville Red Cross recently left for Oklahoma to help those who are now suffering.

Kentuckians understand the terrible toll these storms can take. Just last March I toured the wreckage after a deadly tornado in West Liberty, KY, where churches, businesses, and schools were reduced to rubble and where several Kentuckians lost their life. I remember full well the tornado that went through my hometown of Louisville back in the 1970s. It knocked down every house on my parents' street. My mother was in the basement, and mercifully it skipped over our house for some reason but leveled all the houses across the street and the ones next door. It is very hard to accurately describe the devastation a storm such as this leaves in its wake.

As first responders continue to dig through the rubble in Moore, I fear we will hear a lot more bad news in the days ahead. That said, I am sure we will also hear stories of hope and self-sacrifice, as we almost always do when tragedies such as this strike—of strangers shielding strangers, of neighbors helping others rebuild, of volunteers working through the night to sift through the debris to find survivors.

As we have seen time and time again in recent years, Americans are at their best when called upon to help each other in tragic circumstances, and this circumstance can hardly be more tragic. So we in the Senate offer our heartfelt prayers to those affected by this terrible storm. We offer our gratitude to the first responders. We offer our encouragement to Governor Fallin and the many Federal, State, and local officials who are working hard to assist in the recovery and who will aid in the rebuilding of homes and schools and families and lives.

WELCOMING BURMA'S PRESIDENT

Later this morning the majority leader and I will welcome the leader of Burma, Thein Sein. He will be here to discuss the reform in that country and our bilateral relationship. Later today I will have more to say about the reform movement in Burma.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the majority controlling the first half.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

AGRICULTURE REFORM, FOOD, AND JOBS ACT OF 2013

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 954, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 954) to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018.

Pending:

Stabenow (for Cantwell) amendment No. 919, to allow Indian tribes to participate in certain soil and water conservation programs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. We are now going to resume discussion on the farm bill, but before doing that I see one of the distinguished members of our committee on the floor who I know would like to make some other comments. But I just wish to thank her in advance for her leadership. We are so excited and pleased to have the Senator from North Dakota on the Agriculture Committee.

Having had a chance to be in North Dakota—and she has said it to me a thousand times, so it is burned into my memory—90 percent of the land in North Dakota is in agriculture, and so she reminds me of that every day. She has been a key person in helping us bring this farm bill to the floor. So before proceeding on the Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act, I would ask that Senator HEITKAMP be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

TRIBUTE TO BRAD HEJTMANEK

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, on the floor of the Senate Senators often come to praise a local university football team that just won a championship or a famous coach who is retiring or maybe even a famous politician who has passed away. Today I come to the floor of the Senate to thank a man who will never be written about in the history books or even known outside of my small hometown of Mantador, ND. Brad Hejtmanek's life and his accomplishments were pretty modest by national standards, but nevertheless, for the people of my small hometown, Brad was something special.

Brad was a standout high school athlete, a veteran, a softball coach, a National Guardsman, a coworker, a husband, a father, a gardener, and a friend. For most of his adult life, Brad was the mayor of Mantador—not exactly the most glamorous of jobs. Mantador runs exclusively on volunteer labor.

For years he made sure the city water and sewer were working, the Christmas tree got decorated, that barking dogs were attended to, that the garbage got picked up, the roads got fixed, and abandoned lots did not get overrun with weeds and junk.

For years Brad got to do the great ceremonies incumbent of a small-town mayor. For example, after I was elected attorney general of North Dakota, Brad presented me with the key to the city. This was no ceremonial key; it was the real deal. I wondered for months after getting that key what that key actually opened, until one day I got a call from Brad asking me if I could send the key back. You see, the key was actually to the town dump and spring cleaning was coming. But that was Brad.

You can't look anywhere in Mantador and not see his impact. One can go to the small ballpark and remember that Brad organized the National Guard to come and clean out the old grove of trees, look to the large VFW and remember that Brad recruited folks to come and help build it, look to the fire hall and remember the games of pickup baseball we played when we were kids, look to the Mantador grade school and remember that Brad was the kid who always took the dare, the kid who always organized the pickup football games, and that every kid in grade school knew the lyrics to the ''Marine Corps Hymn'' because Brad made sure at every choir practice we sang it not only once but twice.

Men and women such as Brad Hejtmanek are the unsung heroes of our democracy. They step up and volunteer when their country and their community need them. They are friends when a person needs a friend, and they never forget where they came from. So even though he will never have a chapter in a history book, he will always have a place in the hearts of the people of Mantador. In my book that is an honor unequalled.

Thank you, Brad, for all you did for your country and your small town. Godspeed, my friend. I and all of Mantador will miss you.

I ask unanimous consent to have his obituary printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

BRADLEY C. HEJTMANEK

Bradley C. Hejtmanek, 59, of Mantador, ND passed away Thursday, May 16, 2013 at Sanford Health in Fargo, ND, surrounded by his family and friends. Funeral mass will be Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at 10:30 a.m. at Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Mantador, ND with Fr. Peter Anderl officiating and burial in Calvary Cemetery, Mantador with military honors by the Hankinson American Legion Post #88 and the Mantador VFW Post #9317 and the North Dakota National Guard. Visitation will be Monday from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m. all at the church, and Tuesday morning one hour prior to the service at the church.

Brad was born on April 14, 1954 in Breckenridge, MN, the son of Joseph & Marcella (Havlena) Hejtmanek. He attended school in Mantador and graduated from Hankinson in 1972. He earned his associate degree from Chaminade University, Honolulu, Hawaii in 1976.

Brad was very active in Mantador & the surrounding area. He enjoyed all sports, especially the Twins, Vikings, Wild & UND hockey. He enjoyed time spent with family & friends, reading, t.v. & of course, popcorn.

He is survived by his wife, Karen, 2 sons, Doug (Chaska Guemmer) & Jason (Bri Huotari), granddaughter, Aubrey, 2 brothers, Richard (Ann), Jay (Denise), a sister, Joy (Mike) Schreder, several nieces & nephews, father-in-law, George Thompson, 2 brothers-in-law, Terry (Kathy) Thompson & Brian Thompson.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brother, Douglas, nephew, Joseph & mother-in-law, Janice Thompson.

Frank Family Funeral Home, Hankinson, ND is in charge of the arrangements.

In-line guestbook: www.frankfamilyfuneralhome.com

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

ORDER FOR MOMENT OF SILENCE

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, first, I would I ask unanimous consent that at 12 noon today the Senate observe a moment of silence for the victims of the tornado in Oklahoma.

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

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, we know we have other colleagues who will be coming to the floor to talk about the very important jobs bill, reform bill, and food bill we have in front of us—a conservation bill as well—but I just wish to take a moment to say to our colleagues, if there are amendments they have, as we are moving through the bill—and we are doing our best to finish this by the end of the week or certainly get as close as we can—we are very interested in working with colleagues to get to their amendments. We would appreciate it if they would let us know what they are and bring them down so we can be working with them on any of their amendments.

We are very proud of the product we have in front of the Senate right now. There are 16 million people who work in agriculture. I would say that is a jobs bill. I think it is probably the biggest jobs bill we will have in front of the Senate—agricultural jobs directly with those who are producing the food, who are producing the equipment for our food, and who are doing all the pieces around food production and processing and the efforts in trade around the globe, where we are proud to say agriculture is No. 1 in creating a trade surplus for our country. Other countries are looking to us. There are 7 billion mouths to feed in the world today, and American agriculture is at the front of the line feeding families and supporting efforts around the globe. We know that number is growing every day and the leadership of American agriculture is going to be even more important in that process.

We also know this is a bill that conserves our land, our water, our air, and our forests. This is the piece of legislation that focuses on conservation for working lands—lands that are owned by someone in this country, which is the majority of land, and there are incredibly important partnership efforts that go on. The farm bill improves 1.9 million acres of fish and wildlife habitat. That is why our conservation title is supported by over 650 conservation and environmental groups all across the country.

We have the same conservation title we had last year, and I am very pleased to say the House also has adopted the structure of reform we have in our bill. It is very similar in the House and Senate bills on conservation, and so this is a real landmark piece of legislation as it relates to preserving our soil, our land, our water, our air, and our forests, and it is a commitment we make as Americans to future generations.

We have also added in this legislation a commitment brought to us by the commodity farm groups and environmental and conservation groups to make sure, when farmers are using critically needed tools such as crop insurance—which is the mainstay for farmers now, buying crop insurance and hoping, in fact, they do not have to get a payout because it means they have had a loss or a disaster; that it is now the foundation of what we are doing to support farmers across the country—they have agreed to tie compliance for conservation practices to crop insurance, which is a very important policy. This is a historic agreement between agricultural groups and conservation and environmental groups. As a result of their agreement and their urging, we have added that to this bill, which is a very significant addition and strengthens what we are already doing on conservation.

We make a strong nutrition commitment to families. We make sure every family who currently qualifies for nutrition assistance in our country continues to receive that assistance. We create savings by looking at areas where there has been abuse or misuse by a few States on one policy and by individuals or retailers in other areas and we tighten that up so we have more integrity in the process. We make it clear we stand with families who need help; we stand with families who find their own personal disaster because of the economy, just as we stand with farmers for a strong crop insurance program when a farmer has a disaster as well, but we do make sure there is integrity in the programs, which is very important.

We have had at least two cases in Michigan where two people won the lottery and continued on food assistance—pretty outrageous. And we make sure that cannot happen again. There have been abuses in other areas, where retailers have allowed people to turn in their food assistance cards for money for drugs or other illegal activities, and we make sure we clamp down on that. We have gone through the bill and we address misuse, waste, fraud, and abuse in every part of the farm programs but certainly in this area as well. So we can stand before our colleagues and say this is about making sure folks who have worked all their lives, who have paid taxes all their lives, who suddenly find themselves, through no fault of their own, in a situation where they need some temporary food help are able to get that help for their family.

The good news is those dollars—that part of the farm bill—are actually decreasing. The costs are going down and not because we are cutting back on support for families but because the economy is improving, so more people are going back to work and don't need the temporary help. That is the way we should be reducing the costs, and that is in fact what we do.

I am also very pleased with the fact we focus on rural development and reforms that are very significant and very important. Right now, there are actually 11 different definitions of the term ''rural.'' We had local mayors and county supervisors and village residents come to us and say: We appreciate the fact that rural development funds allow us to provide financing for our businesses and water and sewer projects and housing projects and road projects, but could you just give us one definition, rather than trying to figure out 11 different ways to define rural. It may sound simple, but it wasn't simple. But we did actually get it down to one definition, and we have streamlined the process and the paperwork so communities, small towns, and folks who support and need rural economic development help can get that with a minimal amount of paperwork.

We have done that through this entire bill. Frankly, I truly believe that if, in every part of government, we did what we have done in agricultural programs, we would not only be doing what the public wants but we would balance the budget. We have 100 different programs or authorizations we have eliminated because they didn't make sense anymore. They were duplicative, not wise spending for taxpayers—things such as direct subsidy payments for farmers that did not make sense, cutting from 23 conservation programs to 13 and putting them

in 4 different subject areas with a lot of flexibility so we can stretch it out and get more bang for our buck and do a better job without in any way reducing the commitment to conservation.

We have gone through the entire farm bill and made tough decisions, smart decisions. We have saved about $24 billion—more than even we did last year—while having a set of policies that is broadly supported in the conservation community and the agricultural community and the energy community and those who represent small towns across this country. We did it, again, by making tough decisions and by working together on a bipartisan basis.

I am proud that even though these arbitrary, across-the-board cuts called sequester, cuts that make no sense—even though those cuts would require $6 billion in cuts in agricultural programs, we have been willing, voluntarily, to come up with four times that level of cuts. We ask for your support for a set of policies that works better, that streamlines the system, that cuts back on that which does not make sense to do but strengthens the priorities that are important for economic growth, for families, for conservation, for communities all across this country.

We are willing and have done our part to step up and meet the challenges of deficit reduction, of balancing our Federal budget, but keeping our commitment to our farmers and ranchers who have the most risky jobs in the world. As I said yesterday, nobody else has to worry about whether it is going to rain or not rain—too much rain, no rain; whether it is going to freeze, as it did in northern Michigan after the cherry blossoms came on the trees and the freeze wiped everything out.

Nobody else is in a business where they cannot control the most important factor, which is the weather. We have certainly seen the havoc the weather has played on families across this country, including what happened yesterday in Oklahoma.

We stand here proudly to say we support an effort that is creating reform, that is saving money, that is standing up for the folks who have helped create the most affordable and safest food supply in the world—America's farmers and ranchers. We stand here supporting American families who need to make sure that when times are tough the very best of America's values are in place, which is to make sure they have the ability to put food on the table for their families.

I believe we have others who will be coming to the floor. At the moment I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. STABENOW. I ask unanimous consent that following a moment of silence at noon today, the Senate proceed to a vote in relation to Cantwell amendment No. 919; that upon disposition of the Cantwell amendment, Senator GILLIBRAND be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. STABENOW. We are also working on a Sessions amendment No. 945, which we had hoped to line up as well. I understand there is an additional modification being made. If that modification is agreeable to both sides, it is our intention to adopt that amendment, as modified, prior to the caucus meetings.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a moment of silence for the victims of the tornadoes in Oklahoma.

(Moment of silence.)

AMENDMENT NO. 919

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is on agreeing to amendment No. 919, offered by the Senator from Washington, Ms. CANTWELL.

The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Let me indicate that this amendment would require tribes to be included in the development of Resource Conservation Act appraisals. It is something that is supported by Senator COCHRAN and me.

I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second. There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 87, nays 8, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 129 Leg.]

YEAS—87

Alexander	Fischer	Moran
Ayotte	Flake	Murkowski
Baldwin	Franken	Murphy
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Murray
Baucus	Graham	Nelson
Begich	Grassley	Portman
Bennet	Hagan	Pryor
Blumenthal	Harkin	Reed
Blunt	Hatch	Reid
Boozman	Heitkamp	Risch
Boxer	Heller	Roberts
Brown	Hirono	Rockefeller
Burr	Hoeven	Sanders
Cantwell	Isakson	Schatz
Cardin	Johanns	Schumer
Carper	Johnson (SD)	Scott
Casey	Kaine	Sessions
Chambliss	King	Shaheen
Coats	Klobuchar	Shelby
Cochran	Landrieu	Stabenow
Collins	Leahy	Tester
Coons	Levin	Thune
Corker	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Cowan	McCain	Udall (NM)
Crapo	McCaskill	Warner
Donnelly	McConnell	Warren
Durbin	Menendez	Whitehouse
Enzi	Merkley	Wicker
Feinstein	Mikulski	Wyden

NAYS—8

Cornyn	Kirk	Rubio
Cruz	Lee	Toomey
Johnson (WI)	Paul	

NOT VOTING—5

Coburn	Inhofe	Vitter
Heinrich	Lautenberg	

The amendment (No. 919) was agreed to.

Ms. STABENOW. I move to reconsider the vote and to lay that motion upon the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 931

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam President, I call up my amendment No. 931 for a vote at a time to be determined by the manager of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mrs. GILLIBRAND], for herself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. COWAN, Mr. REED, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. KING, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. MENENDEZ, proposes an amendment numbered 931.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To strike a reduction in the supplemental nutrition assistance program, with an offset that limits crop insurance reimbursements to providers)

Beginning on page 355, strike line 8 and all that follows through page 357, line 15.

On page 1065, after line 25, add the following:

SEC. 11011. ANNUAL LIMITATION ON DELIVERY EXPENSES AND REDUCED RATE OF RETURN.

(a) ANNUAL LIMITATION ON DELIVERY EXPENSES.—Section 508(k)(4) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(k)(4)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(G) ANNUAL LIMITATION ON DELIVERY EXPENSES.—Beginning with the 2014 reinsurance year, the amount paid by the Corporation to reimburse approved insurance providers and agents for the administrative and

operating costs of the approved insurance providers and agents shall not exceed $924,000,000 per year.''.

(b) REDUCED RATE OF RETURN.—Section 508(k)(8) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(k)(8)) (as amended by section 11011) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(G) REDUCED RATE OF RETURN.—Beginning with the 2014 reinsurance year, the Standard Reinsurance Agreement shall be adjusted to ensure a projected rate of return for the approved insurance producers not to exceed 12 percent, as determined by the Corporation.''.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. I yield to the chairman of the committee for other business.

Ms. STABENOW. I thank the Senator.

Madam President, we have a great start here with our first vote.

AMENDMENT NO. 945, AS MODIFIED

Ms. STABENOW. Before proceeding with Senator GILLIBRAND's amendment, I ask unanimous consent that the Sessions amendment No. 945, with the changes at the desk, as modified, be agreed to.

The amendment, as modified, was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To clarify eligibility criteria for agricultural irrigation assistance)

On page 263, between lines 20 and 21, insert the following:

''(iii) IRRIGATION.—In States where irrigation has not been used significantly for agricultural purposes, as determined by the Secretary, the Secretary shall not limit eligibility under section 1271B or this section on the basis of prior irrigation history.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

AMENDMENT NO. 931

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. I rise today to urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join my effort to fight off the proposed $4 billion worth of cuts to SNAP, better known as food stamps.

I ask that my amendment, No. 931, be called up for a vote at a time determined by the manager of the bill.

When Congress proposes to cut the food stamp program, it is not a nameless, faceless person looking for a handout who suffers—it is hungry children, hardworking adults, seniors on fixed incomes, veterans, active-duty servicemembers fighting our wars, and the families who stand by them.

I heard from a single mom in Queens, working full time at a supermarket, doing all she could to make ends meet but still struggles in this very tough economy. Her son came home one day from school with a bag in his hand and told her he saved his lunch for their dinner, and that he asked his best friend if he could have his sandwich to bring home for his brother. Obviously that mother broke down in tears. She needs food stamp assistance.

I heard from a senior in Washington Heights in New York City. She receives a limited fixed income, not enough to live on. She relies on SNAP to pay for food and for some peace of mind. Without that help, putting food on the table will become impossible.

I have heard from veterans all across the country who are making their voices heard to prevent these cuts, such as one very brave veteran from Colorado Springs. He served in Iraq, but was declared medically unfit to continue his service. He was released from the military and returned home. As he was looking for a job and waited for the VA to activate his benefits, he relied on SNAP to help his family make ends meet. Going from active duty to food stamps, he described, was a culture shock. It was never his plan to go on food stamps. Without that little bit of support, this veteran, his wife, and his children would have needlessly suffered. Today he is back on his feet working full time, but the program was there for him when he needed it, as it should be.

These are the people who rely on this critically needed assistance to put food on the table and who stand to lose if Congress follows through with these deep cuts to SNAP. Half of all food stamp recipients are children, 8 percent are seniors, and 1.4 million veteran households receive food stamps. There are some of you here who would have us believe that these children, seniors, and veterans are gaming the system just to take advantage of taxpayers. The fact is, it is less than 1 percent of every dollar that goes into this program that is wasted, less than 1 percent is evidence of fraud. Imagine if we had that level of efficiency anywhere else in government.

In fact, SNAP keeps our economy moving. This money goes straight to the grocery stores, the store clerks, the truckers who haul the food, and producers all across the country. Sixteen cents of every SNAP dollar actually goes right back to the farmer who grew the crop, according to the USDA. When we cut $4 billion from SNAP, it means there is $90 less a month going to half a million households. To folks in this Chamber, $90 a month may not seem like a lot of money, but for a struggling family that is a week's worth of groceries. Imagine telling your children they can't eat the last week of every month. Imagine telling your child at night when he says to you: Mommy, I am still hungry, that there is nothing you can do about it.

As a mother, as a lawmaker, watching a child, a senior, and a brave veteran going hungry is something I will not stand for, and neither should anyone else in this body. Clearly we have to reduce the debt and the deficit, but hardworking parents, their children, seniors, troops, and veterans are just trying to keep the lights on, trying to make ends meet, trying to put food on the table. They did not spend this Nation into debt, and we should not be trying to balance the budget on their back. They deserve better from us. These are the wrong priorities for America.

Instead, the amendment I am proposing would reduce a real source of waste in this budget, and that is corporate welfare for large corporations that do not need it, including insurance companies that are based in Bermuda, Australia, and Switzerland.

My amendment already has the support and advocacy of a third of this body. Thirty-three Senators have signed a letter saying do not cut food stamps, because it protects half a million struggling Americans who too often do not have a voice in Washington when they desperately need it. It makes modest cuts to an already overgenerous corporate welfare system. It is common sense. Standing by those who are suffering is the core. It is a core value of who we are as Americans.

If it is in your heart, and if you believe feeding hungry children is the right thing to do, then stand with us. Stand with America's veterans. Stand with the AARP and America's seniors. Stand with struggling families and children all across this Nation. Let's keep food on the tables of people who need it. When we do, America will be stronger, and this body will be stronger.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:41 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. BALDWIN).

AGRICULTURE REFORM, FOOD, AND JOBS ACT OF 2013—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

COST OF GASOLINE

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I will hold off asking that the pending amendment be set aside until the manager is here. At this time I will address an enormously important national issue, an issue even more important to rural America; that is, the skyrocketing cost of gasoline at the pump, and oil in general, which is causing enormous hardship for the American consumer, small businesses, truckers, airlines, and fuel dealers.

The bottom line is in Vermont and all over this country people are paying an arm and a leg for a gallon of gas and for home heating oil, and it is a very serious economic problem for the individual consumer and for the entire economy at large. In fact, as we continue to struggle to get out of this terrible recession, high oil and gas prices are enormously detrimental to the entire economic recovery process.

These rapidly increasing prices are particularly harmful to rural America where working people often are forced to travel 50 to 100 miles to their jobs and back. If people are paying $3.80 for a gallon of gas, that adds up, and it is money coming right out of their wallets.

Over the last 5 months the national average price for a gallon of gasoline

has gone up by more than 41 cents at the pump, even—and this is the important point to make—as U.S. oil inventories reach a three-decade high, and demand for gasoline is lower than it was 4 years ago when prices averaged less than $2.30 a gallon. In other words, what we learned in elementary school about supply and demand and pricing—the foundation of capitalism, if you like—is when there is a lot of supply and limited demand, prices should go down. Right now, there is a lot of supply, less demand, and prices are going up, and I think we need to know why because this impacts our entire economy and millions and millions of consumers.

Our goal must be to do everything we can to make sure oil and gas prices are transparent and free from fraud, manipulation, abuse, and excessive speculation. Let the principles of supply and demand work. Let's eliminate fraud, manipulation, abuse, and excessive speculation, which is exactly what we are experiencing right now.

That is why I will be offering two important amendments that deal with these issues. Both of these amendments are within the jurisdiction of the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee, which is obviously why I am offering them on this bill.

The first amendment, No. 963, requires the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, CFTC, and the Oil and Gas Price Fraud Working Group to conduct a 6-month investigation to determine whether any company or individual in the United States has manipulated the price of gasoline, crude oil, heating oil, diesel fuel, or jet fuel. Such an investigation is already taking place by regulators in Europe.

On May 14, 2013, just 1 week ago, the European Commission announced it was investigating allegations that several companies—including BP, Shell and Statoil—''may have colluded in reporting distorted prices to a Price Reporting Agency to manipulate the published prices for a number of oil and biofuel products.''

I know RON WYDEN, chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, is also looking at this issue—perhaps in a slightly different way—and I applaud him for doing that. But this amendment basically says right now the European Commission believes there may be fraud among the major oil companies. If that is true in Europe, it may well be true in the United States. So I want the CFTC to investigate that as well.

Amendment No. 963 requires the CFTC to work with European regulators to determine if any company or individual in the United States provided inaccurate information to a price reporting agency for the purpose of manipulating the published prices of gasoline or oil; secondly, to refer any illegal activities to the proper authorities for prosecution; third, to report its findings within 6 months; and lastly, to publish recommendations on its Web site on how to make sure the pricing of gasoline, crude oil, heating oil, diesel fuel, and jet fuel becomes more transparent, open, and free from manipulation, fraud, abuse, or excessive speculation.

The third largest oil company in Europe has estimated that as much as 80 percent of all crude oil product transactions are linked to prices published by Platts, a private price reporting agency, while just 20 percent are linked to trades on the New York Mercantile Exchange or ICE Futures in Europe. In order to calculate prices, Platts depends on oil companies and Wall Street speculators to voluntarily provide details on bids, offers, and transactions for various crude oil and petroleum commodities.

So that is one of the issues we want to take a hard look at to make sure we end those manipulations. The other issue I want to take a hard look at is the issue of speculation on the oil futures market. What we know right now is, according to the CFTC, approximately 80 percent of the oil futures market is controlled not by end users—not by fuel dealers, not by airline companies, not by people who actually use fuel—but by Wall Street speculators. So that is the issue my second amendment deals with.

This amendment addresses an issue that was not satisfactorily addressed in Dodd-Frank, where we attempted to deal with the issue of excessive speculation on the oil futures market. Amendment No. 964 requires the CFTC to use all of its authority, including its emergency powers, within 30 days to address this very important issue.

Once again the American people are at their wits end in trying to understand why oil prices go up despite the fact we have sufficient supply and lack of demand. I am not just speaking for myself but many economists also when I say I believe one of the major reasons for this significantly high price has to do with speculation—speculation on Wall Street.

This amendment requires the CFTC to use all its authority—again, including its emergency powers, which is not what we have done in the past—within 30 days to do the following: to implement position limits to eliminate, prevent, or diminish excessive oil speculation as required by the Dodd-Frank Act, and to immediately curb excessive oil speculation to ensure that oil and gas prices are based on the fundamentals of supply and demand.

As I mentioned earlier, price is supposed to be determined by the amount of supply and the amount of demand. Supply now is very high, demand is relatively low, and so we should be seeing a decline in oil prices rather than an increase. Further, the International Energy Agency recently projected the global supply of oil will surge by 8.4 million barrels a day over the next 5 years, significantly faster than demand, and nearly two-thirds of the increase in oil supply will be in North America. So if you are looking at an abundance of supply and limited demand, we have every reason in the world to believe gas prices at the pump, oil prices in general, should go down. If they are not going down, we have to ask why. Many of us believe this has to do with excessive Wall Street speculation on the oil futures market.

While we cannot ignore the fact that big oil companies have been gouging consumers at the pump for years and have made over $1 trillion in profit over the past decade, there is mounting evidence that high gasoline prices have less to do with supply and demand and more to do with Wall Street speculation jacking up oil and gas prices in the energy futures market. Ten years ago—and this is a very important point for people to understand—10 years ago speculators only controlled—''only'' is probably the wrong word, but they controlled about 30 to 40 percent of the oil futures market. Today Wall Street speculators control at least 80 percent of the market. In a 10-year period, we have seen Wall Street speculation double on the energy futures market.

What does this mean in terms of oil prices? Everything in the world. The function of Wall Street speculation has nothing to do with using oil, everything to do with making a profit, driving prices higher. This is not just BERNIE SANDERS talking. There is now a growing consensus that excessive speculation on the oil futures market is driving up oil prices. ExxonMobil, Goldman Sachs, the IMF, the St. Louis Federal Reserve, the American Trucking Association, Delta Airlines, the Petroleum Marketers Association of America, the New England Fuel Institute and many other groups—the Consumer Federation of America—have all agreed that excessive oil speculation significantly increases oil and gas prices.

Interestingly enough, Goldman Sachs—not one of my favorite institutions but perhaps the largest speculator on Wall Street—came out with a report indicating that excessive oil speculation is costing Americans 56 cents a gallon at the pump. Goldman Sachs, speculator, they themselves estimating that excessive speculation is costing 56 cents a gallon at the pump for the average consumer, and that may be a conservative estimate.

A few years ago the CEO of ExxonMobil, again not one of my favorite companies, testified at a Senate hearing that excessive speculation contributed as much as 40 percent to the cost of a barrel of oil.

Saudi Arabia, the largest exporter of oil in the world, told the Bush administration back in 2008 during the last major spike in oil prices that speculation has contributed as much as 40 percent to a barrel of oil.

Gary Gensler, the chairman of the CFTC, has stated publicly that oil speculators now control between 80 to

87 percent of the energy futures market, a figure that has more than doubled over the past decade. In other words, the vast majority of oil on the futures market is not controlled by people who actually use the product but people whose only function in life being in the oil futures market is to make as much quick profit as they possibly can.

Let me give just a list of a few of the oil speculators and how much oil they were trading on June 30, 2008, when the price of oil was over $140 a barrel and gas prices were over $4 a gallon. Goldman Sachs bought and sold over 863 million barrels of oil, Morgan Stanley bought and sold over 632 million barrels of oil, Bank of America bought and sold over 112 million barrels of oil, Lehman Brothers, Merrill Lynch, et cetera.

What we have to understand is that to a very significant degree, pricing of oil has nothing to do with supply and demand, nothing to do with end users who actually buy the product, and everything to do with Wall Street speculation. Sadly, the spike in oil and gasoline prices was totally avoidable. The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act required the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to impose strict limits on the amount of oil that Wall Street speculators could trade in the energy futures market by January 17, 2011, 2½ years ago.

Unfortunately, the CFTC has been unable to implement position limits due to opposition on Wall Street and a ruling of the DC district court which is now under appeal.

This amendment directs the CFTC to utilize all its authority, including its emergency powers, to curb excessive oil speculation within 30 days. We are not going to drag this on for another 5 years. The emergency directive in this amendment is virtually identical to bipartisan legislation that overwhelmingly passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 402 to 19, during a similar crisis in 2008.

Let me conclude by saying that millions of consumers are hurting as a result of excessive speculation. People are paying much more at the pump than they should for gasoline. This issue impacts our entire economy. It is time that we did something to that. I say to my colleagues: I call up amendments numbers 963 and 964, and ask for their immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Ms. STABENOW. Reserving the right to object, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, first, I thank the Senator from Vermont for raising all these issues that are so important for the American people. At this point in time, we do have an amendment that is pending, the amendment of Senator GILLIBRAND. We do not have unanimous consent in order to set that aside so I would have to, at the moment, object to setting it aside, but I assure the Senator I wish to have an opportunity to talk to him about these issues.

Mr. SANDERS. I look forward to talking to the Senator from Michigan, but I do want her to know this is an enormously important amendment for the people of Vermont and the people of America. We want action. I think we have brought forth an amendment which, in fact, can end up substantially lowering the price of oil and gas at the pump and I will pursue this vigorously.

Ms. STABENOW. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I rise to speak on the farm bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

Mr. HOEVEN. I rise to speak on behalf of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013, a 5-year farm bill. This bill saves more than $24 billion to help reduce our deficit and our debt, it streamlines farm programs to make them more efficient, and it ensures that our farmers and ranchers continue to have good risk management tools, particularly crop insurance.

It is vitally important to so many facets of our national interests. It is important to food, of course, but also to fuel, to fiber, to rural development, agriculture research, and many other areas. It touches the life of every single American in some of the most basic ways.

This year the farm bill is moving through the Senate because we have already debated and passed more than 90 percent of this bill in the last session. A lot of this bill we worked on very hard in the last session and passed it through this body with a big bipartisan vote.

Unfortunately, the House was not able to pass their version so we were not able to go to conference and finish the job. This year we need to do that.

This farm bill, again, 90 percent-plus we voted on in this body last session. We had a big bipartisan vote to pass it. We need to do that again. We need to get into conference with the House, and we need to get this done for farmers and ranchers and for the benefit of all Americans.

Last week we passed a bill out of the Senate Agriculture Committee, on which I serve, where I had the opportunity to help craft it—again, building on the product that we put together last year when we voted it out of committee with a big bipartisan vote. The House also passed its version of a farm bill out of their Agriculture Committee last week. They are looking to bring their bill to the House floor in June. We are hopeful they will pass it in June, but we need to be ready. We need to have ours done. I think we can show real leadership on this issue and be ready to get into conference with the House and get this important work done.

The Senate version we passed supports our farmers and ranchers in substantive and sensible ways. It gives them the necessary risk management tools and ensures that Americans, all Americans, continue to enjoy the highest quality, lowest cost food supply, not just in the world but in the history of the world.

Among the provisions of the commodity title is the no-cost Sugar Program. I wish to take just a few minutes to talk about the Sugar Program and its importance in the context of this farm bill. The Sugar Program warrants discussion because some Members—I believe certainly with the best of intentions—want to actually weaken this vitally important program. But weakening our current sugar policy would accomplish nothing. In fact, it would subject our producers, consumers, and industries to a distorted world market. Further, it would threaten more than 140,000 jobs in 22 States that depend on a vibrant, competitive sugar industry.

The world's sugar market is not a free market. Make no mistake, it is not a free market in any conventional sense of the term. I can tell you now, foreign governments heavily protect and subsidize their sugar producers. For example, Brazil spends between $2 and $3 billion per year to subsidize its producers. Mexico literally owns one-fifth of its industry and subsidizes the rest.

Our sugar farmers, along with the rest of America's farmers and ranchers, have told foreign competitors, time and again, we are ready to compete in a truly freely market, but we will not and must not unilaterally disarm, nor will dismantling the Sugar Program result in lower costs to consumers and American businesses. Once you factor in transportation costs, the world price of sugar is higher than the price in the United States.

Sugar prices are not only higher in Brazil and Mexico, they are higher worldwide. If we do away with sugar policy altogether and subject producers strictly to a distorted global market, what we will see is not lower prices but rather extreme volatility in the global sugar market.

Not only are sugar prices lower in the United States and elsewhere, but the cost of sugar in most products is tiny. For example, in a Hershey's chocolate bar it is less than 2 percent of the cost. Further, it should be noted that sugar prices have fallen by more than 50 percent in the last 2 years, but candy prices at the store are not seeing the same level of reduction at all.

The truth is, if consumers are paying higher costs, it is because of labor and health care costs in the United States, not because of the cost of sugar.

For 10 years now, sugar policy has operated at zero cost to the American taxpayer because our farmers are efficient and competitive and because American sugar policy has always made sure they were playing on a level playing field. As a result, consumers in

this country enjoy more affordable sugar than elsewhere in the world and American consumers enjoy a safe and reliable homegrown source. The bottom line is that sugar policy is cost-effective and fair and it should be retained in the commodity title of the farm bill.

But I would like to turn, again, to the broader legislation. Good farm policy benefits every single American. As I said, we have the lowest cost, highest quality food supply in the world thanks to our farmers and ranchers and thanks to good farm policy. How do we put a value on our safe, abundant, nutritious, dependable food supply? It is invaluable. By any standard it is invaluable. Just consider the benefits that this farm bill provides.

The farm bill is a job creator and it helps our economy. Agriculture supports 16 million jobs in the United States and contributes billions of dollars to the national economy. Year in and year out we sell more food and fiber than we buy from abroad. Further, American agriculture produces a financial surplus. Through relentless innovation, best practices, and good stewardship of the land, American agriculture creates a positive balance of trade.

The farm bill saves money to help reduce the deficit and the debt. Think how important that is.

The 2013 farm bill, like the farm bill we passed last year, provides more than $24 billion in savings—more than is required by sequestration—to help address the Nation's deficit and debt. Farmers and ranchers are stepping up and doing their part.

The farm bill also provides a strong market-based safety net for the producers. The safety net in the 2013 farm bill focuses on enhanced crop insurance; that is what they have asked for and that is the focus—not direct payments. Direct payments are limited. It enhances crop insurance with the inclusion of a new product called the supplemental coverage option, SCO. The SCO enables purchasers to purchase a supplemental policy beyond their individual farm-based policy, thereby creating an additional level of risk management.

The bill also includes the Agriculture Risk Coverage or ARC Program that provides assistance for shallow loss or multiple-year losses, which again helps our farmers to better manage risk. They are business people and they need to manage their risks.

Let's not forget the farm bill strengthens our national security. Our country doesn't have to depend on other countries for our food supply—countries that don't necessarily share our interests or values—and that makes us safer. The fact is we are secure in that most basic, vital necessity—our food supply.

The farm bill is about so many things that are important to the people of America. This is about all Americans. Again, I say good farm policy benefits every single American. We have the highest quality, lowest cost food supply in the world thanks to our farmers, ranchers, and good farm policy.

This is about 16 million jobs in this country which are supported by agriculture. This is about a positive balance of trade which helps build our economy. This is about $24 billion in savings where agriculture is stepping up and not only doing its share but more than its share to help with the deficit and debt. In the most fundamental ways, a good farm bill makes America stronger, safer, and more secure. We need to pass this farm bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. COCHRAN. Madam President, I am pleased to congratulate my friend from North Dakota for his statement and his discussion of the content of this farm bill. He was one of the active members of our committee who participated in the markup sessions, attended the hearings in preparation for writing a farm bill, and helped to shape the consensus that is reflected in the final work product. Senator HOEVEN is a very valuable member of our committee, and I commend and thank my colleague from North Dakota for his contributions to this process.

He very accurately describes that this is a consensus product. It is not a partisan bill; it is not meant to make anybody or any section or any commodity group look good or feel good because of favors done in this bill. This is truly to serve the interests of our good and great country and help improve our trading opportunities in agricultural commodities that are produced on our farms throughout the United States.

I think it is going to serve the interests of not only agriculture but the American citizen and, broadly speaking, much of this success is due to the contributions made by the Senator from North Dakota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I thank the distinguished Senator from Mississippi for his kind comments and also for his leadership on the Agriculture Committee as our ranking member. I wanted to express my appreciation.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). The Senator from North Dakota.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, it should come as no surprise that two Senators from the great State of North Dakota stand today and talk about the importance of American agriculture. Ninety percent of the land we have in North Dakota is engaged in production agriculture. As much as we have heard—and it is all true—about this great economic renaissance we are having in our State, agriculture is still No. 1.

Every year American farmers—North Dakota farmers—bet. They bet on good weather, good prices, that the crop will grow, and they spend millions of dollars on that bet. They are the biggest gamblers in the history of the world, and they are asking for a farm bill that gives them a little bit of risk help and makes sure when they plant, they know that maybe they have a chance to get cost of production back out.

Why is that important? It is important because who is going to take that risk on behalf of the American people, on behalf of a global and worldwide supply of food? Who is going to take that risk if we don't help a little bit?

Today in America almost every State which has an agricultural base is doing a little bit better because agriculture has led the way. Agriculture has aided this economy. States with an agriculture base have a much lower rate of unemployment, and they have been leading the way on our trade deficit.

It cannot be overstated how significant this farm bill is not only to States such as North Dakota but to every State and every economy in this Union. There are 16 million jobs which hang in the balance. They are waiting for this body—the Congress—to give some assurance, to pass a farm bill.

I applaud both the ranking member and the committee chair for their excellent work. No bill which comes out of a committee with diverse opinions is absolutely perfect where everyone will agree on everything in the bill, but it is part of the great American compromise we have been talking about and striving for in this body. We are working to move the issues forward and do what Americans sent us here to do. We are here to deliberate, discuss, debate, and compromise, and that is what this bill is about.

Every piece of this bill is important. Every piece is a linchpin to make sure we pass a farm bill. We are going to hear a lot in the next couple of days about the Sugar Program. I will talk broadly about the other provisions of the bill tomorrow on this floor, but I want to spend today talking a little bit about the Sugar Program within the farm bill because it is absolutely significant and important.

I know Senator HOEVEN outlined some of the statistics we talk about when we talk about sugar. The U.S. sugar policy defends more than 142,000 jobs—not just in North Dakota, Minnesota, Florida, and Hawaii, but in 22 States. It defends those jobs from unfair foreign competition, and it results in nearly $20 billion in annual economic activity in the United States.

Of course, many of these jobs are in North Dakota. We grow a lot of sugar beets in the Red River Valley, we process a lot of sugar beets in the Red River Valley, and those processing jobs are the value-added jobs that led the way to a value-added economy in our State. We are pretty protective of our sugar economy.

In many rural communities sugar is the linchpin of the local economy. Make no mistake that if we bend to the

reforms we will hear talked about or bend to the ideas some have today about the Sugar Program, we will lose our domestic sugar industry. Why? Because we cannot compete. Make no mistake about that.

I am not saying our producers cannot produce or compete with producers from other parts of the world if the playing field is level. In fact, not only can we compete, we can best them. However, the sugar playing field is not level. Other countries have subsidized their sugar programs for years. More than 120 countries actually produce sugar. Every one of them intervenes to defend their producers from global crisis where surplus sugar is dumped. No one could survive at historic world-level prices without these government interventions. If our farmers could go head to head with their foreign counterparts, they would robustly compete and, I believe, capture much of the market. Unfortunately, with Federal subsidization and protections in place, a fair fight is not available to our American sugar beet and sugar cane growers. Opponents of the Sugar Program would have us do one thing: Unilaterally disarm and surrender our market to foreign producers.

For over two decades, from 1989 to 2008—and I want everyone to remember the date of 2008—the average world cost of sugar production averaged about 51 percent more than the world price.

Let me say that again: The world average cost of sugar production averaged 51 percent more than the sugar price. How does that happen? How does anyone produce a product that costs more than they sell it for? They are subsidized, which means sugar producers have received support from governments that allow them to stay in business even when their production costs exceed the price.

In order for those sugar industries to survive, governments in foreign countries provide some buffer to the world market with a wide variety of import tariffs, nontariff import barriers, price and income supports, and direct and indirect subsidies.

We have heard that sugar prices are too high, and if we eliminate the Sugar Program—the risk program for our sugar growers—that sugar prices would drop. Food corporation opponents say the U.S. sugar price is too high. They further argue that high sugar prices threaten their competitiveness given foreign competition for processed foods.

The truth is that sugar prices have held relatively stable over the course of the last three decades. This cannot be said about most other agricultural commodities. Imagine if we were debating today about $2-a-bushel corn.

U.S. raw sugar prices have dropped by more than half since the fall of 2011. Prices are now below the average price of the 1980s, below the average of the 1990s, and below the average of the decade of 2000.

Our sugar farmers have struggled for decades and many have not have survived. Since 1985, more than half of the sugar beet and sugar cane operations shut down. It is hard to survive in 2013 when the price they get for their product is the same price they would have received in 1980.

The amendment we are going to be debating here will drive the U.S. sugar price down even further, which will allow more subsidized sugar to flow into our market and put our sugar farmers out of business.

If we look at all of the commodities that are in the farm bill—look at every piece of that compromised bill—and start singling out one commodity for special treatment—let's forget for a minute we are talking about sugar. Let's talk about dairy. Would a sugar bill survive if we were to eliminate the dairy program? Would a farm bill survive if we were to eliminate the dairy program?

Our concern today is that this industry is critical to our food security but also, importantly, it is critical to the compromise of the farm bill itself. This is a farm bill that supports over 16 million jobs in an economy that struggles except on the farm. These programs have worked.

As someone who is from North Dakota, I have lived through bad farm bills. My producers have lived through bad farm bills. The last 5 to 6 years have been an enormous improvement, not only to market-driven techniques but it has been an enormous improvement in allowing our producers to make the market decisions they are going to make, but also get the help that is going to give them surety.

When a small North Dakota producer—and I am not exaggerating—spends $1 million putting a crop in the ground, they do that for their family, they do that for their State, but they also do it for the country and for the world because they know the American farmer feeds the world and it is a pretty important job.

So I say, let the compromise stay. Let the bill stay intact. Let's move this bill forward, let's get it into conference with the House, and for once let's tell the American people we can get something done in Congress. Let's tell them we can respond to the needs of this country and move our country forward.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, we appreciate the comments of the distinguished Senator from North Dakota. Also, it is a pleasure to welcome her as a new member of our committee. She took an active part in the development of this bill, and we appreciate her contributions.

I see no other Senators seeking recognition at this time, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 948

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up amendment No. 948.

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

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kansas [Mr. ROBERTS], for himself, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. JOHANNS, proposes an amendment numbered 948.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve and extend certain nutrition programs)

On page 355, between lines 7 and 8, insert the following:

SEC. 40___. RESTORING PROGRAM INTEGRITY TO CATEGORICAL ELIGIBILITY FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The second sentence of section 5(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014(a)) is amended by striking ''receives benefits under a State program'' and inserting ''receives assistance (as defined in section 260.31 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on January 1, 2013) under a State program''.

(b) RESOURCES.—Section 5(j) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014(j)) is amended by striking ''receives benefits under a State program'' and inserting ''receives assistance (as defined in section 260.31 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on January 1, 2013) under a State program''.

Beginning on page 355, strike line 8 and all that follows through page 357, line 15, and insert the following:

SEC. 4002. ELIMINATING THE LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE LOOPHOLE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(11)(A), by striking ''(other than'' and all that follows through ''et seq.))'' and inserting ''(other than payments or allowances made under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) or any payments under any other State program funded with qualified State expenditures (as defined in section 409(a)(7)(B)(i) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 609(a)(7)(B)(1))))'';

(2) in subsection (e)(6)(C), by striking clause (iv); and

(3) in subsection (k)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (C);

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) through (G) as subparagraphs (C) through (F), respectively; and

(iii) by striking paragraph (4).

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2605(f) of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8624(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''(1)''; and

(2) by striking paragraph (2).

Beginning on page 379, strike line 15 and all that follows through page 380, line 15, and insert the following:

SEC. 4011. ELIMINATING STATE BONUSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 16 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025) is amended by striking subsection (d).

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 16 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the first sentence of paragraph (4), by striking ''payment error rate'' and all that follows through ''subsection (d)'' and inserting ''liability amount or new investment amount under paragraph (1) or payment error rate''; and

(B) in the first sentence of paragraph (5), by striking ''payment error rate'' and all that follows through ''subsection (d)'' and inserting ''liability amount or new investment amount under paragraph (1) or payment error rate''; and

(2) in subsection (i)(1), by striking ''subsection (d)(1)'' and inserting ''subsection (c)(2)''.

SEC. 4012. ELIMINATING DUPLICATIVE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.

(a) FUNDING OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMS.—Section 16 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025) is amended by striking subsection (h).

(b) ADMINISTRATIVE COST-SHARING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 16(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025(a)) is amended in the first sentence, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting ''(other than a program carried out under section 6(d)(4))'' after ''supplemental nutrition assistance program''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 17(b)(1)(B)(iv)(III)(hh) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2026(b)(1)(B)(iv)(III)(hh)) is amended by striking ''(g), (h)(2), or (h)(3)'' and inserting ''or (g)''.

(B) Section 22(d)(1)(B)(ii) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2031(d)(1)(B)(ii)) is amended is amended by striking '', (g), (h)(2), and (h)(3)'' and inserting ''and (g)''.

(c) WORKFARE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 20 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2029) is amended by striking subsection (g).

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 17(b)(1)(B)(iv)(III)(jj) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2026(b)(1)(B)(iv)(III)(jj)) is amended by striking ''or (g)(1)''.

On page 385, strike lines 19 through 22 and insert the following:

SEC. 4016. ELIMINATING THE NUTRITION EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 28 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036a) is repealed.

On page 390, between lines 17 and 18, insert the following:

SEC. 4019. TERMINATING AN INCREASE IN BENEFITS.

Section 101(a) of division A of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–5; 123 Stat. 120; 124 Stat. 2394; 124 Stat. 3265) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) TERMINATION.—The authority provided by this subsection shall terminate after September 1, 2013.''.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, this is Roberts amendment No. 948. This amendment would help rein in the largest expenditure within the Department of Agriculture budget—the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP, more commonly known as food stamps.

The Senate Agriculture Committee included minimal savings under food stamps—around $4 billion over the 10-year budget window. I know people have different views, but I would say that it is certainly minimal. I think we could have done more in committee last week. I introduced an amendment at that time. I withdrew it to make sure we could get this to the floor. We must do much more in a responsible manner. Look at the House Agriculture Committee, which marked up a farm bill with over $20 billion in savings from SNAP. That bill was marked up and passed with bipartisan support as of last week.

We can restore integrity to the program while providing benefits to those truly in need and save approximately an additional $30 billion. Note that I say ''while providing benefits to those truly in need.'' I am not proposing a dramatic change in the policy of nutrition programs, such as block-granting programs to States. That would represent a dramatic change. Instead, this amendment enforces the principles of good government and restores SNAP and spending to much more responsible levels.

Also, SNAP was exempted from the across-the-board cuts known as sequestration. However, it is clear there are several areas within the program that could provide significant savings that were left untouched.

First, the amendment eliminates the LIHEAP loophole. Let me be clear. Eliminating the LIHEAP loophole does not affect SNAP eligibility for anyone using SNAP; it only decreases SNAP benefits for those who would not otherwise qualify for the higher SNAP benefit amounts.

But at least 17 States, with all due respect, are gaming the system by designing their Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program—LIHEAP—to exploit SNAP. Let me explain. The LIHEAP loophole works like this: Participating State agencies annually issue extremely low LIHEAP benefits to qualify otherwise ineligible households for standard utility allowances, which result in increased monthly SNAP benefits. For example, today a State agency can issue $1—only $1—annually in LIHEAP benefits to increase monthly SNAP benefits an average of $90—that is $1,080 per year—for households that do not otherwise pay out-of-pocket utility bills.

If you completely eliminate the LIHEAP loophole, as my legislation does, it will save taxpayers a total of $12 billion—$8 billion additional compared to the current version of the farm bill.

We also tie categorical eligibility to cash assistance, eliminating a loophole that States are exploiting by offering TANF-provided informational brochures and informational 1–800 numbers to maximize SNAP enrollment and the corresponding increase in Federal food benefits.

Categorical eligibility, simply known as Cat-El, was designed to help streamline the administration of SNAP by allowing households to be certified as eligible for SNAP food benefits without evaluating household assets or gross income. 42 States are exploiting an unintended loophole of the TANF-provided informational brochures and informational 1–800 numbers to maximize SNAP enrollment and the corresponding increase in Federal food benefits and the cost. These States, with all due respect, are also gaming the system to bring otherwise ineligible SNAP participants into the program.

In an ongoing effort to streamline government programs, we should eliminate the duplicative SNAP Employment and Training Program and the SNAP Nutrition Education Grants Program. Combined, these two programs cost over $8 billion and do not represent any direct food benefits—any direct food benefits.

This amendment also ends the Department of Agriculture practice of giving $48 million in awards every year to State agencies for basically doing their job. Currently, bonuses are given to States for best program access—signing up as many people for SNAP as possible; most improved program access—how many more people signed up for SNAP compared to the previous year; and best application processing timelines—handling applications within required guidelines. The bonuses are not even required to be used for SNAP administration. A recipient State may choose to use the funding for any State priority.

Finally, the amendment terminates the ongoing stimulus, enacted by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which provided extra funding to increase monthly SNAP food benefits. I really understand the importance of domestic food assistance programs for many hard-working Americans, including many Kansans. As chairman of the House Agriculture Committee some years ago, we worked very hard to save the Food Stamp Program and prevent any kinds of efforts to simply do away with it or send it back to States because of the very things I have talked about.

My goal is simple: to restore integrity to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in a commonsense and comprehensive manner. Enacting this package of reforms will allow the Federal Government to continue to help those who truly need SNAP food benefits and assistance. I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment and these reforms for the benefit of all Americans.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I inquire of the chairwoman if I might be able to speak for about 5 or 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Thank you, Mr. President.

Certainly we want to hear from the distinguished Senator from Montana. I

know the Senator from South Dakota has been waiting for some time as well, and we had asked him to wait until Senator ROBERTS had offered his amendment. I am not sure of the time the Senator from South Dakota is requesting right now, but certainly we want to hear from both of the Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, does the Senator from Michigan want to lock in a time agreement on the votes?

Ms. STABENOW. It appears at this moment we are going to have to have a little bit more time before we do that, but I thank the Senator.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

TRAGEDY IN OKLAHOMA

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I first want to start with just a word about the tragedy in Oklahoma. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families impacted by yesterday's devastating storms, as well as the first responders and volunteers who rushed to the scene. I hope all Americans will continue to keep them in their thoughts and prayers and be looking for ways in which they can pitch in and help in this very tragic situation.

LONG-TERM BUDGET CHALLENGES

Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about the long-term budget challenges facing the country and the impact those challenges are going to have on jobs, economic growth, and future generations if we do not control spending.

Last week the Congressional Budget Office released its updated budget projections, and in conjunction with that they released an analysis of the President's 2014 budget.

Once again, the CBO report underscores the long-term budget challenges facing this country. If you listen to many of the politicians here in Washington, DC, and commentators on the Democratic side reacting to the Congressional Budget Office report, you would have heard claims that the deficit and debt crisis facing this country is solved and that no further deficit reduction is needed. In fact, President Obama took to the airwaves recently in his radio address and boasted about the deficits ''shrinking at the fastest rate in decades.''

These claims about last week's Congressional Budget Office report strike me as odd, particularly because the details of the report tell a different story. According to the CBO, the deficit for 2013 is projected to be $642 billion or 4 percent of the Nation's gross domestic product.

While the deficit may be down from its record trillion dollar-plus levels, the national debt, which is already at $16.7 trillion, continues to grow at an alarming rate—$642 billion this year alone. While it is encouraging that the deficit this year will be smaller than it was originally projected, part of those savings are due to unexpected repayments from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and the revenue increases from January's fiscal cliff agreement.

The fact of the matter is a deficit 4 percent the size of the economy is nearly double the historic average. Over the next 10 years covered in the CBO's baseline projections, the national debt will grow by nearly $9 trillion to over $25 trillion.

To put that number in perspective, the country is projected to rack up over $2 billion in debt every single day over the next decade, at which point our national debt will exceed $25 trillion. This assumes the sequester remains in place. Publicly held debt will remain above 70 percent of GDP, which is much higher than the historic average of 39 percent. CBO projects that publicly held debt will continue on an upward path beyond the next decade.

This growth is driven by spending, not revenue. The CBO report confirms that revenues are projected to grow by 45.9 percent in the 8 years after the year 2015, while overall spending will grow at 55 percent during that time period, despite the fact that inflation will be 19.5 percent and economic growth 24.9 percent during that time period. Those are CBO estimates about economic growth, inflation, spending, and debt over the course of the next decade.

In other words, revenues are going up but spending is projected to grow at nearly three times the rate of inflation, meaning we have a spending problem, not a revenue problem. In fact, revenues will reach 19.1 percent of GDP by the year 2023, which is well above the historic average of 17.9 percent since the end of World War II. Spending, on the other hand, will continue to grow even with the sequester, driven largely by increases in mandatory spending. Mandatory spending on programs such as Medicare is projected to grow by 79 percent from today's level over the next 10 years. Federal health care programs, including ObamaCare, are driving the surge in mandatory spending. Federal health care spending is projected to double over the next decade as the health insurance exchange subsidies kick in beginning next year. Medicare and other programs continue to grow without needed reforms to save and strengthen them.

Spending on mandatory programs and interest on the debt will consume nearly three-quarters of all Federal spending over the next 10 years, leaving little room to pay for all discretionary programs including, I might add, national defense.

To slow the rapid rise in debt this country is experiencing, we have to control the largest driver of that debt, which is spending and, in particular, mandatory entitlement spending. The alternative is a crippling national debt that is bad for the economy, bad for jobs, bad for our national security, and bad for our children and grandchildren.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, ''Such high and rising debt later in the coming decade would have serious negative consequences.'' The report goes on to say: ''Moreover, because Federal borrowing reduces national saving, over time the capital stock would be smaller and total wages would be lower . . . ''

The CBO also warns that such high levels of debt increase the risk of a fiscal crisis. The threat the rising national debt poses to our economy is real. It will impact the American people, and it will impact our economy in very real ways. It will slow economic growth, meaning fewer jobs. It will drive up interest rates, making it more expensive to borrow money to pay for a college education or to buy a home.

It is inevitable that the national debt is going to have to be addressed at some point. The question is whether we address it directly or continue kicking the can down the road, which will only make our problems much more difficult to solve.

The Congressional Budget Office also projected in their update last week that interest spending—the amount we spend to finance our debt—is going to increase dramatically over the next several years. In fact, interest costs on prior deficit spending are going to grow from $223 billion today to $823 billion in 2023, an increase of 369 percent. Net interest costs will surpass the base defense budget in 2019, 6 years from now. Think about that. We are going to spend more in interest on the debt 6 years from now than we spend on national security, on our national defense. That is how fast the interest is going to eat up every other area of the budget.

I would hope we will be able to take this CBO report and not greet it with great fanfare and be slapping high fives because for 1 year the deficit was reduced by a couple of hundred billion over what it was supposed to be, but, rather, recognize that with $642 billion this year and a Federal debt that is going to be at $25 trillion at the end of this decade and interest payments that will exceed the amount we spend on national security, we have a serious debt crisis in this country that needs to be addressed.

It is my wish that Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle and our Democratic colleagues will work with us and that the President will step forward and acknowledge we have a debt crisis. It is not a debt crisis somewhere out there in the future, it is a debt crisis today that needs to be dealt with. The CBO update, rather than alleviating that concern, puts the fine point that we need to act, and we need to act now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, Thomas Jefferson once said: ''Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.''

I know many Montana farmers and ranchers who understand that exactly. They know what Jefferson meant. They work the soils and tend their herds month after month, often through natural disasters such as the drought we had in 2012. It is hard work, but they do it because it is work worth doing. The dirt under their nails and the sweat on their brow puts food on our tables every day. The farm bill supports that effort, the bill before us this afternoon. It is work worth doing.

Make no mistake, the farm bill is a jobs bill. It supports 16 million American jobs every year. In my State of Montana, one in every five jobs is tied to agriculture. Those jobs are counting on us to get this bill done.

As we work to tackle the debt, it is important to remember the farm bill cuts spending by $23 billion. The farm bill is part of the solution, not part of the problem. Under the leadership of Chairwoman STABENOW and Ranking Member COCHRAN, we have crafted a true reform farm bill. We worked with farmers and ranchers across the country to create a farm policy that works for producers and taxpayers both. It provides support that is needed when they actually experience a loss.

As Will Rogers notably said: ''The farmer has to be an optimist or he wouldn't still be a farmer.''

Farming is capital intensive. Farmers work with paper-thin profit margins. Even the best farmer is left at the mercy of weather and chance.

The drought last year is an example of the risk farmers face. USDA predicts that 80 percent of agricultural land experienced drought in 2012, making it one of the most expensive droughts in a generation. In Montana that means 48 of 56 counties with parched crops and empty fields. The revenue program in this bill, combined with the crop insurance products we have fine-tuned over the decades, will help farmers survive disasters such as this and prepare to put food on America's tables when weather or market conditions improve.

Anyone who has been to Montana knows we have the best-tasting beef in the world too—or at least we think so. For the last year our ranchers have weathered this drought with no support. With hay and water in short supply, they have been forced to thin their herds. Thinning herds means lost jobs in Montana, because 50 percent of our economy is tied to agriculture, and about 35 percent of our total agriculture proceeds come from cattle and calf sales.

Livestock disaster assistance keeps our ranchers in business until the rain starts falling again. That is why I created these programs in 2008, and that is why I fought so hard to make them permanent in this bill—to finally provide our ranchers with certainty they can take to the bank. In the last farm bill they were not permanent and caused almost another disaster. I thank the chairman and ranking member for working with me to extend that livestock disaster with limited funds.

We did not stop there. We did not stop with reforming the farm bill. We saved $6 billion from in the conservation title without compromising the policy. We did this by consolidating 23 existing programs, bringing a tight network of efficient and streamlined conservation programs.

I made sure we protected the working lands programs, which contribute to substantial conservation improvements but still allow for productive use of the land.

In the forestry title, we permanently authorized stewardship contracting. This is so important to the western one-third of our State. This will help the timber industry sustainably harvest more trees. Anyone in western Montana will tell you that means jobs.

We also included support to combat the bark beetle epidemic that has killed over 6 million acres of Montana forests. Senator BENNET and I worked together to make sure those dead trees can be harvested more quickly before the wood wastes or burns. With fire season already well underway in Montana, this investment is more important than ever.

I was also extremely proud of our work to help veterans find jobs in farming. Forty-five percent of our servicemembers come from rural areas. This is a national statistic, so farming is a natural fit for veterans looking to return home to a rural way of life.

In the nutrition title, I am proud to say we kept the fundamentals of the food stamp program intact so low-income families have their safety net in place as the economy continues to improve. We even found a way to trump up spending for TEFAP, which provides emergency food for needy families.

In Montana, agriculture is a way of life. It is our biggest industry. Our 29,300 farms produce billions of dollars worth of quality wheat, barley, peas, and lentils—to say nothing of our livestock. Our ranchers have 2.5 million head of cattle, which means there are more cows in Montana than people.

The farm bill is not just for producers. It also provides funding for rural businesses, from Miles City, to Glendive, to Libby. The farm bill offers opportunities for Montanans of all walks of life.

The same is true all across America. Our farm policy contributes to security in American agriculture, and that is why we spend less on food than any other country in the world. We spend less than any other developed country in the world. Americans spend less than 7 percent of their disposable income to feed their families. That compares with almost 25 percent in 1930.

Our producers put food on tables around the world. In 2012, agricultural exports reached $136 billion, with a surplus of $32 billion—literally growing wealth from our fertile soils.

Like any small business owner, farmers and ranchers all across Montana tell me the No. 1 thing they want is certainty. Operating under short-term extensions leaves millions of Americans' agricultural jobs stuck in limbo. Farmers and ranchers need certainty they can take to the bank. That is why they need this 5-year farm bill. If we can get this bill passed, we are on the road to moving away from these short-term extensions—which do no one any good—and moving to longer term legislation which does everybody a lot more good. I hope we can get this bill passed, it is so important.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I am going to proceed on my leader time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has that right.

BURMESE SANCTIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. For the past two decades, I have been coming to the Senate floor to condemn acts of the Burmese regime against its own people. For the past decade, for these same reasons, I have sponsored legislation to impose sanctions on the Burmese Government.

Beginning in 2003, import sanctions have been renewed annually through the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act. This act was later enhanced in 2008 through the Tom Lantos Block Burmese JADE Act, a measure I also cosponsored.

Today, however, I come to the floor with a different message. After having given the matter a great deal of thought and review, I do not believe Congress should reauthorize these import sanctions.

Let me repeat that. I do not believe the Burma sanctions should be renewed for another year. There are several reasons why.

First, the objective of the sanctions effort is to change the behavior of the Burmese Government. To a significant extent that has actually taken place. As a result of the new Burmese Government's actions in the past 2½ years, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, has been freed from house arrest, has been permitted to travel abroad, and has been elected to office as a member of Parliament.

A free and fair by-election was held in Burma last year. Scores of political prisoners have been released. A freer form of government has begun to take root. I strongly believe the import sanctions we previously enacted were instrumental in promoting these reforms. They helped deny the previous military junta the legitimacy it had craved.

These positive changes, many of which I saw for myself during my visit to Burma in January 2012, should be acknowledged, and we do acknowledge them. As Suu Kyi herself said last fall during her visit to the United States, ''the sanctions need to be removed.''

Second, I believe renewing sanctions would be a slap in the face to Burmese reformers and would embolden those within Burma who want to slow or reverse the reform movement. We should

be strengthening the hand of these reformists to show the ''fence sitters'' that reform will be met with positive action by the United States. The administration has extended an olive branch to the new Burmese Government, and I believe it is time for Congress to do the same. Burmese citizens should not be made to feel that Congress will maintain sanctions no matter what they do.

Third, after renewal of the import ban last year, the administration waived most of the sanctions in response to the recent reforms. So as a practical matter—as a practical matter—even if the ban were renewed, its effect would be largely nullified through an administration waiver—a waiver, by the way, I support.

Let me emphasize a few points. By choosing not to renew the import ban, no one should fall under the misimpression that Congress would be giving up its leverage with respect to Burma. The current restrictions on importation of Burmese jade and rubies are likely to remain in place even without the renewal of sanctions. This is because the administration enjoys authority under other statutes to continue to limit the importation of Burmese gems. So, again, as a practical matter, the restrictions on Burma would be little different without the sanctions than they are right now under the sanctions we renewed last year, considering the fact the sanctions were waived last year anyway.

Moreover, there are other sanctions, apart from the law I was just talking about, which would remain permanent. They include the authority to freeze assets and the authority to deny visas to bad Burmese actors. Even if the import ban is not reauthorized, these provisions remain on the books.

In addition, a variety of other sanctions that expressly name Burma remain in effect and still require outright repeal or modification. They include provisions within the fiscal year 1997 foreign operations appropriations bill, the Customs and Trade Act of 1990, and the Foreign Assistance Act.

If the Burmese Government continues to support political and economic reform, then at a later date Congress can consider whether these permanent restrictions warrant removal or modification.

Beyond the realm of trade, there are other statutes of general application that sanction Burma due to concerns over human trafficking, counternarcotics, and religious freedom, to name just a few such issues. Burma must take positive action in order to no longer qualify for sanctions under those measures as well. So, again, legislative leverage would remain even without the renewal of this law.

There also remains the annual appropriations process as Congress considers how much and what types of aid Burma should receive in the first place. For instance, there is some indication that Burma wants to improve its military-to-military relationship with us. Frankly, I think that is a good idea, and such programs and contacts provide additional tools for congressional oversight and action.

The European Union and Australia have also removed most of their sanctions against Burma. Congress, in choosing not to renew trade sanctions, would ensure that American companies remain on equal footing with their western competitors and bring greater certainty to those U.S. firms which are considering investment in Burma.

Finally, if Burma backslides, Congress can always reconsider the sanctions.

As a Congress, we need to be realistic about the fundamental challenges facing Burma on its road to reform. The country faces major challenges on many fronts stemming from a half century of bad governance and economic mismanagement. In this post-junta period the Burmese people need our help, and bilateral trade can do just that. It can help improve Burmese lives and show the people of Burma that a move toward greater political openness under a new government brings with it tangible benefits in their daily lives.

A Burmese Government that is more representative of its people and reforming economically will be positioned to contribute to ASEAN regional stability and grow increasingly independent within the region.

While I am pleased with the progress we have already seen, I would note I am not—repeat, not—fully satisfied with the progress Burma has made so far. Much more needs to be done. The 2015 elections will be a vital indicator of how strong the reform movement is within Burma.

In my view there are several other important benchmarks we will need to see achieved going forward. For example, all parties within Burma must work to reduce the clashes between the military and ethnic minority groups and begin political dialogue toward peaceful reconciliation. All parties within Burma need to work to diminish sectarian strife between Buddhists and Muslims. Any arms trade between North Korea and Burma needs to stop—now.

The Burmese constitution also needs amending in several areas. For example, provisions specifically designed to exclude Suu Kyi from running for President need to be changed. Complete and unconditional release of political prisoners needs to be undertaken. The military should increasingly be brought under civilian control. Finally, other reforms in progress involving enhanced rule of law, protection of private property, and government accountability need to take place.

I make this appeal to my colleagues in light of the visit of Burmese President Thein Sein to Washington this week. This is an important visit reflecting many of the dramatic changes that have taken place in Burma. It follows on the heels of Daw Aung Suu Kyi's landmark visit last fall and President Obama's visit to Burma last year.

Many of us who have followed Burma for years—in my case, two decades—never thought we would see this reform come to this troubled country. This is an important moment. I believe it is time for Congress to take responsible action to continue to promote progress by encouraging those who are risking much—very much—within Burma while still leaving in place other sanctions in order to encourage further reform. A decision not to renew the sanctions is an important step in that direction. To do otherwise could send the wrong signal to the wrong people.

So as a Congress, let's continue to vigorously support democracy and peaceful reconciliation in Burma, but let's do so by taking a positive step forward with regard to our sanctions policy.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I see my friend from Louisiana wishing to speak, but I have a unanimous consent request first.

I ask unanimous consent that at 4:05—5 minutes after 4—the Senate proceed to a vote in relation to the Roberts amendment, No. 948; that there be no second-degree amendments in order to the amendment prior to the vote; that the time until 4:05 be divided with 10 minutes for Senator VITTER and the remaining time to be equally divided on the amendment.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I rise to present two amendments I have filed on this farm bill, and I will be pushing hard for votes on them right now. I hope these get a full and extensive debate and a vote. They are relevant and related to the farm bill in significant ways.

The first amendment is with regard to the free government cell phone program, and of course that uses as criteria for eligibility the food stamp program and other benefit programs, so it is directly related to that aspect of the farm bill.

Mr. President, as you know, this program has been exploding almost without limit, and I have some fundamental concerns about it. My fundamental concerns are pretty simple and pretty basic. They come down to two things: First of all, I think the whole program is an entitlement mentality gone wild; that we have started the notion that folks are entitled to the government, the taxpayer, providing them almost everything under the sun; and, secondly, and not unrelated, there has been widespread fraud and abuse in this program, and I am convinced it is at the core of this program and can't be scrubbed out.

What is the program we are talking about? Well, it is the free government cell phone program. It was started in 2008, and in just those few years since then it has grown from $143 million that year, which itself is a significant amount of money, to nearly $2 billion now—an elevenfold increase. This program is paid for by you and by me. It is paid for through our land line and cell phone bills. We all get a charge on our bills. So if you actually pay your phone bill, land line, and/or cell phone, you get a charge and you pay that charge and that is what funds this program. So ratepayers, taxpayers, citizens, millions upon millions around the country pay for this program.

The FCC itself—and the FCC is in charge of the program—estimates that about 270,000 beneficiaries have more than one of these free government cell phones. That is interesting, that is important because that is completely against the law and against the rules—completely prohibited. The FCC also says the top five companies that benefit from the program could not confirm the eligibility of 41 percent of the folks they signed up. This is from a report in 2011. The FCC did some spot-checking and found that 41 percent of the folks these companies signed up couldn't be confirmed as eligible.

This has led one of my colleagues, CLAIRE MCCASKILL, Democrat of Missouri, to say the program is rife for fraud, with a ''history of extreme waste and abuse.'' That is what my objections are all about—rampant waste and abuse and a general entitlement mentality that I think has gone too far.

The amendment I offer on this bill, which is at the desk, would simply and completely end the program with regard to free government cell phones. Someone might argue: Oh, these programs are being fixed. We are making great strides.

Well, I was interested in seeing how far we have come, so this very weekend I was talking to a friend of mine back in Louisiana, Clarence, and he was interested in that too. So Monday—yesterday—he decided to go to one of these outlets that advertises free government cell phones and just see what his experience was.

So he walked in and simply told the truth; that he was interested in getting a free government cell phone. He was asked: Are you now on any government benefit program, such as food stamps?

He answered truthfully: No. He said: I have a job. I don't make a lot of money. That was the truth.

He was asked to produce two things: a driver's license and a pay stub. He showed the people at the counter both of those things. They looked at them. Interestingly, they certainly didn't make any copies. They certainly didn't create any documentation because that could potentially get them in trouble.

They looked at his documents and gave him a form he had to sign once, and then they immediately gave him a free government cell phone. The phone was on, it worked immediately, it had minutes on it that he could immediately use. He walked out of that storefront in less than 10 minutes with a free government cell phone.

He then looked up the precise eligibility criteria of the program, which he did not know before. Guess what. Surprise, surprise. He did not qualify. He should never have gotten one. So he is returning it today. It will also be interesting to see how long that phone is kept on even after he returns it because the provider gets $9.25 from the ratepayer and the taxpayer and the FCC every month for that account.

This is his, Clarence's, free government cell phone. This is his receipt. The charge is zero, absolutely free, and completely contrary to all of the rules of the program, which is why he is returning it today.

We have serious spending and fiscal challenges in this country, but we have an even greater challenge, which is we have lost the faith and confidence of the American people. We have lost it because of this. We have lost it because there are tents popping out on every street corner. They are handing out these free government cell phones like candy. And why is that happening? Because the people handing out the phones have a vested interest in doing that, have a vested interest in not worrying about whether eligibility criteria are met because every time they hand out a phone they get $9.25 per phone per month as long as they can sustain that gravy train.

They are the biggest welfare abusers of this—rich owners of companies who milk the system to get richer, whom I would call government welfare kings.

This abuse needs to stop. We need to recapture the confidence of the American people. My amendment would help do that.

I will also be presenting and pushing for a vote on an amendment to limit and bar certain people from receiving any food stamp benefits. Those are folks who have been convicted of violent and serious crimes such as violent rapists, pedophiles, and murderers. There is a misconception that ban is already in the law. In fact, it is not. In fact, the only ban that exists is for drug felons and in the law is an opt-out for States so the State can opt out of even that ban.

My second amendment is simple and straightforward. It would establish a complete ban in the program for anyone who has committed a violent rape, a crime of pedophilia or a murder. There would be no opt-out for States.

I hope we can form a bipartisan consensus around this basic idea and put that basic fundamental limitation in the law. I urge my colleagues to look at both of these amendments and support both of these amendments.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 1 minute remaining. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, will the distinguished Presiding Officer please inform the Senator on how much time we have divided equally.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 40 seconds.

Mr. ROBERTS. I ask unanimous consent that 2 minutes be granted.

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

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, this is an amendment I have worked on considerably, along with Senator THUNE, Senator JOHANNS, others on the Agriculture Committee, and others as well. We can restore integrity to the SNAP program while providing benefits to those truly in need. Let me emphasize that—while providing benefits to those truly in need. We are not touching those while we will save an additional $31 billion; $31 billion as compared to what? Compared to $800 billion over 10 years. If we cannot at least make those kinds of savings, $31 billion to $800 billion, we have problems. I am not proposing a dramatic change in the policy of nutrition programs, such as block granting programs to States would represent; instead, this amendment would enforce the principles of good government and return SNAP spending to more responsible levels.

SNAP was exempted from across-the-board cuts known as sequestration. However, it is clear there are areas within the program that could provide significant savings that were left untouched. Enacting these reforms would allow the Federal Government to continue to help those who truly need Federal benefits and assistance but also enact needed reforms. Otherwise, food stamps and SNAP will continue to be a target. I don't want that. I think we can restore integrity to the program. I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment. This goes way beyond what we have done in the committee, which is to focus on waste, fraud, and abuse and make sure there is integrity in the program, to make sure supplemental nutrition assistance goes to families who have been working hard all their lives, paying taxes, who fall on hard times and need some temporary help. This, in fact, would have a nine times higher cut than what we reported out of the committee on a bipartisan vote. It would undercut what we are trying to do in employment and training, which is so critical.

We all want people to have the opportunity to get back to work. We are seeing now, in the area of nutrition, the costs are now going down the way they should be, which is people are getting back to work and no longer needing the help. That is the way we should reduce it, in addition to tackling waste, fraud, and abuse, as we do in this bill.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote no on this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Roberts amendment.

Ms. STABENOW. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be. There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) would have voted ''yea.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 40, nays 58, as follows;

[Rollcall Vote No. 130 Leg.]

YEAS—40

Alexander	Flake	Paul
Ayotte	Graham	Portman
Barrasso	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hatch	Roberts
Boozman	Heller	Rubio
Burr	Hoeven	Scott
Chambliss	Isakson	Sessions
Coats	Johanns	Shelby
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Thune
Cornyn	Kirk	Toomey
Crapo	Lee	Vitter
Cruz	McCain	Wicker
Enzi	McConnell	
Fischer	Moran	

NAYS—- 58

Baldwin	Hagan	Murray
Baucus	Harkin	Nelson
Begich	Heinrich	Pryor
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Boxer	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Brown	Kaine	Sanders
Cantwell	King	Schatz
Cardin	Klobuchar	Schumer
Carper	Landrieu	Shaheen
Casey	Lautenberg	Stabenow
Cochran	Leahy	Tester
Collins	Levin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Cowan	McCaskill	Warner
Donnelly	Menendez	Warren
Durbin	Merkley	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Mikulski	Wyden
Franken	Murkowski	
Gillibrand	Murphy	

NOT VOTING—2

Coburn	Inhofe

The amendment (No. 948) was rejected.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote and to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

AMENDMENT NO. 931

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be 5 minutes equally divided prior to a vote in relation to the Gillibrand amendment No. 931; that there be no second-degree amendments in order to the amendment prior to the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I rise in support of this amendment because when Congress proposes to cut the Food Stamp Program, it is not nameless, faceless people looking for a handout who suffer. It is children. It is veterans. It is Active-Duty servicemembers. It is hard-working adults. We have to stand by them in the way they have stood by us. The reality of this amendment is that half of the recipients of food stamps are children, 8 percent are seniors, and 1.4 million veteran households receive food stamps.

Some of my colleagues believe this is some loophole we are closing, but the fact is these programs were designed for efficiency as part of welfare reform. When we put this LIHEAP program in place—the ''heat and eat'' program—it was to say families living in cold weather States that have high heating bills need extra money to put food on the table. This particular provision is for people in rental apartments who do not have a heating bill but are also having their heat included in their rent. These Governors in ''heat and eat'' States have said we want to make sure our recipients of food stamps are eligible for this benefit because they need it. Children, seniors, veterans, Active-Duty servicemembers deserve to have food on their table.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I thank the Presiding Officer.

No, no, no, no; we are not cutting anybody's benefits that the distinguished Senator from New York is talking about. This amendment would effectively shield over 80 percent of the farm bill from any deficit reduction and prevent the bill from addressing a serious breach in the nutrition program. The distinguished chairperson of the Agriculture Committee, the Senator from Michigan, already has included the provision in the bill. To say the chairperson is against food stamps for needy people is ridiculous.

It is important to note this amendment does more than create in a State what is called the LIHEAP loophole which we don't want; this amendment also cuts crop insurance. That is the No. 1 priority of American farmers today. It is one of the great success stories. It was developed as a way to help farmers manage their own risks, have skin in the game, and head off the need for costly, inefficient, ad hoc disaster programs. These types of cuts can be difficult to absorb. When we are in the third year of drought is not the time to change them.

I also wish to add the Senator from New York has been a champion of expanding crop insurance coverage for specialty crops, organic crops in her home State. I just think that perhaps she is misinformed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Is there time remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 1 minute 9 seconds remaining.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I reluctantly rise in opposition. I am a full supporter of this program to make sure families who find themselves in a situation beyond their control because of the economy, because of what has been happening to so many around the country, get the temporary help they need. What we have done in the farm bill is focus on those areas where there has been fraud or abuse or, in this case, misuse of actually a very good program to be able to provide assistance in terms of heat and food. But there are a few States—mine is one of them—that have gone beyond and are misusing a well-intended program.

I believe in fighting for the integrity of these programs so we can continue to fight for increased help for people who truly need it, and I believe what we have done in the bill meets the test of integrity and is defensible and addresses legitimate concerns raised about the misuse and fraud of programs.

So I ask my colleagues to oppose the amendment, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second.

There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) is necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) would vote ''yea.''

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) would have voted ''nay.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 26, nays 70, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 131 Leg.]

YEAS—26

Baldwin	Hirono	Reed
Begich	King	Reid
Blumenthal	Lautenberg	Sanders
Boxer	Leahy	Schatz
Brown	Levin	Schumer
Cantwell	Menendez	Udall (NM)
Casey	Merkley	Warren
Cowan	Murphy	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murray	

NAYS—70

Alexander	Carper	Cruz
Ayotte	Chambliss	Donnelly
Barrasso	Coats	Durbin
Baucus	Cochran	Enzi
Bennet	Collins	Feinstein
Blunt	Coons	Fischer
Boozman	Corker	Flake
Burr	Cornyn	Franken
Cardin	Crapo	Graham

Grassley
Hagan
Harkin
Hatch
Heinrich
Heitkamp
Heller
Hoeven
Isakson
Johanns
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (WI)
Kaine
Kirk
Klobuchar
Landrieu
Lee
Manchin
McCain
McCaskill
McConnell
Mikulski
Moran
Nelson
Paul
Portman
Pryor
Risch
Roberts
Rockefeller
Rubio
Scott
Sessions
Shaheen
Shelby
Stabenow
Tester
Thune
Toomey
Udall (CO)
Vitter
Warner
Wicker

NOT VOTING—4

Coburn
Inhofe
Murkowski
Whitehouse

The amendment (No. 931) was rejected.

Mr. REID. I move to reconsider the vote and move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time until 5:30 p.m. be for a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each during that time, and that at 5:30 p.m. Senator STABENOW be recognized.

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

The Senator from Washington.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H. CON. RES. 25

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, it has now been 59 days since the Senate and the House passed our budget resolutions. The American people are now expecting us to get together and do everything possible to bridge the partisan divide and come to a bipartisan deal. On this side the Senate Democrats are ready to get to work. Unfortunately, despite their focus over the past 2 years on the need to return to regular order, Republicans have been refusing to allow us to move to a bipartisan budget conference.

Many Republicans, including the ranking member on the Budget Committee, Senator SESSIONS, had been very clear up until recently that after the Senate engages in an open and fair budget markup process—and these are his words—''the work of conferencing must begin.''

Minority Leader MCCONNELL said in January that if the Senate budget is different from the House budget, then ''send it off to conference. That's how things used to work around here. We used to call it legislating.'' I could not agree more with Minority Leader MCCONNELL's words from back in January. Over the past few weeks we have tried to move to conference eight times, and each time Senate Republicans have stood and said no.

They have managed to stall for weeks now, but their excuses for not wanting to move to conference are changing. At first Republicans told us that we needed ''a framework'' before they would allow us to move to conference, although they never explained what that meant. And, frankly, a budget is a framework. Then the story changed, and they told us they would only let us move to conference if we made certain guarantees about the outcome. Then last week the story changed again, and Senate Republicans claimed that despite the fact that we engaged in a fair and open budget process in the Senate less than 2 months ago, they think we need a do-over, with another 50 hours of debate on top of the 50 hours we have already done and another round of unlimited amendments on top of the unlimited amendments that were moved already.

This is absurd. First of all, to claim that regular order involves a second full Senate budget debate is simply not true. The Senate has never been forced to go through a full debate and open amendment process twice just to get to conference—not one case. Completely unprecedented. In fact, every single time since 1994 that the Senate moved to conference, it was done by unanimous consent, with bipartisan support, which is the way it ought to be done.

Second of all, the Senate engaged in a full and open debate in which any Member could offer any budget amendment they wanted to. We did that a few months ago. I know all of my colleagues remember this. I certainly remember this.

I would be happy to quote some of what was said about the process if any reminders are needed because as that debate came to a close in the wee hours of the morning, Minority Leader MCCONNELL said the Senate had just engaged in ''an open and complete and full debate.'' He continued and said, ''I know everyone is exhausted, and people may not feel it at the moment, but this is one of the Senate's finest days in recent years, and I commend everyone who has participated in this extraordinary debate.''

My ranking member, Senator SESSIONS, said the Budget Committee markup was ''an open process'' where ''everybody had the ability to offer amendments.''

Senator SESSIONS said on the floor, as debate was wrapping up, he was thankful that the Republicans had ''free ability to speak and debate'' and for ''helping us move a lot of amendments fairly and equitably tonight.''

There is no question the Senate engaged in a fair and open and lengthy debate about the budget before we passed it. There is absolutely no good reason to ask that we do this all over unless the intention is to simply stall the process and push us closer to a crisis.

Instead of scrambling to find new excuses for their budget conference flipflops, I hope Senate Republicans realize their opposition to bipartisan negotiations is not sustainable and will not allow us to get to the table and move on this matter.

I know there are Members who do not agree with the budget that was passed. They will have another opportunity to fight for changes in a bipartisan conference, which is how we do this. That is the responsible and appropriate path forward, and I hope the Senate Republican leaders decide to move back to the position they maintained just a few months ago. I know a number of our colleagues on the Republican side have said to me privately and in public that they believe we should move to conference. I hope we can do that. The challenges before our country in terms of our debt and deficit and the investments that need to be made and the certainty that Americans are looking to us for cannot be completed until we go to conference and work out our differences and come back and move this forward.

I hope this time when I ask for unanimous consent to go to conference Senate Republicans will join with us so the American people can see an open conference move to a debate and solve this very challenging problem we have in front of us.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 33, H. Con. Res. 25; that the amendment which is at the desk, the text of S. Con. Res. 8, the budget resolution passed by the Senate, be inserted in lieu thereof; that H. Con. Res. 25, as amended, be agreed to; the motion to reconsider be made and laid upon the table; that the Senate insist on its amendment, request a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses; and that the chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate, all with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). Is there objection?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Reserving the right to object, it has now been 59 days that the opposition has been trying to orchestrate a backroom deal to raise the debt ceiling. Raising the debt ceiling is an incredibly important debate and shouldn't be done in the back room by a few people. It shouldn't be done through parliamentary trickery or chicanery. It should be done out in the full and open and under the ordinary rules of the Senate.

We are now borrowing $40,000 every second, $4 billion a day. We must borrow from China to run the ordinary functions of our government. In fact, it is worse. We borrow from China to send money to China. We borrow money from China to send money to Pakistan. We build bridges in Pakistan with money borrowed from China. It can't go on. No American family can continue to spend money endlessly that they don't have.

All we are asking is for a commonsense resolution that says we can't keep borrowing.

What I ask is unanimous consent that the Senator modify her request so

that it not be in order for the Senate to consider a conference report that includes reconciliation instructions to raise the debt limit. I ask that as a unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. I will reserve the right to object to the modification, and I will object in just a moment.

I would like to point out to my colleagues on this side of the aisle that for 4 years—for 4 years—we complained about the fact that the majority leader, whom I see on the floor, refused to bring a budget to the floor of the Senate. Then, in what most of us believe was a proud moment—I thought it was a pretty tiring experience at my age, voting all night—we approved or disapproved of 70 meaningless amendments.

The fact is, we did a budget. All of us patted ourselves on the back, and we were so proud that we did the budget. By golly, now we will move with the House of Representatives and we will have a budget and, hopefully, at least begin negotiations with the House of Representatives, in which the majority is Republicans—not Democrats, Republicans. We would decide we were going to do that. Now we are going to, according to the objection and the unanimous consent that was just asked for, in an unprecedented way, put restrictions on the conferees.

The way we usually do it is what I am about to do; that is, we instruct the conferees. We don't require the conferees because that is why we appoint conferees, and that is why we approve or disapprove of the result of that conference. That is how our laws are made, and that is how our budgets are made.

What do we keep doing? What do we on my side of the aisle keep doing? We don't want a budget unless we put requirements on the conferees that are absolutely out of line and unprecedented.

All I say to my colleagues is, can't we, after all those hours—I forget what hour in the morning it was—after all those votes, after all that debate and all that discussion, we came up with a budget and now we will not go to conference, why is that?

I will object to the modification the Senator from Kentucky just asked for in a moment, but I would first ask consent that the original request by the Senator from Washington include two motions: to instruct the conferees, one related to the debt limit, and one related to taxes. That is the way we should do business in the Senate. It is instructions to the conferees.

The Senator from Washington may not like those instructions, but the fact is that is the way we do business, not require the conferees to take certain measures. If my colleagues on this side of the aisle think we are helping our cause as fiscal conservatives by blocking going to a conference on the budget—which every family in America has to be on because of certain requirements they demand—then we are not helping ourselves with the American people at all.

I will object to the modification proposed by the Senator from Kentucky.

I would first ask consent that the original request by the Senator from Washington include two motions to instruct the conferees: one related to the debt limit and one related to taxes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request for further modification?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Reserving the right to object, we are talking about two different issues. We have passed budgets year in and year out. We continue to pass budgets. Of course, the budgets on our side don't raise taxes; the budgets on the other side raise taxes by $1 trillion. There are parliamentary rules for how we address separate issues such as the debt ceiling.

What we are concerned about, and all we are asking the opposition to do—including opposition within both parties to do—is that the debt ceiling vote be a separate vote and that it not be stuck in the dead of night in a conference committee with very few people, selected by very few people. We have a big party on our side that can include people with many different opinions, some who are very concerned about the debt ceiling and the direction of our country and some who are concerned very much about the debt, so much so that our resilience will not flag. We will maintain the position that throwing our country into further debt is wrong for the country. I think most Americans can understand that.

We are $16 trillion in debt. We are passing this debt on to our children. It is inexcusable. Somebody must make a stand. Several of us are making a stand—not against a budget but in saying we cannot keep raising the debt ceiling; we cannot keep adding debt to our country. This burden is going to be passed on to our kids and grandkids. We are making a stand, and so I object to a modification.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. PAUL. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I just want to associate myself with the comments of the Senator from Arizona. It is accurate that no one on our side of the aisle supported the final budget.

The fact is, for the first time in years, a budget was brought to the Senate floor. Senator MURRAY presided over a very open process with debate and with plenty of opportunity for amendments to be offered. There is simply no reason the very reasonable approach suggested by Senator MCCAIN that would allow us to go to conference should not be adopted.

We have called repeatedly for a return to regular order in this body. Regular order is going to conference. Both the House and the Senate have passed budget resolutions, and it is important that there be a conference committee to work out the differences, which are considerable, so that we will have a framework with binding allocations for the Appropriations Committees.

Mr. MCCAIN. Will the Senator yield for a question, just one question?

Ms. COLLINS. I yield to the Senator.

Mr. MCCAIN. Isn't it true that the people with whom the conference would be held on the other side of the Capitol happen to be a majority of our party? So we don't trust the majority party on the other side of the aisle to come to conference and not hold to the fiscal discipline we want to see happen; isn't that a little bit bizarre?

Ms. COLLINS. It certainly is ironic at the least. It is an opportunity for the Republican House to argue for its budget.

I voted against the final version of the Senate budget, but I think we should go to conference and try to work out an agreement. The instructions suggested by the Senator from Arizona are entirely reasonable.

Let's get on with the process. Let's do what the American people expect us to do; that is, to negotiate a conference report that then would be brought back to both Houses for consideration. That is what I urge my colleagues to do.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. I, of course, admire—and have for many years now—the chairman of the Budget Committee. She is a renowned Senator. She is very good at what she does. We are very proud of her.

We have just heard something that is unusual. We heard my friend from Arizona—the Senator and I came together to Congress some 30-odd years ago—and another outstanding Senator, Ms. COLLINS from Maine, come up with a novel idea. It is kind of old-fashioned, but it is called regular order.

What they are saying we should do is go to conference. We have had in years past many motions to instruct. That is the way we used to do things around here. To get off-base on a debt ceiling matter has nothing to do with what we are doing. Let's go to conference. I don't know if when we go to conference we will get anything out of it, but we are sure going to try.

That is what this is all about. I can't imagine why after 2 months—after 2 months—we can't go to conference and work something out.

The Republican leader has told me for a couple of years: Why don't we do our appropriations bills? We have the former chair of the Appropriations Committee, who is now the ranking member on the Agriculture Committee, he knows as much as anyone here about financial matters. He is a man who is a humble man, doesn't talk a lot—and I don't want to speak for him—but I think everyone here wants this institution to continue, wants us to do regular order.

I have heard this hue and cry for quite some time on the other side. I admire and appreciate very much the Senator from Arizona instigating old-fashioned regular order, which we need to do in this body a lot.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Reserving the right to object.

Mr. REID. There is nothing to object to.

Mr. CRUZ. The issue before this body is not a budget. The issue before this body is not going to conference. The issue before this body is one thing in particular: It is the debt ceiling and whether the Senate will be able to raise the debt ceiling using a procedural back door that would allow only 51 votes.

My friend from Nevada, my friend from Washington State, both of them could go to conference on the budget right now today if they would simply agree this budget would not be used as a back door to use a procedural trick to raise the debt limit—not on 60 votes but on 50 votes.

I commend their candor, because neither one of them is willing to make that representation, and that is commendable. But I would point out that nothing in the budget we debated raised the debt ceiling. I would suggest the American people are not interested in procedural games. I think they are tired of games by the Democrats and tired of games by the Republicans. What they are interested in is leadership in this body to address the enormous fiscal and economic challenges facing this country.

Our national debt is nearly $17 trillion. It is larger than the size of our entire economy. In the last 4 years our economy has grown 0.9 percent a year, with 23 million people struggling to find jobs. This body should be debating every day how we get the economy moving, how we get people back to work, how we stop our unsustainable debt. Instead of doing that, 2 weeks ago we spent a week voting to add $23 billion in new taxes to small retailers online, creating an Internet sales tax—going backwards, killing economic growth and killing jobs.

This issue is very simple: Will the Senate allow a procedural back door to raise the debt ceiling and doing so while not fixing any of the problems?

My friends on the Democratic side of the aisle believe we should raise the debt ceiling with no conditions, with no changes, with no spending reforms, with no progrowth reforms, with nothing to stop this unsustainable spending. The President likewise has said: Raise the debt ceiling with no conditions. That is why, I would submit, the majority leader is not willing to agree: No, this budget conference report will not be used to raise the debt ceiling, because it is precisely the hope to do so. This body may well vote to raise the debt ceiling. But if this body votes to raise the debt ceiling, we should do so after a fair and open debate, where the issue is considered and where the threshold is the traditional 60-vote threshold and we can address what I think is imperative—that we fix the problem.

When I travel across the State of Texas, men and women stop me all the time and say: Enough of the games. Go up there, roll up your sleeves, work with each other and fix the problem. Getting a new credit card—jacking up the debt ceiling—with no spending reforms, no structural reforms, no progrowth reforms is a mistake and it is the wrong path.

Mr. PAUL. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mrs. BOXER. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. CRUZ. I will be happy to yield.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Here is the problem. The people in my State are saying the same thing: Roll up your sleeves and attack the problems. Because, guess what. I remember when this budget was balanced, when Bill Clinton was President. It took literally a few months before George W. Bush gave a tax break and put it on the credit card, two wars on the credit card, and the debt was off and running.

But put that aside, we are where we are. Does my friend not think if we could get into a conference—and I know a lot of us here have been in tough conferences—that is where we would roll up our sleeves? I say PATTY MURRAY and PAUL RYAN are ready to roll up their sleeves and get to work. Why would my friend want to give instructions—of course, I would love to give instructions. I would like to give instructions the richest of Americans pay the same effective tax rate as their secretaries. I would love to do that. I would love to order that, but I wouldn't do that.

Let PATTY MURRAY and PAUL RYAN and the respective committees get in there, in an open process, and come back. Doesn't my friend understand what he is calling for, when he says roll up your sleeves and get to work, is exactly what Senators MURRAY, MCCAIN, COLLINS, and lots of us want to do, those of us who believe we need to use regular order? Can my friend comment on that?

Mr. CRUZ. I thank my friend from California for that question. She may well be right, that one of the reasons spending is out of control is that we no longer have Bill Clinton as President and a Republican Congress. Instead we have President Obama who has expanded spending more than any other President in modern times.

Mrs. BOXER. The Senator skipped over George W. Bush, who caused the deficits. But let's not argue that.

Mr. CRUZ. I thank my friend from California, but I have been quite vocal that both Democrats and Republicans have contributed to getting us in this mess, and we need leadership from both parties to turn it around.

I would note in the question the Senator from California raised, she did not say one word about not raising the debt ceiling using 51 votes. And everything else about this debate is all smoke. It is all about one thing, which is do we give an unlimited credit card to the Federal Government to raise the debt ceiling $1 trillion, $2 trillion, $5 trillion, $10 trillion.

If the result of reconciliation was raising the debt ceiling $10 trillion, it would come back——

Mr. PAUL. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mrs. BOXER. Will the Senator yield for one more question? Then I will yield the floor.

Mr. CRUZ. I am happy to yield as soon as I finish this point. I will be happy to yield after that.

Mrs. BOXER. I thank my friend.

Mr. CRUZ. If we went to a conference committee and it came back on reconciliation to raise the debt ceiling by $10 trillion, then under reconciliation rules, 51 Senators—only the Democrats—could vote to do so, and the Republicans would be utterly silenced from participating in anything there. It may well be——

Mrs. MURRAY. Will the Senator yield for a question? Does the Senator expect the House of Representatives, a Republican majority in the House of Representatives, would not participate in that vote?

Mr. CRUZ. What I expect is that each of us is obliged to carry out our responsibility to defend the interests of our States. I have 26 million Texans who I am not willing to go to and say, if they ask me: Why did you go along with the procedural game to raise the debt ceiling, to allow Republicans in the Senate to be shut out, to give up any ability to force progrowth reforms, to get jobs back, to get the economy back, to get people working, why did you give up——

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, will the Senator yield for a question?

Does the Senator expect he would not have a vote at the end of a day after a conference comes back from the House of Representatives?

Mr. CRUZ. We may well have a vote, but if we had a vote——

Mrs. MURRAY. And isn't that a democratic process?

Mr. CRUZ. The vote would be a 51-vote threshold, which would mean—and my friends on the Democratic side of the aisle have been very explicit that in their collective judgment the debt ceiling should be raised with no conditions. Given that——

Mrs. MURRAY. Can the Senator answer my question? Does the Senator from Texas understand the House of Representatives also would have to pass this? They are a Republican majority.

And, by the way, we are not talking about whether we should pay the bills this country is already obliged to pay. We are talking about putting a budget framework forward for the next 10

years. We had a terrific debate about that and the Senator from Texas participated in that and offered amendments. He had an opportunity to do that.

The House of Representatives did the exact same thing. At the end of the day, the way a legislative democratic process works is the two bodies come together and it will have to pass whatever our conference agrees to with a majority of Republicans in the House and a majority in the Senate with Democrats. That is going to be where the Senator from Texas will have an opportunity to say yes or no to a conference.

So I don't understand the Senator saying he would not participate. He has a vote. That is how the Senate works.

Mr. CRUZ. I appreciate the efforts of my friend from Washington to defend the prerogative of the Republican House. What I would suggest is that each of us has a responsibility to our States.

Mrs. MURRAY. With your vote.

Mr. CRUZ. With our vote, but also to defend the ability to have our vote matter, to have it make a difference. Because if this procedural trick is allowed to go forward, what it would mean—this fight right now is the fight over the debt ceiling. Because what it would mean, if we go to a conference committee, as sure as night follows day, we would find ourselves in a month or two with a debt ceiling increase coming back and the Democrats in this body voting to raise the debt ceiling with no conditions whatsoever, which is what the President has asked for.

Mrs. BOXER. Will the Senator yield for a question? And I thank him so much.

Listen, let's cut through what is happening and tell me where I am wrong, and I would respect the Senator's answer. The Senator represents a lot of folks, I represent 38 million, so we are two big States and we owe a lot to our people. That is for sure. What is happening here today is very clear. The Republicans, except for Senator MCCAIN and Senator COLLINS, who were here, are stopping us—this Nation—from having a budget, and they are saying their reason is that something might happen in the conference. Well, that is not the way we work in a democracy. Anything can happen at any moment.

Let's get into that conference. PAUL RYAN has a budget that I think is apocalyptic and that the Senator from Texas may well support. PATTY MURRAY has a budget that the Senator probably thinks is apocalyptic. They want to get into that conference and they want to work together. That is called democracy.

I will close with this and ask my friend to respond. Ronald Reagan supported raising the debt ceiling about 18 times. He put out a number of statements that were totally counter to my friend's. Ronald Reagan said—and I am paraphrasing, and I will get the exact quote and put it in the RECORD, as I have done in the past—even thinking about defaulting on the government's bills is enough to send shock waves through the country.

The last time the Republicans played that game it cost us $19 billion. We cannot afford that. My friends say they are conservatives, but they are leading us down that road. I beg them to think about what they are doing. I beg them to have faith and trust in this democracy. I beg them to let the people who are very responsible in the House and in the Senate, who are on different wavelengths when it comes to this budget, get to work. And to quote my friend, let them get to the place where they can roll up their sleeves and get the job done.

I think by my friend's continuing presence to stop us from having a budget, he is doing a great disservice not only to this country but to his party.

That is it for me.

Mr. PAUL. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. CRUZ. I will be glad to yield.

Mr. PAUL. This is a debate, and it is a good debate, because it is a debate about the debt ceiling. I am actually in favor of allowing the debt ceiling to go up under certain conditions where we reform things. I think it is unconscionable not to do anything, to simply say: Here is a blank check, keep doing what you have been doing.

We are running the country into the ground. We are borrowing $40,000 a second. Should we not talk about reform in the process? Many of us supported last time around raising the debt ceiling in exchange for a balanced budget amendment. Seventy-five to 80 percent of the public thinks we should balance our budget. They have to, why shouldn't we?

I would ask the Senator: Is he not hearing from his people at home that the debt ceiling should not be done in secret, that it should be done, and if it is going to be done, it should be attached to significant budgetary reform?

Mr. CRUZ. I thank my friend from Kentucky, and that is exactly what I am hearing from men and women throughout Texas.

I would note for the Senator from California and the Senator from Washington that I respect the sincerity of their beliefs, that they genuinely believe the Democratic budget passed by this body is the proper course for this country; that the proper course is to raise taxes yet another $1 trillion on top of the $1.7 trillion that taxes have already increased. They genuinely believe the proper course is never to balance the budget and allow massive deficits to extend into perpetuity.

I respect the sincerity of their views, but at the same time I believe those views are inconsistent with the best interests of this country; that the best interests of this country are to restore economic growth, are to get back to historic levels of growth that allow small businesses to thrive and, in particular, allow the most vulnerable among us to work and to achieve the American dream.

In the last 4 years, under President Obama, we have had 4 consecutive years of less than 1 percent average growth in the economy. I refer to this period as the ''great stagnation.'' The people who have been hurt the most during the great stagnation have been young people, have been Hispanics, African Americans, and single moms. Right now, if we look at unemployment, unemployment for those without a high school degree is over 11 percent, for Hispanics it is nearly 10 percent, for African Americans it is nearly 14 percent, and for young people it is over 25 percent.

When this country has massive spending, massive debt, massive regulation, and massive taxes, the result is that small businesses are strangled and die, and the people who lose their jobs are the single moms who are struggling to provide for their kids at home, like so many moms now seeing their hours forcibly reduced to 29 hours a week because of the burdens of ObamaCare. I believe we have an obligation to the American people to focus every day on turning the economy around, on getting jobs back, and stopping our unsustainable debt.

My friend from California made reference to the prospect of a default. I absolutely agree the United States should never, ever, ever default on its debt, and that is the reason why I strongly support the legislation introduced by the Senator from Pennsylvania, PAT TOOMEY, the Default Prevention Act, which says: In the event the debt ceiling is not raised, the United States will always pay its debts, pay the interest on its debts, so we never default.

I would note my friends on the other side of the aisle right now could join together in taking default off the table entirely.

(Several Senators addressed the Chair.)

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask the Senator to yield for one final question. I know they want to keep talking.

Mr. CRUZ. I am happy to yield to the Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. The irony of this is really astounding. By objecting to us going to conference, the Senate Republicans who are objecting are actually putting us right in the position of being in the place where the debt ceiling, by virtue of timing, will have to—may be part of the budget conference because the House of Representatives wants to appoint conferees and have a budget done fairly quickly once they appoint conferees because they have told us they do not want to go through a series of votes as we all did. I think it is 20 days. If my colleagues object to going to conference at this point——

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Now 5:30 having arrived——

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask for 1 additional minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. MURRAY. By objecting to going to conference right now, what Senate Republicans who are objecting are doing is pushing us to a place where the debt limit, by virtue of timing, may be a part of the discussion. I ask the Senators to think about what they are doing by their objection, in forcing us into that position, and suggest that by allowing us to go to conference—we will have a better chance of not——

AGRICULTURE REFORM, FOOD, AND JOBS ACT OF 2013—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The hour of 5:30 having arrived, the Chair recognizes the Senator from Michigan.

AMENDMENT NO. 998

Ms. STABENOW. I call for regular order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. S. 954 is the pending business.

Ms. STABENOW. On behalf of Senator LEAHY, I call up amendment No. 998.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Michigan [MS. STABENOW], for Mr. LEAHY, proposes an amendment numbered 998.

Ms. STABENOW. I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under ''Text of Amendments.'')

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, we have made great progress today. I thank colleagues for their work today bringing forth amendments. We will continue to work with Members as we go forward tomorrow, putting together a number of votes to bring before the body. We are working hard to do everything possible to complete this legislation by the end of the week. I think we are on a good track.

I announce on behalf of the two leaders that there will be no more votes this evening.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. STABENOW. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business until 6:30, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The Senator from Louisiana.

TRAGEDY IN OKLAHOMA

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I really appreciate the hard work of the Senators from Michigan and Mississippi, moving a farm bill through the Senate. It is one of the most important bills we will take up this year. Action on this bill is long overdue. I am very hopeful we can continue to make progress and produce a bill that is excellent for every region of our country. Of course, representing the South, we always like to have special attention given to our agricultural needs. The Senator from Michigan certainly has been attuned to the farmers in rural communities in Louisiana. We appreciate her leadership.

I come to the floor today, though, just for a few moments to speak about the tragedy unfolding in Oklahoma, in Moore, OK, a city that was devastated—portions of the city in the suburban areas—by a horrible tornado, one of the largest to hit our Nation in quite some time. While I do not know all of the details, I understand that it was a very high level tornado that stayed on the ground for almost 40 minutes. This was miles wide and created a terrible path of destruction. There are, of course, adults and children who lost their lives. Recovery and rescue is still underway as I speak. I am certain that the delegations—both the Senate and House Members from Oklahoma—are doing everything they can, working with the Governor and local officials, to provide as much support as they will need.

I come to the floor as the chair of the Subcommittee on Homeland Security and I come to the floor as a Senator who unfortunately has had a lot of experience in disasters to say how proud I am that there is about $11 billion available, without the requirement or necessity of an offset, for the people of Oklahoma. This was a battle that was fought over a year ago, led by Senator HARRY REID and me and others. This arrangement was made in the Budget Control Act so that there would be a significant pot of money set aside in the event that disasters such as this happened, whether it was a tornado or an earthquake or a fire or a flood. It has happened again.

We don't know exactly when these disasters are going to happen. We don't know the exact nature of them. But we most certainly know from past experience and everything that our science tells us about the changes in the atmosphere that they are going to happen and that they are likely going to get worse. That is why I have been very focused on this issue.

I am proud of this Senate, Republicans and Democrats, but I am very proud of the support of the Democratic leaders on this bill to say now is not the time—not this afternoon, not tomorrow morning, not Friday, not Monday—to be debating offsets for victims of the Oklahoma tornado. After a disaster, our citizens do not need or want a debate on funding. What they want is help, and they are going to get it from the committee I chair.

Our people suffered so much in Katrina, Rita, and Gustav. I have watched the east coast have to recover from Irene and from Sandy. I have seen horrible tornadoes in Missouri. The last thing people want when they are digging their loved ones out of rubble and preparing, unfortunately, for funerals that are going to have to occur after what happened—the last thing they want to see Congress do is debate about how and when we are going to pay for this disaster. We are going to send them the money they need to recover.

I want to say this to Senator COBURN, my good friend who is not on the floor—I do respect his consistency on this issue. Even when a tornado hit his State, he is still calling for offsets. He has been consistent, but in my view he has been consistently wrong. There will be no offsets. There is no need for offsets. I will not support offsets. The majority of Democrats, if not the entire Democratic caucus, will not support offsets for Americans in need in disasters. What we are going to do is support appropriate help and sufficient help for them.

Let me say for the record that because of the Sandy supplemental—which I also fought for with my colleagues from the Northeast—we were able to put some reforms in that bill. It was not just ''send the money and do what you will with it.'' We sent money to the Northeast. We also sent them new tools in a bigger, stronger toolbox to help them with a better recovery.

We have a lot more to do in the Northeast. That is a subject for another day. I realize they are in lots of difficulty. But we did send some new tools that will help, even with Oklahoma.

First, we sent them the ability to quickly establish mutually agreed upon estimates for project costs. That has been a real problem with recovery in the past, with local governments arguing one thing, the Feds offering something else. We now have a better, quicker process to agree on what the project costs to get it built more quickly. The project cost will be validated by an independent panel of experts protecting the taxpayer, which is important. Applicants are now allowed to consolidate projects in a commonsense way to build back smarter, reducing future recovery costs.

Most important for this disaster—we fought hard for this in Sandy—finally, there are some provisions in the recovery bill that will allow children to be the center of attention. Sadly, we have lost some children in this disaster. Sadly, many children were injured and probably thousands of children have been traumatized. But because of the new bill we passed under Sandy, there are some provisions to help.

In addition, families can receive daycare now through their supplemental, so the parents who are going to have to figure out a way to get back to work and rebuild their businesses and their communities and their houses can have some additional Federal childcare, which will help.

In addition, I think there are going to be more counselors on the ground helping children than in past disasters.

I see colleagues on the floor, so let me finish quickly.

We have implemented an automated family reunification database to ensure children are returned to parents. This is a relatively small place, well known. We do not believe there are any children whose whereabouts are unknown to their parents. All of the statistics, however, are not in of people missing, et cetera. But there are provisions right now at work with FEMA helping with family reunification. Coordinators are already on the ground specialized in looking out for the specific needs of children in disasters. I thank the coalition that worked with me for years to put that into place.

Again, there will be no offset. There is no reason to need an offset. We have the $11 billion, thanks to the good work of many people in this Chamber and on the other side of this Capitol, to provide this funding for these disasters. I know FEMA is on the ground. They will do the best they can.

In this case, with tornado insurance, which is carried by many people in this area—I am doing a little bit more research into whether it is mandatory or voluntary—with a combination of local help and State help and Federal help and private insurance and, of course, the great spirit of voluntarism, I am confident that after we finish this very sad recovery and shock this community is going through, that we will be able to help them build a stronger and more vibrant community of Moore, OK, in the future.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

BUDGET CONFERENCE

Mr. LEE. Madam President, earlier today we were asked to give our consent to go to conference on the budget resolution. This is an important matter because we have now gone more than 4 years without a budget. This has been of great concern to many of us. I do not think there is one Member of this body who would not want Congress to pass a budget this year. We would like to see that happen. We need that.

We do, however, have a concern—some of us—with the request that we go to conference without certain assurances. Most important, we want a very simple assurance that any conference report that results from this conference will not be used to raise the debt limit. The reason for this is simple. This is an important matter. At a time when we have racked up about $17 trillion in debt, we want some assurances that this important decision will be made under the regular order of the Senate; that the normal rules of the Senate will apply; that this will not be negotiated behind closed doors in a backroom deal. The American people deserve more. They demand more.

Those who may have questioned our motives in connection with this, I ask them a very simple question: Will you give us an assurance that you are not going to use the conference report to raise the debt limit? If they can answer that question to our satisfaction, if they can simply give me an assurance that is not what they are going to use it for, then I will gladly give my consent. So I invite that to be the topic of discussion.

All this begs the question. Why would they not give that assurance? What on Earth is wrong with the regular order? What on Earth is wrong with giving an assurance that, in connection with a conference report on a budget resolution, they would not be willing to say: If we are going to raise the debt limit, we are going to do it under the regular order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I was going to talk about the tornadoes, but I will take a moment to respond to my colleague from Utah.

There are Members objecting to going to regular order on the budget, and he is one of them. The Senator from Utah himself is objecting to regular order, which would allow us to go to conference on the budget. He was one of the critics when he was running for office. He made numerous statements while he was on his way to becoming a Senator by saying that the Senate and the House needed to have a budget.

Well, the House has passed a budget, the Senate has passed a budget. Yet the Senator from Utah is the one—along with the Senator from Kentucky, and I understand earlier today, the Senator from Arizona, Senator MCCAIN—objecting to going to conference to resolve the differences.

I know the Senator from Utah has read the Constitution, just as I have. The Constitution and the laws that created the Senate of the United States give great strength to the minority—and he is in the minority. However, nowhere in the Constitution does it say one Senator from one State has the right to write the rules and laws for the whole country. I read it lots of times, and I have never seen that. Evidently that is what the Senator from Utah wants. He said if we would just do what he wants, we could proceed.

Well, I have news for him and the Senators who are objecting. It is not about what they individually want. It is collectively what we want. We represent all the people of our country: Republicans, Democrats, conservatives, and liberals.

For 4 years this same group yelled and screamed about not having a budget. Now that we have a budget, they are yelling and screaming that they don't want to work out the differences. I honestly don't know how to please colleagues like this. We had to literally listen to them ranting and raving for years about how we didn't have a budget. We worked extra hard. At the time we said—and I was one of them—that technically they're right, we did not have a budget. As the Presiding Officer knows, we had something that was stronger than a budget. We had spending limits that had the real teeth of law.

What people might not realize is budgets are aspirations. Just as when someone does a budget at home, they can say: My budget this year is going to be set at $25,000. It is an aspiration. They might spend a little more or a little less. There is no mechanism for control; it is just an outline, and that is important.

We thought what we had, as the Democratic leadership, is better than a budget. We had actual spending controls, but that wasn't enough for the Republicans. They knew we had spending controls, but they still went on ''Fox News'' and everywhere else explaining to people that we had no budget and inferred there were no controls. And that is patently false. We had spending controls. We have spending controls now. We have spending limits which are agreed to by Republicans and Democrats, except there are a handful of Republicans who don't agree with those limits. They decided because they represent half of four States that they want their way or the highway, and now the whole Congress cannot go to a conference on a budget.

I don't understand this. I understand minority rights need to be protected. I understand it is important to make sure everyone's voice is heard. I understand everybody cannot get everything they want. I don't understand when my colleagues—the Senator from Utah, the Senator from Kentucky, and the Senator from Arizona—say: No, we can't go to a conference to work out the differences on the budget so the United States can move more quickly to a balanced budget. They have complained year after year that we didn't have a budget. It is the height of hypocrisy, and their position is completely unexplainable and unacceptable.

I am glad I was on the floor. I came to talk about the tornado, but I am glad I had a chance to make a statement for the RECORD about why not many—but there are a few—Republican leaders have stopped the entire budget process until they get their way exactly the way they want it. That is not the way our government works. We don't have kings anymore. We don't have dictators anymore. We don't have people with special powers. We are all humans, and we are all on equal footing. We are all elected to represent our constituents. No one in this Chamber is entitled to write the budget exactly the way they want it.

If I wanted to do something, I could say just as easily as he could: Well, I am going to object unless you promise me that X, Y, and Z are going to be in the budget. I could say that, as could

the Senators who sit next to me, Senator SANDERS and Senator CARPER. Every Senator could say that. We all have things which are very important to us and our constituency, but if we act like that and we don't act in a mature and sensible way, we will never get anything done, and that is where we are now.

We have a handful of Republican Senators—maybe less than five, I don't know—who are objecting every day so we cannot take our budget to conference and have it reconciled. They have yelled at everybody for 4 years about how we didn't have a budget.

The only way we are going to get a budget is to go to conference, have regular order, and work out the differences in a public meeting with public votes. It cannot happen behind closed doors or in some back room somewhere. It has to take place in a public meeting, during a conference so we can talk about what programs or what levels of funding should be reduced, such as what revenues could potentially be raised. Then, according to our process, those directions are given to appropriations committees. At that point we can do our work on building an appropriation for defense, building an appropriation for education, building an appropriation for health, and for our veterans.

If we don't have a budget, we cannot even go to regular order on appropriations. As an appropriator, it is getting frustrating around here to not be able to go to a regular appropriations meeting and sit down as we used to do before this new crew showed up and talked about meeting our budget caps and how we wanted to allocate the taxpayer money in a public, open meeting instead of cramming things in an omnibus bill and doing deals in the middle of the night.

If they would let us get back to regular order and do the people's business, I promise that the people of Utah would be happy, the people of Arizona would be happy, and the people of Kentucky would be happy. They want us to get back to regular order so we can try to negotiate a budget that the majority—and not even the regular majority. We have to have 60 votes to do anything around here. Before a conference committee can come back, there has to be a broad understanding of what was going to be in that conference.

I have one final argument. I could understand a little trepidation on the part of the minority if they were not in control of the House, but the Republicans have control of the House, and the Democrats have control of the Senate. I mean, I could understand their concern if one party had the majority in both the Senate and the House. They might be concerned that what comes out of conference could get rammed down and the minority could be caught off balance. The minority controls the House. This is as fair a fight as they are going to have with one party controlling one and one party controlling the other.

Yes, the President is a Democrat, but he has indicated what I think is very open-minded support for entitlement reform when it is appropriate and additional revenues that are being raised. The President has not put any particular line in the sand that I am aware of. He has been quite reasonable, but he cannot sign a budget unless we can get it to his desk.

We have three or four Senators, if they can't get it exactly the way they want it, who are going to hold up everything. I don't think that is what the American people want, and I am disappointed in our colleagues.

I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO MARIE C. JOHNS

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, next Friday, May 31, is my friend's—Marie C. Johns—last day as the Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration. She has served the SBA and our country's small businesses with distinction since 2010, and I will miss working with her.

Her appointment to serve as the Deputy Administrator came at a critical time for U.S. small businesses, when the economy was recovering from the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. The SBA needed great leadership, and she brought to the agency an impressive family history of entrepreneurship and professional accomplishments.

As she said during her confirmation hearing on May 19, 2010, '' the spirit of entrepreneurship has been at the core of my professional and personal life.'' She described the landscaping business her grandfather owned in Indianapolis, IN. And then later, after her uncle earned his degree in pharmacy at Howard University, her grandfather built a community pharmacy so that her uncle could practice as a pharmacist and serve the African-American community in Indianapolis. Marie built her own career in DC, starting as a first-level manager in telecommunications and retiring as the president of Verizon DC. During her 20 years in communications, she held numerous leadership positions, helping small businesses and entrepreneurs. To name just one, she served as the chair of the Small Business Committee for the DC Chamber of Commerce, helping small businesses obtain technical assistance and mentoring from larger firms.

During her time as the SBA Deputy Administrator, Marie and I have enjoyed a strong working relationship, which has allowed us, alongside Administrator Karen Mills, to achieve a number of substantial accomplishments. Most significantly, we passed the landmark Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 that provided billions of dollars of loans and investment capital to America's entrepreneurs. In 2011 and 2012, the SBA issued its first and second rounds of State Trade and Export Promotion, STEP, grants to 47 States and four territories. These STEP grants have maximized the Federal, State, and local resources to help small businesses export, which in turn has contributed to both business growth and job creation. And finally, we persevered and improved the women's contracting program to put women-owned small businesses on the same playing field with other contracting programs so that contracts to women are no longer capped at artificially low amounts. Recently, on May 8, marking her last time to testify before the Senate Small Business Committee, Marie testified on the important issue of minority women entrepreneurs and how essential they are to the larger economy. The testimony from that hearing was moving and educational and helped raise awareness of this growing segment of job creators.

It has been an honor to work with Marie to provide help and support to the more than 28 million small businesses in this country. During her tenure, the SBA became a more effective Federal champion of small businesses by assisting these businesses to secure financing, technical assistance, training, and Federal contracts.

Ms. Johns now leaves the SBA with a strong performance record. This Nation's small businesses are in a better position because of her work. Her dedication to the improvement of the health of small businesses in the United States will always be appreciated. I thank her for her work and wish her well as she returns to her many civic duties.

RETIREMENT OF ADMIRAL JAMES STAVRIDIS

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, today I honor a superb leader, scholar, and warrior. After a lifetime of service to our Nation, ADM James G. Stavridis is retiring from the U.S. Navy and his position as Commander of the United States European Command. On this occasion, I believe it is fitting to recognize Admiral Stavridis' years of distinguished uniformed service to our Nation.

The admiral is a 1976 distinguished graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. He has led at every level from command-at-sea to theater command. Admiral Stavridis has also served as a strategic planner for the Chief of Naval Operations and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and as the senior military assistant to the Secretary of Defense. Prior to assuming command of the United States European Command, he commanded the U.S. Southern Command, focused on Latin America and the Caribbean. Admiral Stavridis assumed command of European Command on June 30, 2009, the first naval officer to hold this command.

Admiral Stavridis' contributions to scholarship are also notable. He has graduated with distinction from the Naval Academy, the Naval War College, the National War College, and the

Fletcher School at Tufts University, where he earned a doctorate of philosophy in international relations. He has been frequently published by many publications, including Foreign Affairs, and the United States Naval Institute's Proceedings. Admiral Stavridis was even featured in a 2012 TED Global where he spoke about the future of global security.

His leadership has been consistently recognized formally and informally, to include the Battenberg Cup for the top ship in the Atlantic Fleet, and the John Paul Jones Award for inspirational leadership. Admiral Stavridis' impact on the sailors and the fleet has been indelible. He is the author or coauthor of seminal works on naval leadership, including ''Command At Sea.'' His impact on soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines will continue well into the future.

Our Navy and our Nation will feel his absence. I join many past and present members of the Senate Armed Services Committee in my gratitude to ADM James Stavridis for his outstanding leadership and his unwavering support of servicemembers. I wish him and his wife Laura ''fair winds and following seas.''

REMEMBERING DR. ELBERT B. SMITH

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, with the recent death of Dr. Elbert B. Smith—known to his friends simply as ''E.B.''—I lost a much beloved mentor, advisor, and friend.

Obituaries in the Washington Post and elsewhere have captured the essential facts of his life. Since 1990, he was professor emeritus at the University of Maryland. He served in the Navy in World War II, earned his master's degree and Ph.D. at the University of Chicago, and taught at Iowa State University, among other colleges, before joining the faculty at Maryland in 1968. Over the years, he also served as a Fulbright professor at the University of Tokyo and at Moscow State University, and elsewhere. He ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate as a Democrat in Iowa in 1962 and again in 1966.

What those factual obituaries fail to capture is the spirit of this remarkable man—his personal warmth, his talent for friendship, his great love of history and scholarship, and his passion for progressive causes.

He was one of the most influential people in my life, beginning in my years as an undergraduate at Iowa State University, where he was a history professor. He inspired me to get involved in politics and public service. When he ran for the U.S. Senate in 1962, I got involved in his campaign. And what a campaign it was—an unconventional, insurgent, student-run campaign against the status quo. This was 6 years before Senator Eugene McCarthy ran a similar campaign for President.

While working on his campaign, I was also president of Young Democrats at Iowa State, and we had just passed a resolution urging the admission of Communist China to the United Nations. Of course, this could have been an embarrassment to the Smith campaign. But to his great credit, E.B. said: ''That is your call, Tom, stick to your guns, I'll stand by you.'' That is the kind of principled person he was.

During the campaign, E.B. went to Washington to have his endorsement photograph taken with President Kennedy. There is a picture of E.B. presenting JFK with a copy of his scholarly biography of Senator Thomas Hart Benton, titled ''Magnificent Missourian.'' The reason E.B. chose this gift, of course, was that Thomas Hart Benton was one of the eight Senators that Kennedy included in his book ''Profiles in Courage.''

E.B. lost that 1962 election, but only very narrowly, against the longtime incumbent Senator Bourke B. Hickenlooper. But that campaign was revealing of the kind of man he was: a straight-shooter, a person of great integrity, serious but with a sense of humor, a fighter for the little guy, standing up for civil rights and economic justice.

Fast forward a decade. In 1972, I was fresh out of law school. Ruth and I moved back to Ames, and, frankly, we were flat broke. E.B. allowed us to live rent free in a house that he owned in Ames. With that house as campaign headquarters, I ran for Congress again in 1972, with a student-run, insurgent campaign modeled after E.B.'s 1962 effort. I lost, but we did well enough to run again in 1974, and win.

When I arrived in Washington in late 1974 as a newly elected Representative, E.B. and his wife Jean were living in College Park, where he was teaching at the University of Maryland. My wife Ruth was serving then as Story County attorney, and had to stay back in Iowa. The Smiths generously allowed me to live with them for the next 3 years. I commuted back to Iowa on weekends.

From his days in the Navy, E.B. loved to sail and was an expert sailor. Many a time he took me out on the Chesapeake Bay on his boat. I always felt that he liked it best when the weather was cold and foul, with the rain pouring down. The rest of us would be huddled down below, and E.B. would be up top, steering the boat, having a great time. It reminded him fondly of his days as a Navy deck officer in the Atlantic during the war. Over the decades during my time here in Washington, one of my great joys has been my sailing outings with E.B.

Of course, the other great joy of E.B.'s life was Jean, his wife of 58 years, their five children, nine grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. After Jean died in 2002, E.B. found another wonderful partner—coincidentally, also named Jean—who filled his last years with much happiness.

E.B. Smith was a dear friend and an invaluable mentor. He imbued me with the ideal that politics and public service are honorable callings. He always said to me: Don't worry about losing, do what is right, stick up for your principles.

I feel truly blessed to have had the friendship and counsel of E.B. Smith for so many years. He touched not only my life, but the lives of so many others all across the globe. He died one day short of his 93rd birthday, after a full, active, and accomplished life. Through his scholarship, generosity, and simple human decency, he made the world a better place.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

OBSERVING POLYNESIAN FLAG DAY

• Mr. BEGICH. Madam President, I would like to take the time to recognize Polynesian Flag Day. This day commemorates the first raising of the American Flag on the Tutuila Island in American Samoa by the United States Navy on April 17, 1900.

An annual Polynesian Flag Day event was established to bring Polynesian elders, children families, friends, and communities together across Alaska to celebrate, respect, and share their culture and history together. Polynesian Flag Day is a time to recognize the Polynesian community's years of nationality, freedom, and honor, and to commend the service of Polynesian Americans who have fought and are fighting for the freedoms that we all hold dear.

This year marks the 8th Annual Polynesian Flag Day celebration in Alaska, highlighting a proud cultural exchange between Alaska and the Polynesian Islands. The Polynesian Association of Alaska promotes community building, fosters leadership skills for Alaskan youth, and helps cultivate an exchange of ideas and respect between elders and youth, further strengthening our communities.

I join the Alaska Polynesian community in celebrating the 8th Annual Polynesian Flag Day in Alaska.

Thank you for allowing me to take a moment to recognize this year's Polynesian Flag Day.•

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH CARTER CORBIN

• Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, it is with the greatest pleasure that I wish to pay tribute to Professor Joseph Carter Corbin, founder and first president of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

Joseph Carter Corbin, an African-American educator, was born in 1833 in the town of Chillicothe, OH, to free parents, William and Susan Corbin. After earning two master's degrees from Ohio University, Joseph Corbin moved his family to Little Rock, AR in 1872, where he worked as a reporter for the Arkansas Republican.

Corbin quickly became a leader and strong advocate for public education in Arkansas. Within a year of moving to Little Rock, he was elected State superintendent of public instruction, becoming the highest elected African-American official in Arkansas during Reconstruction. As State superintendent, he signed the contract for construction of University Hall, which would become the first building at the University of Arkansas and known today as Old Main.

Joseph Corbin was instrumental in the adoption of legislation in the Arkansas State Assembly to establish Branch Normal College, the first African-American institution of higher education in Arkansas. He was appointed the first president of Branch Normal College in 1875, a position he would hold until his retirement in 1902.

Professor Corbin died on January 11, 1911, in Pine Bluff, AR. His dedication to improving education standards and higher learning in Arkansas continues to have a positive impact on our State. The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff currently enrolls more than 3,100 students in undergraduate and postgraduate programs and continues to be one of Arkansas's premiere colleges. Arkansas has been fortunate to have had an educator of the caliber of Joseph Carter Corbin.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:35 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 258. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to fraudulent representations about having received military decorations or medals.

H.R. 1073. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for protection of maritime navigation and prevention of nuclear terrorism, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1073. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for protection of maritime navigation and prevention of nuclear terrorism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 45. An act to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010.

S. 1003. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to reset interest rates for new student loans.

S. 1004. A bill to permit voluntary economic activity.

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–1549. A communication from the Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Dual and Multiple Associations of Persons Associated with Swap Dealers, Major Swap Participants and Other Commission Registrants'' (RIN3038–AD66) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–1550. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Streptomycin; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions'' (FRL No. 9385–3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–1551. A communication from the Chairman of the Nuclear Weapons Council, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the President's budget requests for the National Nuclear Security Administration for fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1552. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals and accompanying reports relative to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1553. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13405 of June 16, 2006, with respect to Belarus; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1554. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 on November 14, 1979; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1555. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to material violations or suspected material violations of regulations relating to Treasury auctions and other Treasury securities offerings for the period of January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1556. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle, and Nonroad Technical Amendments'' (FRL No. 9772–3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1557. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Georgia; State Implementation Plan Miscellaneous Revisions'' (FRL No. 9813–8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1558. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Tennessee; Transportation Conformity Revisions'' (FRL No. 9814–5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1559. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Tennessee; Revisions to Volatile Organic Compound Definition'' (FRL No. 9814–3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1560. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''State Medicaid Fraud Control Units; Data Mining'' (42 CFR Parts 1007.1, 1007.17, 1007.19 (e)(2)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 16, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1561. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 13–057, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible affects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1562. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a Determination and Certification under Section 40A of the Arms Export Control Act relative to countries not cooperating fully with United States antiterrorism efforts; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1563. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Visas: Documentation of Immigrants Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, as Amended'' (RIN1400–AC86) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2013; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1564. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to loan guarantees to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1565. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2013–0074—2013–0083); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–1566. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Semiannual Management Report on the Status of Audits for the period from October 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1567. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Agency, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Schedules of Controlled Substances: Temporary

Placement of Three Synthetic Cannabinoids Into Schedule I'' (Docket No. DEA–373) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 16, 2013; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–1568. A communication from the Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Tentative Eligibility Determinations; Presumptive Eligibility for Psychosis and Other Mental Illness'' (RIN2900–AN87) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 15, 2013; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–1569. A communication from the Deputy Chief of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Implementation of Section 716 and 717 of the Communications Act of 1934, as Enacted by the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010; et. al'' (FCC 13–57) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1570. A communication from the Deputy Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Connect America Fund, High-Cost Universal Service Report'' ((RIN3060–AF85) (DA 13–807)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1571. A communication from the Associate Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Support; Lifeline and Link Up Reform'' ((RIN3060–AF85) (FCC 13–44)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1572. A communication from the Deputy Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Connect America Fund'' ((RIN3060–AJ92) (DA 13–598)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1573. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management; Framework Adjustment 50'' (RIN0648–BC97) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1574. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Biennial Specifications and Management Measures for the 2013 Tribal and Non-Tribal Fisheries for Pacific Whiting'' (RIN0648–BC93) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1575. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Bluefish Fishery; 2013 and 2014 Atlantic Bluefish Specifications'' (RIN0648–XC432) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1576. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Framework Adjustment 48'' (RIN0648–BC27) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1577. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 in the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XC581) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HARKIN, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 330. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish safeguards and standards of quality for research and transplantation of organs infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

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 Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 992. A bill to provide for offices on sexual assault prevention and response under the Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces, to require reports on additional offices and selection of sexual assault prevention and response personnel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 993. A bill to authorize and request the President to award the Medal of Honor to James Megellas, formerly of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and currently of Colleyville, Texas, for acts of valor on January 28, 1945, during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 994. A bill to expand the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to increase accountability and transparency in Federal spending, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. DONNELLY):

S. 995. A bill to authorize the National Desert Storm Memorial Association to establish the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 996. A bill to improve the National Flood Insurance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. CARDIN, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 997. A bill to establish the Social Work Reinvestment Commission to provide independent counsel to Congress and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on policy issues associated with recruitment, retention, research, and reinvestment in the profession of social work, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 998. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to establish a Home Care Consumer Bill of Rights, to establish State Home Care Ombudsman Programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. NELSON):

S. 999. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to provide social service agencies with the resources to provide services to meet the urgent needs of Holocaust survivors to age in place with dignity, comfort, security, and quality of life; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WARNER:

S. 1000. A bill to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to prepare a crosscut budget for restoration activities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. COATS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. VITTER):

S. 1001. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to the Government of Iran; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 1002. A bill to enable Federal and State chartered banks and thrifts to meet the credit needs of home builders in the United States, and to provide liquidity and ensure stable credit in order to meet the need for new homes in the United States; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. COBURN (for himself, Mr. BURR, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 1003. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to reset interest rates for new student loans; read the first time.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 1004. A bill to permit voluntary economic activity; read the first time.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. Res. 150. A resolution to designate the year 2013 as the ''International Year of Statistics''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. Res. 151. A resolution urging the Government of Afghanistan to ensure transparent and credible presidential and provincial elections in April 2014 by adhering to internationally accepted democratic standards, establishing a transparent electoral

process, and ensuring security for voters and candidates; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 287

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 287, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the definition of homeless veteran for purposes of benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 309

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 309, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol.

S. 351

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 351, a bill to repeal the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of providing for the Independent Payment Advisory Board.

S. 403

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 403, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to address and take action to prevent bullying and harassment of students.

S. 420

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 420, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the logical flow of return information between partnerships, corporations, trusts, estates, and individuals to better enable each party to submit timely, accurate returns and reduce the need for extended and amended returns, to provide for modified due dates by regulation, and to conform the automatic corporate extension period to longstanding regulatory rule.

S. 450

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 450, a bill to require enhanced economic analysis and justification of regulations proposed by certain Federal banking, housing, securities, and commodity regulators, and for other purposes.

S. 453

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 453, a bill to require that certain Federal job training and career education programs give priority to programs that lead to an industry-recognized and nationally portable credential.

S. 462

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) were added as cosponsors of S. 462, a bill to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel.

S. 475

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 475, a bill to reauthorize the Special Olympics Sport and Empowerment Act of 2004, to provide assistance to Best Buddies to support the expansion and development of mentoring programs, and for other purposes.

S. 501

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 501, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and increase the exclusion for benefits provided to volunteer firefighters and emergency medical responders.

S. 577

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 577, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes.

S. 579

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 579, a bill to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan at the triennial International Civil Aviation Organization Assembly, and for other purposes.

S. 650

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 650, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to preserve consumer and employer access to licensed independent insurance producers.

S. 674

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 674, a bill to require prompt responses from the heads of covered Federal agencies when the Secretary of Veterans Affairs requests information necessary to adjudicate claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

S. 709

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 709, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, leading to better care and outcomes for Americans living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

S. 754

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 754, a bill to amend the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 to include farmed shellfish as specialty crops.

S. 772

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 772, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to clarify the Food and Drug Administration's jurisdiction over certain tobacco products, and to protect jobs and small businesses involved in the sale, manufacturing and distribution of traditional and premium cigars.

S. 774

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 774, a bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit a report to Congress on the effectiveness of the Federal Communications Commission's universal service reforms.

S. 809

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 809, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to require that genetically engineered food and foods that contain genetically engineered ingredients be labeled accordingly.

S. 833

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 833, a bill to amend subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to provide education for homeless children and youths, and for other purposes.

S. 871

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of S. 871, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance assistance for victims of sexual assault committed by members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 892

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 892, a bill to amend the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 to impose

sanctions with respect to certain transactions in foreign currencies, and for other purposes.

S. 895

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 895, a bill to improve the ability of the Food and Drug Administration to study the use of antimicrobial drugs in food-producing animals.

S. 919

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 919, a bill to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian tribes, and for other purposes.

S. 942

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 942, a bill to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.

S. 946

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 946, a bill to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions, and for other purposes.

S. 955

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 955, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide liability protections for volunteer practitioners at health centers under section 330 of such Act.

S. 962

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 962, a bill to prohibit amounts made available by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 from being transferred to the Internal Revenue Service for implementation of such Acts.

S. 963

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 963, a bill preventing an unrealistic future Medicaid augmentation plan.

S. 979

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 979, a bill to amend chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code, to condition the receipt of certain highway funding by States on the enactment and enforcement by States of certain laws to prevent repeat intoxicated driving.

S. 980

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 980, a bill to provide for enhanced embassy security, and for other purposes.

S. 983

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 983, a bill to prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury from enforcing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010.

S. 987

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 987, a bill to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media.

S. CON. RES. 12

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 12, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that our current tax incentives for retirement savings provide important benefits to Americans to help plan for a financially secure retirement.

S. RES. 75

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 75, a resolution 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.

S. RES. 128

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 128, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that supporting seniors and individuals with disabilities is an important responsibility of the United States, and that a comprehensive approach to expanding and supporting a strong home care workforce and making long-term services and supports affordable and accessible in communities is necessary to uphold the right of seniors and individuals with disabilities in the United States to a dignified quality of life.

AMENDMENT NO. 922

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 922 intended to be proposed to S. 954, an original bill to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018.

AMENDMENT NO. 923

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 923 intended to be proposed to S. 954, an original bill to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018.

AMENDMENT NO. 925

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 925 intended to be proposed to S. 954, an original bill to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018.

AMENDMENT NO. 926

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 926 intended to be proposed to S. 954, an original bill to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018.

AMENDMENT NO. 927

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 927 intended to be proposed to S. 954, an original bill to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018.

AMENDMENT NO. 930

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 930 intended to be proposed to S. 954, an original bill to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018.

AMENDMENT NO. 931

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 931 proposed to S. 954, an original bill to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018.

AMENDMENT NO. 936

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 936 intended to be proposed to S. 954, an original bill to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018.

AMENDMENT NO. 939

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 939 intended to be proposed to S. 954, an original bill to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018.

AMENDMENT NO. 940

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Oregon

(Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 940 intended to be proposed to S. 954, an original bill to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018.

AMENDMENT NO. 943

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 943 intended to be proposed to S. 954, an original bill to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 992. A bill to provide for offices on sexual assault prevention and response under the Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces, to require reports on additional offices and selection of sexual assault prevention and response personnel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Ms. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, today, Senator FISCHER and I, rise today to speak about the alarming crisis of sexual assault within our nation's military.

Three particularly disturbing cases have arisen in recent weeks. First, an Air Force Lieutenant Colonel was arrested for sexual battery, and an Army first sergeant is alleged to have engaged in sexual misconduct at Fort Flood. Finally, the Army also relieved a lieutenant colonel from his post for a domestic dispute that violated a stalking protection order. What is most concerning is that all were responsible for either handling sexual assault cases or managing policies pertaining to military sexual assault.

We have seen three incidents of this kind in a period of two weeks. The fact that the cases involved multiple services speaks volumes to the need to elevate all Sexual Assault Prevention Response, SAPR, jobs to the level of importance that they deserve. Given the challenge of addressing the sexual assault crisis, we need the best and brightest taking on these jobs in our military today.

We should take steps to ensure that these jobs are on par with those that the military values most. This will address one of the primary factors at the heart of the issue—the need for cultural change in the military. It starts with increasing the value of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response positions and enforcing a rigorous application, intense record review and an interview process that screens applicants prior to selection for those duties.

While we appreciate Secretary Hagel's efforts to ensure that candidates for these jobs are rescreened, retrained and recertified, the bigger issue is making sure that there is a robust process in place to get the highest caliber candidates into all Sexual Assault Prevention and Response jobs at the start. We firmly believe that changes to the military justice system are critical, but we also believe that changing military culture will require transforming the process by which we fill these positions. It will also require holding the leadership accountable for selecting those individuals.

That is why, today, we are introducing legislation that will make the highest-level Sexual Assault Prevention and Response positions nominative ones.

Nominative jobs, also referred to as ''high visibility,'' are given that designation because of the caliber of person needed to fill them. These are some of the most significant, challenging and highly desired positions in the military. Transitioning SAPR jobs to a nominative process enables direct leadership involvement from the commander, who would now hand-pick the person to fill the role. Furthermore, there is a level of prestige that comes with taking nominative jobs because they are recognized as premiere jobs within the organization. Applicants know up front that these jobs will be challenging and career-enhancing. As such, only the best of the best need apply.

This crisis has reached a breaking point that requires more than the traditional process for filling military positions. We can no longer be comfortable placing the service member in a SAPR position solely based upon individual career paths and personal aspirations. As proven over the last several weeks, there are holes in that process. We need to enact a stringent application, record review and interview process that holds leaders accountable for SAPR job selection and increases the likelihood of getting the best possible applicants.

There is a sense of urgency surrounding military sexual assault that requires answers now. Secretary Hagel was correct in saying, ''Sexual assault has no place in the United States military'' and that ''the American people, including our service members, should expect a culture of absolutely no tolerance for this deplorable behavior.'' We could not agree more, but we are also of the belief that the change in culture with respect to sexual assault will require more than education and awareness training. Our military needs to develop a culture that gives preeminence to jobs related to sexual assault prevention.

We know that military leaders share our concerns and appreciate the leadership demonstrated thus far. We trust that they will also acknowledge the benefits of making SAPR jobs nominative positions. We hope my colleagues in the Senate will take up and pass this legislation as we attempt to address the scourge that is sexual assault in our military.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 993. A bill to authorize and request the President to award the Medal of Honor to James Megellas, formerly of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and currently of Colleyville, Texas, for acts of valor on January 28, 1945, during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 993

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION AND REQUEST FOR AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO JAMES MEGELLAS FOR ACTS OF VALOR DURING BATTLE OF THE BULGE.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The President is authorized and requested to award the Medal of Honor under section 3741 of title 10, United States Code, to James Megellas, formerly of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and currently of Colleyville, Texas, for the acts of valor described in subsection (b).

(b) ACTION DESCRIBED.—The acts of valor referred to in subsection (a) are the actions of James Megellas on January 28, 1945, in Herresbach, Belgium, during the Battle of the Bulge, during World War II, when, as a first lieutenant in the 82d Airborne Division, he led a surprise and devastating attack on a much larger advancing enemy force, killing and capturing a large number and causing others to flee, single-handedly destroying an attacking German Mark V tank with two hand-held grenades, and then leading his men in clearing and seizing Herresbach.

(c) WAIVER OF TIME LIMITATIONS.—The award under subsection (a) may be made without regard to the time limitations specified in section 3744(b) of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation established by law or regulation with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the Army.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. DONNELLY):

S. 995. A bill to authorize the National Desert Storm Memorial Association to establish the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, there is currently no national memorial dedicated to the valor and sacrifices made by those members of our Armed Forces who honorably fought, and in some cases made the ultimate sacrifice, in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. For this reason, I am joining with Senator JOE DONNELLY to introduce the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Act.'' This legislation will authorize the establishment of a National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial to honor the service and sacrifice of those who fought in Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 995

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ASSOCIATION.—The term ''Association'' means the National Desert Storm Memorial Association, a corporation that is—

(A) organized under the laws of the State of Arkansas; and

(B)(i) described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

(ii) exempt from taxation under 501(a) of that Code.

(2) MEMORIAL.—The term ''memorial'' means the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial authorized to be established under section 3.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL DESERT STORM AND DESERT SHIELD MEMORIAL.

(a) AUTHORIZATION TO ESTABLISH COMMEMORATIVE WORK.—The Association may establish the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial as a commemorative work, on Federal land in the District of Columbia to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces that served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield.

(b) COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS FOR COMMEMORATIVE WORKS ACT.—The establishment of the memorial under this section shall be in accordance with chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Commemorative Works Act'').

(c) USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS PROHIBITED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Federal funds may not be used to pay any expense of the establishment of the memorial under this section.

(2) RESPONSIBILITY OF ASSOCIATION.—The Association shall be solely responsible for acceptance of contributions for, and payment of the expenses of, the establishment of the memorial.

(d) DEPOSIT OF EXCESS FUNDS.—If, on payment of all expenses for the establishment of the memorial (including the maintenance and preservation amount required by section 8906(b)(1) of title 40, United States Code), or on expiration of the authority for the memorial under section 8903(e) of title 40, United States Code, there remains a balance of funds received for the establishment of the memorial, the Association shall transmit the amount of the balance to the Secretary of the Interior for deposit in the account provided for in section 8906(b)(3) of title 40, United States Code.

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. CARDIN, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 997. A bill to establish the Social Work Reinvestment Commission to provide independent counsel to Congress and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on policy issues associated with recruitment, retention, research, and reinvestment in the profession of social work, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act. As a social worker, I understand the critical role social workers have in the overall care of our population. Social workers can be found in every facet of community life—in hospitals, mental health clinics, senior centers, schools, and private agencies that serve individuals and families in need. They play a crucial role combating the social problems facing our nation and are essential providers in our health care system. Yet, there are not enough social workers to meet these needs.

The Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act provides research grants to social workers to train the next generation of social workers; creates a Social Work Reinvestment Commission; authorizes workplace improvement grants to identify workplace safety issues and workforce shortage challenges that need to be addressed to improve the services social workers provide in our communities; and makes grants available to community based programs of excellence to identify, test, and replicate effective social work interventions. I am honored to introduce this bill named after two social visionaries, Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young. Dorothy Height was a pioneer of the civil rights movement. Like me, she began her career as a case worker and continued to fight for social justice. Whitney Young, another trailblazer of the civil rights movement, also began his career transforming our social landscape as a social worker. He helped create President Johnson's War on Poverty and served as President of the National Association of Social Workers.

I believe that social work is full of great opportunities, both to serve and to lead. Social work is about puffing our values into action. Social workers are among our best and brightest, our most committed and compassionate. They are at the frontlines of providing care, often putting themselves in dangerous and violent situations. Social workers have the ability to provide psychological, emotional, and social support. Quite simply, the ability to change lives. As a social worker, I have been on the frontlines of helping people cope with issues in their everyday lives. I started off fighting for abused children, making sure they were placed in safe homes. I will continue to fight every day for our children, seniors, military personnel, and families on the floor of the United States Senate.

The Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act is supported by the National Association of Social Workers. I thank Senators STABENOW and CARDIN for cosponsoring this bill.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. COATS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. VITTER):

S. 1001. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to the Government of Iran; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1001

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Iran Export Embargo Act''.

SEC. 2. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN.

The Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8801 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 1245 the following:

''SEC. 1245A. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN.

''(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

''(1) The Government of Iran stands in violation of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted at Paris December 10, 1948, by denying its citizens basic freedoms, including the freedoms of expression, religion, and peaceful assembly and movement, and for flagrantly abusing the rights of minorities and women.

''(2) The Government of Iran remains the leading state sponsor of terrorism in the world. That Government's sponsorship of terrorism includes recent involvement in a terrorist attack in Bulgaria, a plot to blow up a cafe in Washington, D.C., a plot to assassinate United States officials in the Republic of Azerbaijan, and attempted terrorist attacks in Canada and the Republic of Georgia.

''(3) The Government of Iran stands in violation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007), 1803 (2008), and 1929 (2010) by refusing to suspend proliferation-sensitive nuclear activities, including all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities and work on all heavy water-related projects.

''(4) The Government of Iran continues to develop ballistic missiles capable of threatening the interests and allies of the United States.

''(5) The Government of Iran stands in violation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701 (2006) by its continued transfer of arms to terrorist groups in southern Lebanon.

''(6) The Government of Iran continues to provide arms to terrorist groups in the Gaza Strip.

''(7) The Government of Iran continues to support the Government of Syria in carrying out human rights abuses and crimes against humanity against the people of Syria.

''(b) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—On and after the date that is 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of a person described in subsection (f) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

''(c) FACILITATION OF CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS.—The President shall prohibit the opening, and prohibit or impose strict conditions on the maintaining, in the United States of a correspondent account or a payable-through account by a foreign financial

institution that the President determines has knowingly, on or after the date that is 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, conducted or facilitated a significant transaction with respect to the importation, sale, or transfer of goods or services from Iran on behalf of a person described in subsection (f).

''(d) IMPORTATION, SALE, OR TRANSFER OF GOODS AND SERVICES FROM IRAN.—The President shall impose sanctions pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) with respect to a person if the President determines that the person knowingly, on or after the date that is 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, imports, purchases, or transfers goods or services from a person described in subsection (f).

''(e) INSURANCE AND REINSURANCE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose sanctions pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) with respect to a person if the President determines that the person knowingly, on or after the date that is 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, provides underwriting services or insurance or reinsurance to a person described in subsection (f).

''(2) EXCEPTION FOR UNDERWRITERS AND INSURANCE PROVIDERS EXERCISING DUE DILIGENCE.—The President may not impose sanctions under paragraph (1) with respect to a person that provides underwriting services or insurance or reinsurance if the President determines that the person has exercised due diligence in establishing and enforcing official policies, procedures, and controls to ensure that the person does not underwrite or enter into a contract to provide insurance or reinsurance for a person described in subsection (f).

''(f) PERSONS DESCRIBED.—A person described in this subsection is any of the following:

''(1) The state and the Government of Iran, or any political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of that Government, including the Central Bank of Iran.

''(2) Any person owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by that Government.

''(3) Any person acting or purporting to act, directly or indirectly, for or on behalf of that Government.

''(4) Any other person determined by the President to be described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3).

''(g) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—A person described in subsection (f) is subject to sanctions under this section without regard to whether the name of the person is published in the Federal Register or incorporated into the list of specially designated nationals and blocked persons maintained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury.

''(h) APPLICABILITY TO EXPORTS OF CRUDE OIL FROM IRAN.—Subsections (c) and (d) shall apply with respect to the exportation, importation, sale, or transfer of crude oil from Iran on and after the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.''.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 150—TO DESIGNATE THE YEAR 2013 AS THE ''INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF STATISTICS''

Mrs. HAGAN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 150

Whereas more than 2,000 organizations worldwide have recognized 2013 as the International Year of Statistics, a global celebration and recognition of the contributions of statistical science to the well-being of humankind;

Whereas the science of statistics is vital to the improvement of human life because of the power of statistics to improve, enlighten, and understand;

Whereas statistics is the science of collecting, analyzing, and understanding data that permeates and bolsters all sciences;

Whereas statisticians contribute to the vitality and excellence of myriad aspects of United States society, including the economy, health care, security, commerce, education, and research;

Whereas rapidly increasing numbers of students in grades K through 16 and educators are recognizing the many benefits of statistical literacy as a collection of skills to intelligently cope with the requirements of citizenship, employment, and family;

Whereas statisticians contribute to smart and efficient government through the production of statistical data that informs on all aspects of our society, including population, labor, education, economy, transportation, health, energy, and crime;

Whereas the goals of the International Year of Statistics are to increase public awareness of the power and impact of statistics on all aspects of society, nurture statistics as a profession, especially among young people, and promote creativity and development in the sciences of probability and statistics; and

Whereas throughout the year, organizations in countries across the world will reach out to adults and children through symposia, conferences, demonstrations, workshops, contests, school activities, exhibitions, and other public events to increase awareness of the history and importance of statistics: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the year 2013 as the ''International Year of Statistics'';

(2) supports the goals and ideals of the International Year of Statistics;

(3) recognizes the necessity of educating the public on the merits of the sciences, including statistics, and promoting interest in the sciences among the youth of the United States; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to participate in the International Year of Statistics through participation in appropriate programs, activities, and ceremonies that call attention to the importance of statistics to the present and future well-being of the people of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 151—URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN TO ENSURE TRANSPARENT AND CREDIBLE PRESIDENTIAL AND PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS IN APRIL 2014 BY ADHERING TO INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED DEMOCRATIC STANDARDS, ESTABLISHING A TRANSPARENT ELECTORAL PROCESS, AND ENSURING SECURITY FOR VOTERS AND CANDIDATES

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 151

Whereas Afghanistan's Independent Election Commission has affirmed that Afghanistan will hold presidential and provincial elections in April 2014 and parliamentary elections in 2015;

Whereas Afghanistan's current electoral process was established in 2004 by the Constitution of Afghanistan;

Whereas the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework conditions some international assistance to Afghanistan on the holding of credible, inclusive, and transparent elections in 2014 and 2015, among other measures to improve governance;

Whereas Afghanistan lacks a comprehensive and accurate voter registry, and previous voter registration drives have resulted in duplicate or fraudulent registrations, according to a report by the National Democratic Institute;

Whereas security concerns and voter intimidation have impeded the ability of people in Afghanistan to cast votes reliably and safely in past elections;

Whereas Afghan women in particular are prevented from meaningful participation in the electoral process due to the security environment, the scarcity of female poll workers, and lack of awareness of women's political rights and opportunities, according to the Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan;

Whereas Afghanistan's 2009 presidential election was characterized by inadequate security for voters and candidates, low voter turnout, and widespread fraud, according to the National Democratic Institute;

Whereas Afghan officials, including President Karzai and Attorney General Mohammad Ishaq Aloko, disputed the results of Afghanistan's 2010 parliamentary elections and established a Special Election Tribunal to investigate allegations of fraud;

Whereas, following the 2010 parliamentary elections, Democracy International's Afghanistan Election Observation Mission concluded that comprehensive electoral reform is necessary to ensure a free, fair, and credible election process in 2014;

Whereas the Honorable Hamid Karzai is the first democratically elected president of modern Afghanistan and has served two terms in that position;

Whereas the Constitution of Afghanistan states, ''No one can be elected as president for more than two terms.'';

Whereas President Karzai stated on January 11, 2013, alongside President Barack Obama, ''The greatest of my achievements [. . .] will be a proper, well-organized, interference-free election in which the Afghan people can elect their next president.'';

Whereas, on several occasions since the late 1970s, civil war has broken out in Afghanistan over the legitimacy of the Afghan government;

Whereas United States taxpayers have invested more than $89,500,000,000 in reconstruction and humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan since October 2001, according to the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR);

Whereas a democratically-elected and legitimate government that reflects the will of the Afghan people is in the vital security interests of Afghanistan, the United States, its partners in the NATO International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), and Afghanistan's neighbors; and

Whereas the most critical milestone for Afghanistan's future stability is a peaceful and credible transition of power through presidential elections in 2014: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) affirms that the electoral process in Afghanistan should be determined and led by

Afghan actors, with support from the international community, and should not be subject to internal and external interference;

(2) expresses its strong support for credible, inclusive, and transparent presidential and provincial elections in April 2014;

(3) urges the Government of Afghanistan to conduct the elections in full accordance with the Constitution of Afghanistan, to include maintaining the quota for women's parliamentary participation;

(4) honors the sacrifice of United States, coalition, and Afghan service members who have been killed or injured since October 2001 in defense of the democratic rights of the Afghan people;

(5) recognizes the substantial investment made by the United States taxpayers in support of stability and democracy in Afghanistan;

(6) recognizes the contributions made by the government of President Hamid Karzai to the democratic progress of Afghanistan, including statements by President Karzai committing to hold presidential elections in 2014 and not seek a third term;

(7) recognizes that transparent and credible elections will safeguard the legitimacy of the next Afghan government and will help prevent future violence by groups that may be ready to contest a process perceived as rigged or dishonest;

(8) recognizes that a democratically-elected and legitimate government is as important to ensuring the long term stability of Afghanistan as the successful training and fielding of the Afghan National Security Forces;

(9) urges the Government of Afghanistan to recognize the independence and impartiality of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) and an elections complaints mechanism with clear jurisdiction over the final results, and urges all parties not to interfere with their deliberations;

(10) urges the Parliament of Afghanistan to pass legislation that will establish a consultative and inclusive process for appointing elections commissioners and allowing election disputes to be resolved transparently and fairly;

(11) urges the IEC to adopt measures to better mitigate fraud, include marginalized groups, and improve electoral transparency of the polling and counting process and communicate these measures clearly and consistently to the people of Afghanistan;

(12) urges the Government of Afghanistan to support a credible and effective electoral complaints mechanism whereby its members are perceived as impartial, it is given the ultimate authority on deciding whether a ballot or candidate is disqualified, and it has the time and resources to do its work;

(13) urges close and continuing communication between the IEC and the Afghan National Security Forces to identify and provide security for vulnerable areas of the country during the election period;

(14) urges the Afghan National Security Forces to make every necessary effort to ensure the safety of voters and candidates;

(15) expresses its support for the full participation of Afghan civil society in the election process; and

(16) urges the Secretary of State to condition financial, logistical, and political support for Afghanistan's 2014 elections based on the implementation of reforms in Afghanistan including—

(A) increased efforts to encourage women's participation in the electoral process, including provisions to ensure their full access to and security at polling stations;

(B) the implementation of measures to prevent fraudulent registration and manipulation of the voting or counting processes, including—

(i) establishment of processes to better control ballots;

(ii) vetting of and training for election officials; and

(iii) full accreditation of and access for international and domestic election observers; and

(C) prompt passage of legislation through the Parliament of Afghanistan that codifies the authorities and independence of the IEC and an independent and impartial election complaints mechanism.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 954. Mr. BEGICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 955. Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. FLAKE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 956. Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COBURN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. WARNER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. KIRK, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. LAUTENBERG) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 957. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 958. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 959. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 960. Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 961. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 962. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 963. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 964. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 965. Mr. SANDERS (for himself and Mr. BEGICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 966. Mr. FRANKEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 967. Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 968. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. BROWN, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. JOHANNS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 969. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 970. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. DONNELLY, and Mrs. FISCHER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 971. Mr. TESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 972. Mr. TESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 973. Mr. TESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 974. Mr. BEGICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 975. Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 976. Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. HARKIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 977. Mr. COWAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 978. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mrs. BOXER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 979. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 980. Mr. COWAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 981. Mr. ENZI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 982. Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 983. Mr. ENZI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 984. Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. JOHANNS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 985. Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. JOHANNS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 986. Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. HARKIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 987. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 988. Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 989. Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. JOHANNS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 990. Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. JOHANNS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 991. Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. JOHANNS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 992. Mr. FRANKEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 993. Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 994. Mr. VITTER (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 995. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 996. Mr. PRYOR (for himself and Mr. WICKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 997. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 998. Mr. LEAHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra.

SA 999. Mr. COBURN (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1000. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1001. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1002. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1003. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1004. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1005. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1006. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1007. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1008. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1009. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1010. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1011. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. DONNELLY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1012. Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1013. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1014. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1015. Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CHAMBLISS, and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1016. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1017. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1018. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1019. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1020. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1021. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1022. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1023. Mr. COWAN (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. REED, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1024. Mrs. BOXER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1025. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1026. Mrs. BOXER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1027. Mrs. BOXER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1028. Mrs. BOXER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1029. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1030. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. COWAN, and Mr. REED) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1031. Mrs. HAGAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1032. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1033. Mr. KING submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1034. Mr. KING submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1035. Mr. KING (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1036. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1037. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1038. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1039. Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. RISCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1040. Mr. ENZI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 925 submitted by Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. CORKER, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. COATS, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. HELLER) and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1041. Mr. ENZI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1042. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1043. Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Mr. COONS, and Mr. CHAMBLISS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1044. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1045. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1046. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1047. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1048. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1049. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1050. Mr. BEGICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1051. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1052. Mr. BOOZMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1053. Mr. BOOZMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1054. Mr. BOOZMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1055. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1056. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1057. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1058. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 954. Mr. BEGICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1150, after line 15, add the following:

SEC. 12213. DENALI COMMISSION REAUTHORIZATION.

The first section 310 of the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note; Public Law 105–277) (relating to authorization of appropriations)—

(1) is redesignated as section 312; and

(2) is amended by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Commission such sums as are necessary to carry out this title, in accordance with the purposes of this title, for fiscal year 2014 and each fiscal year thereafter.''.

SA 955. Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. FLAKE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1001, strike line 13 and insert the following:

''cal years 2014 through 2018.

''(6) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—None of the amounts made available to carry out this section shall be used to construct, fund, install, or operate an ethanol blender pump or ethanol storage facility.''.

SA 956. Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COBURN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. WARNER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. KIRK, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. LAUTENBERG) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1150, after line 15, insert the following:

SEC. 12_____. REPEAL OF DUPLICATIVE CATFISH INSPECTION PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Effective on the date of enactment of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8701 et seq.), section 11016 of such Act (Public Law 110–246; 122 Stat. 2130) and the amendments made by such section are repealed.

(b) APPLICATION.—The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.) and the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) shall be applied and administered as if section 11016 (Public Law 110–246; 122 Stat. 2130) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8701 et seq.) and the amendments made by such section had not been enacted.

SA 957. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of part IV of subtitle D of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1482. INCLUSION OF CALIFORNIA AS SEPARATE MILK MARKETING ORDER.

(a) INCLUSION AUTHORIZED.—On the petition and approval of California dairy producers in the manner provided in section 8c of the Agricultural Adjustment Act (7 U.S.C. 608c), reenacted with amendments by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, the Secretary shall designate the State of California as a separate Federal milk marketing order.

(b) SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS.—If designated under subsection (a), the order covering California shall have the right to reblend and distribute order receipts to recognize quota value.

SA 958. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 122____. LISTING OF LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKENS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, shall not make a decision on listing, or list, Lesser Prairie Chickens under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) earlier than March 31, 2015.

SA 959. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 363, strike lines 7 through 12, and insert ''(a)(1), by striking '; and (C)' and inserting''.

SA 960. Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 351, between lines 12 and 13, insert the following:

PART I—REAUTHORIZATION OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

On page 390, between line 17 and 18, insert the following:

PART II—NUTRITION ASSISTANCE BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

SEC. 4001A. NUTRITION ASSISTANCE BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For each of fiscal years 2015 through 2022, the Secretary shall establish a nutrition assistance block grant program under which the Secretary shall make annual grants to each participating State that establishes a nutrition assistance program in the State and submits to the Secretary annual reports under subsection (d).

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—As a requirement of receiving grants under this section, the Governor of each participating State shall certify that the State nutrition assistance program includes—

(1) work requirements;

(2) mandatory drug testing;

(3) verification of citizenship or proof of lawful permanent residency of the United States; and

(4) limitations on the eligible uses of benefits that are at least as restrictive as the limitations in place for the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) as of May 31, 2013.

(c) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—For each fiscal year, the Secretary shall make a grant to each participating State in an amount equal to the product of—

(1) the amount made available under section 4002A for the applicable fiscal year; and

(2) the proportion that—

(A) the number of legal residents in the State whose income does not exceed 100 percent of the poverty line (as defined in section 673(2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2), including any revision required by such section)) applicable to a family of the size involved; bears to

(B) the number of such individuals in all participating States for the applicable fiscal year, based on data for the most recent fiscal year for which data is available.

(d) ANNUAL REPORT REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1 of each year, each State that receives a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary a report that shall include, for the year covered by the report—

(A) a description of the structure and design of the nutrition assistance program of the State, including the manner in which residents of the State qualify for the program;

(B) the cost the State incurs to administer the program;

(C) whether the State has established a rainy day fund for the nutrition assistance program of the State; and

(D) general statistics about participation in the nutrition assistance program.

(2) AUDIT.—Each year, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(A) conduct an audit on the effectiveness of the nutritional assistance block grant program and the manner in which each participating State is implementing the program; and

(B) not later than June 30, submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing—

(i) the results of the audit; and

(ii) the manner in which the State will carry out the supplemental nutrition assistance program in the State, including eligibility and fraud prevention requirements.

(e) USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A State that receives a grant under this section may use the grant in any manner determined to be appropriate by the State to provide nutrition assistance to the legal residents of the State.

(2) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Grant funds made available to a State under this section shall—

(A) remain available to the State for a period of 5 years; and

(B) after that period, shall—

(i) revert to the Federal Government to be deposited in the Treasury and used for Federal budget deficit reduction; or

(ii) if there is no Federal budget deficit, be used to reduce the Federal debt in such manner as the Secretary of the Treasury considers appropriate.

SEC. 4002A. FUNDING.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this part—

(1) for fiscal year 2015, $45,500,000,000;

(2) for fiscal year 2016, $46,600,000,000;

(3) for fiscal year 2017, $47,800,000,000;

(4) for fiscal year 2018, $49,000,000,000;

(5) for fiscal year 2019, $50,200,000,000;

(6) for fiscal year 2020, $51,500,000,000;

(7) for fiscal year 2021, $52,800,000,000; and

(8) for fiscal year 2022, $54,100,000,000.

(b) ADJUSTMENTS TO DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 251(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(c)) is amended by striking paragraphs (5) through (10) and inserting the following:

''(5) with respect to fiscal year 2016, for the discretionary category, $1,131,500,000,000 in new budget authority;

''(6) with respect to fiscal year 2017, for the discretionary category, $1,178,800,000,000 in new budget authority;

''(7) with respect to fiscal year 2018, for the discretionary category, $1,205,000,000,000 in new budget authority;

''(8) with respect to fiscal year 2019, for the discretionary category, $1,232,200,000,000 in new budget authority;

''(9) with respect to fiscal year 2020, for the discretionary category, $1,259,500,000,000 in new budget authority; and

''(10) with respect to fiscal year 2021, for the discretionary category, $1,286,800,000,000 in new budget authority.''.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 251A of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901A) is amended—

(A) by striking the matter preceding paragraph (1) and inserting the following: ''Discretionary appropriations and direct spending accounts shall be reduced in accordance with this section as follows:'';

(B) by striking paragraphs (1) and (2);

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (11) as paragraphs (1) through (9), respectively;

(D) in paragraph (2), as redesignated, by striking ''paragraph (3)'' and inserting ''paragraph (1)'';

(E) in paragraph (3), as redesignated, by striking ''paragraph (4)'' each place it appears and inserting ''paragraph (2)'';

(F) in paragraph (4), as redesignated, by striking ''paragraph (4)'' each place it appears and inserting ''paragraph (2)'';

(G) in paragraph (5), as redesignated—

(i) by striking ''paragraph (5)'' each place it appears and inserting ''paragraph (3)''; and

(ii) by striking ''paragraph (6)'' each place it appears and inserting ''paragraph (4)'';

(H) in paragraph (6), as redesignated—

(i) by striking ''paragraph (4)'' and inserting ''paragraph (2)''; and

(ii) by striking ''paragraphs (5) and (6)'' and inserting ''paragraphs (3) and (4)'';

(I) in paragraph (7), as redesignated—

(i) by striking ''paragraph (8)'' and inserting ''paragraph (6)''; and

(ii) by striking ''paragraph (6)'' each place it appears and inserting ''paragraph (4)''; and

(J) in paragraph (9), as redesignated, by striking ''paragraph (4)'' and inserting ''paragraph (2)''.

SEC. 4003A. REPEALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Effective September 30, 2014, the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) is repealed.

(b) REPEAL OF MANDATORY FUNDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, effective September 30, 2014, the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) (as in effect prior to that date) shall cease to be a program funded through direct spending (as defined in section 250(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900(c)) prior to the amendment made by paragraph (2)).

(2) DIRECT SPENDING.—Effective September 30, 2014, section 250(c)(8) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900(c)(8)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by adding ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''; and'' at the end and inserting a period; and

(C) by striking subparagraph (C).

(3) ENTITLEMENT AUTHORITY.—Effective September 30, 2014, section 3(9) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 622(9)) is amended—

(A) by striking ''means—'' and all that follows through ''the authority to make'' and inserting ''means the authority to make'';

(B) by striking ''; and'' and inserting a period; and

(C) by striking subparagraph (B).

(c) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAW.—Any reference in this Act, an amendment made by this Act, or any other Act to the supplemental nutrition assistance program shall be considered to be a reference to the nutrition assistance block grant program under this part.

SEC. 4004A. BASELINE.

Notwithstanding section 257 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 907), the baseline shall assume that, on and after September 30, 2014, no benefits shall be provided under the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) (as in effect prior to that date).

SA 961. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1150, after line 15, add the following:

SEC. 12_____. STATE OPTION OF NON-PARTICIPATION IN RENEWABLE FUEL STANDARD.

Section 211(o)(2)(B) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7545(o)(2)(B)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(vi) ELECTION OF NON-PARTICIPATION BY STATE GOVERNMENT.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the applicable volume of renewable fuel as determined under this subparagraph shall be adjusted in accordance with this clause.

''(II) REQUIREMENTS.—On passage by a State legislature and signature by the Governor of the State of a law that elects to not participate in the applicable volume of renewable fuel in accordance with this clause, the Administrator shall allow a State to not participate in the applicable volume of renewable fuel determined under clause (i).

''(III) REDUCTION.—On the election of a State under subclause (II), the Administrator shall reduce the applicable volume of renewable fuel determined under clause (i) by the percentage that reflects the national gasoline consumption of the non-participating State that is attributable to that State.

''(IV) CREDITS TO HOLD FUEL SALES HARMLESS.—On the election of a State under subclause (II), the Administrator shall provide for the generation of credits for all gasoline (regardless of whether the gasoline is blended) provided through a fuel terminal in the State to be calculated as though the gasoline were blended with the maximum allowable ethanol content of gasoline allowed in that State to apply toward the applicable volume of renewable fuel determined under clause (i).''.

SA 962. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 169, strike line 17 and all that follows through page 170, line 16, and insert the following:

''(c) DIRECTION, CONTROL, AND SUPPORT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall be free from the direction and control of any person other than the Secretary or the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture.

''(2) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—The Division shall not receive administrative support (except on a reimbursable basis) from any agency other than the Office of the Secretary.

''(3) PROHIBITION ON DELEGATION.—The Secretary may not delegate to any other officer or employee of the Department, other than the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture or the Director, the authority of the Secretary with respect to the Division.''.

SA 963. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1150, after line 15, add the following:

SEC. 122_____. CFTC INVESTIGATION ON ENERGY FUTURES AND SWAPS MARKETS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, in coordination with the Oil and Gas Price Fraud Working Group, shall carry out an investigation and submit to Congress a report on whether any United States participant in the energy futures or swaps markets has engaged in price-fixing or has provided inaccurate information to a price reporting agency for the purpose of manipulating the published prices of gasoline, crude oil, heating oil, diesel fuel, or jet fuel.

(b) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the investigation under subsection (a), the Commodity Futures Trading Commission shall coordinate with appropriate Federal agencies and European Union agencies.

(c) REPORT CONTENTS.—The report under subsection (a) shall—

(1) include recommendations on how to make the pricing of gasoline, crude oil, heating oil, diesel fuel, and jet fuel more transparent, open, and free from manipulation, fraud, abuse, or excessive speculation; and

(2) be published on a publicly accessible Internet site of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

(d) REFERRAL TO AUTHORITIES.—If the Commodity Futures Trading Commission finds that illegal price-fixing has occurred, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission shall report those findings, along with any evidence, to the proper authorities.

SA 964. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1150, after line 15, add the following:

SEC. 122____. COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION REGULATION OF ENERGY MARKETS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) in 1974, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission was established as an independent agency with a mandate—

(A) to enforce and administer the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 1 et seq.);

(B) to ensure market integrity;

(C) to protect market users from fraud and abusive trading practices; and

(D) to prevent and prosecute manipulation of the price of any commodity in interstate commerce;

(2) Congress declared in section 4a of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 6a) that excessive speculation imposes an undue and unnecessary burden on interstate commerce;

(3) title VII of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.) required the Commission to establish position limits ''to diminish, eliminate, or prevent excessive speculation'' for trading in crude oil, gasoline, heating oil, diesel fuel, jet fuel, and other physical commodity derivatives by January 17, 2011;

(4) according to an article published in Forbes on February 27, 2012, excessive oil speculation ''translates out into a premium for gasoline at the pump of $.56 a gallon'' based on a 2012 report from Goldman Sachs;

(5) on May 10, 2013—

(A) the supply of finished motor gasoline in the United States was higher than the supply was on May 15, 2009, when the national average price for a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline was less than $2.30; and

(B) demand for finished motor gasoline in the United States was lower than demand was on May 15, 2009;

(6) on May 17, 2013, the national average price of regular unleaded gasoline was $3.62 a gallon, an increase of more $1.30 per gallon as compared to 2009, when finished motor gasoline supplies were lower and demand was higher;

(7) the International Energy Agency forecast on May 14, 2013, that the global supply of oil will surge by 8,400,000 barrels per day over the subsequent 5-year period, a pace that is significantly faster than demand, with nearly ⅔ of that increase occurring in North America;

(8) on November 3, 2011, Gary Gensler, the Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission testified before the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations that ''80 to 87 percent of the [oil futures] market'' is dominated by ''financial participants, swap dealers, hedge funds, and other financials,'' a figure that has more than doubled over the prior decade;

(9) excessive oil and gasoline speculation is creating major market disturbances that prevent the market from accurately reflecting the forces of supply and demand; and

(10) the Commodity Futures Trading Commission has a responsibility—

(A) to ensure that the price discovery for oil and gasoline accurately reflects the fundamentals of supply and demand; and

(B) to take immediate action to implement strong and meaningful position limits to regulated exchange markets to eliminate excessive oil speculation.

(b) ACTIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission shall use the authority of the Commission (including emergency powers, if necessary)—

(1) to implement position limits that diminish, eliminate, or prevent excessive speculation in the trading of crude oil, gasoline, heating oil, diesel fuel, jet fuel, and other physical commodity derivatives, as required under title VII of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.); and

(2) to curb immediately the role of excessive speculation in any contract market within the jurisdiction and control of the Commission, on or through which energy futures or swaps are traded.

SA 965. Mr. SANDERS (for himself and Mr. BEGICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1150, after line 15, add the following:

SEC. 12213. CONSUMERS RIGHT TO KNOW ABOUT GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Consumers Right to Know About Genetically Engineered Food Act''.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) surveys of the American public consistently show that 90 percent or more of the people of the United States want genetically engineered to be labeled as such;

(2) a landmark public health study in Canada found that—

(A) 93 percent of pregnant women had detectable toxins from genetically engineered foods in their blood; and

(B) 80 percent of the babies of those women had detectable toxins in their umbilical cords;

(3) the tenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States clearly reserves powers in the system of Federalism to the States or to the people; and

(4) States have the authority to require the labeling of foods produced through genetic engineering or derived from organisms that have been genetically engineered.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) GENETIC ENGINEERING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''genetic engineering'' means a process that alters an organism at the molecular or cellular level by means that are not possible under natural conditions or processes.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ''genetic engineering'' includes—

(i) recombinant DNA and RNA techniques;

(ii) cell fusion;

(iii) microencapsulation;

(iv) macroencapsulation;

(v) gene deletion and doubling;

(vi) introduction of a foreign gene; and

(vii) changing the position of genes.

(C) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ''genetic engineering'' does not include any modification to an organism that consists exclusively of—

(i) breeding;

(ii) conjugation;

(iii) fermentation;

(iv) hybridization;

(v) in vitro fertilization; or

(vi) tissue culture.

(2) GENETICALLY ENGINEERED INGREDIENT.—The term ''genetically engineered ingredient'' means any ingredient in any food, beverage, or other edible product that—

(A) is, or is derived from, an organism that is produced through the intentional use of genetic engineering; or

(B) is, or is derived from, the progeny of intended sexual reproduction, asexual reproduction, or both of 1 or more organisms described in subparagraph (A).

(d) RIGHT TO KNOW.—Notwithstanding any other Federal law (including regulations), a State may require that any food, beverage, or other edible product offered for sale in that State have a label on the container or package of the food, beverage, or other edible product, indicating that the food, beverage, or other edible product contains a genetically engineered ingredient.

(e) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commissioner of Food and Drugs and the Secretary of Agriculture shall promulgate such regulations as are necessary to carry out this section.

(f) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall submit a report to Congress detailing the percentage of food and beverages sold in the United States that contain genetically engineered ingredients.

SA 966. Mr. FRANKEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 993, line 20, strike ''$2,000,000'' and insert ''$4,000,000''.

On page 994, line 1, strike ''$3,000,000'' and insert ''$4,000,000''.

On page 996, strike lines 14 and 15 and insert the following:

''(ii) $69,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2018.

On page 1001, line 7, strike ''$20,000,000'' and insert ''$70,000,000''.

On page 1001, line 12, strike ''$68,200,000'' and insert ''$70,000,000''.

On page 1002, line 6, strike ''$26,000,000'' and insert ''$30,000,000''.

On page 1019, line 9, strike ''$38,600,000'' and insert ''$75,000,000''.

On page 1019, strike line 17 and insert the following:

under subsection (d)(2).

''(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018.''.

On page 1022, between lines 4 and 5, insert the following:

(e) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Section 9013 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8113) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this section $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018.''.

SA 967. Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which

was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1022, between lines 8 and 9, insert the following:

SEC. 90___. DOWNWARD ADJUSTMENT OF RENEWABLE FUEL VOLUME.

Section 211(o)(7)(D)(i) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7545(o)(7)(D)(i)) is amended in the second sentence—

(1) by striking ''may also'' and inserting ''shall''; and

(2) by striking ''or a lesser''.

SA 968. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. BROWN, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. JOHANNS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 159, lines 23 and 24, strike ''PEANUTS AND OTHER''.

On page 160, beginning on line 3, strike ''for—'' and all that follows through ''1 or more other'' on line 5 and insert ''for 1 or more''.

SA 969. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1150, after line 15, add the following:

SEC. 12___. SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR COMPETITION MATTERS.

Subtitle I of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7005) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 286. OFFICE OF COMPETITION AND FAIR PRACTICES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established within the Department of Agriculture the Office of Competition and Fair Practices, headed by a Special Counsel for Competition Matters.

''(b) DUTIES.—The Special Counsel shall—

''(1) analyze mergers within the food and agricultural sectors, in consultation with the Chief Economist of the Department of Agriculture, the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice, and the Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission; and

''(2) investigate and prosecute violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 181 et seq.).

''(c) AUTHORIZATION FOR ADDITIONAL STAFF AND FUNDING.—

''(1) ADDITIONAL STAFF.—The Special Counsel shall hire sufficient employees (including antitrust and litigation attorneys, economists, and investigators) to appropriately carry out the responsibilities of the Office of Competition and Fair Practices under this Act.

''(2) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out paragraph (1).''.

SA 970. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. DONNELLY, and Mrs. FISCHER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1125, after line 23, insert the following:

SEC. 12108. LIVESTOCK INFORMATION DISCLOSURE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) United States livestock producers supply a vital link in the food supply of the United States, which is listed as a critical infrastructure by the Secretary of Homeland Security;

(2) domestic terrorist attacks have occurred at livestock operations across the United States, endangering the lives and property of people of the United States;

(3) livestock operations in the United States are largely family owned and operated with most families living at the same location as the livestock operation;

(4) State governments and agencies are the primary authority in almost all States for the protection of water quality under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.);

(5) State agencies maintain records on livestock operations and have the authority to address water quality issues where needed; and

(6) there is no discernible environmental or scientifically research-related need to create a database or other system of records of livestock operations in the United States by the Administrator.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) AGENCY.—The term ''Agency'' means the Environmental Protection Agency.

(3) LIVESTOCK OPERATION.—The term ''livestock operation'' includes any operation involved in the raising or finishing of livestock and poultry.

(c) PROCUREMENT AND DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.—

(1) PROHIBITION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Administrator, any officer or employee of the Agency, or any contractor or cooperator of the Agency, shall not disclose the information of any owner, operator, or employee of a livestock operation provided to the Agency by a livestock producer or a State agency in accordance with the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) or any other law, including—

(i) names;

(ii) telephone numbers;

(iii) email addresses;

(iv) physical addresses;

(v) Global Positioning System coordinates; or

(vi) other identifying information regarding the location of the owner, operator, or employee.

(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in paragraph (1) affects—

(A) the disclosure of information described in paragraph (1) if—

(i) the information has been transformed into a statistical or aggregate form at the county level or higher without any information that identifies the agricultural operation or agricultural producer; or

(ii) the livestock producer consents to the disclosure; or

(B) the authority of any State agency to collect information on livestock operations.

(3) CONDITION OF PERMIT OR OTHER PROGRAMS.—The approval of any permit, practice, or program administered by the Administrator shall not be conditioned on the consent of the livestock producer under paragraph (2)(A)(ii).

SA 971. Mr. TESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 122_____. ANNUAL REPORT ON AGRICULTURAL CONSOLIDATION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) MARKET SIZE.—The term ''market size'' includes the volume of the appropriate unit measurement of—

(A) slaughter volume (in head);

(B) purchasing volume (in bushels or hundredweight);

(C) processing volume (in metric tons or millions of pounds); and

(D) sales (in millions of pounds or dollars).

(2) NAICS CODE.—The term ''NAICS code'' means the appropriate code of the North American Industrial Classification System, including any subset of the code.

(3) NATIONAL MARKET SHARE.—The term ''national market share'', in terms of the appropriate agricultural sector or subsector, means total national sales and purchases of agricultural and food products.

(4) PARENT COMPANY.—The term ''parent company'' includes all subsidiaries and joint ventures of the parent company.

(b) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than June 31, 2014, and each June 31 thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate an annual report that includes statistics related to the 4 largest firms in each of the agricultural sectors and subsectors described in subsection (c).

(c) CONTENTS.—Each report under subsection (b) shall include, with respect to the prior calendar year, the parent company name, national market size, and national market share of the 4 largest firms in the following sectors and subsectors:

(1) Beef slaughter and packing (NAICS code 311611 for plants that solely slaughter beef cattle).

(2) Hog slaughter and packing (NAICS code 311611 for plants that solely slaughter hogs).

(3) Pork processing (NAICS code 311612 for plants that solely process swine meat).

(4) Broiler slaughter and processing (NAICS code 311615 for plants that solely slaughter and process broiler chickens for meat).

(5) Turkey slaughter and processing (NAICS code 311615 for plants that solely slaughter and process turkeys).

(6) Fluid milk processing (NAICS code 311511).

(7) Fluid milk handling (NAICS code 484220 for milk hauling and NAICS code 424430 for milk, fluid (except canned), merchant wholesalers).

(8) Grain and oilseed handling (NAICS code 424510 for grain elevators merchant wholesalers grain and soybeans merchant wholesalers).

(9) Wet corn milling (NAICS code 311221).

(10) Soybean crushing (NAICS code 311222).

(11) Wheat flour milling (NAICS code 311211).

(12) Ethanol production (fuel ethanol, wet mill process NAICS code 32519301).

(13) Commodity seed manufacturing and trait ownership for corn, soybeans, wheat and cotton, including—

(A) seed manufacturing (NAICS code 115114 for seed processing, post-harvest for propagation); and

(B) seed trait licensing (biotechnology research and development laboratories or services in agriculture NAICS code 541711 and agriculture research and development laboratories or services (except biotechnology research and development) NAICS code 541712).

(14) Fertilizer manufacturers, including—

(A) phosphatic fertilizer manufacturing (NAICS code 325312); and

(B) nitrogenous fertilizer manufacturing (NAICS code 325311).

(15) Herbicide manufacturers (NAICS code 325320).

(16) Frozen fruit and vegetable manufacturers (NAICS code 311411).

(17) Canned fruit and vegetable manufacturers (NAICS code 311421).

(18) Grocery retailers (NAICS code 445110).

(19) Hog stations or hog merchant wholesalers (NAICS code 424520 for firms that solely buy and sell hogs).

(20) Cattle sale barns or merchant wholesalers (NAICS code 424520 for firms that solely buy and sell cattle).

SA 972. Mr. TESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 934, strike lines 5 through 12, and insert the following:

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

''(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(A) CONVENTIONAL BREEDING.—The term 'conventional breeding' means the development of new varieties of an organism through controlled mating and selection without the use of transgenic methods.

''(B) PUBLIC BREED.—The term 'public breed' means a breed that is the commercially available uniform end product of a publicly funded breeding program that—

''(i) has been sufficiently tested to demonstrate improved characteristics and stabile performance; and

''(ii) remains in the public domain for research purposes.

''(C) PUBLIC CULTIVAR.—The term 'public cultivar' means a cultivar that is the commercially available uniform end product of a publicly funded breeding program that—

''(i) has been sufficiently tested to demonstrate improved characteristics and stabile performance; and

''(ii) remains in the public domain for research purposes.'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(iii), by striking ''conventional breeding, including cultivar and breed development,'' and inserting ''public cultivar development through conventional breeding with no requirement or preference for the use of marker-assisted or genomic selection methods, including''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(iv), by striking ''conventional breeding, including breed development,'' and inserting ''public breed development through conventional breeding with no requirement or preference for the use of marker-assisted or genomic selection methods, including'';

(B) in paragraph (4)(A), by inserting '', including by conducting each fiscal year at least 1 separate request for applications for grants for research on public cultivar development through conventional breeding as described in paragraph (2)'' before the semicolon at the end; and

(C) in paragraph (11)(A)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''2012'' and inserting ''2018''; and

(ii) in clause (i), by striking ''integrated research'' and all that follows through ''; and'' and inserting ''integrated research, extension, and education activities; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

SA 973. Mr. TESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 177, strike line 15 and insert the following:

during each fiscal year.

''(3) RESERVATION.—Effective beginning in fiscal year 2015, the Secretary, to the maximum extent feasible, shall manage the conservation reserve to ensure that, on an annual basis, not less than 20.5 percent of land maintained in the program shall be—

''(A) described in subparagraphs (B) through (F) of subsection (b)(4); and

''(B) enrolled under—

''(i) the special conservation reserve enhancement program authority under section 1234(f)(4); or

''(ii) the pilot program for the enrollment of wetland and buffer acreage under section 1231B.''.

SA 974. Mr. BEGICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 421, between lines 3 and 4, insert the following:

SEC. 42_____. SERVICE OF TRADITIONAL FOODS IN PUBLIC FACILITIES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM.—The term ''food service program'' includes—

(A) food service at a residential child care facility with a license from an appropriate State agency;

(B) a child nutrition program (as defined in section 25(b) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769f (b));

(C) food service at a hospital or clinic; and

(D) a senior meal program.

(2) INDIAN; INDIAN TRIBE.—The terms ''Indian'' and ''Indian tribe'' have the meanings given those terms in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

(3) TRADITIONAL FOOD.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''traditional food'' means food that has traditionally been prepared and consumed by an Indian tribe.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ''traditional food'' includes—

(i) wild game meat;

(ii) fish;

(iii) seafood; and

(iv) plants.

(b) PROGRAM.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, on the request of a Governor of a State, the Secretary shall allow the donation to and serving of traditional food through a food service program at a public facility or a nonprofit that primarily serves Indians if the operator of the food service program—

(1) ensures that the food is received whole, gutted, gilled, as quarters, or as a roast, without further processing;

(2) makes a reasonable determination that—

(A) the animal was not diseased;

(B) the food was butchered, dressed, transported, and stored to prevent contamination, undesirable microbial growth, or deterioration; and

(C) the food will not cause a significant health hazard or potential for human illness;

(3) carries out any further preparation or processing of the food at a different time or in a different space from the preparation or processing of other food for the applicable program to prevent cross-contamination;

(4) cleans and sanitizes food-contact surfaces of equipment and utensils after processing the traditional food; and

(5) labels donated traditional food with the name of the food and stores the traditional food separately from other food for the applicable program, including through storage in a separate freezer or refrigerator or in a separate compartment or shelf in the freezer or refrigerator.

SA 975. Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 902, line 13, strike ''subsections (j) and (k)'' and insert ''subsections (k) and (l)''.

On page 918, strike line 7 and insert the following:

''2014 through 2018.

''(j) COFFEE PLANT HEALTH INITIATIVE.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a coffee plant health initiative to address the critical needs of the coffee industry by—

''(A) developing and disseminating science-based tools and treatments to combat the coffee berry borer (*Hypothenemus hampei*); and

''(B) establishing an area-wide integrated pest management program in areas affected by or areas at risk of being affected by the coffee berry borer.

''(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The Secretary may carry out the coffee plant health initiative through—

''(A) Federal agencies, including the Agricultural Research Service and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture;

''(B) National Laboratories;

''(C) institutions of higher education;

''(D) research institutions or organizations;

''(E) private organizations or corporations;

''(F) State agricultural experiment stations;

''(G) individuals; or

''(H) groups consisting of 2 or more entities or individuals described in subparagraphs (A) through (G).

''(3) PROJECT GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall—

''(A) enter into cooperative agreements with eligible entities, as appropriate; and

''(B) award grants on a competitive basis.

''(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection $2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018.'';

On page 918, line 8, strike ''subsection (j)'' and insert ''subsection (k)''.

On page 918, line 11, strike ''subsection (k)'' and insert ''subsection (l)''.

SA 976. Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. HARKIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle D—Student Loan Affordability Act

SEC. 12301. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Student Loan Affordability Act''.

SEC. 12302. INTEREST RATE EXTENSION.

Section 455(b)(7)(D) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(b)(7)(D)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''and before July 1, 2013,'' and inserting ''and before July 1, 2015,''; and

(2) in clause (v), by striking ''and before July 1, 2013,'' and inserting ''and before July 1, 2015,''.

SEC. 12303. MODIFICATIONS OF REQUIRED DISTRIBUTION RULES FOR PENSION PLANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 401(a)(9)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

''(B) REQUIRED DISTRIBUTIONS WHERE EMPLOYEE DIES BEFORE ENTIRE INTEREST IS DISTRIBUTED.—

''(i) 5-YEAR GENERAL RULE.—A trust shall not constitute a qualified trust under this section unless the plan provides that, if an employee dies before the distribution of the employee's interest (whether or not such distribution has begun in accordance with subparagraph (A)), the entire interest of the employee will be distributed within 5 years after the death of such employee.

''(ii) EXCEPTION FOR ELIGIBLE DESIGNATED BENEFICIARIES.—If—

''(I) any portion of the employee's interest is payable to (or for the benefit of) an eligible designated beneficiary,

''(II) such portion will be distributed (in accordance with regulations) over the life of such eligible designated beneficiary (or over a period not extending beyond the life expectancy of such beneficiary), and

''(III) such distributions begin not later than 1 year after the date of the employee's death or such later date as the Secretary may by regulations prescribe,

then, for purposes of clause (i) and except as provided in clause (iv) or subparagraph (E)(iii), the portion referred to in subclause (I) shall be treated as distributed on the date on which such distributions begin.

''(iii) SPECIAL RULE FOR SURVIVING SPOUSE OF EMPLOYEE.—If the eligible designated beneficiary referred to in clause (ii)(I) is the surviving spouse of the employee—

''(I) the date on which the distributions are required to begin under clause (ii)(III) shall not be earlier than the date on which the employee would have attained age 70½, and

''(II) if the surviving spouse dies before the distributions to such spouse begin, this subparagraph shall be applied as if the surviving spouse were the employee.

''(iv) RULES UPON DEATH OF ELIGIBLE DESIGNATED BENEFICIARY.—If an eligible designated beneficiary dies before the portion of an employee's interest described in clause (ii) is entirely distributed, clause (ii) shall not apply to any beneficiary of such eligible designated beneficiary and the remainder of such portion shall be distributed within 5 years after the death of such beneficiary.''.

(b) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE DESIGNATED BENEFICIARY.—Section 401(a)(9)(E) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

''(E) DEFINITIONS AND RULES RELATING TO DESIGNATED BENEFICIARY.—For purposes of this paragraph—

''(i) DESIGNATED BENEFICIARY.—The term 'designated beneficiary' means any individual designated as a beneficiary by the employee.

''(ii) ELIGIBLE DESIGNATED BENEFICIARY.—The term 'eligible designated beneficiary' means, with respect to any employee, any designated beneficiary who, as of the date of death of the employee, is—

''(I) the surviving spouse of the employee,

''(II) subject to clause (iii), a child of the employee who has not reached majority (within the meaning of subparagraph (F)),

''(III) disabled (within the meaning of section 72(m)(7)),

''(IV) a chronically ill individual (within the meaning of section 7702B(c)(2), except that the requirements of subparagraph (A)(i) thereof shall only be treated as met if there is a certification that, as of such date, the period of inability described in such subparagraph with respect to the individual is an indefinite one that is reasonably expected to be lengthy in nature), or

''(V) an individual not described in any of the preceding subparagraphs who is not more than 10 years younger than the employee.

''(iii) SPECIAL RULE FOR CHILDREN.—Subject to subparagraph (F), an individual described in clause (ii)(II) shall cease to be an eligible designated beneficiary as of the date the individual reaches majority and the requirement of subparagraph (B)(i) shall not be treated as met with respect to any remaining portion of an employee's interest payable to the individual unless such portion is distributed within 5 years after such date.''.

(c) REQUIRED BEGINNING DATE.—Section 401(a)(9)(C) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new clause:

''(v) EMPLOYEES BECOMING 5-PERCENT OWNERS AFTER AGE 70½.—If an employee becomes a 5-percent owner (as defined in section 416) with respect to a plan year ending in a calendar year after the calendar year in which the employee attains age 70½, then clause (i)(II) shall be applied by substituting the calendar year in which the employee became such an owner for the calendar year in which the employee retires.''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in this subsection, the amendments made by this section shall apply to distributions with respect to employees who die after December 31, 2013.

(2) REQUIRED BEGINNING DATE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The amendment made by subsection (c) shall apply to employees becoming a 5-percent owner with respect to plan years ending in calendar years beginning before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(B) SPECIAL RULE.—If—

(i) an employee became a 5-percent owner with respect to a plan year ending in a calendar year which began before January 1, 2013, and

(ii) the employee has not retired before calendar year 2014,

such employee shall be treated as having become a 5-percent owner with respect to a plan year ending in 2013 for purposes of applying section 401(a)(9)(C)(v) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as added by the amendment made by subsection (c)).

(3) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN BENEFICIARIES.—If a designated beneficiary of an employee who dies before January 1, 2014, dies after December 31, 2013—

(A) the amendments made by this section shall apply to any beneficiary of such designated beneficiary, and

(B) the designated beneficiary shall be treated as an eligible designated beneficiary for purposes of applying section 401(a)(9)(B)(iv) of such Code (as in effect after the amendments made by this section).

(4) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN EXISTING ANNUITY CONTRACTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall not apply to a qualified annuity which is a binding annuity contract in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and at all times thereafter.

(B) QUALIFIED ANNUITY CONTRACT.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ''qualified annuity'' means, with respect to an employee, an annuity—

(i) which is a commercial annuity (as defined in section 3405(e)(6) of such Code) or payable by a defined benefit plan,

(ii) under which the annuity payments are substantially equal periodic payments (not less frequently than annually) over the lives of such employee and a designated beneficiary (or over a period not extending beyond the life expectancy of such employee or the life expectancy of such employee and a designated beneficiary) in accordance with the regulations described in section 401(a)(9)(A)(ii) of such Code (as in effect before such amendments) and which meets the other requirements of this section 401(a)(9) of such Code (as so in effect) with respect to such payments, and

(iii) with respect to which—

(I) annuity payments to the employee have begun before January 1, 2014, and the employee has made an irrevocable election before such date as to the method and amount of the annuity payments to the employee or any designated beneficiaries, or

(II) if subclause (I) does not apply, the employee has made an irrevocable election before the date of the enactment of this Act as to the method and amount of the annuity payments to the employee or any designated beneficiaries.

SEC. 12304. LIMITATION ON EARNINGS STRIPPING BY EXPATRIATED ENTITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (j) of section 163 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (9) as paragraph (10), and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (8) the following new paragraph:

''(9) SPECIAL RULES FOR EXPATRIATED ENTITIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a corporation to which this subsection applies which is an expatriated entity, this subsection shall apply to such corporation with the following modifications:

''(i) Paragraph (2)(A) shall be applied without regard to clause (ii) thereof.

''(ii) Paragraph (1)(B) shall be applied—

''(I) without regard to the parenthetical, and

''(II) by substituting 'in the 1st succeeding taxable year and in the 2nd through 10th succeeding taxable years to the extent not previously taken into account under this subparagraph' for 'in the succeeding taxable year'.

''(iii) Paragraph (2)(B) shall be applied—

''(I) without regard to clauses (ii) and (iii), and

''(II) by substituting '25 percent of the adjusted taxable income of the corporation for such taxable year' for the matter of clause (i)(II) thereof.

''(B) EXPATRIATED ENTITY.—For purposes of this paragraph—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a corporation and a taxable year, the term 'expatriated entity' has the meaning given such term by section 7874(a)(2), determined as if such section and the regulations under such section as in effect on the first day of such taxable year applied to all taxable years of the corporation beginning after July 10, 1989.

''(ii) EXCEPTION FOR SURROGATES TREATED AS A DOMESTIC CORPORATION.—The term 'expatriated entity' does not include a surrogate foreign corporation which is treated as a domestic corporation by reason of section 7874(b).''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 12305. MODIFICATIONS RELATED TO THE OIL SPILL LIABILITY TRUST FUND.

(a) DEFINITION OF CRUDE OIL.—Paragraph (1) of section 4612(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

''(1) CRUDE OIL.—The term 'crude oil' includes crude oil condensates, natural gasoline, any bitumen or bituminous mixture, and any oil derived from a bitumen or bituminous mixture.''.

(b) REMOVING RESTRICTIONS RELATING TO OIL WELLS AND EXTRACTION METHODS.—Paragraph (2) of section 4612(a) of the Internal

Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''from a well located''.

(c) PERMANENT EXTENSION OF OIL SPILL LIABILITY TRUST FUND FINANCING RATE.—Section 4611(f) is amended by striking subsection (f).

(d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—Subclause (I) of section 4612(e)(2)(B)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''tranferred'' and inserting ''transferred''.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall apply to crude oil and petroleum products received or entered during calendar quarters beginning more than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 12306. RESERVING RESULTING SURPLUSES FOR DEFICIT REDUCTION.

(a) PAYGO SCORECARD.—The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(d)).

(b) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARD.—The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress).

SA 977. Mr. COWAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 914, between lines 13 and 14, insert the following:

''(i) SOIL AMENDMENT STUDY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a study to assess which types of, and which practices associated with the use of, fertilizers, biostimulants, and soil amendments best achieve the goals described in paragraph (2).

''(2) GOALS.—The goals referred to in paragraph (1) are—

''(A) increasing organic matter content;

''(B) reducing atmospheric volatilization;

''(C) limiting or eliminating runoff or leaching into groundwater or other water sources; and

''(D) restoring beneficial bioactivity or healthy nutrients to the soil.

''(3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of receipt of funds to carry out this subsection, the Secretary shall make publicly available and submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that—

''(A) describes the results of the study; and

''(B) identifies the types of, and practices using, fertilizers, biostimulants, and soil amendments that best achieve the goals identified in paragraph (2).''.

SA 978. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mrs. BOXER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 12_____. PLANT PROTECTION ACT.

Division A of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113–6) is amended by striking section 735 (127 Stat. 231).

SA 979. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1150, after line 15, add the following:

SEC. 12_____. STUDY ON THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall conduct a study of the economic impacts of extreme weather events and climate change on agriculture in the United States.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The study under subsection (a) shall—

(1) consider the economic impacts of extreme weather events and climate change during, as the Secretary determines to be appropriate—

(A) the initial short-term period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) a subsequent long-term period;

(2) include an analysis of the impacts of extreme weather events and climate change on—

(A) dairy, grain, meat and poultry, specialty crops (such as fruits, vegetables, wine, and maple syrup), forestry and forest products, and other agricultural products; and

(B) rural economies, including tourism and the ski industry; and

(3) use a range of sources for purposes of analyzing the economic impacts, including observations from, and the experience of, agriculture producers.

SA 980. Mr. COWAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 396, strike lines 8 through 12, and insert the following:

SEC. 4202. SENIOR FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4402(a) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3007(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''$20,600,000'' and inserting ''$25,000,000''; and

(2) by striking ''2012'' and inserting ''2018''.

(b) OFFSET.—Out of any unobligated amounts that remain available to the Secretary under section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935 (7 U.S.C. 612c), the Secretary shall use to carry out the program under section 4402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3007) not more than $22,000,000 for fiscal years 2013 through 2018.

SA 981. Mr. ENZI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1125, after line 23, add the following:

SEC. 121___. ALTERNATIVE MARKETING ARRANGEMENTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 221 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1635d) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (8) as paragraphs (2) through (9), respectively; and

(2) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as so redesignated) the following:

''(1) ALTERNATIVE MARKETING ARRANGEMENT.—The term 'alternative marketing arrangement' means the advance commitment of cattle for slaughter by any means—

''(A) other than a negotiated purchase or forward contract; and

''(B) that does not use a method for calculating price in which the price is determined at a future date.''.

(b) MANDATORY REPORTING FOR LIVE CATTLE.—Section 222(d)(1) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1635e(d)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(F) The quantity of cattle delivered under an alternative marketing arrangement that were slaughtered.''.

SA 982. Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1084, strikes line 20 through 22 and insert the following:

SEC. 11_____. PACKERS AND POULTRY.

(a) LIMITATION ON USE OF ANTI-COMPETITIVE FORWARD CONTRACTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 202 of the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 192), is amended—

(A) in subsection (g), by striking ''or (e)'' and inserting ''(e), or (f)'';

(B) by redesignating subsections (f) and (g) as subsection (g) and (h), respectively;

(C) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

''(f)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), use, in effectuating any sale of livestock, a forward contract that—

''(A) does not contain a firm base price that may be equated to a fixed dollar amount on the day on which the forward contract is entered into; or

''(B) is based on a formula price.

''(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to—

''(A) a cooperative or entity owned by a cooperative, if a majority of the ownership interest in the cooperative is held by active cooperative members that—

''(B) own, feed, or control livestock; and

''(C) provide the livestock to the cooperative for slaughter;

''(D) a packer that is not required to report to the Secretary on each reporting day (as defined in section 212 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1635a)) information on the price and quantity of livestock purchased by the packer; or

''(E) a packer that owns 1 livestock processing plant.''.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2(a) of the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 182(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(15) FIRM BASE PRICE.—The term 'firm base price' means a transaction using a reference price from an external source.

''(16) FORMULA PRICE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'formula price' means any price term that establishes a base from which a purchase price is calculated on the basis of a price that will not be determined or reported until a date after the day the forward price is established.

''(B) EXCLUSION.—The term 'formula price' does not include—

''(i) any price term that establishes a base from which a purchase price is calculated on the basis of a futures market price; or

''(ii) any adjustment to the base for quality, grade, or other factors relating to the value of livestock or livestock products that are readily verifiable market factors and are outside the control of the packer.

''(17) FORWARD CONTRACT.—The term 'forward contract' means an oral or written contract for the purchase of livestock that provides for the delivery of the livestock to a

packer at a date that is more than 7 days after the date on which the contract is entered into, without regard to whether the contract is for—

''(A) a specified lot of livestock; or

''(B) a specified number of livestock over a certain period of time.''.

(b) POULTRY BUSINESS DISRUPTION INSURANCE POLICY AND CATASTROPHIC DISEASE PROGRAM.—Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7

SA 983. Mr. ENZI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 134, line 13, before the period insert ''using the weekly price reports of the Agricultural Marketing Service''.

SA 984. Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. JOHANNS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1050, after line 23, add the following:

SEC. 10013. IMPORTATION OF SEED.

Section 17(c) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136o(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) IMPORTATION OF SEED.—For purposes of this subsection, seed, including treated seed, shall not be considered to be a pesticide or device.

''(3) APPLICABILITY.—Nothing in this subsection precludes or limits the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture with respect to the importation or movement of plants, plant products, or seeds under—

''(A) the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.); and

''(B) the Federal Seed Act (7 U.S.C. 1551 et seq.).''.

SA 985. Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. JOHANNS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 38, strike line 3 and all that follows through page 41, line 14, and insert the following:

SEC. 1107. AVAILABILITY OF ADVERSE MARKET PAYMENTS.

(a) PAYMENT REQUIRED.—For each of the 2014 through 2018 crop years for rice and peanuts, the Secretary shall make adverse market payments to producers on farms for which payment yields and base acres are established with respect to the rice and peanuts if the Secretary determines that the actual price for the rice or peanuts is less than the reference price for the rice or peanuts.

(b) ACTUAL PRICE.—

(1) PEANUTS.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), for purposes of subsection (a), the actual price for peanuts is equal to the higher of the following:

(A) The national average market price received by producers during the 12-month marketing year for the peanuts as determined by the Secretary.

(B) The national average loan rate for a marketing assistance loan for the peanuts in effect for the applicable period under subtitle B.

(2) RICE.—In the case of long grain rice and medium grain rice, for purposes of subsection (a), the actual price for each type or class of rice is equal to the higher of the following:

(A) The national average market price received by producers during the 12-month marketing year for the type or class of rice, as determined by the Secretary.

(B) The national average loan rate for a marketing assistance loan for the type or class of rice in effect for the applicable period under subtitle B.

(c) REFERENCE PRICE.—The reference price shall be—

(1) in the case of long and medium grain rice, $13.30 per hundredweight; and

(2) in the case of peanuts, $523.77 per ton.

(d) PAYMENT RATE.—The payment rate used to make adverse market payments with respect to rice and peanuts for a crop year shall be equal to the amount that—

(1) the reference price under subsection (c) for the rice or peanuts; exceeds

(2) the actual price determined under subsection (b) for the rice or peanuts.

(e) PAYMENT AMOUNT.—If adverse market payments are required to be paid under this section for any of the 2014 through 2018 crop years of rice or peanuts, the amount of the adverse market payment to be paid to the producers on a farm for that crop year shall be equal to the product of the following:

(1) The payment rate specified in subsection (d).

(2) The payment acres of the rice or peanuts on the farm.

(3) The payment yield for the rice or peanuts for the farm.

(f) TIME FOR PAYMENTS.—If the Secretary determines under subsection (a) that adverse market payments are required to be made under this section for the crop of rice or peanuts, beginning October 1, or as soon as practicable thereafter, after the end of the applicable marketing year for the rice or peanuts, the Secretary shall make the adverse market payments for the crop.

SA 986. Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. HARKIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 447, strike line 10 and all that follows through page 460, line 18, and insert the following:

''(2) EXCEPTIONS.—In this subsection, the term 'direct operating loan' does not include—

''(A) a loan made to a youth under subsection (d); or

''(B) a microloan made to a beginning farmer or rancher or a veteran farmer or rancher (as defined in section 2501(e) of the Food Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(e)).

''(3) WAIVERS.—

''(A) FARM OPERATIONS ON TRIBAL LAND.—The Secretary shall waive the limitation under paragraph (1)(C) for a direct loan made under this chapter to a farmer whose farm land is subject to the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe and whose loan is secured by 1 or more security instruments that are subject to the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe if the Secretary determines that commercial credit is not generally available for such farm operations.

''(B) OTHER FARM OPERATIONS.—On a case-by-case determination not subject to administrative appeal, the Secretary may grant a borrower a waiver, 1 time only for a period of 2 years, of the limitation under paragraph (1)(C) for a direct operating loan if the borrower demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Secretary that—

''(i) the borrower has a viable farm operation;

''(ii) the borrower applied for commercial credit from at least 2 commercial lenders;

''(iii) the borrower was unable to obtain a commercial loan (including a loan guaranteed by the Secretary); and

''(iv) the borrower successfully has completed, or will complete within 1 year, borrower training under section 3419 (from which requirement the Secretary shall not grant a waiver under section 3419(f)).

''(d) YOUTH LOANS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (b), except for citizenship and credit requirements, a loan may be made under this chapter to a youth who is a rural resident to enable the youth to operate an enterprise in connection with the participation in a youth organization, as determined by the Secretary.

''(2) FULL PERSONAL LIABILITY.—A youth receiving a loan under this subsection who executes a promissory note for the loan shall incur full personal liability for the indebtedness evidenced by the note, in accordance with the terms of the note, free of any disability of minority.

''(3) COSIGNER.—The Secretary may accept the personal liability of a cosigner of a promissory note for a loan under this subsection, in addition to the personal liability of the youth borrower.

''(4) YOUTH ENTERPRISES NOT FARMING.—The operation of an enterprise by a youth under this subsection shall not be considered the operation of a farm under this subtitle.

''(5) RELATION TO OTHER LOAN PROGRAMS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if a borrower becomes delinquent with respect to a youth loan made under this subsection, the borrower shall not become ineligible, as a result of the delinquency, to receive loans and loan guarantees from the Federal government to pay for education expenses of the borrower.

''(e) PILOT LOAN PROGRAM TO SUPPORT HEALTHY FOODS FOR THE HUNGRY.—

''(1) DEFINITION OF GLEANER.—In this subsection, the term 'gleaner' means an entity that—

''(A) collects edible, surplus food that would be thrown away and distributes the food to agencies or nonprofit organizations that feed the hungry; or

''(B) harvests for free distribution to the needy, or for donation to agencies or nonprofit organizations for ultimate distribution to the needy, an agricultural crop that has been donated by the owner of the crop.

''(2) PROGRAM.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall establish, within the operating loan program established under this chapter, a pilot program under which the Secretary makes loans available to eligible entities to assist the entities in providing food to the hungry.

''(3) ELIGIBILITY.—In addition to any other person eligible under the terms and conditions of the operating loan program established under this chapter, gleaners shall be eligible to receive loans under this subsection.

''(4) LOAN AMOUNT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Each loan issued under the program shall be in an amount of not less than $500 and not more than $5,000.

''(B) REDISTRIBUTION.—If the eligible recipients in a State do not use the full allocation of loans that are available to eligible recipients in the State under this subsection, the Secretary may use any unused amounts to make loans available to eligible entities

in other States in accordance with this subsection.

''(5) LOAN PROCESSING.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall process any loan application submitted under the program not later than 30 days after the date on which the application was submitted.

''(B) EXPEDITING APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary shall take any measure the Secretary determines necessary to expedite any application submitted under the program.

''(6) PAPERWORK REDUCTION.—The Secretary shall take measures to reduce any paperwork requirements for loans under the program.

''(7) PROGRAM INTEGRITY.—The Secretary shall take such actions as are necessary to ensure the integrity of the program established under this subsection.

''(8) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—Of funds that are made available to carry out this chapter, the Secretary shall use to carry out this subsection a total amount of not more than $500,000.

''(9) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the maximum amount of funds are used to carry out this subsection under paragraph (8), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that describes the results of the pilot program and the feasibility of expanding the program.

''SEC. 3202. PURPOSES OF LOANS.

''(a) DIRECT LOANS.—A direct loan (including a microloan as defined by the Secretary) may be made under this chapter only—

''(1) to pay the costs incident to reorganizing a farm for more profitable operation;

''(2) to purchase livestock, poultry, or farm equipment;

''(3) to purchase feed, seed, fertilizer, insecticide, or farm supplies, or to meet other essential farm operating expenses, including cash rent;

''(4) to finance land or water development, use, or conservation;

''(5) to pay loan closing costs;

''(6) to assist a farmer in changing the equipment, facilities, or methods of operation of a farm to comply with a standard promulgated under section 6 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 655) or a standard adopted by a State under a plan approved under section 18 of that Act (29 U.S.C. 667), if the Secretary determines that without assistance under this paragraph the farmer is likely to suffer substantial economic injury in complying with the standard;

''(7) to train a limited-resource borrower receiving a loan under section 3106 in maintaining records of farming operations;

''(8) to train a borrower under section 3419;

''(9) to refinance the indebtedness of a borrower, if the borrower—

''(A) has refinanced a loan under this chapter not more than 4 times previously; and

''(B)(i) is a direct loan borrower under this subtitle at the time of the refinancing and has suffered a qualifying loss because of a natural or major disaster or emergency; or

''(ii) is refinancing a debt obtained from a creditor other than the Secretary;

''(10) to provide other farm or home needs, including family subsistence; or

''(11) to assist a farmer in the production of a locally or regionally produced agricultural food product (as defined in section 3601(e)(11)(A)), including to qualified producers engaged in direct-to-consumer marketing, direct-to-institution marketing, or direct-to-store marketing, business, or activities that produce a value-added agricultural product (as defined in section 231(a) of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (7 U.S.C. 1632a(a))).

''(b) GUARANTEED LOANS.—A loan may be guaranteed under this chapter only—

''(1) to pay the costs incident to reorganizing a farm for more profitable operation;

''(2) to purchase livestock, poultry, or farm equipment;

''(3) to purchase feed, seed, fertilizer, insecticide, or farm supplies, or to meet other essential farm operating expenses, including cash rent;

''(4) to finance land or water development, use, or conservation;

''(5) to refinance indebtedness;

''(6) to pay loan closing costs;

''(7) to assist a farmer in changing the equipment, facilities, or methods of operation of a farm to comply with a standard promulgated under section 6 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 655) or a standard adopted by a State under a plan approved under section 18 of that Act (29 U.S.C. 667), if the Secretary determines that without assistance under this paragraph the farmer is likely to suffer substantial economic injury due to compliance with the standard;

''(8) to train a borrower under section 3419; or

''(9) to provide other farm or home needs, including family subsistence.

''(c) HAZARD INSURANCE REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary may not make a loan to a farmer under this chapter unless the farmer has, or agrees to obtain, hazard insurance on the property to be acquired with the loan.

''(d) PRIVATE RESERVE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, the Secretary may reserve a portion of any loan made under this chapter to be placed in an unsupervised bank account that may be used at the discretion of the borrower for the basic family needs of the borrower and the immediate family of the borrower.

''(2) LIMIT ON SIZE OF THE RESERVE.—The size of the reserve shall not exceed the lesser of—

''(A) 10 percent of the loan;

''(B) $5,000; or

''(C) the amount needed to provide for the basic family needs of the borrower and the immediate family of the borrower for 3 calendar months.

''(e) LOANS TO LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD PRODUCERS.—

''(1) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall ensure that loan officers processing loans under subsection (a)(11) receive appropriate training to serve borrowers and potential borrowers engaged in local and regional food production.

''(2) VALUATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop ways to determine unit prices (or other appropriate forms of valuation) for crops and other agricultural products, the end use of which is intended to be in locally or regionally produced agricultural food products, to facilitate lending to local and regional food producers.

''(B) PRICE HISTORY.—The Secretary shall implement a mechanism for local and regional food producers to establish price history for the crops and other agricultural products produced by local and regional food producers.

''(3) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall develop and implement an outreach strategy to engage and provide loan services to local and regional food producers.

''SEC. 3203. RESTRICTIONS ON LOANS.

''(a) REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), the Secretary may not make or guarantee a loan under this chapter—

''(A) that would cause the total principal indebtedness outstanding at any 1 time for loans made under this chapter to any 1 borrower to exceed—

''(i)(I) in the case of a loan made by the Secretary, $300,000; or

''(II) in the case of a loan guaranteed by the Secretary, $700,000 (as modified under paragraph (2)); or

''(B) for the purchasing or leasing of land other than for cash rent, or for carrying on a land leasing or land purchasing program.

''(2) MODIFICATION.—The amount specified in paragraph (1)(A)(ii) shall be—

''(A) increased, beginning with fiscal year 2000, by the inflation percentage applicable to the fiscal year in which the loan is guaranteed; and

''(B) reduced by the unpaid indebtedness of the borrower on loans under sections specified in section 3104 that are guaranteed by the Secretary.

''(3) MICROLOANS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary may establish a program to make or guarantee microloans.

''(B) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not make or guarantee any microloan (as defined by the Secretary) under this chapter—

''(i) for an amount that is greater than $35,000; or

''(ii) that would cause the total principal indebtedness outstanding at any 1 time for microloans made under this chapter to any 1 borrower to exceed $70,000.

''(C) APPLICATIONS.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall limit the administrative burdens and streamline the application and approval process for microloans under this paragraph.

''(D) COOPERATIVE LENDING PROJECTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), the Secretary may contract with community-based and nongovernmental organizations, States, or other intermediaries, as the Secretary determines appropriate—

''(I) to make or guarantee a microloan under this paragraph; and

''(II) to provide business, financial, marketing, and credit management services to borrowers.

''(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—Before contracting with an entity described in clause (i), the Secretary shall—

''(I) review and approve—

''(aa) the loan loss reserve fund for microloans established by the entity; and

''(bb) the underwriting standards for microloans of the entity; and

''(II) establish such other requirements for contracting with the entity as the Secretary determines necessary.

''(iii) REVOLVING LOAN.—Under such conditions as the Secretary may require, an entity described in clause (i) that enters into a contract with the Secretary under this subparagraph may elect to convert the loan loss reserve fund for microloans established by the entity into a revolving loan fund to carry out the purposes of this subparagraph.

''(b) INFLATION PERCENTAGE.—For purposes of this section, the inflation percentage applicable to a fiscal year is the percentage (if any) by which—

''(1) the average of the Prices Paid By Farmers Index (as compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service of the Department) for the 12-month period ending on August 31 of the immediately preceding fiscal year; exceeds

''(2) the average of that index (as so defined) for the 12-month period ending on August 31, 1996.

''SEC. 3204. TERMS OF LOANS.

''(a) PERSONAL LIABILITY.—A borrower of a loan made under this chapter shall secure the loan with the full personal liability of

the borrower and such other security as the Secretary may prescribe.

''(b) INTEREST RATES.—

''(1) MAXIMUM RATE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), the interest rate on a loan made under this chapter (other than a guaranteed loan) shall be determined by the Secretary at a rate not to exceed the sum obtained by adding—

''(i) the current average market yield on outstanding marketable obligations of the United States with remaining periods to maturity comparable to the average maturity of the loan; and

''(ii) an additional charge not to exceed 1 percent, as determined by the Secretary.

''(B) ADJUSTMENT.—The sum obtained under subparagraph (A) shall be adjusted to the nearest ⅛ of 1 percent.

''(2) GUARANTEED LOAN.—The interest rate on a guaranteed loan made under this chapter shall be such rate as may be agreed on by the borrower and the lender, but may not exceed any rate prescribed by the Secretary.

''(3) LOW INCOME LOAN.—The interest rate on a microloan to a beginning farmer or rancher or a veteran farmer or rancher (as defined in section 2501(e) of the Food Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(e)) or a direct loan made under this chapter to a low-income, limited-resource borrower shall be determined by the Secretary at a rate that is not—

''(A) greater than the sum obtained by adding—

''(i) an amount that does not exceed ½ of the current average market yield on outstanding marketable obligations of the United States with a maturity of 5 years; and

''(ii) an amount not to exceed 1 percent per year, as the Secretary determines is appropriate; or

''(B) less than 1.5 percent per year.

SA 987. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

After section 11024, insert the following:

SEC. 110___. ALFALFA CROP INSURANCE POLICY.

Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) (as amended by section 11024) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(25) ALFALFA CROP INSURANCE POLICY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall offer to enter into 1 or more contracts with qualified entities to carry out research and development regarding a policy to insure alfalfa.

''(B) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that describes the results of the study conducted under subparagraph (A).''.

SA 988. Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, insert the following:

SEC. 12_____. TRANSPORT AND DISPENSING OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES IN THE USUAL COURSE OF VETERINARY PRACTICE.

Section 302(e) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 822(e)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''(e)'' and inserting ''(e)(1)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a registrant who is a veterinarian shall not be required to have a separate registration in order to transport and dispense controlled substances in the usual course of veterinary practice at a site other than the registrant's registered principal place of business or professional practice, so long as the site of dispensing is located in a State where the veterinarian is licensed to practice veterinary medicine.''.

SA 989. Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. JOHANNS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

After section 4003, insert the following:

SEC. 4004. WORKFARE REQUIREMENT WAIVER.

Section 6(o)(4)(A) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(o)(4)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking ''or'' at end; and

(2) by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following:

''(ii) is designated as a labor surplus area by the Employment and Training Administration of the Department of Labor;

''(iii) is determined by the Unemployment Insurance Services of the Department of Labor as qualifying for extended unemployment benefits; or

''(iv) has a 24-month average unemployment rate that is 20 percent above the national average for the same 24-month period.''.

SA 990. Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. JOHANNS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 4010 and insert the following:

SEC. 4010. QUALITY CONTROL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 16(c) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (D)(i)(II), by inserting ''except as provided in subparagraph (H),'' before ''require''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(H) STATES IN LIABILITY STATUS FOR A THIRD CONSECUTIVE FISCAL YEAR.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—If a liability amount has been established for a State agency under subparagraph (C) for 3 or more consecutive fiscal years, the Secretary shall require the State to pay the entire liability amount for those fiscal years.

''(ii) ALTERNATIVES TO FULL PAYMENT NOT AVAILABLE.—Subparagraph (D) shall not apply to a State agency described in clause (i).''; and

(2) by redesignating paragraph (9) as paragraph (10); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (8) the following:

''(9) PENALTY FOR NEGATIVE ERROR RATE.—

''(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

''(i) AFFECTED STATE AGENCY.—The term 'affected State agency' means a State agency that maintains, for 2 or more consecutive fiscal years, a negative error rate that is more than 50 percent higher than the national average negative error rate, as determined by the Secretary.

''(ii) AVERAGE NEGATIVE ERROR RATE.—The term 'average negative error rate' means the product obtained by multiplying—

''(I) the negative error rate of a State agency; and

''(II) the proportion of the total negative caseload of that State agency for the fiscal year, as calculated under the quality control sample at the time of the notifications issued under subparagraph (C), as determined by the Secretary.

''(iii) NEGATIVE ERROR RATE.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—The term 'negative error rate' means, for a State agency, the proportion that—

''(aa) the total number of actions erroneously taken by the State agency to deny applications or suspend or terminate benefits of a household participating in the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under this Act, as determined by the Secretary, in that fiscal year; bears to

''(bb) the total number of actions taken by the State agency to deny applications or suspend or terminate benefits of households participating in the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under this Act in that fiscal year.

''(II) EXCLUSIONS.—The term 'negative error rate' does not include—

''(aa) an error resulting from the application of regulations promulgated under this Act during the period—

''(AA) beginning on the date of enactment of this clause; and

''(BB) ending on the date that is 121 days after the date on which the regulation is implemented; and

''(bb) an error resulting from—

''(AA) the use by a State agency of correctly processed information concerning households or individuals received under a Federal program; or

''(BB) an action that is based on policy information that is approved or disseminated, in writing, by the Secretary or a designee of the Secretary.

''(B) PENALTY AMOUNT.—For fiscal year 2012 and each subsequent fiscal year, the amount of the penalty for an affected State agency shall be equal to 5 percent of the amount otherwise payable under subsection (a).

''(C) INFORMATION REPORTING BY STATES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year, each State agency shall expeditiously submit to the Secretary data concerning the operations of the State agency sufficient for the Secretary to establish the negative error rate and penalty amount of the State agency.

''(ii) RELEVANT INFORMATION.—The Secretary may require a State agency to report any factors necessary to determine the negative error rate of the State agency.

''(iii) INFORMATION NOT REPORTED.—If a State agency fails to report information required by the Secretary, the Secretary may use any information, as the Secretary considers appropriate, to establish the negative error rate of the State agency for the applicable year.

''(iv) NATIONAL AVERAGE ERROR RATE.—If a State agency fails to report information required by the Secretary, the Secretary may use the national average negative error rate to establish the negative error rate for the State agency.

''(D) ANNOUNCEMENT OF ERROR RATES.—

''(i) CASE REVIEW.—Not later than May 31 of each fiscal year, the case review and all arbitration of State-Federal differences on negative error rates for the previous fiscal year shall be completed.

''(ii) DETERMINATION AND ANNOUNCEMENT.—Not later than June 30 of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall, for the previous fiscal year—

''(I) determine—

''(aa) final negative error rates;

''(bb) the national average negative error rate; and

''(cc) penalty amounts;

''(II) notify affected State agencies of the penalty amounts;

''(III) provide a copy of the notification under subclause (II) to the chief executive officer and the legislature of the affected State; and

''(IV) establish a claim against the State agency for the monetary penalty amount assessed against the State agency.

''(E) REVIEW.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—For any fiscal year, if the Secretary imposes a penalty amount against a State agency under subparagraph (D)(ii), the following determinations of the Secretary shall be subject to administrative and judicial review:

''(I) The final negative error rate of the State agency.

''(II) A determination of the Secretary that the negative error rate of the State agency exceeds 50 percent of the national average negative error rate.

''(III) The monetary penalty amount assessed against the State agency.

''(ii) DETERMINATION NOT REVIEWABLE.—The national average negative error rate under this paragraph shall not be subject to administrative or judicial review.

''(F) PAYMENT OF PENALTY AMOUNT.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—On completion of administrative and judicial review under subparagraph (E), an affected State agency shall pay to the Secretary the penalty amount designated under subparagraph (D)(ii), subject to the findings of the administrative or judicial review, not later than September 30 of the fiscal year for which the claim has been issued to the State agency.

''(ii) ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF COLLECTION.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—If a State agency fails to make a payment under clause (i) by September 30 of the fiscal year for which the claim has been issued to the State agency, the Secretary may reduce any amount due to the State agency under any other provision of this Act by the amount of the monetary penalty established under subparagraph (D)(ii).

''(II) ACCRUAL OF INTEREST.—Interest on the amount owed shall not accrue until after September 30 of the applicable fiscal year.''.

SA 991. Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. JOHANNS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 4016, strike ''Section 28(b)'' and inserting the following:

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 28(b)

In section 4016, add at the end the following:

(2) FUNDING.—Section 28 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036a) is amended by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

''(d) FUNDING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Of funds made available each fiscal year under section 18(a)(1), the Secretary shall make available to each State agency to carry out the nutrition education and obesity prevention grant program under this section—

''(A) for fiscal year 2013, an amount equal to $5 per individual in the State enrolled in the supplemental nutrition assistance program; and

''(B) for fiscal year 2014 and each subsequent fiscal year, the applicable amount during the preceding fiscal year, as adjusted to reflect any increases for the 12-month period ending the preceding June 30 in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor, per individual in the State enrolled in the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

''(2) TIMING OF DETERMINATION.—At the end of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall determine the total number of individuals in each State enrolled in the supplemental nutrition assistance program so as to determine appropriate funding levels for the coming fiscal year.''.

SA 992. Mr. FRANKEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 351, between lines 12 and 13, insert the following:

SEC. 4001. ACCESS TO GROCERY DELIVERY FOR HOMEBOUND SENIORS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES ELIGIBLE FOR SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE BENEFITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(p) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012(p)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

''(5) a public or private nonprofit food purchasing and delivery service that—

''(A) purchases food for, and delivers the food to, individuals who are—

''(i) unable to shop for food; and

''(ii)(I) not less than 60 years of age; or

''(II) individuals with disabilities;

''(B) clearly notifies the participating household at the time the household places a food order—

''(i) of any delivery fee associated with the food purchase and delivery provided to the household by the service; and

''(ii) that a delivery fee cannot be paid with benefits provided under the supplemental nutrition assistance program; and

''(C) sells food purchased for the household at the price paid by the service for the food without any additional cost markup.''.

(b) ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue regulations that—

(1) establish criteria to identify a food purchasing and delivery service described in section 3(p)(5) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (as added by subsection (a)(3)); and

(2) establish procedures to ensure that the service—

(A) does not charge more for a food item than the price paid by the service for the food item;

(B) offers food delivery service at no or low cost to households under that Act;

(C) ensures that benefits provided under the supplemental nutrition assistance program are used only to purchase food, as defined in section 3 of that Act (7 U.S.C. 2012);

(D) limits the purchase of food, and the delivery of the food, to households eligible to receive services described in section 3(p)(5) of that Act (as added by subsection (a)(3));

(E) has established adequate safeguards against fraudulent activities, including unauthorized use of electronic benefit cards issued under that Act; and

(F) such other requirements as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) LIMITATION.—Before the issuance of regulations under subsection (b), the Secretary may not approve more than 20 food purchasing and delivery services described in section 3(p)(5) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (as added by subsection (a)(3)) to participate as retail food stores under the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amendments made by this section take effect on the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 993. Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1150, after line 15, add the following:

SEC. 12_____. UNLAWFUL RETALIATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title II of the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 191 et seq.), is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 211. UNLAWFUL RETALIATION.

''(1) IN GENERAL.—No packer, swine contractor, or live poultry dealer shall take retaliatory action in response to any lawful spoken or written expression, association, or action of a livestock producer, swine production contract grower, or poultry grower.

''(2) TYPES OF LAWFUL EXPRESSION.—The lawful expression referred to in paragraph (1) shall include communication with officials of a Federal agency or Members of Congress.''.

(b) DEFINITION OF RETALIATORY ACTION.—Section 2(a) of the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 182(a)), is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(15) RETALIATORY ACTION.—The term 'retaliatory action' means coercion, intimidation, or any other action carried out to achieve the disadvantage of any livestock producer, swine production contract grower, or poultry grower in the execution, termination, extension, or renewal of a contract involving livestock or poultry.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 411 of the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 228b–2) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the first sentence, by inserting '', section 211,'' after ''section 207''; and

(2) in subsection (b), in the first sentence, by inserting '', section 211,'' after ''section 207''.

SA 994. Mr. VITTER (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1150, after line 15, add the following:

SEC. 122____. MINIMIZATION OF IMPACT OF ENDANGERED SPECIES LISTINGS AND DESIGNATIONS ON AGRICULTURAL LAND.

Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(j) MINIMIZATION OF IMPACT OF ENDANGERED SPECIES LISTINGS AND DESIGNATIONS ON AGRICULTURAL LAND.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Before any action is taken to list a species or designate critical habitat under this Act, the Secretary shall—

''(A) consult with the Secretary of Agriculture to identify all private agricultural land and land maintained by the Forest Service that could be adversely impacted by the listing or designation; and

''(B) prepare a report that describes the economic impacts of the listing or designation on land used for agricultural activities.

''(2) ECONOMIC ANALYSES.—In conducting economic analyses on the impact of the listing of species, or designation of critical habitat, described in paragraph (1), the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, shall—

''(A) conduct, and make available to the Secretary of the Interior and the public, separate economic analyses for—

''(i) private agricultural land; and

''(ii) land maintained by the Forest Service;

''(B) give landowners an opportunity for comment on the proposed listing or designation—

''(i) to obtain the input of the landowners; and

''(ii) to provide landowners the same opportunity to comment as other affected parties;

''(C) use sound and proven economic analysis tools in conducting the analyses, listing species, and designating habitat under this Act; and

''(D) make available on a public website—

''(i) a description of the total economic impact on agricultural land from all actual and potential listings and designations under this Act; and

''(ii) a map of all locations in the United States that are proposed for critical habitat designations.

''(3) ACTUAL NOTICE.—In listing species or designating habitat under this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall, to the maximum extent practicable, provide actual notice to affected landowners and other parties.

''(4) APPEALS.—Before a species is listed or habitat is designated under this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall make available to affected landowners and other parties a description of all options that are available to appeal or obtain compensation from the listing or designation (including administrative and judicial options) against the Federal Government.

''(5) TRESPASSING ON PRIVATE PROPERTY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If any person enters private land without the consent of the landowner to promote the purposes of this Act, any data obtained during or as a result of the trespass shall not be considered—

''(i) to be the best available science; or

''(ii) to meet the scientific quality standards issued under section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2001 (Public Law 106–554; 114 Stat. 2763A–153) (commonly referred to as the 'Data Quality Act').

''(B) AERIAL SURVEILLANCE.—No science that is produced as a result of aerial surveillance of private land without the consent of the landowner shall be considered to meet the scientific quality standards described in subparagraph (A)(ii).''.

SA 995. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. TAXPAYER NONDISCRIMINATION & PROTECTION ACT OF 2013.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Taxpayer Nondiscrimination & Protection Act of 2013''.

(b) MISCONDUCT AGAINST TAXPAYERS BY INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE EMPLOYEES.—

(1) CRIMINAL LIABILITY.—Chapter 13 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 250. Misconduct against taxpayers by Internal Revenue Service employees

''Whoever being an employee of the Internal Revenue Service, knowingly engages, during the performance of that employee's official duties, in an act or omission described in section 1203(b) of the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.''.

(2) CLARIFICATION OF ACTS AND OMISSION CONSTITUTING MISCONDUCT.—

(A) RELEASE OF INFORMATION AND POLITICAL VIEWS.—Section 1203(b) of the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 (26 U.S.C. 7804 note) is amended—

(i) in paragraph (9), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in paragraph (10), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon;

(iii) by inserting at the end the following:

''(11) making decisions regarding enforcement actions or investigations, including decisions regarding their relative priority, based on factors related to political or social views, statements, or affiliations of a taxpayer; and

''(12) wilfully releasing confidential taxpayer information to members of the public.''.

(B) FIRST AMENDMENT PROTECTIONS.—For purposes of section 1203 of the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 and section 250 of title 18, United States Code (as added by this section) the protections and guarantees afforded under the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States to political speech and political expression shall not fail to be treated as rights under the Constitution of the United States referred to in section 1203(b) of the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998.

(3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 13 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding after the item relating to section 249 the following:

''250. Discriminatory misconduct against taxpayers by Federal officers and employees.''.

SA 996. Mr. PRYOR (for himself and Mr. WICKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 1203(b)—

(1) strike ''The Secretary'' and insert the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary''; and

(2) add at the end the following:

''(2) PERMITTED EXTENSIONS.—The Secretary may extend the term of a marketing assistance loan (including the loan rate) for any loan commodity if—

''(A) at the time the marketing loan is due—

''(i) the loan commodity is stored in a county for which—

''(I) a natural disaster is declared by the Secretary under section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1961(a)); or

''(II) a major disaster or emergency is designated by the President under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.); or

''(ii) the port used to ship the loan commodity is closed or restricted pursuant to a Coast Guard regulation;

''(B) the loan commodity is stored in the county described in subparagraph (A)(i);

''(C) the marketing loan is extended not more than 90 days;

''(D) the request for the extension is approved by the applicable State Director of the Farm Service Agency on an individual basis; and

''(E) the extension does not extend the term of the marketing assistance loan beyond July 31 of the applicable crop year.''.

SA 997. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1096, between lines 15 and 16, insert the following:

SEC. 110__. MARKET LOSS PILOT ENDORSEMENT PROGRAM.

Section 523 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1523) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(i) MARKET LOSS PILOT ENDORSEMENT PROGRAM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent practicable starting with the 2014 reinsurance year, notwithstanding subsection (a)(1) and the limitation on premium increases in section 508(i)(1), the Corporation shall establish and carry out a market loss pilot endorsement program for producers of specialty crops (as defined in section 3 of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 (7 U.S.C. 1621 note; Public Law 108-465)).

''(2) LOSSES COVERED.—The endorsement authorized under this subsection shall cover losses of a defined commodity due to—

''(A) a quarantine imposed under Federal law, pursuant to the terms of which the commodity is destroyed, may not be marketed, or otherwise may not be used for its intended purpose (as determined by the Secretary); or

''(B) a decline in the market price in response to a naturally occurring or accidental outbreak of a pathogen (as determined by the Secretary).

''(3) BUY-UP REQUIREMENT.—An endorsement authorized under this subsection shall be purchased as part of a policy or plan of insurance at the additional coverage level.

''(4) DETERMINATION BY BOARD.—The Board shall approve a policy or plan of insurance proposed under paragraph (1) if, as determined by the Board, the policy or plan of insurance—

''(A) protects the interest of producers;

''(B) is actuarially sound; and

''(C) requires the payment of premiums and administrative fees by a producer obtaining the insurance.''.

SA 998. Mr. LEAHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; as follows:

Beginning on page 840, strike line 22 and all that follows through page 849, line 18, and insert the following:

''(3) RURAL AREA.—The term 'rural area' means any area described in section 3002 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act.

''(4) ULTRA-HIGH SPEED SERVICE.—The term 'ultra-high speed service' means broadband service operating at a 1 gigabit per second downstream transmission capacity.'';

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''LOANS AND'' and inserting ''GRANTS, LOANS, AND'';

(B) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''make grants and'' after ''Secretary shall'';

(C) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) PRIORITY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In making grants, loans, or loan guarantees under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

''(i) establish not less than 2, and not more than 4, evaluation periods for each fiscal year to compare grant, loan, and loan guarantee applications and to prioritize grants, loans, and loan guarantees to all or part of rural communities that do not have residential broadband service that meets the minimum acceptable level of broadband service established under subsection (e);

''(ii) give the highest priority to applicants that offer to provide broadband service to the greatest proportion of unserved rural households or rural households that do not have residential broadband service that meets the minimum acceptable level of broadband service established under subsection (e), as—

''(I) certified by the affected community, city, county, or designee; or

''(II) demonstrated on—

''(aa) the broadband map of the affected State if the map contains address-level data; or

''(bb) the National Broadband Map if address-level data is unavailable; and

''(iii) provide equal consideration to all qualified applicants, including those that have not previously received grants, loans, or loan guarantees under paragraph (1).

''(B) OTHER.—After giving priority to the applicants described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall then give priority to projects that serve rural communities—

''(i) with a population of less than 20,000 permanent residents;

''(ii) experiencing outmigration;

''(iii) with a high percentage of low-income residents; and

''(iv) that are isolated from other significant population centers.''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) GRANT AMOUNTS.—

''(A) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant under this section, the project that is the subject of the grant shall be carried out in a rural area.

''(B) MAXIMUM.—Except as provided in subparagraph (D), the amount of any grant made under this section shall not exceed 50 percent of the development costs of the project for which the grant is provided.

''(C) GRANT RATE.—The Secretary shall establish the grant rate for each project in accordance with regulations issued by the Secretary that shall provide for a graduated scale of grant rates that establish higher rates for projects in communities that have—

''(i) remote locations;

''(ii) low community populations;

''(iii) low income levels;

''(iv) developed the applications of the communities with the participation of combinations of stakeholders, including—

''(I) State, local, and tribal governments;

''(II) nonprofit institutions;

''(III) institutions of higher education;

''(IV) private entities; and

''(V) philanthropic organizations; and

''(v) targeted funding to provide the minimum acceptable level of broadband service established under subsection (e) in all or part of an unserved community that is below that minimum acceptable level of broadband service.

''(D) SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY TO ADJUST.—The Secretary may make grants of up to 75 percent of the development costs of the project for which the grant is provided to an eligible entity if the Secretary determines that the project serves a remote or low income area that does not have access to broadband service from any provider of broadband service (including the applicant).'';

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''loan or'' and inserting ''grant, loan, or'';

(ii) by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

''(i) demonstrate the ability—

''(I) to furnish, improve in order to meet the minimum acceptable level of broadband service established under subsection (e), or extend broadband service to all or part of an unserved rural area or an area below the minimum acceptable level of broadband service established under subsection (e); or

''(II) to carry out a project under paragraph (4)(B)(ii);'';

(iii) in clause (ii), by striking ''a loan application'' and inserting ''an application''; and

(iv) in clause (iii)—

(I) by striking ''the loan application'' and inserting ''the application''; and

(II) by striking ''proceeds from the loan made or guaranteed under this section are'' and inserting ''assistance under this section is'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(aa) by striking ''the proceeds of a loan made or guaranteed'' and inserting ''assistance''; and

(bb) by striking ''for the loan or loan guarantee'' and inserting ''of the eligible entity'';

(II) in clause (i), by striking ''is offered broadband service by not more than 1 incumbent service provider'' and inserting ''are unserved or have service levels below the minimum acceptable level of broadband service established under subsection (e)''; and

(III) in clause (ii), by striking ''3'' and inserting ''2'';

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

''(B) ADJUSTMENTS.—

''(i) INCREASE.—The Secretary may increase the household percentage requirement under subparagraph (A)(i) if—

''(I) more than 25 percent of the costs of the project are funded by grants made under this section; or

''(II) the proposed service territory includes 1 or more communities with a population in excess of 20,000.

''(ii) REDUCTION.—The Secretary may reduce the household percentage requirement under subparagraph (A)(i)—

''(I) to not less than 15 percent, if the proposed service territory does not have a population in excess of 5,000 people; or

''(II) to not less than 18 percent, if the proposed service territory does not have a population in excess of 7,500 people.''; and

(iii) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) in the subparagraph heading, by striking ''3'' and inserting ''2'';

(II) in clause (i), by inserting ''the minimum acceptable level of broadband service established under subsection (e) in'' after ''service to''; and

(III) by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following:

''(ii) EXCEPTIONS.—Clause (i) shall not apply if—

''(I) the applicant is eligible for funding under another title of this Act; or

''(II) the project is being carried out under paragraph (4)(B)(ii), unless an incumbent service provider is providing ultra-high speed service as of the date of an application for assistance submitted to the Secretary under this section.'';

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''loan or'' and inserting ''grant, loan, or''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) INFORMATION.—Information submitted under this subparagraph shall be—

''(I) certified by the affected community, city, county, or designee; and

''(II) demonstrated on—

''(aa) the broadband map of the affected State if the map contains address-level data; or

''(bb) the National Broadband Map if address-level data is unavailable.'';

(D) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by striking ''Subject to paragraph (1),'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (1) and subparagraph (B),'';

(ii) by striking ''loan or'' and inserting ''grant, loan, or''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) PILOT PROGRAMS.—The Secretary shall establish pilot programs under which the Secretary may, at the discretion of the Secretary, provide grants, loans, or loan guarantees under this section to eligible entities, including interested entities described in subparagraph (A)—

''(i) to address areas that are unserved or have service levels below the minimum acceptable level of broadband service established under subsection (e); or

''(ii) for the purposes of providing a proposed service territory with ultra-high speed service, subject to the conditions that—

''(I) not more than 5 projects, and not more than 1 project in any State, shall be carried out under this clause during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on September 30, 2018;

''(II) for each fiscal year, not more than 10 percent of the funds made available under subsection (*l*) shall be used to carry out this clause;

''(III) for each fiscal year, not more than 20 percent of the funds made available under subclause (II) shall be used for any 1 project; and

''(IV) paragraph (2)(A)(i) shall apply to the project, unless—

''(aa) the Secretary determines that no other project in the State is funded under this section; and

''(bb) no application for any other project that could be funded under this section, other than under this clause, is pending in the State.'';

SA 999. Mr. COBURN (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1101, between lines 5 and 6, insert the following:

SEC. 11_____. LIMITATION ON PREMIUM SUBSIDY BASED ON AVERAGE ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME.

Section 508(e) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(e)) (as amended by section 11030(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(9) LIMITATION ON PREMIUM SUBSIDY BASED ON AVERAGE ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME.—

''(A) DEFINITION OF AVERAGE ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME.—In this paragraph, the term 'average adjusted gross income' has the meaning given the term in section 1001D(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308–3a(a)).

''(B) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle and beginning with the 2014 reinsurance year, in the case of any producer that is a person or legal entity that has an average adjusted gross income in excess of $750,000 based on the most recent data available from the Farm Service

Agency as of the beginning of the reinsurance year, the total amount of premium subsidy provided with respect to additional coverage under subsection (c), section 508B, or section 508C issued on behalf of the producer for a reinsurance year shall be 15 percentage points less than the premium subsidy provided in accordance with this subsection that would otherwise be available for the applicable policy, plan of insurance, and coverage level selected by the producer.

''(C) APPLICATION.—

''(i) STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Government Accountability Office, shall carry out a study to determine the effects of the limitation described in subparagraph (B) on—

''(I) the overall operations of the Federal crop insurance program;

''(II) the number of producers participating in the Federal crop insurance program;

''(III) the level of coverage purchased by participating producers;

''(IV) the amount of premiums paid by participating producers and the Federal Government;

''(V) any potential liability for participating producers, approved insurance providers, and the Federal Government;

''(VI) different crops or growing regions;

''(VII) program rating structures;

''(VIII) creation of schemes or devices to evade the impact of the limitation; and

''(IX) administrative and operating expenses paid to approved insurance providers and underwriting gains and loss for the Federal government and approved insurance providers.

''(ii) EFFECTIVENESS.—The limitation described in subparagraph (B) shall not take effect unless the Secretary determines, through the study described in clause (i), that the limitation would not—

''(I) significantly increase the premium amount paid by producers with an average adjusted gross income of less than $750,000;

''(II) result in a decline in the crop insurance coverage available to producers; and

''(III) increase the total cost of the Federal crop insurance program.''.

SA 1000. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 380, between lines 15 and 16, insert the following:

SEC. 40___. DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS TO PROHIBIT PURCHASES OF JUNK FOOD.

Section 17 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2026) (as amended by section 4001(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(m) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT TO RESTRICT ELIGIBLE ITEMS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A State may carry out a demonstration project to plan, design, develop, and implement a program in the State to eliminate purchases of junk food and other unhealthful items by redefining items that qualify as 'food' under section 3(k) if the Secretary approves a waiver request submitted by the State in accordance with paragraph (2).

''(2) APPROVAL OF WAIVER.—The Secretary shall approve any waiver to carry out a program under paragraph (1) if the Secretary determines that the waiver request submitted by the State includes—

''(A) a standard based on nutritional content for redefining items for eligibility under section 3(k) that—

''(i) is determined by the State to be clear, practical, and consistent in excluding certain items from eligibility as a food under section 3(k); and

''(ii) does not—

''(I) expand the number of items otherwise eligible under section 3(k); or

''(II) classify alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and hot foods or hot food products ready for immediate consumption as eligible under section 3(k);

''(B) a description of the cost of implementing the demonstration project in the State;

''(C) a description of the number of households participating in the program to be affected by the demonstration project;

''(D) a procedure for disseminating product eligibility information periodically to retailers;

''(E) a procedure to monitor and evaluate program operations, including impact on small businesses; and

''(F) a statement that the demonstration project does not intend to reduce the eligibility for, or amount of, benefits available under this Act.

''(3) EVALUATION.—Not later than 5 years after the date on which a demonstration is initiated under this subsection, the State shall submit to the Secretary a report that describes the effect of the demonstration project on—

''(A) the costs and benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program in the State; and

''(B) the access of individuals receiving benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program in the State to nutritious food.

''(4) TREATMENT.—A demonstration project under this subsection shall be considered to be a permissible project to test innovative welfare reform strategies under subsection (b)(1)(B)(ii)(III).''.

SA 1001. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 351, strike lines 11 and 12 and insert the following:

Subtitle A—Food Stamp Program

SEC. 4001. REPEAL OF RENAMING OF THE FOOD STAMP ACT OF 1977 AND THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Effective June 18, 2008, sections 4001 and 4002 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246; 122 Stat. 1853) and the amendments made by those sections are repealed.

(b) APPLICATION.—The Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) shall be applied and administered as if sections 4001 and 4002 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246; 122 Stat. 1853) and the amendments made by those sections had not been enacted.

In title IV—

(1) strike ''Food and Nutrition Act of 2008'' each place it appears and insert ''Food Stamp Act of 1977''; and

(2) strike ''supplemental nutrition assistance program'' each place it appears and insert ''food stamp program''.

SA 1002. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 380, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

SEC. 4014. PROMOTION AND ENROLLMENT.

Section 18 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2027) (as amended by section 4013) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) LIMITATIONS ON USE RELATING TO PROMOTION AND ENROLLMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), not more than 1 percent of the amounts made available to carry out this Act shall be used to promote increased participation and enrollment in the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

''(2) PROHIBITION ON USE FOR CERTAIN ACTIVITIES.—None of the amounts made available to carry out this Act shall be used for—

''(A) radio and television soap operas;

''(B) social events and parties, including bingo games; and

''(C) giveaways of toys, gift bags, pet toys, and animal food.''.

SA 1003. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 122___. PROHIBITION ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BY PERSONS HAVING SERIOUSLY DELINQUENT TAX DEBTS.

(a) DEFINITION OF SERIOUSLY DELINQUENT TAX DEBT.—In this section:

(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ''seriously delinquent tax debt'' means an outstanding debt under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for which a notice of lien has been filed in public records pursuant to section 6323 of that Code.

(2) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ''seriously delinquent tax debt'' does not include—

(A) a debt that is being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement under section 6159 or 7122 of Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

(B) a debt with respect to which a collection due process hearing under section 6330 of that Code, or relief under subsection (a), (b), or (f) of section 6015 of that Code, is requested or pending.

(b) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or an amendment made by this Act and subject to subsection (c), an individual or entity who has a seriously delinquent tax debt shall be ineligible to receive financial assistance (including any payment, loan, grant, contract, or subsidy) under this Act or an amendment made by this Act during the pendency of such seriously delinquent tax debt.

(c) LIMITATION.—Subsection (b) shall not apply to any benefits or assistance provided under the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.).

(d) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Agriculture, in conjunction with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall issue such regulations as the Secretary considers necessary to carry out this section.

SA 1004. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 168, strike line 9 and insert the following:

(b) CONSERVATION PROGRAMS.—Section 1001D(b)(2)(A) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308–3a(b)(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''LIMITS.—'' and all that follows through ''clause (ii),'' and inserting ''LIMITS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law,''; and

(2) by striking clause (ii).

(c) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by this

SA 1005. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 421, between lines 3 and 4, insert the following:

SEC. 42___. EVALUATION AND CONSOLIDATION OF DUPLICATIVE NUTRITION PROGRAMS.

(a) EVALUATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than June 1, 2014, the Secretary, the Assistant Secretary for Aging, and the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, as appropriate, shall submit to Congress and post on the public Internet website of the Department a report on the outcomes of the following programs:

(A) The child and adult care food program established under section 17 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766).

(B) The community food projects competitive grant program established under section 25 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2034).

(C) The Emergency Food and Shelter Program under title III of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11331 et seq.).

(D) The grants to American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian organizations for nutrition and supportive services program carried out under title VI of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3057 et seq.).

(E) The food distribution program on Indian reservations established under section 4(b) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2013(b)).

(F) The fresh fruit and vegetable program established under section 19 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769a).

(G) The seniors farmers' market nutrition program established under section 4402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3007).

(H) The summer food service program for children established under section 13 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1761).

(I) The emergency food assistance program established under the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7501 et seq.).

(J) The farmers' market nutrition program established under section 17(m) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(m)).

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

(i) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subclause (II), the term ''administrative expenses'' has the meaning given the term by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget under section 504(b)(2) of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 (31 U.S.C. 1105 note; Public Law 111–85).

(II) INCLUSIONS.—The term ''administrative expenses'' include, with respect to an agency—

(aa) costs incurred by the agency and costs incurred by grantees, subgrantees, and other recipients of funds from a grant program or other program administered by the agency; and

(bb) expenses related to personnel salaries and benefits, property management, travel, program management, promotion, reviews and audits, case management, and communication about, promotion of, and outreach for programs and program activities administered by the agency.

(ii) SERVICES.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subclause (II), the term ''services'' has the meaning provided by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(II) LIMITATION.—The term ''services'' shall be limited to activities, assistance, and aid that provide a direct benefit to a recipient, such as the provision of medical care, assistance for housing or tuition, or financial support (including grants and loans).

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—In evaluating the outcomes of programs for the report under paragraph (1), the Secretary, the Assistant Secretary for Aging, and the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall, for each applicable program that is a subject of the report—

(i) determine the total administrative expenses of the program;

(ii) determine the expenditures for services for the program;

(iii) estimate the number of clients served by the program and beneficiaries who received assistance under the program (if applicable); and

(iv) estimate—

(I) the number of full-time employees who administer the program; and

(II) the number of full-time equivalents (whose salary is paid in part or full by the Federal Government through a grant or contract, a subaward of a grant or contract, a cooperative agreement, or another form of financial award or assistance) who assist in administering the program.

(b) ELIMINATIONS AND CONSOLIDATIONS.—

(1) COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM.—

(A) REPEAL.—Notwithstanding the amendments made by section 4012, section 5 of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note; Public Law 93–86) is repealed.

(B) USE OF SAVINGS.—Amounts saved as a result of the repeal made by subparagraph (A) shall be made available, without further appropriation, to the Secretary to carry out the food assistance activities of other programs of the Department of Agriculture that the Comptroller General of the United States identified as having positive outcomes related to the goals of the programs in the report entitled ''Domestic Food Assistance: Complex System Benefits Millions, but Additional Efforts Could Address Potential Inefficiency and Overlap among Smaller Programs (GAO-10-346)'' and dated April 2010.

(2) SENIORS FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM.—

(A) REPEAL.—Notwithstanding the amendment made by section 4202, section 4402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3007) is repealed.

(B) INCOMPLETE AND ONGOING PROJECTS.—The Secretary shall continue to carry out any incomplete or ongoing projects previously carried out under the section repealed by subparagraph (A) through the farmers' market nutrition program established under section 17(m) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(m)).

(C) USE OF SAVINGS.—Amounts saved as a result of the repeal made by subparagraph (A) shall be made available, without further appropriation, to the Secretary to carry out the food assistance activities of other programs of the Department of Agriculture that the Comptroller General of the United States identified as having positive outcomes related to the goals of the programs in the report entitled ''Domestic Food Assistance: Complex System Benefits Millions, but Additional Efforts Could Address Potential Inefficiency and Overlap among Smaller Programs (GAO-10-346)'' and dated April 2010.

(3) ELIMINATION OF DUPLICATIVE FUNCTIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, using the administrative authorities of the Secretaries, shall eliminate, consolidate, and streamline any overlapping or duplicative functions of the Secretaries in carrying out—

(i) section 4(b) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2013(b));

(ii) title VI of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3057 et seq.); and

(iii) section 311 of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3030a).

(B) REPORTS.—The Secretary and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to Congress a report describing any legislative changes required to carry out subparagraph (A).

(4) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall ensure that—

(A) in repealing and consolidating programs, the eligibility, benefits, and services to existing clients are not interrupted or reduced; and

(B) in consolidating programs and making recommendations for further consolidations and eliminations, priority is given to continuing programs with the best outcomes that serve the most clients with the least amount of administrative costs.

(5) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATIVE CHANGES.—Not later than 150 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries of Agriculture, Health and Human Services, and Homeland Security shall submit to Congress a report that identifies any legislative changes that 1 or more of the Secretaries determine to be necessary to further eliminate, consolidate, or streamline duplicative and overlapping functions identified in—

(A) the report of the Government Accountability Office entitled ''Opportunities to Reduce Government Duplication in Government Programs, Save Tax Dollars, and Enhance Revenue (GAO 11 318SP)'' and dated March 2011;

(B) the testimony of the Government Accountability Office before the Subcommittee on Primary Health Aging, Senate Committee on Health, Education Labor, and Pensions entitled ''Nutrition Assistance: Additional Efficiencies Could Improve Services to Older Adults (GAO-11-782T)'' and dated June 2011; and

(C) the report of the Government Accountability Office entitled ''Domestic Food Assistance: Complex System Benefits Millions, but Additional Efforts Could Address Potential Inefficiency and Overlap among Smaller Programs (GAO-10-346)'' and dated April 2010.

SA 1006. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1037, strike lines 8 through 17 and insert the following:

administrative expenses.

''(3) REQUIREMENTS.—Not less than 80 percent of the amount made available for a fiscal year to carry out this section shall be used—

''(A) to increase access, availability and affordability of specialty crops for children, youth, families and others at risk, including specialty crops for meals served in schools and food banks;

''(B) to ensure or promote food safety;

''(C) to protect specialty crops from plant pests and disease; and

''(D) to produce specialty crops.

''(4) PROHIBITIONS.—None of the funds made available under this section may used—

''(A) to produce, purchase, promote, or market junk food or candy, including potato chips and chocolate;

''(B) to sponsor field days at, or attend, amusement parks or festivals;

''(C) to support pageants or tours by pageant winners; or

''(D) to promote, produce, or otherwise support crops that are ornamental in nature.''; and

(5) in subsection (l) (as redesignated by paragraph (3))—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) $55,000,000 for fiscal year 2014 and each fiscal year thereafter.''.

SA 1007. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 332, strike lines 6 through 9, and insert the following:

SEC. 3102. FUNDING FOR MARKET ACCESS PROGRAM.

Section 211(c) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5641(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(A) by striking ''and'' after ''2005,''; and

(B) by inserting '', and $160,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2013 through 2018'' after ''2012,''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR CERTAIN ACTIVITIES.—None of the funds made available to carry out this subsection shall be used for—

''(A) animal spa products;

''(B) reality television shows;

''(C) cat or dog food or other pet food;

''(D) wine tastings, beer festivals or beer award contests, beer tasting or beer school seminars, and tastings or seminars for alcohol of any kind (including whiskeys and distilled spirits); and

''(E) cheese award shows and contests.

''(4) TRAVEL-RELATED EXPENSES.—The Secretary shall annually disclose to Congress, and post on a public website, a description of all travel-related expenses incurred to carry out this subsection, including—

''(A) the purpose of the expenses;

''(B) the total costs incurred for travel-related activities for each fiscal year;

''(C) the number of participants and the affiliations of the participants; and

''(D) the destination and itinerary of each trip made to carry out this subsection.''.

SA 1008. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 6104 and insert the following:

SEC. 6104. ACCESS TO BROADBAND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS.

Section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''loans and'' and inserting ''grants, loans, and'';

(2) in subsection (b), by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

''(3) RURAL AREA.—The term 'rural area' means any area described in section 3002 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act that does not have access to broadband service from any provider of broadband service.'';

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''LOANS AND'' and inserting ''GRANTS, LOANS, AND'';

(B) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''make grants and'' after ''Secretary shall'';

(C) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) PRIORITY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In making grants, loans, or loan guarantees under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

''(i) establish not less than 2, and not more than 4, evaluation periods for each fiscal year to compare grant, loan, and loan guarantee applications;

''(ii) give the highest priority to applicants that offer to provide broadband service to the greatest proportion of unserved rural households or rural households that do not have residential broadband service, as—

''(I) certified by the affected community, city, county, or designee; or

''(II) demonstrated on—

''(aa) the broadband map of the affected State if the map contains address-level data; or

''(bb) the National Broadband Map if address-level data is unavailable; and

''(iii) provide equal consideration to all qualified applicants, including those that have not previously received grants, loans, or loan guarantees under paragraph (1).

''(B) OTHER.—After giving priority to the applicants described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall then give priority to projects that serve rural communities—

''(i) with a population of less than 20,000 permanent residents;

''(ii) experiencing outmigration;

''(iii) with a high percentage of low-income residents; and

''(iv) that are isolated from other significant population centers.''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) GRANT AMOUNTS.—

''(A) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant under this section, the project that is the subject of the grant shall be carried out in a rural area.

''(B) MAXIMUM.—Except as provided in subparagraph (D), the amount of any grant made under this section shall not exceed 50 percent of the development costs of the project for which the grant is provided.

''(C) GRANT RATE.—The Secretary shall establish the grant rate for each project in accordance with regulations issued by the Secretary that shall provide for a graduated scale of grant rates that establish higher rates for projects in communities that have—

''(i) remote locations;

''(ii) low community populations;

''(iii) low income levels;

''(iv) developed the applications of the communities with the participation of combinations of stakeholders, including—

''(I) State, local, and tribal governments;

''(II) nonprofit institutions;

''(III) institutions of higher education;

''(IV) private entities; and

''(V) philanthropic organizations; and

''(v) targeted funding to provide broadband service in all or part of an unserved community that does not have residential broadband service.

''(D) SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY TO ADJUST.—The Secretary may make grants of up to 75 percent of the development costs of the project for which the grant is provided to an eligible entity if the Secretary determines that the project serves a remote or low income area that does not have access to broadband service from any provider of broadband service (including the applicant).'';

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''loan or'' and inserting ''grant, loan, or'';

(ii) by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

''(i) demonstrate the ability to furnish or extend broadband service to all or part of an unserved rural area that does not have residential broadband service;'';

(iii) in clause (ii), by striking ''a loan application'' and inserting ''an application''; and

(iv) in clause (iii)—

(I) by striking ''the loan application'' and inserting ''the application''; and

(II) by striking ''proceeds from the loan made or guaranteed under this section are'' and inserting ''assistance under this section is'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(aa) by striking ''the proceeds of a loan made or guaranteed'' and inserting ''assistance''; and

(bb) by striking ''for the loan or loan guarantee'' and inserting ''of the eligible entity''; and

(II) in clause (ii), by striking ''3'' and inserting ''2'';

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

''(B) ADJUSTMENTS.—

''(i) INCREASE.—The Secretary may increase the household percentage requirement under subparagraph (A)(i) if—

''(I) more than 25 percent of the costs of the project are funded by grants made under this section; or

''(II) the proposed service territory includes 1 or more communities with a population in excess of 20,000.

''(ii) REDUCTION.—The Secretary may reduce the household percentage requirement under subparagraph (A)(i)—

''(I) to not less than 15 percent, if the proposed service territory does not have a population in excess of 5,000 people; or

''(II) to not less than 18 percent, if the proposed service territory does not have a population in excess of 7,500 people.''; and

(iii) in subparagraph (C), in the subparagraph heading, by striking ''3'' and inserting ''2''; and

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''loan or'' and inserting ''grant, loan, or''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) INFORMATION.—Information submitted under this subparagraph shall be—

''(I) certified by the affected community, city, county, or designee; and

''(II) demonstrated on—

''(aa) the broadband map of the affected State if the map contains address-level data; or

''(bb) the National Broadband Map if address-level data is unavailable.'';

(D) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by striking ''Subject to paragraph (1),'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (1) and subparagraph (B),'';

(ii) by striking ''loan or'' and inserting ''grant, loan, or''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) PILOT PROGRAMS.—The Secretary may carry out pilot programs in conjunction with interested entities described in subparagraph (A) (which may be in partnership with other entities, as determined appropriate by the

Secretary) to address areas that do not have residential broadband service''; (E) in paragraph (5)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''loan or'' and inserting ''grant, loan, or''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting '', and proportion relative to the service territory,'' after ''estimated number''; (F) in paragraph (6), by striking ''loan or'' and inserting ''grant, loan, or''; (G) in paragraph (7), by striking ''a loan application'' and inserting ''an application''; and (H) by adding at the end the following:

''(8) TRANSPARENCY AND REPORTING.—The Secretary—

''(A) shall require any entity receiving assistance under this section to submit quarterly, in a format specified by the Secretary, a report that describes—

''(i) the use by the entity of the assistance, including new equipment and capacity enhancements that support high-speed broadband access for educational institutions, health care providers, and public safety service providers (including the estimated number of end users who are currently using or forecasted to use the new or upgraded infrastructure); and

''(ii) the progress towards fulfilling the objectives for which the assistance was granted, including—

''(I) the number and location of residences and businesses that will receive new broadband service, existing network service improvements, and facility upgrades resulting from the Federal assistance;

''(II) the speed of broadband service;

''(III) the price of broadband service;

''(IV) any changes in broadband service adoption rates, including new subscribers generated from demand-side projects; and

''(V) any other metrics the Secretary determines to be appropriate;

''(B) shall maintain a fully searchable database, accessible on the Internet at no cost to the public, that contains, at a minimum—

''(i) a list of each entity that has applied for assistance under this section;

''(ii) a description of each application, including the status of each application;

''(iii) for each entity receiving assistance under this section—

''(I) the name of the entity;

''(II) the type of assistance being received;

''(III) the purpose for which the entity is receiving the assistance; and

''(IV) each quarterly report submitted under subparagraph (A); and

''(iv) such other information as is sufficient to allow the public to understand and monitor assistance provided under this section;

''(C) shall, in addition to other authority under applicable law, establish written procedures for all broadband programs administered by the Secretary that, to the maximum extent practicable—

''(i) recover funds from loan defaults;

''(ii)(I) deobligate awards to grantees that demonstrate an insufficient level of performance (including failure to meet build-out requirements, service quality issues, or other metrics determined by the Secretary) or wasteful or fraudulent spending; and

''(II) award those funds, on a competitive basis, to new or existing applicants consistent with this section; and

''(iii) consolidate and minimize overlap among the programs;

''(D) with respect to an application for assistance under this section, shall—

''(i) promptly post on the website of the Rural Utility Service—

''(I) an announcement that identifies—

''(aa) each applicant;

''(bb) the amount and type of support requested by each applicant; and

''(II) a list of the census block groups or proposed service territory, in a manner specified by the Secretary, that the applicant proposes to service;

''(ii) provide not less than 15 days for broadband service providers to voluntarily submit information about the broadband services that the providers offer in the groups or tracts listed under clause (i)(II) so that the Secretary may assess whether the applications submitted meet the eligibility requirements under this section; and

''(iii) if no broadband service provider submits information under clause (ii), consider the number of providers in the group or tract to be established by reference to—

''(I) the most current National Broadband Map of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration; or

''(II) any other data regarding the availability of broadband service that the Secretary may collect or obtain through reasonable efforts; and

''(E) may establish additional reporting and information requirements for any recipient of any assistance under this section so as to ensure compliance with this section.''; (5) in subsection (f), by striking ''make a loan or loan guarantee'' and inserting ''provide assistance''; (6) in subsection (g), by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) TERMS.—In determining the term and conditions of a loan or loan guarantee, the Secretary may—

''(A) consider whether the recipient would be serving an area that is unserved; and

''(B) if the Secretary makes a determination in the affirmative under subparagraph (A), establish a limited initial deferral period or comparable terms necessary to achieve the financial feasibility and long-term sustainability of the project.''; (7) in subsection (j)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''loan and loan guarantee''; (B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting ''grants and'' after ''number of''; and

(ii) by inserting '', including any loan terms or conditions for which the Secretary provided additional assistance to unserved areas'' before the semicolon at the end; (C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''loan''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''loans and'' and inserting ''grants, loans, and''; (D) in paragraph (3), by striking ''loan''; (E) in paragraph (5), by striking ''and'' at the end; (F) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and (G) by adding at the end the following:

''(7) the overall progress towards fulfilling the goal of improving the quality of rural life by expanding rural broadband access, as demonstrated by metrics, including—

''(A) the number of residences and businesses receiving new broadband services;

''(B) network improvements, including facility upgrades and equipment purchases;

''(C) average broadband speeds and prices on a local and statewide basis;

''(D) any changes in broadband adoption rates; and

''(E) any specific activities that increased high speed broadband access for educational institutions, health care providers. and public safety service providers.''; and (8) by redesignating subsections (k) and (l) as subsections (l) and (m), respectively; (9) by inserting after subsection (j) the following:

''(k) BROADBAND BUILDOUT DATA.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of receiving a grant, loan, or loan guarantee under this section, a recipient of assistance shall provide to the Secretary address-level broadband buildout data that indicates the location of new broadband service that is being provided or upgraded within the service territory supported by the grant, loan, or loan guarantee—

''(A) for purposes of inclusion in the semi-annual updates to the National Broadband Map that is managed by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (referred to in this subsection as the 'Administration'); and

''(B) not later than 30 days after the earlier of—

''(i) the date of completion of any project milestone established by the Secretary; or

''(ii) the date of completion of the project.

''(2) ADDRESS-LEVEL DATA.—Effective beginning on the date the Administration receives data described in paragraph (1), the Administration shall use only address-level broadband buildout data for the National Broadband Map.

''(3) CORRECTIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall submit to the Administration any correction to the National Broadband Map that is based on the actual level of broadband coverage within the rural area, including any requests for a correction from an elected or economic development official.

''(B) INCORPORATION.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Administration receives a correction submitted under subparagraph (A), the Administration shall incorporate the correction into the National Broadband Map.

''(C) USE.—If the Secretary has submitted a correction to the Administration under subparagraph (A), but the National Broadband Map has not been updated to reflect the correct by the date on which the Secretary is making a grant or loan award decision under this section, the Secretary may use the correction submitted under that subparagraph for purposes of make the grant or loan award decision.''; (10) subsection (*l*) (as redesignated by paragraph (8))—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''$25,000,000'' and inserting ''$50,000,000''; and

(ii) by striking ''2012'' and inserting ''2018''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(A)—

(i) in clause (i), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) set aside at least 1 percent to be used for—

''(I) conducting oversight under this section; and

''(II) implementing accountability measures and related activities authorized under this section.''; and (11) in subsection (m) (as redesignated by paragraph (8))—

(A) by striking ''loan or'' and inserting ''grant, loan, or''; and

(B) by striking ''2012'' and inserting ''2018''.

SA 1009. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 374, between lines 14 and 15, insert the following:

SEC. 4008. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN USES OF EBT CARDS.

Section 7(h) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2016(h)) (as amended by sections 4007(a) and 4018(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(15) RESTRICTION ON USE TO OBTAIN CASH BENEFITS.—An electronic benefit transfer card shall not be used to obtain cash benefits, including through an automated teller machine or through a cashback procedure at a cash register.''.

SA 1010. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. PROHIBITING REPLACEMENT OF ICD–9 WITH ICD–10 IN IMPLEMENTING HIPAA CODE SET STANDARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services may not implement, administer, or enforce the regulations issued on January 16, 2009 (74 Federal Register 3328), the regulation issued on September 5, 2012 (77 Federal Register 54664), or any similar regulation, insofar as any such regulation provides for the replacement of ICD–9 with ICD–10 as a standard for code sets under section 1173(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320d–2(c)) and section 162.1002 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations.

(b) GAO REPORT ON ICD–9 REPLACEMENT.—

(1) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States, in consultation with stakeholders in the medical community, shall conduct a study to identify steps that can be taken to mitigate the disruption on health care providers resulting from a replacement of ICD–9 as such a standard.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to each House of Congress a report on such study. Such report shall include such recommendations respecting such replacement and such legislative and administrative steps as may be appropriate to mitigate the disruption resulting from such replacement as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

SA 1011. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. DONNELLY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1125, after line 23, insert the following:

SEC. 12108. LIVESTOCK INFORMATION DISCLOSURE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) United States livestock producers supply a vital link in the food supply of the United States, which is listed as a critical infrastructure by the Secretary of Homeland Security;

(2) domestic terrorist attacks have occurred at livestock operations across the United States, endangering the lives and property of people of the United States;

(3) livestock operations in the United States are largely family owned and operated with most families living at the same location as the livestock operation;

(4) State governments and agencies are the primary authority in almost all States for the protection of water quality under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.);

(5) State agencies maintain records on livestock operations and have the authority to address water quality issues where needed; and

(6) there is no discernible environmental or scientifically research-related need to create a database or other system of records of livestock operations in the United States by the Administrator.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) AGENCY.—The term ''Agency'' means the Environmental Protection Agency.

(3) LIVESTOCK OPERATION.—The term ''livestock operation'' includes any operation involved in the raising or finishing of livestock and poultry.

(c) PROCUREMENT AND DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.—

(1) PROHIBITION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Administrator, any officer or employee of the Agency, or any contractor or cooperator of the Agency, shall not disclose the information of any owner, operator, or employee of a livestock operation provided to the Agency by a livestock producer or a State agency in accordance with the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) or any other law, including—

(i) names;

(ii) telephone numbers;

(iii) email addresses;

(iv) physical addresses;

(v) Global Positioning System coordinates; or

(vi) other identifying information regarding the location of the owner, operator, or employee.

(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in paragraph (1) affects—

(A) the disclosure of information described in paragraph (1) if—

(i) the information has been transformed into a statistical or aggregate form at the county level or higher without any information that identifies the agricultural operation or agricultural producer; or

(ii) the livestock producer consents to the disclosure;

(B) the authority of any State agency to collect information on livestock operations; or

(C) the authority of the Agency to disclose the information on livestock operations to State governmental agencies.

(3) CONDITION OF PERMIT OR OTHER PROGRAMS.—The approval of any permit, practice, or program administered by the Administrator shall not be conditioned on the consent of the livestock producer under paragraph (2)(A)(ii).

SA 1012. Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1065, strike lines 1 through 25.

SA 1013. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1101, between lines 5 and 6, insert the following:

SEC. 110___. PROHIBITION ON PREMIUM SUBSIDY FOR HARVEST PRICE POLICIES.

Section 508(e) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(e)) (as amended by section 11030(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(9) PROHIBITION ON PREMIUM SUBSIDY FOR HARVEST PRICE POLICIES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law and beginning with the 2014 reinsurance year, the Corporation may not pay any amount of premium subsidy in the case of a policy or plan of insurance that is based on the actual market price of an agricultural commodity at the time of harvest.''.

SA 1014. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1111, after line 20, add the following:

SEC. 110___. CROP INSURANCE SUBSIDY REDUCTION.

(a) REDUCTION IN SHARE OF CROP INSURANCE PREMIUM PAID BY FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION.—Section 508(e)(2) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(e)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking ''67'' and inserting ''55'';

(2) in subparagraph (E)(i), by striking ''55'' and inserting ''24'';

(3) in subparagraph (F)(i), by striking ''48'' and inserting ''17'';

(4) in subparagraph (G)(i), by striking ''38'' and inserting ''13'';

(5) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) through (G) as subparagraphs (G) through (K), respectively; and

(6) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

''(C) In the case of additional coverage equal to or greater than 55 percent, but less than 60 percent, of the recorded or appraised average yield indemnified at not greater than 100 percent of the expected market price, or a comparable coverage for a policy or plan of insurance that is not based on individual yield, the amount shall be equal to the sum of—

''(i) 46 percent of the amount of the premium established under subsection (d)(2)(B)(i) for the coverage level selected; and

''(ii) the amount determined under subsection (d)(2)(B)(ii) for the coverage level selected to cover operating and administrative expenses.

''(D) In the case of additional coverage equal to or greater than 60 percent, but less than 65 percent, of the recorded or appraised average yield indemnified at not greater than 100 percent of the expected market price, or a comparable coverage for a policy or plan of insurance that is not based on individual yield, the amount shall be equal to the sum of—

''(i) 38 percent of the amount of the premium established under subsection (d)(2)(B)(i) for the coverage level selected; and

''(ii) the amount determined under subsection (d)(2)(B)(ii) for the coverage level selected to cover operating and administrative expenses.

''(E) In the case of additional coverage equal to or greater than 65 percent, but less than 70 percent, of the recorded or appraised average yield indemnified at not greater than 100 percent of the expected market price, or a comparable coverage for a policy or plan of insurance that is not based on individual yield, the amount shall be equal to the sum of—

''(i) 42 percent of the amount of the premium established under subsection (d)(2)(B)(i) for the coverage level selected; and

''(ii) the amount determined under subsection (d)(2)(B)(ii) for the coverage level selected to cover operating and administrative expenses.

''(F) In the case of additional coverage equal to or greater than 70 percent, but less than 75 percent, of the recorded or appraised average yield indemnified at not greater than 100 percent of the expected market price, or a comparable coverage for a policy or plan of insurance that is not based on individual yield, the amount shall be equal to the sum of—

''(i) 32 percent of the amount of the premium established under subsection (d)(2)(B)(i) for the coverage level selected; and

''(ii) the amount determined under subsection (d)(2)(B)(ii) for the coverage level selected to cover operating and administrative expenses.''.

(b) BUDGETARY EFFECTS.—The budgetary effects of this section, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled ''Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation'' for this section, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

SA 1015. Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CHAMBLISS, and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, insert the following:

SEC. 12213. PROHIBITION OF IDEOLOGY-BASED TARGETING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Internal Revenue Service is prohibited, within the exercise of its regulatory authority under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to review applications for exemption from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code, from developing or using any methodology that applies disproportionate scrutiny to any applicant based on the ideology expressed in the name or purpose of the organization.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (A) of section 7803(d)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(A) by redesignating clauses (ii), (iii), and (iv) as clauses (iii), (iv), and (v), respectively, and

(B) by inserting after clause (i) the following new clause:

''(ii) the number of complaints during the period that allege disproportionate scrutiny in the process of applying for exempt status under section 501(a) based on the ideology of the applicants;''.

(2) EVALUATION OF COMPLAINTS.—Paragraph (2) of section 7803(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(C) In the case of a complaint or allegation described in subparagraph (A)(ii), the report shall provide an evaluation of the source and the circumstances of such complaints, including a timeline of events, identification of any Internal Revenue Service employees involved in the case, and a determination of whether such scrutiny was related to the exercise of permitted political activities (as determined under subsection (c)(3) or (h), whichever is applicable, of section 501) by an applicant or exempt organization.''.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subparagraph (B) of section 7803(d)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''Clauses (iii) and (iv)'' and inserting ''Clauses (iv) and (v)''.

(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to reports submitted after the date which is 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 1016. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 9009 and insert the following:

SEC. 9009. BIOMASS CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 9011 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8111) is repealed.

SA 1017. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike subtitles A and B of title II and insert the following:

SEC. 2001. REPEAL OF CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM.

Subchapter B of chapter 2 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831 et seq.) is repealed.

SEC. 2002. REPEAL OF CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.

Subchapter B of chapter 2 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3838d et seq.) is repealed.

SA 1018. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 968, between lines 8 and 9, insert the following:

SEC. 8102. FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103c) is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 2A(c) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2101a(c)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (3), by inserting ''and'' after the semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a period; and

(C) by striking paragraph (5).

(2) Section 19(b)(2) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2113(b)(2)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by inserting ''and'' after the semicolon;

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a period; and

(C) by striking subparagraph (D).

SA 1019. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1150, after line 15, add the following:

SEC. 122_____. TREATMENT OF INTRASTATE SPECIES.

(a) DEFINITION OF INTRASTATE SPECIES.—In this section, the term ''intrastate species'' means any species of plant or fish or wildlife (as those terms are defined in section 3 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1532)) that is found entirely within the borders of a single State.

(b) TREATMENT.—An intrastate species shall not be—

(1) considered to be in interstate commerce; and

(2) subject to regulation under—

(A) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

(B) any other provision of law under which regulatory authority is based on the power of Congress to regulate interstate commerce as enumerated in article I, section 8, clause 3 of the Constitution.

SA 1020. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

SECTION 12_____. REINS ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Regulations From the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2013'' or the ''REINS Act''.

(b) FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(A) Section 1 of article I of the United States Constitution grants all legislative powers to Congress.

(B) Over time, Congress has excessively delegated its constitutional charge while failing to conduct appropriate oversight and retain accountability for the content of the laws it passes.

(C) By requiring a vote in Congress, the REINS Act will result in more carefully drafted and detailed legislation, an improved regulatory process, and a legislative branch that is truly accountable to the people of the United States for the laws imposed upon them.

(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to increase accountability for and transparency in the Federal regulatory process.

(c) CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF AGENCY RULEMAKING.—Chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''CHAPTER 8—CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF AGENCY RULEMAKING

''Sec.
''801. Congressional review.
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''§ 801. Congressional review

''(a)(1)(A) Before a rule may take effect, the Federal agency promulgating such rule shall submit to each House of Congress and to the Comptroller General a report containing—

''(i) a copy of the rule;

''(ii) a concise general statement relating to the rule;

''(iii) a classification of the rule as a major or nonmajor rule, including an explanation of the classification specifically addressing each criteria for a major rule contained within sections 804(2)(A), 804(2)(B), and 804(2)(C);

''(iv) a list of any other related regulatory actions intended to implement the same statutory provision or regulatory objective as well as the individual and aggregate economic effects of those actions; and

''(v) the proposed effective date of the rule.

''(B) On the date of the submission of the report under subparagraph (A), the Federal agency promulgating the rule shall submit to the Comptroller General and make available to each House of Congress—

''(i) a complete copy of the cost-benefit analysis of the rule, if any;

''(ii) the actions of the agency pursuant to sections 603, 604, 605, 607, and 609 of title 5, United States Code;

''(iii) the actions of the agency pursuant to sections 1532, 1533, 1534, and 1535 of title 2, United States Code; and

''(iv) any other relevant information or requirements under any other Act and any relevant Executive orders.

''(C) Upon receipt of a report submitted under subparagraph (A), each House shall provide copies of the report to the chairman and ranking member of each standing committee with jurisdiction under the rules of the House of Representatives or the Senate to report a bill to amend the provision of law under which the rule is issued.

''(2)(A) The Comptroller General shall provide a report on each major rule to the committees of jurisdiction by the end of 15 calendar days after the submission or publication date as provided in section 802(b)(2). The report of the Comptroller General shall include an assessment of compliance by the agency with procedural steps required by paragraph (1)(B).

''(B) Federal agencies shall cooperate with the Comptroller General by providing information relevant to the Comptroller General's report under subparagraph (A).

''(3) A major rule relating to a report submitted under paragraph (1) shall take effect upon enactment of a joint resolution of approval described in section 802 or as provided for in the rule following enactment of a joint resolution of approval described in section 802, whichever is later.

''(4) A nonmajor rule shall take effect as provided by section 803 after submission to Congress under paragraph (1).

''(5) If a joint resolution of approval relating to a major rule is not enacted within the period provided in subsection (b)(2), then a joint resolution of approval relating to the same rule may not be considered under this chapter in the same Congress by either the House of Representatives or the Senate.

''(b)(1) A major rule shall not take effect unless the Congress enacts a joint resolution of approval described under section 802.

''(2) If a joint resolution described in subsection (a) is not enacted into law by the end of 70 session days or legislative days, as applicable, beginning on the date on which the report referred to in section 801(a)(1)(A) is received by Congress (excluding days either House of Congress is adjourned for more than 3 days during a session of Congress), then the rule described in that resolution shall be deemed not to be approved and such rule shall not take effect.

''(c)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section (except subject to paragraph (3)), a major rule may take effect for one 90-calendar-day period if the President makes a determination under paragraph (2) and submits written notice of such determination to the Congress.

''(2) Paragraph (1) applies to a determination made by the President by Executive order that the major rule should take effect because such rule is—

''(A) necessary because of an imminent threat to health or safety or other emergency;

''(B) necessary for the enforcement of criminal laws;

''(C) necessary for national security; or

''(D) issued pursuant to any statute implementing an international trade agreement.

''(3) An exercise by the President of the authority under this subsection shall have no effect on the procedures under section 802.

''(d)(1) In addition to the opportunity for review otherwise provided under this chapter, sections 802 and 803 shall apply, in the succeeding session of Congress, to any rule for which a report was submitted in accordance with subsection (a)(1)(A) during the period beginning on the date occurring—

''(A) in the case of the Senate, 60 session days before the date the Congress is scheduled to adjourn a session of Congress through the date on which the same or succeeding Congress first convenes its next session; or

''(B) in the case of the House of Representatives, 60 legislative days before the date the Congress is scheduled to adjourn a session of Congress through the date on which the same or succeeding Congress first convenes its next session.

''(2)(A) In applying sections 802 and 803 for purposes of such additional review, a rule described under paragraph (1) shall be treated as though—

''(i) such rule were published in the Federal Register on—

''(I) in the case of the Senate, the 15th session day after the succeeding session of Congress first convenes; or

''(II) in the case of the House of Representatives, the 15th legislative day after the succeeding session of Congress first convenes; and

''(ii) a report on such rule were submitted to Congress under subsection (a)(1) on such date.

''(B) Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to affect the requirement under subsection (a)(1) that a report shall be submitted to Congress before a rule can take effect.

''(3) A rule described under paragraph (1) shall take effect as otherwise provided by law (including other subsections of this section).

''§ 802. Congressional approval procedure for major rules

''(a)(1) For purposes of this section, the term 'joint resolution' means only a joint resolution addressing a report classifying a rule as major pursuant to section 801(a)(1)(A)(iii) that—

''(A) bears no preamble;

''(B) bears the following title: 'Approving the rule submitted by _____ relating to _____.' (The blank spaces being appropriately filled in);

''(C) includes after its resolving clause only the following: 'That Congress approves the rule submitted by _____ relating to _____.' (The blank spaces being appropriately filled in); and

''(D) is introduced pursuant to paragraph (2).

''(2) After a House of Congress receives a report classifying a rule as major pursuant to section 801(a)(1)(A)(iii), the majority leader of that House (or the designee of the majority leader) shall introduce (by request, if appropriate) a joint resolution described in paragraph (1)—

''(A) in the case of the House of Representatives, within 3 legislative days; and

''(B) in the case of the Senate, within 3 session days.

''(3) A joint resolution described in paragraph (1) shall not be subject to amendment at any stage of proceeding.

''(b) A joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall be referred in each House of Congress to the committees having jurisdiction over the provision of law under which the rule is issued.

''(c) In the Senate, if the committee or committees to which a joint resolution described in subsection (a) has been referred have not reported it at the end of 15 session days after its introduction, such committee or committees shall be automatically discharged from further consideration of the resolution and it shall be placed on the calendar. A vote on final passage of the resolution shall be taken on or before the close of the 15th session day after the resolution is reported by the committee or committees to which it was referred, or after such committee or committees have been discharged from further consideration of the resolution.

''(d)(1) In the Senate, when the committee or committees to which a joint resolution is referred have reported, or when a committee or committees are discharged (under subsection (c)) from further consideration of a joint resolution described in subsection (a), it is at any time thereafter in order (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) for a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution, and all points of order against the joint resolution (and against consideration of the joint resolution) are waived. The motion is not subject to amendment, or to a motion to postpone, or to a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution is agreed to, the joint resolution shall remain the unfinished business of the Senate until disposed of.

''(2) In the Senate, debate on the joint resolution, and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 2 hours, which shall be divided equally between those favoring and those opposing the joint resolution. A motion to further limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint resolution is not in order.

''(3) In the Senate, immediately following the conclusion of the debate on a joint resolution described in subsection (a), and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate, the vote on final passage of the joint resolution shall occur.

''(4) Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate to the procedure relating to a joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall be decided without debate.

''(e) In the House of Representatives, if the committee or committees to which a joint resolution described in subsection (a) has been referred has not reported it to the House at the end of 15 legislative days after its introduction, such committee or committees shall be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution, and it shall be placed on the appropriate calendar. On the second and fourth Thursdays of each month it shall be in order at any time for the Speaker to recognize a Member who favors passage of a joint resolution that has appeared on the calendar for not fewer than 5 legislative days to call up the joint resolution for immediate consideration in the House without intervention of any point of order. When so called up, a joint resolution shall be considered as read and shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and the previous question shall be considered as ordered to its passage without intervening motion. It shall not be in order to reconsider the vote on passage. If a vote on final passage of the joint resolution has not been taken by the third Thursday on which the Speaker may recognize a Member under this subsection, such vote shall be taken on that day.

''(f)(1) For purposes of this subsection, the term 'identical joint resolution' means a joint resolution of the first House that proposes to approve the same major rule as a joint resolution of the second House.

''(2) If the second House receives from the first House a joint resolution, the Chair shall determine whether the joint resolution is an identical joint resolution.

''(3) If the second House receives an identical joint resolution—

''(A) the identical joint resolution shall not be referred to a committee; and

''(B) the procedure in the second House shall be the same as if no joint resolution had been received from the first house, except that the vote on final passage shall be on the identical joint resolution.

''(4) This subsection shall not apply to the House of Representatives if the joint resolution received from the Senate is a revenue measure.

''(g) If either House has not taken a vote on final passage of the joint resolution by the last day of the period described in section 801(b)(2), then such vote shall be taken on that day.

''(h) This section and section 803 are enacted by Congress—

''(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and House of Representatives, respectively, and as such is deemed to be part of the rules of each House, respectively, but applicable only with respect to the procedure to be followed in that House in the case of a joint resolution described in subsection (a) and superseding other rules only where explicitly so; and

''(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as they relate to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.

''§ 803. Congressional disapproval procedure for nonmajor rules

''(a) For purposes of this section, the term 'joint resolution' means only a joint resolution introduced in the period beginning on the date on which the report referred to in section 801(a)(1)(A) is received by Congress and ending 60 days thereafter (excluding days either House of Congress is adjourned for more than 3 days during a session of Congress), the matter after the resolving clause of which is as follows: 'That Congress disapproves the nonmajor rule submitted by the _____ relating to _____, and such rule shall have no force or effect.' (The blank spaces being appropriately filled in).

''(b)(1) A joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall be referred to the committees in each House of Congress with jurisdiction.

''(2) For purposes of this section, the term 'submission or publication date' means the later of the date on which—

''(A) the Congress receives the report submitted under section 801(a)(1); or

''(B) the nonmajor rule is published in the Federal Register, if so published.

''(c) In the Senate, if the committee to which is referred a joint resolution described in subsection (a) has not reported such joint resolution (or an identical joint resolution) at the end of 15 session days after the date of introduction of the joint resolution, such committee may be discharged from further consideration of such joint resolution upon a petition supported in writing by 30 Members of the Senate, and such joint resolution shall be placed on the calendar.

''(d)(1) In the Senate, when the committee to which a joint resolution is referred has reported, or when a committee is discharged (under subsection (c)) from further consideration of a joint resolution described in subsection (a), it is at any time thereafter in order (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) for a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution, and all points of order against the joint resolution (and against consideration of the joint resolution) are waived. The motion is not subject to amendment, or to a motion to postpone, or to a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution is agreed to, the joint resolution shall remain the unfinished business of the Senate until disposed of.

''(2) In the Senate, debate on the joint resolution, and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours, which shall be divided equally between those favoring and those opposing the joint resolution. A motion to further limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint resolution is not in order.

''(3) In the Senate, immediately following the conclusion of the debate on a joint resolution described in subsection (a), and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate, the vote on final passage of the joint resolution shall occur.

''(4) Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate to the procedure relating to a joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall be decided without debate.

''(e) In the Senate the procedure specified in subsection (c) or (d) shall not apply to the consideration of a joint resolution respecting a nonmajor rule—

''(1) after the expiration of the 60 session days beginning with the applicable submission or publication date, or

''(2) if the report under section 801(a)(1)(A) was submitted during the period referred to in section 801(d)(1), after the expiration of the 60 session days beginning on the 15th session day after the succeeding session of Congress first convenes.

''(f) If, before the passage by one House of a joint resolution of that House described in subsection (a), that House receives from the other House a joint resolution described in subsection (a), then the following procedures shall apply:

''(1) The joint resolution of the other House shall not be referred to a committee.

''(2) With respect to a joint resolution described in subsection (a) of the House receiving the joint resolution—

''(A) the procedure in that House shall be the same as if no joint resolution had been received from the other House; but

''(B) the vote on final passage shall be on the joint resolution of the other House.

''§ 804. Definitions

''For purposes of this chapter—

''(1) the term 'Federal agency' means any agency as that term is defined in section 551(1);

''(2) the term 'major rule' means any rule, including an interim final rule, that the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget finds has resulted in or is likely to result in—

''(A) an annual effect on the economy of $100,000,000 or more;

''(B) a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, or local government agencies, or geographic regions; or

''(C) significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or on the ability of United States-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises in domestic and export markets;

''(3) the term 'nonmajor rule' means any rule that is not a major rule; and

''(4) the term 'rule' has the meaning given such term in section 551, except that such term does not include—

''(A) any rule of particular applicability, including a rule that approves or prescribes for the future rates, wages, prices, services, or allowances therefore, corporate or financial structures, reorganizations, mergers, or acquisitions thereof, or accounting practices or disclosures bearing on any of the foregoing;

''(B) any rule relating to agency management or personnel; or

''(C) any rule of agency organization, procedure, or practice that does not substantially affect the rights or obligations of nonagency parties.

''§ 805. Judicial review

''(a) No determination, finding, action, or omission under this chapter shall be subject to judicial review.

''(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), a court may determine whether a Federal agency has completed the necessary requirements under this chapter for a rule to take effect.

''(c) The enactment of a joint resolution of approval under section 802 shall not—

''(1) be interpreted to serve as a grant or modification of statutory authority by Congress for the promulgation of a rule;

''(2) extinguish or affect any claim, whether substantive or procedural, against any alleged defect in a rule; and

''(3) form part of the record before the court in any judicial proceeding concerning a rule except for purposes of determining whether or not the rule is in effect.

''§ 806. Exemption for monetary policy

''Nothing in this chapter shall apply to rules that concern monetary policy proposed or implemented by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or the Federal Open Market Committee.

''§ 807. Effective date of certain rules

''Notwithstanding section 801—

''(1) any rule that establishes, modifies, opens, closes, or conducts a regulatory program for a commercial, recreational, or subsistence activity related to hunting, fishing, or camping; or

''(2) any rule other than a major rule which an agency for good cause finds (and incorporates the finding and a brief statement of reasons therefore in the rule issued) that notice and public procedure thereon are impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest,

shall take effect at such time as the Federal agency promulgating the rule determines.''.

(d) BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF RULES SUBJECT TO SECTION 802 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE.—Section 257(b)(2) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 907(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(E) Any rules subject to the congressional approval procedure set forth in section 802 of chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, affecting budget authority, outlays, or receipts shall be assumed to be effective unless it is not approved in accordance with such section.''.

SA 1021. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018;

which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, insert the following:

SEC. 12213. REPEAL OF ESTATE AND GENERATION-SKIPPING TRANSFER TAXES.

(a) ESTATE TAX REPEAL.—Subchapter C of chapter 11 of subtitle B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 2210. TERMINATION.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), this chapter shall not apply to the estates of decedents dying on or after the date of the enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013.

''(b) CERTAIN DISTRIBUTIONS FROM QUALIFIED DOMESTIC TRUSTS.—In applying section 2056A with respect to the surviving spouse of a decedent dying before the date of the enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013—

''(1) section 2056A(b)(1)(A) shall not apply to distributions made after the 10-year period beginning on such date, and

''(2) section 2056A(b)(1)(B) shall not apply on or after such date.''.

(b) GENERATION-SKIPPING TRANSFER TAX REPEAL.—Subchapter G of chapter 13 of subtitle B of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 2664. TERMINATION.

''This chapter shall not apply to generation-skipping transfers on or after the date of the enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The table of sections for subchapter C of chapter 11 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''Sec. 2210. Termination.''.

(2) The table of sections for subchapter G of chapter 13 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''Sec. 2664. Termination.''.

(d) RESTORATION OF PRE-EGTRRA PROVISIONS NOT APPLICABLE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 301 of the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 shall not apply to estates of decedents dying, and transfers made, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) EXCEPTION FOR STEPPED-UP BASIS.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to the provisions of law amended by subtitle E of title V of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 (relating to carryover basis at death; other changes taking effect with repeal).

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to the estates of decedents dying, and generation-skipping transfers, after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 12214. MODIFICATIONS OF GIFT TAX.

(a) COMPUTATION OF GIFT TAX.—Subsection (a) of section 2502 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

''(a) COMPUTATION OF TAX.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The tax imposed by section 2501 for each calendar year shall be an amount equal to the excess of—

''(A) a tentative tax, computed under paragraph (2), on the aggregate sum of the taxable gifts for such calendar year and for each of the preceding calendar periods, over

''(B) a tentative tax, computed under paragraph (2), on the aggregate sum of the taxable gifts for each of the preceding calendar periods.

''(2) RATE SCHEDULE.—

"If the amount with respect to which the tentative tax to be computed is:	The tentative tax is:
Not over $10,000	18% of such amount.
Over $10,000 but not over $20,000.	$1,800, plus 20% of the excess over $10,000.
Over $20,000 but not over $40,000.	$3,800, plus 22% of the excess over $20,000.
Over $40,000 but not over $60,000.	$8,200, plus 24% of the excess over $40,000.
Over $60,000 but not over $80,000.	$13,000, plus 26% of the excess over $60,000.
Over $80,000 but not over $100,000.	$18,200, plus 28% of the excess over $80,000.
Over $100,000 but not over $150,000.	$23,800, plus 30% of the excess over $100,000.
Over $150,000 but not over $250,000.	$38,800, plus 32% of the excess of $150,000.
Over $250,000 but not over $500,000.	$70,800, plus 34% of the excess over $250,000.
Over $500,000	$155,800, plus 35% of the excess of $500,000.''.

(b) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN TRANSFERS IN TRUST.—Section 2511 (relating to transfers in general) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(c) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN TRANSFERS IN TRUST.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section and except as provided in regulations, a transfer in trust shall be treated as a taxable gift under section 2503, unless the trust is treated as wholly owned by the donor or the donor's spouse under subpart E of part I of subchapter J of chapter 1.''.

(c) LIFETIME GIFT EXEMPTION.—Paragraph (1) of section 2505(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

''(1) the amount of the tentative tax which would be determined under the rate schedule set forth in section 2502(a)(2) if the amount with respect to which such tentative tax is to be computed were $5,000,000, reduced by''.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 2505(a) of such Code is amended by striking the last sentence.

(2) The heading for section 2505 of such Code is amended by striking ''**UNIFIED**''.

(3) The item in the table of sections for subchapter A of chapter 12 of such Code relating to section 2505 is amended to read as follows:

''Sec. 2505. Credit against gift tax.''.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to gifts made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(f) TRANSITION RULE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of applying sections 1015(d), 2502, and 2505 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the calendar year in which this Act is enacted shall be treated as 2 separate calendar years one of which ends on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act and the other of which begins on such date of enactment.

(2) APPLICATION OF SECTION 2504(b).—For purposes of applying section 2504(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the calendar year in which this Act is enacted shall be treated as one preceding calendar period.

SA 1022. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 968, between lines 8 and 9, insert the following:

SEC. 81___. FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM.

Section 7(*l*) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103c(*l*)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) STATE AUTHORIZATION.—

''(A) DEFINITION OF QUALIFIED ORGANIZATION.—In this paragraph, a 'qualified organization' means an organization—

''(i) defined in section 170(h)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

''(ii) organized for 1 or more of the purposes described in section 170(h)(4)(A) of that Code.

''(B) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary shall, at the request of a State acting through the State lead agency, authorize the State to allow qualified organizations to acquire, hold, and manage conservation easements, using funds provided through grants to the State under this subsection, for purposes of the Forest Legacy Program in the State.

''(C) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to acquire and manage conservation easements under this paragraph, a qualified organization shall demonstrate to the Secretary the abilities necessary to acquire, monitor, and enforce interests in forest land consistent with the Forest Legacy Program and the assessment of need for the State.

''(D) REVERSION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary, or a State acting through the State lead agency, makes any of the determinations described in clause (ii) with respect to a conservation easement acquired by a qualified organization under subparagraph (B)—

''(I) all right, title, and interest of the qualified organization in and to the conservation easement shall terminate; and

''(II) all right, title, and interest in and to the conservation easement shall revert to the State or other qualified designee approved by the State.

''(ii) DETERMINATIONS.—The determinations referred to in clause (i) are that—

''(I) the qualified organization is unable to carry out the responsibilities of the qualified organization under the Forest Legacy Program in the State with respect to the conservation easement;

''(II) the conservation easement has been modified or is being administered in a way that is inconsistent with the purposes of the Forest Legacy Program or the assessment of need for the State; or

''(III) the conservation easement has been conveyed to another person (other than a qualified organization approved by the State and the Secretary).''.

SA 1023. Mr. COWAN (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. REED, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 12213. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON FISHERY DISASTER ASSISTANCE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Commercial, recreational, and subsistence fishing represents the livelihood of many hard-working people in the United States and, in 2011, fisheries supported more than 1,200,000 jobs in the United States.

(2) Seafood represents an important source of high quality, nutritious food for the people of the United States, who consumed 15 pounds of fish and shellfish in 2011 on average per capita.

(3) Commercial, recreational, and subsistence fishing is an integral part of the economic foundation for the coastal communities of the United States.

(4) Despite adhering to strict catch limits, many fishermen and historic fishing communities currently face extreme hardship as a result of dramatic declines in stocks due to natural disasters and undetermined causes.

(5) In 2012, using authority under the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.) and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), the Secretary of Commerce declared fishery disasters with respect to the following:

(A) Mississippi oyster and blue crab, in response to flooding that occurred in 2011, damage from the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010, and Hurricane Katrina.

(B) Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) Fishery, for Rhode Island, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, and Connecticut.

(C) Alaska Chinook salmon, for Chinook salmon fisheries in the Yukon River, Kuskokwin River, and Cook Inlet.

(D) New Jersey and New York, in response to Hurricane Sandy.

(E) American Samoa, for bottomfish.

(6) Whenever a disaster has been declared by the Federal Government, Congress has traditionally provided funding to assist those affected.

(7) Since 1994, Federal fishery failures have been declared on 29 occasions and nearly $827,000,000 in Federal funding has been provided for fishery disaster relief.

(8) The Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (division A of Public Law 113–2; 127 Stat. 4), did not include the funding for all fishery disasters declared in 2012 that was included in the Senate bill and those fisheries continue to face dire economic straits.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) it is important to support the commercial, recreational, and subsistence fishermen of the United States, who risk their lives to put food on the tables of the people of the United States and to support their communities;

(2) it is in the national interest to ensure that the important and storied United States fishing industry survives and thrives well into the future; and

(3) funds should be provided, as soon as possible, for the fishery disasters declared by the Secretary of Commerce in 2012 and any subsequent fishery disaster declarations.

SA 1024. Mrs. BOXER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 986, between lines 4 and 5, insert the following:

SEC. 8304. CULTURAL HERITAGE AND COOPERATION.

Section 8102 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (25 U.S.C. 3052) is amended by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

''(5) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term 'Indian tribe' means—

''(A) any Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, or other community the name of which is included on a list published by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to section 104 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994; or

''(B) any Indian group that has been formally recognized as an Indian tribe by a State.''.

SA 1025. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1150, after line 15, add the following:

SEC. 122_____. SENSE OF THE SENATE CONCERNING THE LABELING OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOODS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) 64 countries, including the United Kingdom, South Korea, Japan, Brazil, Australia, India, China, all countries of the European Union, and other key United States trading partners, have laws or regulations mandating the disclosure of genetically engineered food on food labels;

(2) 26 States have introduced legislation in 2013 that would require the labeling of genetically engineered foods;

(3) the Food and Drug Administration requires the labeling of more than 3,000 ingredients, additives, and processes;

(4) the Food and Drug Administration has the statutory authority to require the labeling of genetically engineered foods; and

(5) the process of genetic engineering results in material changes to foods at the molecular level that have never occurred in traditional varieties and are determinative of food purchases by consumers.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the United States should join the 64 other countries that have given consumers the right to know if the foods purchased to feed their families have been genetically engineered or contain genetically engineered ingredients.

SA 1026. Mrs. BOXER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 122____. REPORT ON GMO LABELING.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs and in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall submit a report to Congress on the methods of labeling genetically engineered food (also referred to as ''GMO'') in nations that require such labeling and the probable impacts of having differing State labeling laws in the absence of a Federal labeling standard with respect to genetically engineered food.

SA 1027. Mrs. BOXER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 12_____. PROTECTION OF HONEY BEES AND OTHER POLLINATORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in cooperation with the Secretary of the Interior and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall carry out such activities as the Secretary determines to be appropriate to protect and ensure the long-term viability of populations of honey bees, wild bees, and other beneficial insects of agricultural crops, horticultural plants, wild plants, and other plants, including—

(1) providing formal guidance relating to proposed agency actions that may threaten pollinator health or jeopardize the long-term viability of populations of pollinators;

(2) making use of the best available peer-reviewed science regarding environmental and chemical stressors on pollinator health; and

(3) regularly monitoring and reporting on the health and population status of managed and native pollinators including bees, birds, bats, and other species.

(b) INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON BEE HEALTH AND COMMERCIAL BEEKEEPING.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish an interagency task force—

(A) to coordinate Federal efforts carried out on or after the date of enactment of this Act to address the serious worldwide decline in bee health, especially honey bees and declining native bees; and

(B) to assess Federal efforts to mitigate pollinator losses and threats to the United States commercial beekeeping industry.

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The task force established under this subsection shall be comprised of officials from—

(A) the Department of Agriculture;

(B) the Department of the Interior;

(C) the Environmental Protection Agency;

(D) the Food and Drug Administration; and

(E) the Department of Commerce.

(3) CONSULTATION.—The members of the task force established under this subsection shall consult with beekeeper, conservation, scientist, and agricultural stakeholders.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the task force established under subsection (b) shall submit to Congress a report that summarizes—

(1) Federal activities carried out pursuant to section 1672(h) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925(h)) or any other provision of law (including regulations) to address bee decline; and

(2) international efforts to address the decline of managed honeybees and native pollinators.

(d) POLLINATOR RESEARCH LAB FEASIBILITY STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Agricultural Research Service, shall conduct feasibility studies regarding—

(A) establishing a new bee research laboratory; and

(B) modernizing existing honey bee research laboratories identified by the Agricultural Research Service in the capital investment strategy document dated 2012.

(2) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the feasibility studies under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consult with—

(A) beekeeper, native bee, agricultural, research institution, and bee conservation stakeholders regarding new research laboratory needs under paragraph (1)(A); and

(B) commercial beekeepers regarding modernizing existing honey bee laboratories under paragraph (1)(B).

SA 1028. Mrs. BOXER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 862, strike lines 10 through 12 and insert the following:

from the decennial census in the year 2020'';

(2) by striking ''25,000'' and inserting ''35,000''; and

(3) by inserting after ''families.'' the following: ''The Secretary may continue to classify such an area to be 'rural' or a 'rural area' if the Secretary determines that the area has a population in excess of 35,000, but not in excess of 50,000, is rural in character, and has a serious lack of mortgage credit for lower- and moderate-income families or lack of affordable housing, or a significant portion of the population of the area is employed in agriculture.''.

SA 1029. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1150, after line 15, add the following:

SEC. 12___. SENSE OF THE SENATE CONCERNING CLIMATE CHANGE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) evidence that human activity is contributing significantly to climate change is based on sound measurement practices and well-understood physics;

(2) measurements show that the acidity of the oceans has increased almost 30 percent since preindustrial times, at a rate that exceeds estimates of any rate in 50,000,000 years;

(3) almost 90 percent of scientists, almost 95 percent of active climate scientists, and more than 30 major scientific organizations think humans are significantly contributing to climate change;

(4) the harms of climate change to agriculture include more frequent and severe storms, more frequent flooding, worsening droughts, changes in the range of pests and invasive species, reduced agricultural productivity, damaging stress to livestock health, and reduced productivity of agricultural producers;

(5) the Government Accountability Office—

(A) has added the fiscal exposure of the Federal Government to climate change to the GAO High Risk list; and

(B) has included exposure through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation as part of the risk;

(6) agriculture-related industry contributes almost 5 percent to the economy of the United States; and

(7) climate change presents a credible risk to—

(A) agriculture and forestry in the United States; and

(B) the infrastructure, health of the people, national security, and economy of the United States.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the scientific evidence and consensus that supports the assertion that humans are contributing to climate change represents a credible risk to agriculture and related industries in the United States;

(2) the scientific evidence and consensus referred to in paragraph (1) is not product of a hoax or deception perpetrated on the people of the United States; and

(3) efforts to reduce carbon pollution and adapt to the effects of climate change are—

(A) economically prudent; and

(B) in the best security and fiscal interests of the United States.

SA 1030. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. COWAN, and Mr. REED) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 462, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

"SEC. 32___. PILOT PROGRAM OPERATING LOANS TO COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN AND SHELLFISH FARMERS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018, up to 1.5 percent of the funds made available to carry out this chapter for that fiscal year shall be used to carry out a pilot program to make and guarantee operating loans to individuals or entities primarily engaged in commercial fishing or shellfish farming—

''(1) to pay the costs incident to reorganizing a commercial fishing or shellfish farming business for more profitable operation;

''(2) to purchase commercial fishing or shellfish farming equipment to comply with regulatory requirements, meet management objectives identified by the managing agency, improve the quality of fishery resource harvests, or replace worn equipment;

''(3) to purchase fuel, bait, or to meet other essential commercial fishing or shellfish farming operating expenses;

''(4) to finance commercial fishery or shellfish farming permits;

''(5) to refinance indebtedness; or

''(6) to pay loan closing costs.

''(b) ELIGIBILITY.—A commercial fisherman, a shellfish farmer, or an individual holding a majority interest in an entity primarily engaged in commercial fishing or shellfish farming shall be eligible under this section only if the individual—

''(1) is a citizen of the United States;

''(2) has a record of experienced commercial fishing or shellfish farming that the Secretary determines is sufficient to ensure a reasonable prospect of success in the commercial fishing or shellfish farming operation proposed by the individual; and

''(3) is unable to obtain credit elsewhere.

''(c) CONSISTENCY WITH FISHERY MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES.—Any loan under this section shall support activities or purchases consistent with the management objectives of the 1 or more fisheries or shellfish farms in which the eligible person described in subsection (b) participates, which the Secretary may determine through consultation with—

''(1) the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere; or

''(2) the appropriate State, local, or tribal fishery or shellfish farming management authorities.

''(d) EVALUATION.—Not later than April 1, 2016, the Secretary shall—

''(1) complete an evaluation of the pilot program; and

''(2) submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing results of the evaluation.

SA 1031. Mrs. HAGAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1076, between lines 17 and 18, insert the following:

SEC. 110___. CROP INSURANCE FRAUD.

Section 516(b)(2) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1516(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(C) REVIEWS, COMPLIANCE, AND PROGRAM INTEGRITY.—For each of the 2014 and subsequent reinsurance years, the Corporation may use the insurance fund established under subsection (c), but not to exceed $5,000,000 for each fiscal year, to pay the following:

''(i) Costs to reimburse expenses incurred for the review of policies, plans of insurance, and related materials and to assist the Corporation in maintaining program integrity.

''(ii) In addition to other available funds, costs incurred by the Risk Management Agency for compliance operations associated with activities authorized under this title.''.

SA 1032. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 12____. STATE MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING REGARDING INTERSTATE SHIPMENT OF STATE-INSPECTED POULTRY AND MEAT ITEMS.

(a) MEAT ITEMS.—Section 501 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 683) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''that is located in a State that has enacted a mandatory State meat product inspection law that imposes ante mortem and post mortem inspection, reinspection, and sanitation requirements that are at least equal to those under this Act'' before the period at the end; and

(B) by striking paragraph (5);

(2) by striking subsections (b) through (e) and inserting the following:

''(b) STATE MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING REGARDING INTERSTATE SHIPMENT OF STATE-INSPECTED MEAT ITEMS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including regulations), a State may enter into a memorandum of understanding with another State under which meat items from an eligible establishment in 1 State are sold in interstate commerce in the other State, in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (2).

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible to enter into a memorandum of understanding under paragraph (1), a State, acting through the appropriate State agency, shall receive a certification from the Secretary that—

''(A) the ante mortem and post mortem inspection, reinspection, and sanitation requirements of the State are at least equal to those under this Act; and

''(B) the State employs designated personnel to inspect meat items to be shipped by eligible establishments in interstate commerce.'';

(3) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (c);

(4) by striking subsections (g), (h), and (j); and

(5) by redesignating subsection (i) as subsection (d).

(b) POULTRY ITEMS.—Section 31 of the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 472) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (5);

(2) by striking subsections (b) through (g) and inserting the following:

''(b) STATE MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING REGARDING INTERSTATE SHIPMENT OF STATE-INSPECTED POULTRY ITEMS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including regulations), a State may enter into a memorandum of understanding with another State under which poultry items from an eligible establishment in 1 State are sold in interstate commerce in the other State, in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (2).

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible to enter into a memorandum of understanding under paragraph (1), a State, acting through the appropriate State agency, shall receive a certification from the Secretary that—

''(A) the ante mortem and post mortem inspection, reinspection, and sanitation requirements of the State are at least equal to those under this Act; and

''(B) the State employs designated personnel to inspect poultry items to be shipped by eligible establishments in interstate commerce.'';

(3) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (c); and

(4) by striking subsection (i).

SA 1033. Mr. KING submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 12_____. SCIENTIFIC AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF THE FDA FOOD SAFETY MODERNIZATION ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this section as the ''Secretary'') may not enforce any regulations promulgated under the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (Public Law 111–353) until the Secretary publishes in the Federal Register the following:

(1) An analysis of the scientific information used in the final rule to implement the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act with a particular focus on—

(A) agricultural businesses of a variety of sizes;

(B) regional differences of agriculture production, processing, marketing, and value added production;

(C) agricultural businesses that are diverse livestock and produce producers;

(D) the impact on local food systems and the availability of local food; and

(E) what, if any, negative impact on the agricultural businesses and local food systems would be created, or exacerbated, by implementation of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act.

(2) An analysis of the economic impact of the proposed final rule to implement the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act with a particular focus on—

(A) agricultural businesses of a variety of sizes;

(B) small and mid-sized value added food processors; and

(C) the availability of local foods in Farmers Markets, Community Supported Agriculture, restaurants, and food hubs.

(3) A plan to systematically evaluate the regulations by surveying farmers and processors and developing an ongoing process to evaluate and address business concerns.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report on the impact of implementation of the regulations promulgated under the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act.

SA 1034. Mr. KING submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 12_____. POULTRY PROCESSING AT CERTAIN FACILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7 of the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 456) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) PROCESSING AT CERTAIN FACILITIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including section 381.10(b)(2) of title 9, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this subsection)), a person that owns or operates a facility described in paragraph (2) may enter into a lease or other agreement with any other person for the purpose of processing poultry of the other person at the facility—

''(A) subject to the condition that each person that is a party to the agreement has in place a hazard analysis and critical control points plan; and

''(B) regardless of whether the Secretary grants an exemption for the processing under section 15(c)(3) or any other provision of law (including regulations).

''(2) DESCRIPTION OF FACILITY.—A facility referred to in paragraph (1) is a facility that—

''(A) has been inspected in accordance with the requirements of this Act;

''(B) has a capacity of not more than 20,000 poultry; and

''(C) is not used by the owner or operator of the facility to the full capacity of the facility.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 15(c)(3)(B) of the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 464(c)(3)(B)) is amended by inserting ''subject to section 7(c),'' before ''slaughters or processes''.

SA 1035. Mr. KING (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title II, add the following:

SEC. 25_____. FARM BUSINESS CENTERS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) Federal conservation programs, such as the Conservation Stewardship Program and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program—

(A) help farmers and landowners reduce soil erosion, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, and improve wildlife habitat; and

(B) represent the shared cost and responsibility of the Federal Government and farmers and landowners for conservation;

(2) much of the support provided by the programs described in paragraph (1) is in the form of technical support to help farmers and landowners achieve conservation goals;

(3)(A) section 14212(b)(1)(B) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 6932a(b)(1)(B)) provided for the closing of Farm Service Agency offices if the offices had 2 or fewer permanent full-time employees; but

(B) that provision failed to take into consideration that—

(i) some Farm Service Agency offices were colocated;

(ii) some Farm Service Agency programs were interdependent; and

(iii) that colocation and interdependence served as an advantage;

(4) reducing staff levels and closing Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service offices makes it more difficult for farmers and landowners to participate in Federal programs;

(5)(A) the State of Maine is increasing the number of new, small, and mid-sized farms in the State; and

(B) for many of those farms, access to technical assistance is critical for success; and

(6)(A) the policy of the Administrative and Financial Management office of the Department of Agriculture in effect on the date of enactment of this Act supports consolidation of offices of—

(i) the Farm Service Agency;

(ii) the Natural Resources Conservation Service offices; and

(iii) soil and water conservation districts; but

(B) that policy is undermined by other policies that do not evaluate the effect on the entire service system of a decision of such an agency to relocate staff or close an office, which often results in a cost shift to rural communities, farmers, and landowners.

(b) GUIDELINES.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish guidelines—

(1) to encourage the colocation of offices of the Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and soil and water conservation districts to establish ''1-stop'' farm business centers of the Department of Agriculture to increase efficiency, improve communication with agency and local government partners, and enhance service delivery to rural communities; and

(2) relating to the use of donated office space, on a full-time or part-time basis, from local governments and other appropriate entities.

SA 1036. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 378, between lines 15 and 16, insert the following:

SEC. 40___. DATA COLLECTION.

Section 11 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2020) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(v) DATA COLLECTION.—The Secretary shall compile data on incidences in which eligible households who are otherwise eligible to continue receiving benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program are determined to be ineligible and required to reapply for eligibility, whether through an administrative error or through the fault of the eligible household.''.

SA 1037. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 414, between lines 5 and 6, insert the following:

SEC. 42___. PILOT PROGRAM FOR HIGH-POVERTY SCHOOLS.

Section 18(h) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769(h)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''5 States'' and inserting ''10 States''; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''2015'' and inserting ''2020''.

SA 1038. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 378, between lines 15 and 16, insert the following:

SEC. 4_____. SENIOR APPLICANT INTERVIEW WAIVER OPTION.

Section 11 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2020) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(v) SENIOR APPLICANT INTERVIEW WAIVER OPTION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall give each participating State the option to carry out the supplemental nutrition assistance

program in accordance with this Act but using a waiver of the eligibility interview for applicant households that consist of not more than 2 members, both of whom are over the age of 65.

''(2) PROHIBITION.—In the case of a participating State that elects to take the option described in paragraph (1), no applicant household described in that paragraph for which the eligibility interview is waived shall be denied benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program solely as a result of that waiver.

''(3) VERIFICATION.—If a participating State that elects to take the option described in paragraph (1) determines that any information on the application of an applicant household subject to a waiver is questionable, the applicable State agency may contact the applicant household directly or request additional verification of the questionable information.''.

SA 1039. Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. RISCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XXII, add the following:

SEC. 12_____. PROHIBITION AGAINST FINALIZING, IMPLEMENTING, OR ENFORCING THE PROPOSED RULE ENTITLED "STANDARDS FOR THE GROWING, HARVESTING, PACKING, AND HOLDING OF PRODUCE FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION".

No Federal funds may be used to finalize, implement or enforce the proposed rule entitled ''Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption'' published by the Department of Health and Human Services on January 16, 2013 (78 Fed. Reg. 3503), or any successor or substantially similar rule.

SA 1040. Mr. ENZI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 925 submitted by Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. CORKER, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. COATS, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. HELLER) and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 5 of the amendment, line 14, before the period at the end insert ''and eliminate the tariff-rate quotas for maple syrup and specialty syrups''.

SA 1041. Mr. ENZI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 12208.

SA 1042. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 12_____. EXEMPTIONS FROM REQUIREMENTS FOR HAZARD ANALYSIS AND RISK-BASED PREVENTIVE CONTROLS AND PRODUCE SAFETY.

(a) QUALIFIED.—Section 418(l)(1)(C)(ii) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 350g(l)(1)(C)(ii)) is amended—

(1) in subclause (I), by striking ''value of the food manufactured'' each place such term appears and inserting ''value of the food subject to the requirements of this section that is manufactured''; and

(2) in subclause (II), by striking ''value of all food sold'' and inserting ''value of all food subject to the requirements of this section that is sold''.

(b) PRODUCE SAFETY AND PREVENTIVE CONTROLS.—Section 419(f)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 350h(f)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''food sold by'' each place such term appears and inserting ''food subject to the requirements of this section that is sold by''; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''value of all food sold'' and inserting ''value of all food subject to the requirements of this section that is sold''.

SA 1043. Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Mr. COONS, and Mr. CHAMBLISS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 1085, strike line 11 and all that follows through page 1086, line 17, and insert the following:

''(i) a study to determine the feasibility of insuring commercial poultry production against business disruptions caused by integrator bankruptcy or other significant market disruptions; and

''(ii) a study to determine the feasibility of insuring poultry producers for a catastrophic event.

''(C) BUSINESS DISRUPTION STUDY.—The study described in subparagraph (B)(i) shall—

''(i) evaluate the market place for business disruption insurance that is available to poultry producers;

''(ii) assess the feasibility of a policy to allow producers to ensure against a portion of losses from loss under contract due to business disruptions from integrator bankruptcy or other significant market disruptions; and

''(iii) analyze the costs to the Federal Government of a Federal business disruption insurance program for poultry producers.

''(D) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that describes the results of—

''(i) the study carried out under subparagraph (B)(i); and

''(ii) the study carried out under subparagraph (B)(ii).

''(E) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Board shall review the policy described in subparagraph (B) under subsection 508(h) and approve the policy if the Board finds that the policy—

''(i) will likely result in a viable and marketable policy consistent with this subsection;

''(ii) would provide crop insurance coverage in a significantly improved form;

''(iii) adequately protects the interests of producers; and

''(iv) meets other requirements of this subtitle determined appropriate by the Board.''.

SA 1044. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 731, between lines 6 and 7, insert the following:

''SEC. 3708. LAND GRANT-MERCEDES.

''(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

''(1) Spanish and Mexican land grant-mercedes are part of a unique and important history in the southwest United States dating back to the 1600s and becoming incorporated into the United States through the Treaty of Peace, Friendship, Limits, and Settlement between the United States of America and the Mexican Republic, signed at Guadalupe Hidalgo February 2, 1848, and entered into force May 30, 1848 (9 Stat. 922) (commonly referred to as the 'Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo');

''(2) the years following the signing of that treaty resulted in a significant loss of land originally belonging to the land grant-mercedes due to manipulations and unfulfilled commitments;

''(3) the land grant-mercedes that are recognized as political subdivisions are in need of increased economic opportunities; and

''(4) the rural development programs of the Department of Agriculture are an appropriate venue for addressing the needs of the land grant-mercedes.

''(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) LAND GRANT-MERCEDES.—The term 'land grant-mercedes' means land that was granted by the government of Spain or the government of Mexico to a community, town, colony, pueblo, or person for the purpose of establishing a community, town, colony, or pueblo.

''(2) LAND GRANT COUNCIL.—The term 'Land Grant Council' means an agency of the New Mexico State government established by law—

''(A) to provide support to land grants-mercedes in the State of New Mexico; and

''(B) to serve as a liaison between land grant-mercedes and other State agencies and the Federal government.

''(3) QUALIFIED LAND GRANT-MERCEDES.—The term 'qualified land grant-mercedes' means a land grant-mercedes recognized under a State law.

''(c) PROGRAM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any other funds made available for similar purposes, the Secretary shall use funds set aside under paragraph (3) to provide grants to qualified land grant-mercedes and the Land Grant Council for the purpose of carrying out economic development initiatives under—

''(A) the Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households (SEARCH) program under section 3501(e)(6);

''(B) the community facility grant program under section 3502;

''(C) the program of rural business development grants and rural business enterprise grants under section 3601(a);

''(D) the rural microentrepreneur assistance program under section 3601(f)(2); and

''(E) the rural community development initiative.

''(2) FEDERAL SHARE.—Notwithstanding any other requirement of the programs described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall make available to qualified land grant-mercedes grants under those programs at a Federal share of up to 100 percent.

''(3) SET ASIDE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, of amounts made

available for a fiscal year for rural development programs of the Department of Agriculture, $10,000,000 shall be used to carry out this section.''.

SA 1045. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1150, afer line 15, add the following:

SEC. 12____. RECEIPT FOR SERVICE OR DENIAL OF SERVICE FROM CERTAIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AGENCIES.

Section 2501A(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279–1(e)) is amended by striking ''and, at the time of the request, also requests a receipt''.

SA 1046. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 216, line 15, strike ''and'' at the end.

On page 217, strike line 21 and insert the following:

habitat.''; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

''(j) FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY IRRIGATION ASSOCIATIONS.—

''(1) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE COMMUNITY IRRIGATION ASSOCIATION.—In this subsection, the term 'eligible community irrigation association' means an irrigation association that—

''(A) is comprised of members who are eligible producers; and

''(B) is a local governmental entity that does not have the authority to impose taxes or levies.

''(2) ALTERNATIVE FUNDING ARRANGEMENT.—The Secretary may enter into alternative funding arrangements with eligible community irrigation associations if the Secretary determines that—

''(A) the goals and objectives of the program will be met by the arrangements; and

''(B) statutory limitations regarding contracts with individual producers will not be exceeded by any member of the irrigation association.''.

SA 1047. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 731, between lines 6 and 7, insert the following:

''SEC. 3708. FRONTIER COMMUNITIES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

''(a) DEFINITION OF FRONTIER COMMUNITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Director of the Bureau of the Census and the Administrator of the Economic Research Service, shall promulgate regulations to define, for purposes of this section, the term 'frontier community'.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The definition of 'frontier community' shall be based on a weighted matrix that uses population density, distance in miles and travel time in minutes from the nearest significant service center or market, and such other factors as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

''(3) IDENTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall work with State executives, officials of nonmetropolitan local governments, and officials of federally recognized Indian tribes, as appropriate, to identify communities that qualify as 'frontier communities' based on the weighted matrix.

''(4) RECONSIDERATION PROCESS.—The Secretary shall establish a reconsideration process under which a community that has not been designated as a 'frontier community' may petition for designation.

''(b) RESERVATION OF FUNDS FOR FRONTIER COMMUNITIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall reserve an amount of not less than 3 percent of all funds made available for a fiscal year for programs of the rural development mission area that provide grants, loans, or loan guarantees to communities, for the costs of making grants, loans, or loan guarantees to frontier communities in accordance with those programs and this section.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B) and notwithstanding any other provision of this title, in making a grant, loan, or loan guarantee to a frontier community using funds reserved under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall apply the terms and conditions of the applicable rural development program.

''(B) EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary—

''(i) in the case of grants and regardless of cost-sharing requirements in the underlying program, may make available a grant of up to 100 percent Federal cost share to frontier communities;

''(ii) for purposes of scoring grant applications, may not consider whether a frontier community belongs to a regional partnership; and

''(iii) may not impose a minimum grant or loan amount requirement.

''(3) INSUFFICIENT APPLICATIONS.—If funds reserved under paragraph (1) remain available due to insufficient applications after the end of the 180-day period beginning on the date on which the funds are reserved, the Secretary shall use the funds for the purposes for which the funds were originally made available.

''(c) CAPACITY BUILDING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND PROJECT PLANNING.—

''(1) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this subsection, the term 'eligible entity' means—

''(A) an association of counties;

''(B) a council of State and local governments;

''(C) a cooperative;

''(D) an Indian tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b));

''(E) a public agency;

''(F) a community-based organization, intermediary organization, network, or coalition of community-based organizations that does not engage in activities prohibited under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; or

''(G) a similar entity, as determined by the Secretary.

''(2) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall make available to eligible entities grants to facilitate greater capacity for frontier communities to plan projects and acquire and manage loans and grants made available through rural development programs of the Department and other funding sources.

''(3) PRIORITY.—In considering grant applications under this subsection, the Secretary shall give higher priority to an eligible entity that, as determined by the Secretary—

''(A) demonstrates an existing relationship with the frontier community intended to be served by the eligible entity; and

''(B) is a local organization or government entity.

''(4) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall reserve an amount of not more than 5 percent of all funds made available for programs of the rural development mission area for a fiscal year to make grants in accordance with this subsection.

''(B) INSUFFICIENT APPLICATIONS.—If funds reserved under subparagraph (A) remain available due to insufficient applications after the end of the 180-day period beginning on the date on which the funds are reserved, the Secretary shall use the funds for the purposes for which the funds were originally made available.''.

SA 1048. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 216, line 15, strike ''and'' at the end.

On page 217, strike line 21 and insert the following:

habitat.''; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

''(j) FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY IRRIGATION ASSOCIATIONS.—The Secretary may enter into alternative funding arrangements with the Acequia and Community Ditch Associations recognized by the State of New Mexico under Chapter 72, Articles 2 and 3, New Mexico Statutes Annotated 1978, if the Secretary determines that—

''(1) the goals and objectives of the program will be met by the arrangements; and

''(2) statutory limitations regarding contracts with individual producers will not be exceeded by any member of the Acequia and Community Ditch Associations.''.

SA 1049. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 216, line 15, strike ''and'' at the end.

On page 217, strike line 21 and insert the following:

habitat.''; and

(6) in subsection (h)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) AVAILABILITY OF PAYMENTS.—The Secretary may provide payments under this subsection to a producer for a water conservation or irrigation practice that promotes ground and surface water conservation on the agricultural operation of the producer through—

''(A) improvements to irrigation systems;

''(B) enhancement of irrigation efficiencies;

''(C) conversion of the agricultural operation to—

''(i) the production of less water-intensive agricultural commodities; or

''(ii) dryland farming;

''(D) improvement of the storage and conservation of water through measures such as water banking and groundwater recharge;

''(E) enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat associated with irrigation systems including pivot corners and areas with irregular boundaries;

''(F) enhancement of in-stream flows in associated rivers and streams; or

''(G) establishment of other measures, as determined by the Secretary, that improve

groundwater and surface water conservation in agricultural operations.''';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''or'' at the end and inserting ''and''; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

''(B) any associated water savings remain in the original source of the water for the useful life of the practice.''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) DUTY OF PRODUCERS.—The Secretary may not provide payments to a producer for a water conservation or irrigation practice under this subsection unless the producer agrees not to use any associated water savings to bring new land, other than incidental land needed for efficient operations, under irrigated production, unless the producer is participating in a watershed-wide project that will effectively conserve water, as determined by the Secretary.''.

SA 1050. Mr. BEGICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 877, after line 18, insert the following:

SEC. 6208. GAO REPORT ON UNIVERSAL SERVICE REFORMS.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the report required under subsection (b) is to aid Congress in monitoring and measuring the effects of a series of reforms by the Federal Communications Commission (in this section referred to as the ''FCC'') intended to promote the availability and affordability of broadband service throughout the United States.

(b) REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall prepare a report providing detailed measurements, statistics, and metrics with respect to—

(1) the progress of implementation of the reforms adopted in the FCC's Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking adopted on October 27, 2011 (FCC 11–161) (in this section referred to as the ''Order'');

(2) the effects, if any, of such reforms on retail end user rates during the applicable calendar year for—

(A) local voice telephony services (including any subscriber line charges and access recovery charges assessed by carriers upon purchasers of such services);

(B) interconnected VoIP services;

(C) long distance voice services;

(D) mobile wireless voice services;

(E) bundles of voice telephony or VoIP services (such as local and long distance voice packages);

(F) fixed broadband Internet access services; and

(G) mobile broadband Internet access services;

(3) any disparities or trends detectable during the applicable calendar year with respect to the relative average (such as per-consumer) retail rates charged for each of the services listed in paragraph (2) to consumers (including both residential and business users) located in rural areas and urban areas;

(4) any disparities or trends detectable during the applicable calendar year with respect to the relative average (such as per-consumer) retail rates charged for each of the services listed in paragraph (2) as between incumbent local exchange carriers subject to price cap regulation and those subject to rate-of-return regulation;

(5) the effects, if any, of those reforms adopted in the Order on average fixed and mobile broadband Internet access speeds, respectively, available to residential and business consumers, respectively, during the applicable calendar year;

(6) any disparities or trends detectable during the applicable calendar year with respect to the relative average fixed and mobile broadband Internet access speeds, respectively, available to residential and business consumers, respectively, in rural areas and urban areas;

(7) the effects, if any, of those reforms adopted in the Order on the magnitude and pace of investments in broadband-capable networks in rural areas, including such investments financed by the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.);

(8) any disparities or trends detectable during the applicable calendar year with respect to the relative magnitude and pace of investments in broadband-capable networks in rural areas and urban areas;

(9) any disparities or trends detectable during the applicable calendar year with respect to the magnitude and pace of investments in broadband-capable networks in areas served by carriers subject to rate-of-return regulation;

(10) the effects, if any, of those reforms adopted in the Order on adoption of broadband Internet access services by end users; and

(11) the effects, if any, of such reforms on State universal service funds or other State universal service initiatives, including carrier-of-last-resort requirements that may be enforced by any State.

(c) TIMING.—On or before December 31, 2013, and annually thereafter for the following 5 calendar years, the Comptroller General shall submit the report required under subsection (b) to the following:

(1) The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(2) The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

(3) The Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(4) The Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives.

(d) DATA INCLUSION.—The report required under subsection (b) shall include all data that the Comptroller General deems relevant to and supportive of any conclusions drawn with respect to the effects of the FCC's reforms and any disparities or trends detected in the items subject to the report.

SA 1051. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 10004 and insert the following:

SEC. 10004. STUDY ON LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION AND PROGRAM EVALUATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(1) collect data on the production and marketing of locally or regionally produced agricultural food products;

(2) collect data on direct and indirect regulatory compliance costs affecting the production and marketing of locally or regionally produced agricultural food products;

(3) facilitate interagency collaboration and data sharing on programs related to local and regional food systems;

(4) monitor the effectiveness of programs designed to expand or facilitate local food systems;

(5) monitor barriers to local and regional market access due to Federal regulation of small-scale production; and

(6) evaluate how local food systems—

(A) contribute to improving community food security; and

(B) assist populations with limited access to healthy food.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall, at a minimum—

(1) collect and distribute comprehensive reporting of prices and volume of locally or regionally produced agricultural food products;

(2) conduct surveys and analysis and publish reports relating to the production, handling, distribution, retail sales, and trend studies (including consumer purchasing patterns) of or on locally or regionally produced agricultural food products;

(3) evaluate the effectiveness of existing programs in growing local and regional food systems, including—

(A) the impact of local food systems on job creation and economic development;

(B) the level of participation in the Farmers' Market and Local Food Promotion Program established under section 6 of the Farmer-to-Consumer Direct Marketing Act of 1976 (7 U.S.C. 3005), including the percentage of projects funded in comparison to applicants and the types of eligible entities receiving funds;

(C) the ability for participants to leverage private capital and a synopsis of the places from which non-Federal funds are derived; and

(D) any additional resources required to aid in the development or expansion of local and regional food systems;

(4) evaluate the impact that Federal regulation of small commercial producers of fruits and vegetables intended for local and regional consumption may have on—

(A) local job creation and economic development;

(B) access to local and regional fruit and vegetable markets, including for new and beginning small commercial producers; and

(C) participation in—

(i) supplier networks;

(ii) high volume distribution systems; and

(iii) retail sales outlets;

(5) expand the Agricultural Resource Management Survey to include questions on locally or regionally produced agricultural food products; and

(6) seek to establish or expand private-public partnerships to facilitate, to the maximum extent practicable, the collection of data on locally or regionally produced agricultural food products, including the development of a nationally coordinated and regionally balanced evaluation of the redevelopment of locally or regionally produced food systems.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing the progress that has been made in implementing this section and identifying any additional needs and barriers related to developing local and regional food systems.

SA 1052. Mr. BOOZMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 628, between lines 13 and 14, insert the following:

''SEC. 3502. RIGHTS-OF-WAY FOR RURAL WATER PROJECTS.

''The Secretary shall grant, issue, or renew rights-of-way without rental fees for any rural water project that is federally financed (including a project that receives Federal

funds under this Act or from a State drinking water treatment revolving loan fund established under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12) , if the water project would otherwise be eligible to be granted, issued, or renewed rights-of-way under section 504(g) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1764(g)).

SA 1053. Mr. BOOZMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 12_____. ATTORNEY FEE PAYMENT TRACKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) develop a system to track and report attorney fee payment information in accordance with subsections (b) and (c); and

(2) submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing the status of the implementation of the system.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The system described in subsection (a)(1) shall track for each case or administrative adjudication in which the Secretary or Department of Agriculture is a party—

(1) the case name;

(2) the party name;

(3) the amount of the claim;

(4) the date and amount of the award or payment of attorney fees; and

(5) the law (including regulations) under which the case was brought.

(c) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Each year, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees described in subsection (a)(2) a report containing the information described in subsection (b).

SA 1054. Mr. BOOZMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE XIII—FARM, RANCH, AND FOREST LAND PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTION ACT

SEC. 13001. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Farm, Ranch, and Forest Land Private Property Protection Act''.

SEC. 13002. FINDINGS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The founders realized the fundamental importance of property rights when they codified the Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution, which requires that private property shall not be taken for public use, without just compensation.

(2) Rural lands are unique in that they are not traditionally considered high tax revenue-generating properties for State and local governments. In addition, farm, ranch, and forest land owners need to have long-term certainty regarding their property rights in order to make the investment decisions to commit land to these uses.

(3) Ownership rights in rural land are fundamental building blocks for our Nation's agriculture industry, which continues to be one of the most important economic sectors of our economy.

(4) In the wake of the Supreme Court's decision in Kelo v. City of New London, abuse of eminent domain is a threat to the property rights of all private property owners, including rural land owners.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the use of eminent domain for the purpose of economic development is a threat to agricultural and other property in rural America and that the Congress should protect the property rights of Americans, including those who reside in rural areas. Property rights are central to liberty in this country and to our economy. The use of eminent domain to take farmland and other rural property for economic development threatens liberty, rural economies, and the economy of the United States. The taking of farmland and rural property will have a direct impact on existing irrigation and reclamation projects. Furthermore, the use of eminent domain to take rural private property for private commercial uses will force increasing numbers of activities from private property onto this Nation's public lands, including its National forests, National parks and wildlife refuges. This increase can overburden the infrastructure of these lands, reducing the enjoyment of such lands for all citizens. Americans should not have to fear the government's taking their homes, farms, or businesses to give to other persons. Governments should not abuse the power of eminent domain to force rural property owners from their land in order to develop rural land into industrial and commercial property. Congress has a duty to protect the property rights of rural Americans in the face of eminent domain abuse.

SEC. 13003. PROHIBITION ON EMINENT DOMAIN ABUSE BY STATES TO CONFISCATE FARM, RANCH, OR FOREST LAND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—No State or political subdivision of a State shall exercise its power of eminent domain over farm, ranch, or forest land, or allow the exercise of such power by any person or entity to which such power has been delegated, over property to be used for economic development or over property that is used for economic development within 7 years after that exercise, if that State or political subdivision receives Federal economic development funds during any fiscal year in which the property is so used or intended to be used.

(b) INELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERAL FUNDS.—A violation of subsection (a) by a State or political subdivision shall render such State or political subdivision ineligible for any Federal economic development funds for a period of 2 fiscal years following a final judgment on the merits by a court of competent jurisdiction that such subsection has been violated, and any Federal agency charged with distributing those funds shall withhold them for such 2-year period, and any such funds distributed to such State or political subdivision shall be returned or reimbursed by such State or political subdivision to the appropriate Federal agency or authority of the Federal Government, or component thereof.

(c) OPPORTUNITY TO CURE VIOLATION.—A State or political subdivision shall not be ineligible for any Federal economic development funds under subsection (b) if such State or political subdivision returns all real property the taking of which was found by a court of competent jurisdiction to have constituted a violation of subsection (a) and replaces any other property destroyed and repairs any other property damaged as a result of such violation. In addition, the State must pay applicable penalties and interest to reattain eligibility.

SEC. 13004. PROHIBITION ON EMINENT DOMAIN ABUSE BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO CONFISCATE FARM, RANCH, OR FOREST LAND.

The Federal Government or any authority of the Federal Government shall not exercise its power of eminent domain over farm, ranch, or forest land to be used for economic development.

SEC. 13005. PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.

(a) CAUSE OF ACTION.—Any (1) owner of private farm, ranch, or forest land whose property is subject to eminent domain who suffers injury as a result of a violation of any provision of this title with respect to that property, or (2) any tenant of property that is subject to eminent domain who suffers injury as a result of a violation of any provision of this title with respect to that property, may bring an action to enforce any provision of this title in the appropriate Federal or State court. A State shall not be immune under the 11th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States from any such action in a Federal or State court of competent jurisdiction. In such action, the defendant has the burden to show by clear and convincing evidence that the taking is not for economic development. Any such property owner or tenant may also seek an appropriate relief through a preliminary injunction or a temporary restraining order.

(b) LIMITATION ON BRINGING ACTION.—An action brought by a property owner or tenant under this title may be brought if the property is used for economic development following the conclusion of any condemnation proceedings condemning the property of such property owner or tenant, but shall not be brought later than seven years following the conclusion of any such proceedings.

(c) ATTORNEYS' FEE AND OTHER COSTS.—In any action or proceeding under this title, the court shall allow a prevailing plaintiff a reasonable attorneys' fee as part of the costs, and include expert fees as part of the attorneys' fee.

SEC. 13006. REPORTING OF VIOLATIONS TO ATTORNEY GENERAL OR THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

(a) SUBMISSION OF REPORT TO ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Any (1) owner of private farm, ranch, or forest land whose property is subject to eminent domain who suffers injury as a result of a violation of any provision of this title with respect to that property, or (2) any tenant of farm, ranch, or forest land that is subject to eminent domain who suffers injury as a result of a violation of any provision of this title with respect to that property, may report a violation by the Federal Government, any authority of the Federal Government, State, or political subdivision of a State to the Attorney General or the Secretary of Agriculture.

(b) INVESTIGATION BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Upon receiving a report of an alleged violation, the Secretary of Agriculture shall transmit the report to the Attorney General. Upon receiving a report of an alleged violation from either a property owner, tenant, or the Secretary of Agriculture, the Attorney General shall conduct an investigation, in cooperation with the Secretary of Agriculture, to determine whether a violation exists.

(c) NOTIFICATION OF VIOLATION.—If the Attorney General concludes that a violation does exist, then the Attorney General shall notify the Federal Government, authority of the Federal Government, State, or political subdivision of a State that the Attorney General has determined that it is in violation of the title. The notification shall further provide that the Federal Government, State, or political subdivision of a State has 90 days from the date of the notification to demonstrate to the Attorney General either

that (1) it is not in violation of the title or (2) that it has cured its violation by returning all real property the taking of which the Attorney General finds to have constituted a violation of the title and replacing any other property destroyed and repairing any other property damaged as a result of such violation.

(d) ATTORNEY GENERAL'S BRINGING OF ACTION TO ENFORCE TITLE.—If, at the end of the 90-day period described in subsection (c), the Attorney General determines that the Federal Government, authority of the Federal Government, State, or political subdivision of a State is still violating the title or has not cured its violation as described in subsection (c), then the Attorney General will bring an action to enforce the title unless the property owner or tenant who reported the violation has already brought an action to enforce the title. In such a case, the Attorney General shall intervene if it determines that intervention is necessary in order to enforce the title. The Attorney General may file its lawsuit to enforce the title in the appropriate Federal or State court. A State shall not be immune under the 11th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States from any such action in a Federal or State court of competent jurisdiction. In such action, the defendant has the burden to show by clear and convincing evidence that the taking is not for economic development. The Attorney General may seek any appropriate relief through a preliminary injunction or a temporary restraining order.

(e) LIMITATION ON BRINGING ACTION.—An action brought by the Attorney General under this title may be brought if the property is used for economic development following the conclusion of any condemnation proceedings condemning the property of an owner or tenant who reports a violation of the title to the Attorney General, but shall not be brought later than seven years following the conclusion of any such proceedings.

(f) ATTORNEYS' FEE AND OTHER COSTS.—In any action or proceeding under this title brought by the Attorney General, the court shall, if the Attorney General is a prevailing plaintiff, award the Attorney General a reasonable attorneys' fee as part of the costs, and include expert fees as part of the attorneys' fee.

SEC. 13007. NOTIFICATION BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.

(a) NOTIFICATION TO STATES AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall provide to the chief executive officer of each State the text of this title and a description of the rights of property owners and tenants under this title.

(2) LIST OF FEDERAL LAWS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall compile a list of the Federal laws under which Federal economic development funds are distributed. The Attorney General shall compile annual revisions of such list as necessary. Such list and any successive revisions of such list shall be communicated by the Attorney General to the chief executive officer of each State and also made available on the Internet website maintained by the United States Department of Justice for use by the public and by the authorities in each State and political subdivisions of each State empowered to take private property and convert it to public use subject to just compensation for the taking.

(b) NOTIFICATION TO PROPERTY OWNERS AND TENANTS.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall publish in the Federal Register and make available on the Internet website maintained by the United States Department of Justice a notice containing the text of this title and a description of the rights of property owners and tenants under this title.

SEC. 13008. NOTIFICATION BY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall publish in the Federal Register and make available on the Internet website maintained by the United States Department of Agriculture a notice containing the text of this title and a description of the rights of property owners and tenants under this title.

SEC. 13009. REPORTS.

(a) BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and every subsequent year thereafter, the Attorney General shall transmit a report identifying States or political subdivisions that have used eminent domain in violation of this title to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, and to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee of Agriculture of the House. The report shall—

(1) be developed in cooperation with the Secretary of Agriculture;

(2) identify all private rights of action brought as a result of a State's or political subdivision's violation of this title;

(3) identify all violations reported by property owners and tenants under section 13005(c);

(4) identify the percentage of minority residents compared to the surrounding nonminority residents and the median incomes of those impacted by a violation of this title;

(5) identify all lawsuits brought by the Attorney General under section 13005(d);

(6) identify all States or political subdivisions that have lost Federal economic development funds as a result of a violation of this title, as well as describe the type and amount of Federal economic development funds lost in each State or political subdivision and the Agency that is responsible for withholding such funds; and

(7) discuss all instances in which a State or political subdivision has cured a violation as described in section 13002(c).

(b) DUTY OF STATES.—Each State and local authority that is subject to a private right of action under this title shall have the duty to report to the Attorney General such information with respect to such State and local authorities as the Attorney General needs to make the report required under subsection (a).

SEC. 13010. DEFINITIONS.

In this title the following definitions apply:

(1) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''economic development'' means taking private property, without the consent of the owner, and conveying or leasing such property from one private person or entity to another private person or entity for commercial enterprise carried on for profit, or to increase tax revenue, tax base, employment, or general economic health, except that such term shall not include—

(i) conveying private property—

(I) to public ownership, such as for a road, hospital, airport, or military base;

(II) to an entity, such as a common carrier, that makes the property available to the general public as of right, such as a railroad or public facility;

(III) for use as a road or other right of way or means, open to the public for transportation, whether free or by toll; and

(IV) for use as an aqueduct, flood control facility, pipeline, or similar use;

(ii) removing harmful uses of land provided such uses constitute an immediate threat to public health and safety;

(iii) leasing property to a private person or entity that occupies an incidental part of public property or a public facility, such as a retail establishment on the ground floor of a public building;

(iv) acquiring abandoned property;

(v) clearing defective chains of title;

(vi) taking private property for use by a public utility, including a utility providing electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water, and wastewater services, either directly to the public or indirectly through provision of such services at the wholesale level for resale to the public; and

(vii) redeveloping of a brownfield site as defined in the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act (42 U.S.C. 9601(39)).

(B) ABANDONED PROPERTY.—In subparagraph (A)(iv), the term ''abandoned property'' means property—

(i) that has been substantially unoccupied or unused for any commercial, agricultural, residential, or conservation-oriented purpose for at least 1 year by a person with a legal or equitable right to occupy the property;

(ii) that has not been maintained; and

(iii) for which property taxes have not been paid for at least 2 years.

(2) FEDERAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDS.—The term ''Federal economic development funds'' means any Federal funds distributed to or through States or political subdivisions of States under Federal laws designed to improve or increase the size of the economies of States or political subdivisions of States.

(3) STATE.—The term ''State'' means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or any other territory or possession of the United States.

SEC. 13011. SEVERABILITY AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) SEVERABILITY.—The provisions of this title are severable. If any provision of this title, or any application thereof, is found unconstitutional, that finding shall not affect any provision or application of the title not so adjudicated.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This title shall take effect upon the first day of the first fiscal year that begins after the date of enactment of this Act, but shall not apply to any project for which condemnation proceedings have been initiated prior to the date of enactment.

SEC. 13012. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the policy of the United States to encourage, support, and promote the private ownership of property and to ensure that the constitutional and other legal rights of private property owners are protected by the Federal Government.

SEC. 13013. BROAD CONSTRUCTION.

This title shall be construed in favor of a broad protection of private property rights, to the maximum extent permitted by the terms of this title and the Constitution.

SEC. 13014. LIMITATION ON STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this title may be construed to supersede, limit, or otherwise affect any provision of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 4601 et seq.).

SEC. 13015. REPORT BY FEDERAL AGENCIES ON REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES RELATING TO EMINENT DOMAIN.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the head of each Executive department and agency shall review all rules, regulations, and procedures and report to the Attorney General on the activities of that department or agency to bring its rules, regulations and procedures into compliance with this title.

SEC. 13016. DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT ON MINORITIES.

If the court determines that a violation of this title has occurred, and that the violation has a disproportionately high impact on the poor or minorities, the Attorney General shall use reasonable efforts to locate and inform former owners and tenants of the violation and any remedies they may have.

SA 1055. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1113, line 8, strike ''$10,000,000'' and insert ''$17,000,000''.

SA 1056. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title IV, insert the following:

SEC. 4019. ELIGIBILITY DISQUALIFICATIONS FOR CERTAIN CONVICTED FELONS.

Section 6 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015) (as amended by section 4004) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(s) DISQUALIFICATION FOR CERTAIN CONVICTED FELONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An individual shall not be eligible for benefits under this Act if the individual is convicted of—

''(A) aggravated sexual abuse under section 2241 of title 18, United States Code;

''(B) murder under section 1111 of title 18, United States Code;

''(C) an offense under chapter 110 of title 18, United States Code;

''(D) a Federal or State offense involving sexual assault, as defined in 40002(a) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 13925(a)); or

''(E) an offense under State law determined by the Attorney General to be substantially similar to an offense described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C).

''(2) EFFECTS ON ASSISTANCE AND BENEFITS FOR OTHERS.—The amount of benefits otherwise required to be provided to an eligible household under this Act shall be determined by considering the individual to whom paragraph (1) applies not to be a member of such household, except that the income and resources of the individual shall be considered to be income and resources of the household.

''(3) ENFORCEMENT.—Each State shall require each individual applying for benefits under this Act, during the application process, to state, in writing, whether the individual, or any member of the household of the individual, has been convicted of a crime described in paragraph (1).''.

SA 1057. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 122_. HEN HOUSING AND TREATMENT STANDARDS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 4 of the Egg Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 1033) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (a) as subsection (c);

(2) by redesignating subsections (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), and (g) as subsections (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), and (k), respectively;

(3) by redesignating subsections (h) and (i) as subsections (n) and (o), respectively;

(4) by redesignating subsections (j), (k), and (l) as subsections (r), (s), and (t), respectively;

(5) by redesignating subsections (m), (n), (o), (p), (q), (r), (s), (t), (u), (v), (w), (x), (y), and (z) as subsections (v), (w), (x), (y), (z), (aa), (bb), (cc), (dd), (ee), (ff), (gg), (hh), and (ii), respectively;

(6) by inserting before subsection (c), as redesignated by paragraph (1), the following new subsections:

''(a) The term 'adequate environmental enrichments' means adequate perch space, dust bathing or scratching areas, and nest space, as defined by the Secretary of Agriculture, based on the best available science, including the most recent studies available at the time that the Secretary defines the term.

''(b) The term 'adequate housing-related labeling' means a conspicuous, legible marking on the front or top of a package of eggs accurately indicating the type of housing that the egg-laying hens were provided during egg production, in 1 of the following formats:

''(1) 'Eggs from free-range hens' to indicate that the egg-laying hens from which the eggs or egg products were derived were, during egg production—

''(A) not housed in caging devices; and

''(B) provided with outdoor access.

''(2) 'Eggs from cage-free hens' to indicate that the egg-laying hens from which the eggs or egg products were derived were, during egg production, not housed in caging devices.

''(3) 'Eggs from enriched cages' to indicate that the egg-laying hens from which the eggs or egg products were derived were, during egg production, housed in caging devices that—

''(A) contain adequate environmental enrichments; and

''(B) provide the hens a minimum of 116 square inches of individual floor space per brown hen and 101 square inches of individual floor space per white hen.

''(4) 'Eggs from caged hens' to indicate that the egg-laying hens from which the eggs or egg products were derived were, during egg production, housed in caging devices that either—

''(A) do not contain adequate environmental enrichments; or

''(B) do not provide the hens a minimum of 116 square inches of individual floor space per brown hen and 101 square inches of individual floor space per white hen.'';

(7) by inserting after subsection (c), as redesignated by paragraph (1), the following new subsections:

''(d) The term 'brown hen' means a brown egg-laying hen used for commercial egg production.

''(e) The term 'caging device' means any cage, enclosure, or other device used for the housing of egg-laying hens for the production of eggs in commerce, but does not include an open barn or other fixed structure without internal caging devices.'';

(8) by inserting after subsection (k), as redesignated by paragraph (2), the following new subsections:

''(l) The term 'egg-laying hen' means any female domesticated chicken, including white hens and brown hens, used for the commercial production of eggs for human consumption.

''(m) The term 'existing caging device' means any caging device that was continuously in use for the production of eggs in commerce up through and including December 31, 2011.'';

(9) by inserting after subsection (o), as redesignated by paragraph (3), the following new subsections:

''(p) The term 'feed-withdrawal molting' means the practice of preventing food intake for the purpose of inducing egg-laying hens to molt.

''(q) The term 'individual floor space' means the amount of total floor space in a caging device available to each egg-laying hen in the device, which is calculated by measuring the total floor space of the caging device and dividing by the total number of egg-laying hens in the device.'';

(10) by inserting after subsection (t), as redesignated by paragraph (4), the following new subsection:

''(u) The term 'new caging device' means any caging device that was not continuously in use for the production of eggs in commerce on or before December 31, 2011.''; and

(11) by inserting at the end the following new subsections:

''(jj) The term 'water-withdrawal molting' means the practice of preventing water intake for the purpose of inducing egg-laying hens to molt.

''(kk) The term 'white hen' means a white egg-laying hen used for commercial egg production.''.

(b) HOUSING AND TREATMENT OF EGG-LAYING HENS.—The Egg Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 1031 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 7 (21 U.S.C. 1036) the following new sections:

"SEC. 7A. HOUSING AND TREATMENT OF EGG-LAYING HENS.

''(a) ENVIRONMENTAL ENRICHMENTS.—

''(1) EXISTING CAGING DEVICES.—Beginning 15 years after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013, all existing caging devices shall provide egg-laying hens housed therein adequate environmental enrichments.

''(2) NEW CAGING DEVICES.—Beginning 9 years after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013, all new caging devices shall provide egg-laying hens housed therein adequate environmental enrichments.

''(3) CAGING DEVICES IN CALIFORNIA.—

''(A) NEW CAGING DEVICES.—All caging devices in California installed after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013 shall provide egg-laying hens housed therein adequate environmental enrichments beginning 3 months after that date of enactment.

''(B) EXISTING CAGING DEVICES.—All caging devices in California installed before the date of enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013 shall provide egg-laying hens housed therein adequate environmental enrichments beginning January 1, 2024.

''(b) FLOOR SPACE.—

''(1) EXISTING CAGING DEVICES.—All existing cages devices shall provide egg-laying hens housed therein—

''(A) beginning 4 years after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013 and until the date that is 15 years after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013, a minimum of 76 square inches of individual floor space per brown hen and 67

square inches of individual floor space per white hen; and

''(B) beginning 15 years after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013, a minimum of 144 square inches of individual floor space per brown hen and 124 square inches of individual floor space per white hen.

''(2) NEW CAGING DEVICES.—All new caging devices shall provide egg-laying hens housed therein—

''(A) beginning 3 years after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013 and until the date that is 6 years after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013, a minimum of 90 square inches of individual floor space per brown hen and 78 square inches of individual floor space per white hen;

''(B) beginning 6 years after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013 and until the date that is 9 years after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013, a minimum of 102 square inches of individual floor space per brown hen and 90 square inches of individual floor space per white hen;

''(C) beginning 9 years after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013 and until the date that is 12 years after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013, a minimum of 116 square inches of individual floor space per brown hen and 101 square inches of individual floor space per white hen;

''(D) beginning 12 years after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013 and until the date that is 15 years after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013, a minimum of 130 square inches of individual floor space per brown hen and 113 square inches of individual floor space per white hen; and

''(E) beginning 15 years after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013, a minimum of 144 square inches of individual floor space per brown hen and 124 square inches of individual floor space per white hen.

''(3) CALIFORNIA CAGING DEVICES.—

''(A) EXISTING CAGING DEVICES.—All caging devices in California installed before the date of enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013 shall provide egg-laying hens housed therein—

''(i) beginning January 1, 2015, and through December 31, 2023, a minimum of 134 square inches of individual floor space per brown hen and 116 square inches of individual floor space per white hen; and

''(ii) beginning January 1, 2024, a minimum of 144 square inches of individual floor space per brown hen and 124 square inches of individual floor space per white hen.

''(B) NEW CAGING DEVICES.—All caging devices in California installed after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013 shall provide egg-laying hens housed therein—

''(i) beginning 3 months after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013, and through December 31, 2023, a minimum of 134 square inches of individual floor space per brown hen and 116 square inches of individual floor space per white hen; and

''(ii) beginning January 1, 2024, a minimum of 144 square inches of individual floor space per brown hen and 124 square inches of individual floor space per white hen.

''(c) AIR QUALITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning 2 years after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013, an egg handler shall provide all egg-laying hens under his ownership or control with acceptable air quality, which does not exceed more than 25 parts per million of ammonia during normal operations.

''(2) TEMPORARY EXCESS AMMONIA LEVELS ALLOWED.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), an egg handler may provide egg-laying hens under the ownership or control of such handler with air quality containing more than 25 parts per million of ammonia for temporary periods as necessary because of extraordinary weather circumstances or other unusual circumstances.

''(d) FORCED MOLTING.—Beginning 2 years after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013, no egg handler may subject any egg-laying hen under his ownership or control to feed-withdrawal or water-withdrawal molting.

''(e) EUTHANASIA.—Beginning 2 years after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013, an egg handler shall provide, when necessary, all egg-laying hens under his ownership or control with euthanasia that is humane and uses a method deemed 'Acceptable' by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

''(f) PROHIBITION ON NEW UNENRICHABLE CAGES.—No person shall build, construct, implement, or place into operation any new caging device for the production of eggs to be sold in commerce unless the device—

''(1) provides the egg-laying hens to be contained therein a minimum of 76 square inches of individual floor space per brown hen or 67 square inches of individual floor space per white hen; and

''(2) is capable of being adapted to accommodate adequate environmental enrichments.

''(g) EXEMPTIONS.—

''(1) RECENTLY-INSTALLED EXISTING CAGING DEVICES.—The requirements under subsections (a)(1) and (b)(1)(B) shall not apply to any existing caging device that was first placed into operation between January 1, 2008, and December 31, 2011. This exemption shall expire on December 31, 2029, at which time the requirements contained in subsections (a)(1) and (b)(1)(B) shall apply to all existing caging devices.

''(2) HENS ALREADY IN PRODUCTION.—The requirements under subsections (a)(1), (a)(2), (b)(1)(B), and (b)(2) shall not apply to any caging device containing egg-laying hens who are already in egg production on the date that such requirement takes effect. This exemption shall expire on the date that such egg-laying hens are removed from egg production.

''(3) SMALL PRODUCERS.—This section shall not apply to an egg handler who buys, sells, handles, or processes eggs or egg products solely from 1 flock of not more than 3,000 egg-laying hens.

''(4) EDUCATIONAL AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS.—The provisions of this section related to housing, treatment, or housing-related labeling shall not apply to egg production at an accredited educational or research institution, or to the purchase, sale, handling, or processing of eggs or egg products in connection with such production.

''(5) INDIVIDUAL ENCLOSURES.—The environmental enrichment requirements under subsection (a) shall not apply to any caging device that contains only 1 egg-laying hen.

''(6) OTHER LIVESTOCK OR POULTRY PRODUCTION.—This section shall apply only to commercial egg production. This section shall not apply to the production of pork, beef, turkey, dairy, broiler chicken, veal, or other livestock or poultry.

''SEC. 7B. PHASE-IN CONVERSION REQUIREMENTS.

''(a) NATIONAL CONVERSION REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) FIRST CONVERSION PHASE.—Beginning 6 years after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013, at least 25 percent of the egg-laying hens in commercial egg production shall be housed either in new caging devices or in existing caging devices that provide the hens contained therein with a minimum of 102 square inches of individual floor space per brown hen and 90 square inches of individual floor space per white hen.

''(2) SECOND CONVERSION PHASE.—Beginning 12 years after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013, at least 55 percent of the egg-laying hens in commercial egg production shall be housed either in new caging devices or in existing caging devices that provide the hens contained therein with a minimum of 130 square inches of individual floor space per brown hen and 113 square inches of individual floor space per white hen.

''(3) FINAL CONVERSION PHASE.—Beginning December 31, 2029, all egg-laying hens confined in caging devices shall be provided adequate environmental enrichments and a minimum of 144 square inches of individual floor space per brown hen and 124 square inches of individual floor space per white hen.

''(b) CALIFORNIA CONVERSION REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) FIRST CONVERSION PHASE.—Beginning 2 years and 6 months after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013, at least 25 percent of the egg-laying hens in commercial egg production in California shall be provided adequate environmental enrichments and a minimum of 134 square inches of individual floor space per brown hen and 116 square inches of individual floor space per white hen.

''(2) SECOND CONVERSION PHASE.—Beginning 5 years after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013, at least 50 percent of the egg-laying hens in commercial egg production in California shall be provided adequate environmental enrichments and a minimum of 134 square inches of individual floor space per brown hen and 116 square inches of individual floor space per white hen.

''(3) THIRD CONVERSION PHASE.—Beginning 7 years and 6 months after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013, at least 75 percent of the egg-laying hens in commercial egg production in California shall be provided adequate environmental enrichments and a minimum of 134 square inches of individual floor space per brown hen and 116 square inches of individual floor space per white hen.

''(4) FINAL CONVERSION PHASE.—Beginning 10 years after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013, all egg-laying hens in commercial egg production in California shall be provided adequate environmental enrichments and a minimum of 144 square inches of individual floor space per brown hen and 124 square inches of individual floor space per white hens.

''(c) COMPLIANCE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—At the end of 6 years after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013, the Secretary shall determine, after having reviewed and analyzed the results of an independent, national survey of caging devices, whether—

''(A) the requirements of subsection (a)(1) have been met; and

''(B) the requirements of subsection (b)(2) have been met.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS MET.—If the Secretary finds that the requirements of subsection

(a)(1) have not been met, then beginning January 1, 2020, the floor space requirements (irrespective of the date such requirements expire) related to new caging devices contained in subsection (b)(2)(B) of section 7A shall apply to existing caging devices placed into operation prior to January 1, 1995.

''(3) REQUIREMENTS NOT MET.—If the Secretary finds that the requirements of subsection (b)(2) have not been met, then beginning 1 year from the date of the Secretary's finding, the floor space and enrichments requirements (irrespective of the date such requirements come into force) contained in subsection (a)(3)(A) and subsection (b)(3)(B)(ii) of section 7A shall apply to all caging devices in California.

''(4) REPORT.—At the end of 12 years after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013, and again after December 31, 2029, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report on compliance with subsections (a) and (b).

''(5) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAW.—Notwithstanding section 12, the remedies provided in this subsection shall be the exclusive remedies for violations of this section.''.

(c) INSPECTIONS.—Section 5 of the Egg Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 1034) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d), in the first sentence, by inserting ''(other than requirements with respect to housing, treatment, and housing-related labeling)'' after ''as he deems appropriate to assure compliance with such requirements''; and

(2) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'';

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C);

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph:

''(B) are derived from egg-laying hens housed and treated in compliance with section 7A; and''; and

(iv) in subparagraph (C), as redesignated by clause (ii), by inserting ''adequate housing-related labeling and'' after ''contain'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''In the case of a shell egg packer'' and inserting ''In the cases of an egg handler with a flock of more than 3,000 egg-laying hens and a shell egg packer'';

(C) in paragraph (3), by inserting ''(other than requirements with respect to housing, treatment, and housing-related labeling)'' after ''to ensure compliance with the requirements of paragraph (1)''; and

(D) in paragraph (4), by striking ''with a flock of not more than 3,000 layers.'' and inserting ''who buys, sells, handles, or processes eggs or egg products solely from 1 flock of not more than 3,000 egg-laying hens.''.

(d) LABELING.—Section 7(a) of the Egg Products Inspection Act of 1970 (21 U.S.C. 1036(a)) is amended by inserting ''adequate housing-related labeling,'' after ''plant where the products were processed,''.

(e) LIMITATION ON EXEMPTIONS BY SECRETARY.—Section 15(a) of the Egg Products Inspection Act of 1970 (21 U.S.C. 1044(a)) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by inserting ''(not including subsection (c) of section 8)'' after ''exempt from specific provisions''.

(f) IMPORTS.—Section 17(a)(2) of the Egg Products Inspection Act of 1970 (21 U.S.C. 1046(a)(2)) is amended by striking ''subdivision thereof and are labeled and packaged'' and inserting ''subdivision thereof; and no eggs or egg products capable of use as human food shall be imported into the United States unless they are produced, labeled, and packaged''.

(g) ENFORCEMENT OF HEN HOUSING AND TREATMENT STANDARDS.—Section 8 of the Egg Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 1037) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), (e), and (f) as subsections (d), (e), (f), and (g), respectively;

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

''(c)(1) No person shall buy, sell, or transport, or offer to buy or sell, or offer or receive for transportation, in any business or commerce any eggs or egg products derived from egg-laying hens housed or treated in violation of any provision of section 7A.

''(2) No person shall buy, sell, or transport, or offer to buy or sell, or offer or receive for transportation, in any business or commerce any eggs or egg products derived from egg-laying hens unless the container or package, including any immediate container, of the eggs or egg products, beginning 1 year after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013, contains adequate housing-related labeling.

''(3) No person shall buy, sell, or transport, or offer to buy or sell, or offer or receive for transportation, in any business or commerce, in California, any eggs or egg products derived from egg-laying hens unless the egg-laying hens are provided floor space and enrichments equivalent to that required under subsections (a)(3) and (b)(3) of section 7A of this Act regardless of where the eggs are produced.''; and

(3) in subsection (e) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)) , in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting ''7A,'' after ''section''.

(h) STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITY.—Section 23 of the Egg Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 1052) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively;

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

''(c) PROHIBITION AGAINST ADDITIONAL OR DIFFERENT REQUIREMENTS THAN FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO MINIMUM SPACE ALLOTMENTS FOR HOUSING EGG-LAYING HENS IN COMMERCIAL EGG PRODUCTION.—Requirements within the scope of this Act with respect to minimum floor space allotments or enrichments for egg-laying hens housed in commercial egg production which are in addition to or different than those made under this Act may not be imposed by any State or local jurisdiction. Otherwise the provisions of this Act shall not invalidate any law or other provisions of any State or other jurisdiction in the absence of a conflict with this Act.''; and

(3) by inserting after subsection (e) (as redesignated by subsection (a)) the following new subsection:

''(f) ROLE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE.—With respect to eggs produced, shipped, handled, transported, or received in California prior to the date that is 15 years after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013, the Secretary shall delegate to the California Department of Food and Agriculture the authority to enforce sections 7A(a)(3), 7A(b)(3), 8(c)(3), and 11.''.

(i) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 1058. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 256, strike line 15 and insert the following:

(I) Climate change benefit projects, including—

(i) enhancing soil quality;

(ii) reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and

(iii) increasing resilience to rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and related climate changes.

(J) Other related activities that the Sec-

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Tuesday, June 4, 2013, at 10 a.m. in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this hearing is to explore wildland fire management.

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, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510–6150, or by email to John_Assini@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Meghan Conklin (202) 224–8046 or John Assini (202) 224–9313.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet in executive session on Wednesday, May 22, 2013, at 10 a.m. in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to mark-up S. 959, Pharmaceutical Compounding Quality and Accountability Act; S. 957, Drug Supply Chain Security Act; the nomination of Mark Gaston Pearce, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board; the nomination of Richard F. Griffin, Jr., to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board; the nomination of Sharon Block, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board; and the nomination of Harry I. Johnson III, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board.

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact the Committee at (202) 224–5375.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 21, 2013, at 10:15 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled ''The Financial Stability Oversight Council Annual Report to Congress.''

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. STABENOW. 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 May 21, 2013, at 10 a.m., in room 216 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 21, 2013, at 10 a.m. in room SD–215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''A Review of Criteria Used by the IRS to Identify 501(c)(4) Applications for Greater Scrutiny.''

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 21, 2013, at 2:15 p.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 21, 2013, at 2:45 p.m., to hold a Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs subcommittee hearing entitled, ''Prospects for Afghanistan's 2014 Elections.''

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 21, 2013, at 10:30 a.m., in SH–216 of the Hart Senate Office Building, to continue its executive business meeting.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 21, 2013, at 2:30 p.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION, PRODUCT SAFETY, AND INSURANCE

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 21, 2013, at 9:30 a.m. in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building. The Committee will hold a hearing entitled, ''S. 921, The Raechel and Jacqueline Houck Safe Rental Care Act of 2013.''

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

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 21, 2013, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled ''Offshore Profit Shifting and the U.S. Tax Code—Part 2.''

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

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 1003, S. 1004, H.R. 45

Mr. REID. Madam President, I am told that three bills are at the desk. I would ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time en bloc.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1003) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to reset interest rates for new student loans.

A bill (S. 1004) to permit voluntary economic activity.

A bill (H.R. 45) to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I now ask for a second reading en bloc for each of these and I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be read for a second time the next legislative day.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the majority leader, after consultation with the Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 112–239, the appointment of the following individuals to be members of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission: the Honorable Bob Kerrey of Nebraska, and the Honorable Larry Pressler of South Dakota.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF SRIKANTH SRINIVASAN TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT

Mr. REID. Madam President, I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 95.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

Without objection, the motion is agreed to.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Nomination of Srikanth Srinivasan, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Srikanth Srinivasan, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Bill Nelson, Christopher A. Coons, Amy Klobuchar, Tim Kaine, Jack Reed, Barbara A. Mikulski, Mark R. Warner, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Benjamin L. Cardin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tom Harkin, Bernard Sanders, Al Franken, Robert Menendez.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

Mr. REID. Madam President, we are moving forward. This will be the sixth or seventh year we have tried to fill vacancies on the DC Circuit. There are four vacancies there. I hope the President sends us some more names. I understand that will be the case maybe before the end of this week.

It is outrageous we have been stopped procedurally from doing the work of this country in filling these nominations in this very important court. We are going to have a cloture vote on this on Thursday, as we should do, and hopefully finish by the end of the week. If we get cloture, we will finish by the end of the week if we have to stay over another day or so.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2013

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until Wednesday, May 22, 2013; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks the Senate be in a period of morning business for 1 hour with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half; that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of S. 954, the farm bill.

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. We will continue to work through amendments on the farm bill

tomorrow. Additionally, there will be a rollcall vote on S. Res. 65, the Iran sanctions resolution, at 5 p.m. tomorrow. There will be 1 hour of debate on that matter.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:35 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, May 22, 2013, at 9:30 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ACKNOWLEDGING THE SERVICE OF CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT JAMES K. ''KENNY'' FOGLE

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Chief Master Sergeant James K. ''Kenny'' Fogle.

Joining the U.S. Air Force in 1977, Chief Fogle began his active duty career serving as an Airborne Cryptologic Linguist. He was assigned to the Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan. Chief Fogle logged more than 450 hours of flying time with the RC135 and earned the Air Medal during this tour.

Following his service with the U.S. Air Force, Chief Fogle enlisted in the Kentucky Air National Guard in several capacities. From 2000–2003, Chief Fogle served as the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Assistant Adjutant General for Air, Brigadier General Rick Ash. Chief Fogle also served as Assistant to the Secretary of Transportation in Kentucky's Transportation Cabinet from 1988–2003.

Today, Chief Fogle serves as the Executive Director of the United Way of Nelson County. Chief Fogle's life of service has earned him many medals and ribbons, but perhaps most importantly, the gratitude of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

As Memorial Day approaches, I'd like to acknowledge Chief Fogle for his military service and for continuing that service in his personal life. I join with Kentucky's Second District in thanking you for your service.

IN HONOR OF COACH JOHN HERRINGTON'S RETIREMENT FROM TEACHING

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John Herrington and his lifelong commitment to Greater Detroit youth. Known to many in the community simply as ''Coach'' Mr. Herrington has spent half a century helping those who have crossed his path.

John Herrington distinguished himself as a standout student-athlete while attending Waterford Township High School, where he was President of his senior class and earned nine varsity letters in basketball, baseball, and football. Upon graduation he attended Central Michigan University where he played basketball and excelled in academics—graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education and his teaching certificate in 1962. While there, he met the love of his life and future wife, Fran—they were a team for 38 years until her passing in 2001.

In 1963, John became the head junior varsity football coach at North Farmington High School. He taught and coached there for six years until transferring to the newly opened Harrison High School in 1970 to teach history and be the head varsity football coach.

Mr. Speaker, Coach's overall football record is an astonishing 392 wins, 88 losses and one tie. He was also the Varsity baseball coach from 1971 to 2005, earning a record of 468 wins and 341 losses, along with 12 district championships, 4 regional titles and 2 state semi-final berths. Coach Harrison has won a record 13 Michigan High School Football Championships and 29 conference titles. In addition, he has helped hundreds of football players secure college football scholarships and seven of his former players have played in the National Football League.

Mr. Herrington is well known for crediting his players and assistant coaches for his success; however, a list of awards honoring him includes: induction into both the Michigan and National Coaches Association Halls of Fame, National Football Coach of the Year, and runner up for the NFL's Shula Award for Outstanding High School Football Coach.

Mr. Speaker, at the end of this school year John Herrington will retire from teaching. While coach Herrington's time as a teacher has ended; he will continue to be the head varsity football coach at Harrison High School. I would like to thank him for his many decades of selfless service as a teacher and wish him continued success as the head football coach at Harrison High School.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOYERTOWN AREA MULTI-SERVICE INCORPORATED

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the staff, volunteers and Board of Directors of Boyertown Area Multi-Service, Incorporated as the organization celebrates 40 years of providing outstanding services and guidance to seniors and individuals of all ages in need of an array of social services.

Since its opening in 1973, Boyertown Area Multi-Service, Incorporated has been true to its mission of providing resources and services to meet unfulfilled human and community needs in the greater Boyertown area.

The organization has been successful for four decades thanks to a strong partnership between caring neighbors and dedicated staff. In 2012, more than 400 volunteers gave nearly 42,000 hours of their time preparing and serving meals to seniors as part of the Meals on Wheels and the Center at Spring Street programs, providing tax preparation services, driving individuals to medical appointments, coordinating the food pantry and Christmas assistance programs and helping individuals qualify for home heating assistance programs.

Constantly striving to improve and expand the services offered to community members in need, Boyertown Area Multi-Service, Incorporated embarked on an ambitious building project in 2004 and moved into their new home in January 2006. The new building houses the extremely popular Center at Spring Street, providing people 55 and older with opportunities for socialization, recreation, education, and nutrition.

Staff, volunteers, the Board of Directors and the community celebrated the organization's 40th anniversary during an open house on Saturday, May 18, 2013.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating the staff, volunteers, Board of Directors and supporters of Boyertown Area Multi-Service, Incorporated as they commemorate this memorable milestone and in extending best wishes for continued success in providing exemplary service to seniors, families and anyone in need in the greater Boyertown Area.

HONORING GINGER BARNES, CEO, UNITED SPACE ALLIANCE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true leader in NASA's human spaceflight program. This individual is neither an astronaut nor a high-ranking NASA official, yet she has been deeply involved in our nation's achievements in space, and deserves public recognition.

Virginia Barnes, or Ginger to those of us who know her, has been CEO and President of the United Space Alliance for the past three years. United Space Alliance is the company that was tasked by NASA to operate the Space Shuttle. During her tenure, both NASA and United Space Alliance were under tremendous pressure to complete the remaining flights necessary to finish construction of the International Space Station, as well as manage the transition and closeout of the Space Shuttle Program. This was an immense challenge given the size of the workforce, assets, and facilities affected. Adding to this pressure was the vast public attention given to the Space Shuttle on its final flights after 30 years of service. This process forced America to accept the reality that we would not fly in space in our own spacecraft, for quite some time.

During this stressful and challenging period, Ginger guided the United Space Alliance with steady resolve, and calm leadership balancing decisions on what was in the best interest of the Space Shuttle Program. Painful choices were made that affected workers and their families, many of whom had dedicated their entire careers to the Space Shuttle. Ginger handled this process with grace, care and consideration. Now that the last files have been boxed up, the Space Shuttle orbiters

have been transferred to their final display locations, and the facilities have been mothballed or transitioned to other programs, Ginger's work on behalf of the Space Shuttle program is complete.

Thankfully, Ginger is not leaving the space program. She will be returning to the Boeing Corporation, where she worked for her entire career prior to assuming leadership at the United Space Alliance. Hopefully, she will have some more time to pursue her hobbies as a licensed commercial pilot and hot air balloonist, as well as spend time with her family. The space industry is lucky to be able to retain her exceptional knowledge and expertise as America embarks on our next space journey. I thank her for her service to our civil space program, and look forward to more accomplishments to come in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING MR. CHARLIE HORHN FOR 20 YEARS OF INVALUABLE SERVICE RENDERED TO THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today recognizing one of America's most dedicated public servants and one of Mississippi's strongest advocates; my friend and Director of Field Operations, Mr. Charlie Horhn. After 20 years of public service, Charlie is retiring from the United States House of Representatives.

A native son of Holmes County, Mississippi, born July 9, 1934, Charlie is the sixth of 10 children born from the union of Mr. Tommie & Mrs. Emma Lee Horhn. Charlie, like others who grew up during one of the most trying times in American history—the Great Depression, understands the value of hard work and dedication. His professional experiences can be cataloged from days chopping cotton to rendering years of invaluable service to the United States House of Representatives.

After marrying his childhood sweetheart, the late Mrs. Willistene Levy, Charlie began work as a metal polisher at Presto Manufacturing Company. There his natural knack for leadership quickly catapulted him to the office of local union president. Thereafter, he soon became an expert in union arbitration and negotiations and assumed an active role in voter registration activities being sponsored by the A. Phillip Randolph Institute.

Upon establishment, the well-versed, political savvy, Charlie Horhn became President of the Central Mississippi chapter of the A. Phillip Randolph Institute and later journeyed to become President on the State Chapter. These opportunities ultimately gained him acclaim as a staunch politico throughout the State.

In 1990, Charlie was selected to serve as Assistant to the President of the Mississippi AFL–CIO, giving him leverage in improving employee and labor relations. His work impacted legislation and helped drive membership in the organization.

After an extensive stint in labor advocacy, Charlie became manager of my first congressional campaign for Mississippi's Second District seat during the special election in 1993. After successfully helping me attain office, Charlie was immediately appointed as Director of Field Offices. His leadership has helped countless Mississippi residents in attaining needed assistance.

Charlie was a loving husband and is the devoted father of five. His pathway to success can be largely attributed to his steadfast devotion to and compassion for the people of the State of Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Charlie Horhn on 20 years of invaluable service to the United States Congress.

HONORING THE VETERANS OF THE MAY 21, 2013 JASPER COUNTY FREEDOM FLIGHT

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, today, over 160 Iowa veterans from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Vietnam era will travel to our nation's capital to visit the monuments that were built in their honor by a grateful nation. For many of these veterans, today will be the first time they will visit the capital and the first time that they will see their monuments.

On Sunday, they were given a warm send-off by their neighbors and friends from Newton and throughout Jasper County. They were escorted from the Newton Speedway to the send-off at Newton High School by one hundred motorcycle escorts. When the Freedom Flight arrives in Washington today, I can think of no greater honor than to be able to greet them and to personally thank Iowa's—and our nation's—heroes for their service to our country.

The Freedom Flight brings together three generations of veterans who will travel together and support one another throughout their trip. It also brings together veterans who were never given the homecoming they deserved. This trip, made possible by generous donations from Iowans, many of whom the veterans will never meet in person, demonstrates that we as a state and as a country will never forget the debt we owe those who have worn our nation's uniform. The veterans will be able to visit their monuments today because their fellow Iowans refused to let their service go unrecognized. That generosity is truly humbling and should inspire us all to continue to work each and every day on behalf of those who serve our nation.

I am tremendously proud to welcome the Jasper County Freedom Flight and Iowa's veterans of World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Vietnam era to our nation's capital today. On behalf of every Iowan I represent, I thank them for their service to our country.

HONORING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS LOST IN THE LINE OF DUTY

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, there is an old American prayer asking the Almighty to bring "safety, hounour, and welfare of thy people; that all things may be ordered and settled by their endeavors, upon the best and surest foundations, that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety, may be established among us for all generations." I rise today to honor the lives of those the Almighty used to bring peace, safety, and welfare.

On average, one law enforcement officer is killed in the line of duty every 57 hours. Since the first known line-of-duty death in 1791, more than 19,000 law enforcement officers have made the ultimate sacrifice.

There are those souls, Mr. Speaker, whose lights guide the way even after they are dimmed. During National Police Week, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring those law enforcement officers lost in the line of duty. We join their families, friends, and communities in offering our condolences and prayers that the memory of those lost be cherished.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF DANA EICHERT

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Boyertown Area Multi-Service, Incorporated Executive Director Dana Eichert, who has faithfully and compassionately served senior citizens and people of all ages in need of social services in her community for nearly three decades.

Mrs. Eichert's distinguished career serving residents of the Boyertown area started in August 1985 when she became the Under 60's Case Manager at Boyertown Multi-Service, Incorporated. She took on additional responsibilities, worked tirelessly to improve the broad range of services delivered to individuals and constantly strived to strengthen relationships between the agency and the Boyertown community.

Mrs. Eichert became Executive Director of the agency in 1997. One of her major achievements in that role involved leading the effort to raise funds, construct and open a new building, providing modern office space for the agency's staff, and more importantly, a new home for the Center at Spring Street, which is a pleasant location where people 55 and older gather to socialize, make new friends, enjoy meals, and participate in a variety of activities. Mrs. Eichert's outstanding leadership and dedication have earned the respect of the agency's staff, volunteers and Board of Directors, who have lauded her for creating an atmosphere where everyone feels as if they are part of one big family.

The Boyertown Area Multi-Service, Incorporated Board of Directors, staff, volunteers

and others from the community celebrated Mrs. Eichert's extraordinary service and wished her well in retirement during an open house on Saturday, May 18, 2013.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the exemplary service and unwavering commitment to helping seniors and others in need that Dana Eichert has demonstrated during her nearly 28-year tenure with Boyertown Area Multi-Service, Incorporated.

HONORING THE CAREER OF VERNA BAILEY

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Verna Bailey, an exemplary public school principal who worked with distinction for decades in the district I am honored to represent. Since 1974, Verna has dedicated herself to the students, parents, and faculty of the Beaverton School District. Originally from Mississippi, Verna moved to the Pacific Northwest 40 years ago and promptly fell in love with Oregon and its residents. She earned a Master's Degree in Education at Lewis and Clark College, and she worked in several Beaverton schools during her exceptional career.

Verna Bailey is the daughter of a civil rights advocate, and the first African-American woman to attend and graduate from Ole' Miss. Her story is one of courage and bravery. Although many of us supported the civil rights movements of the 1950s and 1960s, Verna personally confronted hatred and prejudice on a daily basis, and she fought to earn what all of our students rightly deserve—a quality education. Verna Bailey stepped up to be one of the first so others behind her could follow her path. She showed the integrity and determination that solidified her place in our complicated American history.

Verna's past should and will be honored, but it is her 39-year history with the Beaverton School District that is her legacy. As an educator and administrator, Verna Bailey earned considerable praise and recognition. She contributed to the development of thousands of students, including my own children, who saw and respected her as a leader. It is my honor to congratulate Verna Bailey on her retirement and to thank her for a remarkable career and for her decades of dedication to our youth and our community. Her leadership, enthusiasm, and compassion will not be forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I support passage of H.R. 258, the Stolen Valor Act of 2013 and H.R. 1073, the Nuclear Terrorism Conventions Implementation and Safety of Maritime Navigation Act of 2013. I was not present during votes in the House of Representatives on May 20, 2013 at the time these two bills came to the floor for a vote but would have voted in favor of their passage.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 45, REPEAL OF PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, the GOP needs to reorder its priorities. The American people want us to focus on jobs and strengthening our economy, instead of relitigating the past. Today is the 37th time the majority has taken up repealing patient protections for the American people. This is a very bad idea.

Since January 2011, the House has been in session and held votes on only 281 days. Forty-three of those days have been spent on repealing the Affordable Care Act alone. That's 15 percent of the American people's time spent solely on failed attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

For the party that's seeking to cut their way to prosperity, consider this: based on the cost per day to run Congress, the Congressional Research Service calculated that the time spent attempting to repeal the health law has come with a $52.4 million price tag for taxpayers. This money could restore the estimated $41 million cut under sequestration to Meals on Wheels nutrition programs across the country. Or it could pay for nearly 7,000 children to participate in the Head Start program for a year.

Now, consider the benefits the American people have enjoyed since the Affordable Care Act became law: children no longer face discrimination due to pre-existing conditions; students and young adults are gaining coverage through their parents' plans; Medicare is stronger, and seniors are paying less for prescription drugs and getting better treatment at lower cost; Americans no longer face lifetime limits; families are receiving rebates from insurance companies; and women have access to a wide range of free preventive services.

Since the law was enacted in March 2010, over 800,000 jobs have been created in the health care industry. So when the GOP says the Affordable Care Act is ''killing jobs,'' it's flat out wrong.

Repealing the Affordable Care Act would leave millions of Americans without vital patient protections and has cost the American people precious time and money. We should instead vote for legislation to create jobs, expand our economy, and strengthen the middle class.

PENNSYLVANIA CLASSICAL GUITARIST, JAY STEVESKEY, PERFORMS THE WORKS OF A SPANISH COMPOSER AND MEXICAN COMPOSERS AT TWO RECENT VENUES

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, with a resemblance to Sir Paul McCartney, the persona of a John Denver, and the soul of guitarist John Williams, local classical guitarist Jay Steveskey is a study in contradictions—engaging yet nonchalant, ready-to-do-battle yet laid back, fanciful yet down-to-earth, personable yet aloof, worldly yet parochial, busy yet relaxed. At a recent concert at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Scranton in which he shared the stage with the well-heeled flutist Ed Wargo, Jay Steveskey performed a special guitar solo of Francisco Tarrega's ''Recuerdos de la Alhambra.'' Translated as ''Memories of Alhambra,'' a famous palace in Granada, Spain, the romantic-era piece is by far Tarrega's most famous work and is considered a study in the art of the tremolo.

Steveskey's rendering of this work was both touching and gripping with tremolos as heartfelt and bittersweet as a lovesick teenager. The rise and fall of the melodic line was produced fine and evenly to the point of exquisite perfection. His technique was masterful in the tradition of Segovia, who considered this piece to be one of his personal favorites of the solo guitar repertoire. Both Tarrega and Segovia must have been smiling down upon Steveskey with this elegant and finely impressionistic performance. Two weeks later, Steveskey was superbly at it once again, engagingly performing the music this time of Mexican composers at a special Cinco de Mayo concert at the Dietrich Theater in Tunkhannock. A study of sorts in Mexican folk music, the program began with a Mexican piece by Agustin Lara about the Spanish city of Granada and ended with Five Sketches of Mexico by Julio Cesar Oliva. In between was the music of Manuel Ponce and Ernesto Garcia de Leon. Steveskey's musicality had the ring of authenticity and was quite dolce at various times throughout the program. The ''Seis Preludios Cortos'' written by Manuel Ponce at the end of his life for the children of a fellow composer was brooding and urgent as if the composer had a longing for Death. The ''Sonatina Meridional'' also by Manuel Ponce was the last piece written for his old friend, Andres Segovia, to whom he dedicated much of his career. The contemporary sketches of Mexico by Oliva were part of a set of twenty such impressionistic sketches with Steveskey performing two sets of five, for Cinco de Mayo. In keeping with the Cinco de Mayo theme of the program, Steveskey also performed the modernistic ''Cinco Bosquejos'' by Ernesto Garcia de Leon. Other brief pieces by Ponce such as ''Estrellita,'' ''Scherzino Mexicano,'' and ''La Pajarera'' rounded out the charmed performance.

Steveskey's nuanced sound was so honest and pure and full of lyricism that it could bring a grown hombre to tears. His overall performance was quite strong and very straightforward yet strewn with subtle touches here and there. His encore after the all-Mexican program was a well-known Mexican tune called ''Maria Elena.'' As the words to the poetic song ''Granada'' go: ''Granada, land of my dreams, mine becomes a gypsy song when I sing to you,'' Jay Steveskey has managed to capture the wayward and sensual soul of the Spanish-speaking people.

HONORING CHELSEA BROWN

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I thank Chelsea Brown for her years of service to me, my constituents, the House Republican Conference, the House Committee on Financial Services, and the United States Congress.

Chelsea is one of the most dedicated and loyal people I've had the honor of having on my staff since I was elected to Congress. Few, if any, individuals devoted more hours of their life to my legislative career and to the service of my constituents.

Chelsea joined my staff as a scheduler and office manager in January of 2007. As my colleagues appreciate, the job of a congressional scheduler is one of the most challenging assignments on the Hill. Throughout the years, Chelsea's proactive nature and attention to detail allowed me to maximize both my effectiveness as a legislator and my ability to spend more time with my family.

My children, Claire and Travis, can attest to the asset that Chelsea was to my team. She went out of her way to make my family feel welcome when they visited my office in Washington each summer, and I have no doubt that Claire and Travis will fondly remember how "Miss Chelsea" made visiting their dad's office such an enjoyable experience.

Because of her excellent work in my personal office, I asked Chelsea to join my staff at the House Republican Conference when I served as Chairman, and asked her to come along again when I became Chairman of the House Financial Services Committee. Regardless of the task at hand, Chelsea could always be trusted to get the job done, no matter what. Her strong character, discretion, and work ethic have made her an asset to me over the last six years. I can assure you that she will be sorely missed.

Chelsea, thank you for your service and dedication to the cause of individual liberty, and thank you for being such an invaluable member of my team. I wish you the best of luck in your future personal and professional endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUTS ALEXANDER AND ANDREW HAHN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Alexander and Andrew Hahn of Troop 729 in Treynor, Iowa for each achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained for more than a century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Alex and Andrew completed their projects for the betterment of a local preschool in Treynor. Alex built a planter and walking path at the preschool, while Andy constructed kneeling pads and two covers and poured concrete around two sandpits in the play area. Together they also added mulch near the walking path, playground, and additional seating area. The work ethic Alex and Andrew have shown in their Eagle Projects, and every other project leading up to their Eagle Scout ranks, speaks volumes of their commitment to serving a cause greater than themselves and assisting their community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by these young men and their supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating the Hahn brothers on obtaining their Eagle Scout ranking, and I wish them continued success in their future education and career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM HUELSKAMP

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained by weather related flight delays on Monday, May 20, 2013 and missed rollcall votes 161, 162 and 163.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: "yea" on rollcall No. 161; "yea" on rollcall No. 162; "yea" on rollcall No. 163.

CHRISTOPHER SABBAGH

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Christopher Sabbagh is a senior at Kempner High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. His essay topic is: In your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

THE POWER OF ONE

This country was founded as a beacon of hope, a land of opportunity and freedom. Our nation is prosperous because of the unique form of government that attracts so many individuals from across the world. Every resident of the United States enters into a social contract between the people and the government. According to John Locke, the government's power derives from the, "consent of the governed." As citizens of America, it is important to be involved in the political process because we are all responsible for the actions of our government, just as our government is responsible for the protection of its citizens.

My parents emigrated from Lebanon to America believing opportunities for their children in a progressive nation would outweigh the sacrifice of leaving behind family, friends, and social stability. They were able to escape restrictive conditions in pursuit of better prospects and became actively involved in different aspects of their new community. Sadly, my parents' participation stopped at an integral duty in American democracy—voting.

As the 2012 Presidential Election neared, the importance of democratic participating became evident to me. Citizens across the nation would decide on a president to lead the nation for the next four years. This one person's decisions would affect the world's future, and we, the citizens of the United States, were entrusted with the final decision. Despite the enormity of this responsibility, many citizens, including my parents, would refrain from participating.

My teacher, Mrs. Naomi Brown, and I decided to confront this community issue and organized a voter registration festival in Sugar Land, Texas, titled "The Power of ONE: Because ONE Vote Matters." With the support of the Bezos Scholars Program and many other organizations, we registered a total of 618 citizens, including my mom and dad. My parents realized that they had escaped a place where credible elections were nonexistent, but here, they had the power to make a difference.

Ultimately, it is important to participate in the political process because it is our duty as American citizens to do so. A democracy is not effective unless there is a direct contribution from the populace. From presidential elections to state, local, and school board elections, we have the responsibility and duty to place in power whoever we feel most competent. When we abstain from participating, we are essentially noncitizens. We have no voice in the government. We have no influence in decisions made for us. But through participating in the political process, all of these are made available to us. We become the gears that keep our country progressing.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, my flight yesterday to Washington, DC was unexpectedly diverted to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I unexpectedly missed rollcall votes 161, 162, and 163.

On rollcall vote 161, passage of H.R. 258, Stolen Valor Act, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote 162, passage of H.R. 1073, Nuclear Terrorism Conventions Implementation and Safety of Maritime Navigation Act, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote 163, approving the journal, I would have voted "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I missed a vote on H.R. 258, "To amend title

18, United States Code, with respect to fraudulent representations about having received military declarations or medals'' due to a funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.'' In addition, I also missed a vote on H.R. 1073, ''To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for protection of maritime navigation and prevention of nuclear terrorism, and for other purposes.'' Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''

RECOGNIZING MAY AS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today in recognition of May as National Foster Care Month. National Foster Care Month provides an opportunity to raise awareness for the hundreds of thousands of children and youth who are in our nation's foster care system. Each one of these individuals is part of a network of dedicated professionals, foster parents, and advocates who work 365 days a year, and for that they must be commended.

Furthermore, I believe that it is imperative we focus on the day-to-day successes of these children and their allies. In March 2012, I was proud to host a listening tour through Broward and Miami-Dade counties to bring greater attention to the efforts of local communities striving to improve our foster care system.

As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth, I am distinctly aware of the issues facing our child welfare system. Currently, there are over 400,000 children in our nation's foster care system, many of whom have serious emotional or medical problems. On average, these children wait three years for permanent families, with many aging out of foster care without the love and support from family. These children deserve permanent loving families, and it is our responsibility as legislators to create policy that will help to that improve their outcomes.

At times, the frailties and stark statistics of the foster care system can seem overwhelming. However, as I have seen from my own experience, when given a voice and a chance, foster youth are resilient, capable, and yearning for success. It is up to all of us to nurture the greatness in these youth.

Investing in our children's future is an investment in the future of our nation, and that is why I remain committed to working with my colleagues in Congress to move this country forward on issues critical to their success.

A TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN GAVIN KEITH SANDVIG

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Army National Guard Captain Gavin Sandvig for being named a recipient of the 2013 General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award by the United States Army. Captain Sandvig is one of only six National Guard Officers nationwide to receive this prestigious award.

The United States Army's General MacArthur Leadership Award is reserved for the most exemplary company grade officers in the nation who consistently demonstrate the ideals of ''duty, honor, and country.'' The winners of this great distinction are invited to an award ceremony at the Pentagon in Washington, DC. There they are presented with a bronze bust of General MacArthur, an engraved timepiece, and a Commendation Memorandum by the Army Chief of Staff.

Before joining the Iowa Army National Guard in 1993, Captain Sandvig was raised in Eagle Grove, Iowa by his parents Wayne and Penny. He would go on to obtain his Bachelor of the Arts from Buena Vista University in Storm Lake and a Master's of Education from Graceland University in Lamoni amid his 20-year military career. In 2004, after 11 years as an enlisted soldier and attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant, Captain Sandvig accepted his officer commission and was sworn in as a 2nd Lieutenant before completing Ordnance Officer Basic Course in 2005 and his Captain's Career Course in 2008. Through his time with the Guard, he has supported his state and country in multiple roles overseas, including a 2010 deployment to the rough terrain of northeastern Afghanistan. Captain Sandvig has earned numerous decorations for his service over the last two decades, including the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Award, the Army Achievement Medal, and the Army Achievement Award.

Beyond his normal service duties, Captain Sandvig has been involved in numerous organizations and activities to benefit several charitable organizations across Iowa. A resident of Ankeny with his wife Shannon and their sons Ben, Sam, and J.J., the Sandvig family has donated much of their time and money to organizations such as Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, United Way, Families of Iowa's Fallen, the American Legion, the American Cancer Society, Cub Scouts, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, and various sport leagues in Ankeny. The Sandvig family has also donated financially to two separate families planning to adopt.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Captain Sandvig's professional and private conduct truly reflects the General MacArthur Leadership Award's emphasis on duty, honor, and country. In the words of General MacArthur: ''Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be. They are your rallying point to build courage . . . to regain faith . . . and to create hope . . .'' I can think of no better recipient for this great award than Captain Sandvig. His efforts embody the Iowa spirit, and I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him for this achievement, thanking him and his family for their service and sacrifice, and wishing him continued success in the future. May God continue to watch over all of our soldiers and their families, across the world and here at home alike.

THE U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIGHT AGAINST MALARIA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last week, I chaired a hearing of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations that examined the United States' contribution to the global fight against malaria.

Leadership matters. In 2005, President George W. Bush established the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) and targeted several African malaria endemic countries to receive over a billion dollars to mitigate and someday eradicate this killer disease. The positive consequences of that bold and compassionate initiative include over a million lives saved over the last decade.

The global impact of this disease is severe—yet we are making progress. The World Health Organization estimates that in 2010 there were 219 million malaria cases and 660,000 deaths. While still unconscionably high—every life is absolutely precious and of extraordinary importance—loss of life has declined from approximately 985,000 deaths in 2000.

Not surprisingly, malaria has a particularly devastating impact on the most vulnerable. Nearly 86% of those who die are children under five years of age living in Sub-Saharan Africa. Dr. Mark Dybul, Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS and President George W. Bush's extraordinarily effective Global AIDS Coordinator, said that in ''Africa alone, Malaria take the life of a child every minute'' and pregnant women are also disproportionately afflicted with the disease. WHO emphasizes in its World Malaria Report 2012 that malaria is strongly associated with poverty. Countries in which a larger percentage of the population lives in poverty also have higher mortality rates from malaria. Children living in poorer populations and in rural areas have the highest parasite prevalence rates.

It is also important to note the extent to which the prevalence of malaria is concentrated. Eighty percent of malaria deaths occur in just 14 countries and almost 80% of cases occur in 17 countries. Over 40% of malaria deaths occur in two countries—the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria, and 40% of malaria cases are in the DRC, Nigeria, and India.

These high morbidity and mortality rates are not necessary—malaria is both preventable and treatable. We heard about the cost effective measures that are currently available and already having an impact or that are in the development process. And the United States, despite the current financial constraints, is making a significant contribution to the global fight against malaria. In addition to our contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the United States provided $871 million in anti-malaria assistance in FY2012, and the request for FY2014 is $893 million.

But these levels, even when combined with contributions from other donors, fall short of the global need. So our question last week was: what are the major challenges going forward, and how we can best use our resources

to meet those challenges, to save the most lives and to have the greatest impact in controlling, if not eradicating, this dreaded disease?

We also took a close look at several immediate threats to global efforts to combat malaria. On April 19th, the subcommittee that I chair held a hearing called ''Meeting the Challenge of Drug-Resistant Diseases in Developing Countries.'' In his testimony at that hearing, Dr. Thomas Frieden, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, warned that in recent years, malaria infections in parts of Southeast Asia have been showing resistance to artemisinin drugs. These drugs are the last remaining class of anti-malarial drugs and form the basis of malaria treatment globally. If these resistant parasites manage to spread to sub-Saharan Africa, he stated that ''the results could be devastating.''

Insecticide-treated bed nets, which have an average useful life of two to three years, are an important, proven malaria prevention tool. According to the World Health Organization, 150 million nets are needed each year to provide protection to the vulnerable populations in sub-Saharan Africa. For the past two years however, the supply has been considerably lower than this level, resulting in an estimated current shortfall of 77 million nets. The consequences, if not urgently addressed, could place entire populations, especially children, at risk of a dramatic malaria resurgence and death.

We were fortunate to have with us three distinguished experts who provided us with valuable insights into these challenges.

RECOGNITION OF THE MICHIGAN STATE CHAMPIONS OF THE ''WE THE PEOPLE . . . THE CITIZEN'S AND THE CONSTITUTION'' COMPETITION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, twenty-nine exceptionally bright students from Howell High School in Michigan won a competition on their knowledge of the Constitution. As the winners of this competition, they came to Washington D.C. the last weekend in April to participate in the national finals of the ''We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution'' program.

The ''We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution'' program, administered by the Center for Civic Education, helps elementary and secondary students build a strong foundation of knowledge of the history and philosophical influences of the Constitution. The knowledge gained from this experience teaches the students about civic responsibility and how to enhance and uphold the democracy of this nation.

The final activity in this program, which took place April 27–29, gave students the opportunity to ''testify'' in a simulated congressional hearing. This experience allows them to utilize and demonstrate their understanding and teaches them how to evaluate, take, and defend positions on issues based on constitutional principles. I am happy to announce that the Howell High team won the Outstanding Unit Six award. Overall the team finished 16th in the nation with Unit One also placing in the top ten and Unit Two finishing 14th overall.

I am honored and proud to recognize the achievements of these students, they are Unit One: Heather Buja, Brody Kutt, Aaron Osborne; Unit Two: David Grusendorf, Lauren Lomasney, Nicole Trudeau, Jason Wisby; Unit Three: Ashley Carignan, Megan Isom, Jeremy Johnson, Sarah Kenney, Francesca Mettetal, Benjamin Schultz; Unit Four: Katherine Beard, Dillon Higgins, Adam Hukkala, Samantha Rineman, Christina Szkrybalo, Jake Tholen; Unit Five: Michael Beard, Grant Bowman, Jarrid Rector-Brooks, Erika Seneca!, Karsyn Textor; and Unit Six: Breanne Casper, Nadja Grauer, Abigail Harrington, Andreja Petrulis, Jonathon Reck. I also recognize Linda Start, the Michigan state coordinator for the ''We the People . . .'' program.

I would also like to applaud Mark Oglesby, the teacher who has led the Howell High School class to this national competition after eleven years of competing in the state of Michigan.

It was a pleasure to meet these students while they were here and I wish them the best in their future endeavors.

CARLEY GRABLE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Carley Grable is a senior at Lutheran South Academy in Harris County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

Oftentimes, in a nation where people have become relatively desensitized to the acts of the world, it is easy for one to simply fade into the crowd and become a follower. However, without adequate leaders, any nation, regardless of its stature, is destined for degradation. Warren Bennis once stated that, ''Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality''. American citizens need to get involved in even the simplest of ways in the political process because without the opinions and ideas of the people, the foundation of America crumbles.

One cannot completely understand something until they have immersed themselves into every facet of it. This proves to be axiomatic in the sense that numerous American citizens do not voice their opinions or take definitive sides on critical issues simply because of a lack of understanding of the political process. The American government is one of the most fascinating aspects of our nation purely because it was the first successful system of its kind. Nowhere else in the world had a group of people become so passionate about something and create something based on that passion that was functional and prosperous. In order for citizens to become the leaders that the nation so desperately needs, it is crucial that they educate themselves and become activists for the causes that they believe in.

Although, in the past century, the world as a whole has made great strides in ideas and technology, many people across the globe live in an isolated mindset concerning only themselves and their family or community. One may ponder the relationship between government and one's service to others in the world, however, I believe that if one is to truly make a difference in the world, one must become an active promoter of his/her beliefs. America's future calls for leaders who have a global perspective and are willing to work alongside others in a means of compromise and combination of ideals in order to attain a nation that is concerned with foreign affairs and is willing to use the functional facets of the US government and use them as a model to assist developing governments.

Since the age of Greeks and Trojans, leadership has been a quality that is cherished in society and is placed on a pedestal of honor if attained, The future of America relies on the upcoming generation to provide the knowledge and ideas that will evolve the already great nation into not only a force that remains highly influential in the economic world, but also one that shows compassion through its aid. The involvement with the political process is vital to the creation of new leaders of society because without experience, one is left with a nation led by people who formulate decisions based solely upon instinct, instead of intelligence. Edmund Burke noted that ''no one could make a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little''. No amount of involvement in one's government is too small to make a difference.

HONORING THE VETERANS OF THE MAY 21, 2013 EASTERN IOWA HONOR FLIGHT

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, today, ninety Iowa World War II and Korean War veterans will travel to our nation's capital. Accompanied by volunteer guardians, they will visit the monuments that were built in their honor.

For many, today will be the first time they will see the National World War II Memorial and the Korean War Veterans Memorial. I am deeply honored to join them for their visit to the National World War II Memorial to personally thank these heroes for their service to our nation and to pay tribute to the incredible sacrifice that they made for our country.

We owe these heroes a debt of gratitude. As a reminder of the service and sacrifice of the Greatest Generation, I am proud to have a piece of marble in my office from the quarry that was used to build the World War II Memorial. Our World War II and Korean War veterans rose to defend not just our nation, but the freedoms, democracy, and values that make our country the greatest nation on earth. They did so as one people and one country. Their sacrifices and determination in the face of great threats to our way of life are both humbling and inspiring.

The sheer magnitude of what the Greatest Generation accomplished, not just in war but

in the peace that followed, continues to inspire us today. Their generation and our country did not seek to be tested both abroad by a war that fundamentally challenged our way of life and at home by the Great Depression and the rebuilding of our economy that followed. But, when called upon to do so, the Greatest Generation defended and then rebuilt our nation to make it even stronger. Their patriotism, service, and sacrifice not only defined their generation—they stand as a testament to the fortitude of our nation and the American people. Their legacy endures today.

I am tremendously proud to welcome the Eastern Iowa Honor Flight and Iowa's veterans of the Second World War and the Korean War to our nation's capital today. On behalf of every Iowan I represent, I thank them for their service to our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 161—H.R. 258; 162—H.R. 1073; and 163—Approving the Journal, I was delayed by weather and my flight arrived late. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

INTRODUCTION OF THE TRANSPARENCY FOR LETHAL CONTROL ACT (TLC)

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Transparency for Lethal Control Act (TLC), legislation requiring the United States Department of Agriculture to publish clear and accessible information on animals killed through the Wildlife Services program of the Animal Health and Inspection Service.

The Wildlife Services program is responsible for intervening in situations when an animal is considered a threat or serious nuisance to humans. In some cases, animals are killed to fulfill this mission.

Efforts to gather adequate information regarding Wildlife Services operations have been difficult. The USDA has not made detailed data available to the public relating to where, why, how, and which animals have been killed. This lack of transparency and public reporting makes oversight impossible. The USDA could be acting inappropriately or recklessly and without this data, we can't know. That is why I am introducing legislation to require the USDA to publish kill data online by state, county (or other similar political subdivision), and municipality.

The killing of animals should not be a routine or reflexive government response. It should only be undertaken, if at all, after careful deliberation and under strict supervision. For that reason, the public and Congress need to have the opportunity for vigorous oversight to ensure that the USDA is acting appropriately and considering all cheaper and more humane alternatives.

Congress must improve oversight of the Wildlife Services program and ensure that the USDA is using tax dollars efficiently and appropriately. I urge passage of the Transparency for Lethal Control Act (TLC).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNY HECK

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding my absence from the House yesterday, Monday, May 20, 2013. Because of this absence, I missed three votes on the House floor and would like to submit how I would have voted had I been in attendance. The votes were:

Rollcall No. 161, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 258, the Stolen Valor Act. I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 162, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 1073, the Nuclear Terrorism Conventions Implementation and Safety of Maritime Navigation Act of 2013. I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 163, on Approval of the Journal. I would have voted "yea."

BRANDON PULLIG

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Brandon Pullig is a senior at Deer Park High School in Harris County, Texas. His essay topic is:

IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT ROLE SHOULD GOVERNMENT PLAY IN OUR LIVES?

Ever since the times of the philosopher John Locke to Revolutionary heroes such as Patrick Henry and Thomas Paine to the current President Barack Obama, people have had many different beliefs on how government should play a role in our lives. While there have been differing views since the start, there has been one thing in common; the explicit disagreement on the role of which government should follow. Yes, everyone believes their opinion is correct because that is the definition of a belief. However, I write today not to share why my beliefs are correct nor to express how the U.S. Government should be leading the nation, but to tell my Congress, the most powerful body of our government, what not to do.

Now, I digress momentarily to inform you that I am not a writer. I am not a literary mastermind who can reach into thin air, pick out the perfect sentence, and transfer it onto paper for all to read. No; I am but a worried 17 year-old, frightened for the future of our country. Thus being said, I apologize for my lack of professionalism and formality. When asked to write this, I saw it as an opportunity to directly communicate with Congress and not as an assignment to write about my feelings whilst hiding behind fancy words causing a lack of personality. Ergo, I plead with you to listen to what I have to say and to take it to heart.

As a young man on the verge of becoming part of the "real world," leaving high school behind, I find it crucial that I involve myself into the world of government, trying to find what makes it tick. By doing so, I have found that our government is fantastic. The system our founding fathers established is the only reason we, as a nation, have survived the past 236 years. We have evolved the governmental process commendably as well. These facts do not, unfortunately, make up for the horrendous damage politics have caused. The concept of politics has torn apart our government. The lack of cooperation between the two major parties in the last decade and a half has been detrimental to the well being of our nation. Of course our government should tax, regulate trade, deal with foreign nations, create laws to protect the rights of the people, etc. Yet, we have fixated our beliefs so heavily on the ideals of one party or the other and I, as a concerned citizen, am tired of the gridlock that has been hopefully unintentionally created. I urge you to remember the prosperous years in which our nation's leaders, Congress, set aside their party and worked for the better good of all people. This may be hard to do because our minds have been corrupted into thinking black and white, but remember the generation—my generation—that must live with the mistakes made by the Republican and Democratic leaders who were too ignorant to look past their parties' beliefs and to accept what will benefit all. I write to defend my generation and for you to remember the true role of our government, which is to "establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of liberty to ourselves and our Posterity."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote No. 157 regarding the Hurt Amendment No. 2 to the "SEC Regulatory Accountability Act" (H.R. 1062). Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 161, 162, 163, had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING COL. JASON BOHM

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, throughout the journey of life, we meet many people. Some of these people you will know for a lifetime, and some you will only know for a brief period. I have had the pleasure of knowing Colonel Jason Bohm, USMC, for a brief, but meaningful time.

Col. Bohm has served as the director of the Marine Corps liaison office for the U.S. House of Representatives for the past two years. Having the privilege to represent the Marines of Camp Lejeune and Cherry Point MCAS, I have worked with Col. Bohm on numerous occasions.

He has served as a knowledgeable advisor to me and my staff on various issues concerning active-duty Marines, veterans and military families. We have all found Col. Jason Bohm to be a man of integrity, sincerity, and a true friend to the Corps.

He has assisted me greatly with an issue that I have worked on for over 11 years, and I want to thank him for his interest and his tremendous efforts to help me in my mission of clearing the names of two pilots. For his assistance, I will always be grateful.

As a man of faith, I appreciate Col. Bohm's commitment to his faith and his family. His wife, Sonja, has offered unwavering support, along with their children Ashley, Ethan and Emily. I wish them all the best on their new journey to Camp Pendleton, California.

May God continue to bless the Bohm family, our men and women in uniform, and the United States of America.

FOOD ALLERGIES

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, approximately 15 million Americans have a food allergy, a life-altering and potentially life-threatening disease that affects one in every 13 children in the U.S. That's roughly two in every classroom. Food allergies among children increased by 50 percent from 1997–99 to 2009–11, according to a new report from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, and every three minutes, a food allergy reaction sends someone to the emergency room. The numbers are growing and becoming more serious—but there is no clear answer as to why.

The increased impact of food allergies is being felt in schools, playgrounds, restaurants, workplaces and emergency care facilities, and constitutes a growing public health issue with substantial financial, educational and medical implications. That is why I am speaking today to alert you that this week is Food Allergy Awareness Week.

Unfortunately, resources dedicated to identifying the source and a cure for food allergies has not kept pace with the increasing incidence and its impact. Total governmental support, including the National Institutes of Health, amounts to less than $30 million in food allergy research. Private sources, like Food Allergy Research and Education—a patient-centered advocacy and support organization—provide limited additional research support. That is less than $2.00 in annual research funding for every American living with a potentially life-threatening food allergy.

Mr. Speaker, beyond government research support, the risk to individuals, especially children, of severe, life-threatening reactions also needs to be addressed and prepared for. While many children with known food allergies are permitted to bring their epinephrine auto-injectors to school, studies have shown that 25 percent of epinephrine administrations in schools involve individuals without a previously known allergy. Consequently, the availability of stock epinephrine—undesignated devices that are not prescribed to a particular student and that may be used in anaphylactic emergencies—is critical. Many students who will need epinephrine may have no known history of allergy to food, bee stings, latex and other allergens, and therefore would not have a prescription of their own.

As this health crisis continues to grow, other responses are becoming increasingly necessary. In addition to school personnel, restaurants and their staff need to be made aware of the risks, know how to properly prepare food to avoid allergic reactions, and how to respond in an emergency. Emergency responders need to be properly authorized, trained and equipped to recognize and administer treatment. And ultimately, epinephrine needs to become a standard of emergency first aid in public spaces, nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, 19 states have now passed legislation that would allow schools to stock emergency epinephrine auto-injectors for those instances. Congress has had before it legislation that would provide an incentive for states to require the stocking of this emergency medication for the children and staff who may be faced with this life-threatening situation, and I hope that that legislation will be revisited during this session.

It is critical for the public to appreciate the extent of the problem and, importantly, the severity of the disease. It is a health crisis that affects every race, age, income group and geographic area, and is growing dramatically. And what the public increasingly needs to understand is that this is not simply an inconvenient condition. As the recent tragic deaths of children in Utah, New Jersey and Massachusetts show, it is frequently a life-threatening disease. We hope that public understanding and appreciation is enhanced during Food Allergy Awareness Week.

ARIEL ZAGALA

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Ariel Zagala is a senior at Needville High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

WHAT ROLE GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE?

George Washington once said, ''Government is not a reason; it is not eloquence. It is force.'' This is relevant to me because I do believe government should show force, but not have power. The main role of the government should be the protection of the citizens rather than the complete dominance over the people. Our leaders need to set forth the rules that our founding fathers created for us to live by, but not hold our hands and walk us through life. One example would be protection. Ideally, the government's protection should consist of having someone available when needed or providing aid. In reality, the government's version of protection is tuning into our conversations and running surveillance on us. Government, appointed by the people, should make the rules and the people of a society should respect and abide by them. The nation's leaders should occasionally check to see how the nation is working and give motivation. However, the government should not dictate and attempt to control every aspect of life. One prime example would be gun control. Currently we have had numerous situations where people use guns to harm and in worse situations, kill as well. Some shootings include the Sandy Hook Shooting and the Theatre Massacre. The government does its job on stepping up and applying force by stopping the situation and persecuting the criminal. What they do not stop to realize is how sometimes they can be controlling in situations like these. By trying to take our weapons, they are stripping us of the Second Amendment and ultimately gaining power over society. There is a noticeable difference between force and power in that force means to influence, whereas power means having control over something. President Washington was right that government is a force, but overtime our government has blindly tried to consume power. Having a government is important for the country. They are a symbol of leadership and a sense of security. They are the voice and examples of who we are as a nation and show that to other nations. In conclusion, our government is a working progress. They provide the force but occasionally want power, but just like us, no one is perfect.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, due to a family issue that required my attention, I missed several votes on May 20, 2013. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall vote 161, ''yea'' on rollcall vote 162, and ''yea'' on rollcall vote 163.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was $10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is $16,737,294,304,715.52. We've added $6,110,417,255,802.44 to our debt in 4 years. This is $6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

ADDRESSING H.R. 3—THE NORTHERN ROUTE APPROVAL ACT

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following:

MAY 21, 2013.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives, The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I write today to address H.R. 3, the 'Northern Route Approval Act', and my resolution raising a question of privilege regarding the matter. Please note that this is a privileged motion and therefore outside the scope of the Rules Committee's jurisdiction regarding ''the order of business of the House'' (Rule X(1)(o)(1)). This is a question of privilege ''affecting the rights of the House collectively, its safety, dignity, and the integrity of its proceedings'' pursuant to Rule IX (1). It is not invoked to ''effect a change in the rules . . . or their interpretation'' ('House Rules and Manuals' at 420).

Consideration of this bill exceeds 'the rights of the House collectively' and brings into question the 'dignity and the integrity of [the] proceedings' of the House of Representatives (House Rule IX) because: 1) it is unconstitutional, and 2) it is an earmark.

I presented this matter to the full House in H. Res. 225 as a question of privilege last night, and I noticed the question immediately following the only vote series of the day.

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Rule IX of the House you must now 1) make your determination as to whether or not this is an appropriate 'question of privilege', and 2) hold a vote on the resolution offered before the House. Before that happens, I would like to address the two claims I have made against the bill offered by the gentleman from Nebraska, and then I will outline the reasons why I feel you should find in favor of my question of privilege.

H.R. 3 IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL

''The . . . Constitution does not permit Congress to execute the laws.''

The above is taken from the Supreme Court's ruling in Bowsher v. Synar. The bill before us violates this principle. Congress creates the law, and the Executive executes it.

Under Section 3 of this bill however, ''the final environmental impact statement (FEIS) issued by the Secretary of State on August 26, 2011'', and ''the Presidential permit required for the pipeline described in the application filed on May 4, 2012, by TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, L.P. to the Department of State . . . as supplemented to include the Nebraska reroute evaluated in the Final Evaluation Report issued by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality in January 2013 and approved by the Nebraska governor'' shall ''be considered [deemed] to satisfy all requirements of 1) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and 2) the National Historic Preservation Act''. This is a clear attempt by this body to execute the law of the land.

Again Mr. Speaker, the Executive must execute the laws. H.R. 3 runs afoul of this requirement. The Supreme Court also held in Bowsher v. Synar that ''[i]nterpreting a law enacted by Congress to implement the legislative mandate is the very essence of 'execution' of the law'', and that is exactly what is being proposed here. The exercise of judgment in the bill before us, concerning facts that affect application of statute, constitutes execution of the law. It is an unconstitutional act that this body should not entertain. It violates separation of powers, and violates the principle underlying the prohibition of bills of attainder.

Statements are deemed by this bill to be in compliance with laws the Executive has been tasked with executing—the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (see section 3 of H.R. 3). This is an impermissible execution of the law. Congress, through this bill, is attempting to apply the facts of the Keystone XL Pipeline environmental impact statement to the body of law, and deciding that they comply. This is unconstitutional and brings into question the 'dignity and the integrity of [the] proceedings' of the House.

Apparently, we are no longer satisfied with writing the laws. We have now taken it upon ourselves to execute them as well. This discredits the institution not only within the federal government (complicating our constitutional relationship with both the executive and judicial branches), but also in the eyes of the American people. We must not allow the House to be degraded in such a way.

Even when the facts of the bill are examined, this measure fails. This bill states that the FEIS satisfies NEPA. That FEIS however, was for a different project—the Keystone XL Pipeline as proposed in 2009, a pipeline which would have terminated in the Gulf Coast. The NEPA process for that proposal ended when the State Department denied the Presidential Permit application and issued a Record of Decision pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §1505.2. The current proposal is different. It has a different route, different purpose and need, different NEPA process, and more. This bill, however, deems the (outdated) FEIS for the previous proposal to comply with NEPA for the purposes of approving the current proposal. This leap of logic is untenable, and again, compromises the dignity and integrity of the proceedings of this body.

Finally Mr. Speaker, Section 4 of this bill states: ''no Presidential permit shall be required for the pipeline described in the application filed on May 4, 2012 by TransCanada . . .''. This section encroaches upon the President's independent constitutional authority over matters of foreign affairs. As a Member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, I am intimately familiar with Article II of the Constitution. Today, this body intends to ignore it and trample our Founding Document. I refuse to stand idly by and participate any longer. The Department of State does not issue Presidential permits based on any statutory authority from Congress; rather, the President delegated his inherent constitutional authority over matters of foreign affairs to the Department of State in Executive Order 13337. The President and Department of State have independent authority to act in this field, not Congress.

For these reasons Mr. Speaker, I feel that H.R. 3 is unconstitutional, and that any consideration of the bill affects the dignity and integrity of the institution.

H.R. 3 IS AN EARMARK

Rule XXI (9)(a)(1) states:

''(a) It shall not be in order to consider—

''(1) a bill or joint resolution reported by a committee unless the report includes a list of congressional earmarks. . . .''

'Congressional earmark' is defined in Rule XXI (9)(e) in the following way:

''(e) For the purpose of this clause, the term ''congressional earmark'' means a provision or report language included primarily at the request of a Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, or Senator providing, authorizing or recommending a specific amount of discretionary budget authority, credit authority, or other spending authority for a contract, loan, loan guarantee, grant, loan authority, or other expenditure with or to an entity, or targeted to a specific State, locality or Congressional district, other than through a statutory or administrative formula-driven or competitive award process.''

Restated, using only the words of the Rule, in the order in which they appear, a 'congressional earmark' is:

''a provision . . . included primarily at the request of a Member . . . providing [or] authorizing . . . a . . . grant . . . to an entity . . . other than through a statutory or administrative . . . or competitive award process.''

Mr. Speaker, Section 6 of H.R. 3 satisfies every one of these criteria. It grants not only a right-of-way, but also a temporary use permit, outside of established statutory, administrative, and competitive award processes, and it does so to only one entity—explicitly named in this bill 'TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, L.P.'.

The requirement that this provision be included 'primarily at the request of a Member' is surely satisfied by the act of a Member drafting and offering this bill. It was a conscious choice of a Member from the state of Nebraska to offer this legislation, as well as explicitly mention Nebraska or Nebraskans six separate times, while no other state receives a single mention.

Clearly Mr. Speaker, this is an earmark.

As such, beyond the determination as to the question of privilege which I have raised, I would also assert that H.R. 3 violates the Rules of the House. Not one of the reports filed by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, or the Committee on Natural Resources includes a list containing the congressional earmark that appears in this bill. Rule XXI (9)(a)(1) is violated.

For these reasons (among others) Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request your determination that my question and resolution before the House is privileged. H.R. 3 is unconstitutional, it is an earmark, and it violates the Rules of the House. Therefore, any consideration of this bill is an action which affects the dignity and the integrity of the proceedings of the House pursuant to Rule IX.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me or David Bagby of my staff.

Sincerely,

ALAN GRAYSON,
Member of Congress.

HONORING THE LEADERSHIP OF YULA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ON THEIR STAND AGAINST THE IRANIAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to call attention to the leadership and drive of Yeshiva University High School of Los Angeles's (YULA) Panthers for Israel. These students have organized a statement of their campus leadership to protest the Iranian nuclear program and support for global terrorism, raising awareness of the Iranian threat to the United States and our allies around the world. I join them in their quest to stop Iran now, and I applaud them for their initiative. For that reason, I submit the following campus leadership statement.

''We, the student leaders of Yeshiva University High Schools of Los Angeles, condemn Iran's development of a nuclear weapons program, as well as its continued support for worldwide terror. A nuclear capable Iran poses a direct threat to the United States and stands against basic American values. Iran not only remains an existential threat to America's friend and ally, the State of Israel, it poses the greatest national security threat to these United States. We stand united against a nuclear capable Iran and urge the U.S. Congress to support future legislation on this critical issue of global security.''

Signed,

Elliot Julis, YULA Israel Advocacy Club, President; Shana Salomon, Girls Student Council, President; Joshua Kohan, Boys Student Council, President; Naphtali Nektalov, YULA Israel Advocacy Club, Chairman of the Board; Alexa Hanelin, Model United Nations, Captain; Gillian Gittler, Editor-in-Chief, The PANTHER; Leron Rayn, Boys Student Council, Treasurer; Racheli Schechter, Girls Student Council, Treasurer; Levi Saada, YULA Clubs, Chair.

Elon Swartz, Drama Society, Lead Role; Laura Rubin, Girls Drama Society, Lead Role; Lizzi Peled, Mock Trial, Captain; Jordyn Schoenfeld, Boys Varsity Basketball, Captain; Shira Ben Shushan, Friendship Circle Liaison; Asher Naghi, Likutei Ohr, Senior Editor; Zach Porgress, YULA Community Services, Chairman; Ruth Maouda, Girls Varsity Soccer, Captain; Batya Botach, Girls Varsity Tennis, Captain.

Alexa Mund, SCATCH Tutoring Initiative, Director; Ariela Rohatiner, Girls Varsity Basketball, Captain; Rachel Gindi, Genocide Awareness Committee; Yoni Elkaim, Boys Varsity Soccer, Captain; Samuel Romano, YULA-Museum of Tolerance Liaison; Sophia Levine, Chai Lifeline Liaison; Sahar Basiratmand, Yearbook Editor; Boruch Gralnik, Boys Varsity Baseball, Captain; Noam Posner, Boys Cross Country, Captain.

AMAND McINTIRE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Amanda McIntire is a senior at Hightowner High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. Her essay topic is: Select an important event that has occurred in the past 50 years and explain how that event has changed our country.

WHERE WERE YOU ON THAT FATEFUL DAY?

Shock . . . dismay . . . disbelief . . . words that even this six-year-old could feel on that early September morning. Parents swarmed my elementary school. Classrooms became practically empty. Teachers tried to stay calm, but it was obvious that their attention was focused on the day's events. 9/11 changed our world. It was an act intended to create terror and fear. Until then, we had never fought a foreign country on our soil since the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

''How do I respond when I see that in some Islamic countries there is vitriolic hatred for America? . . . I'm amazed that there is such misunderstanding of what our country is about, that people would hate us. I am, I am—like most Americans, I just can't believe it. Because I know how good we are, and we've got to do a better job of making our case.''—George W. Bush, press conference

At six, I knew something happened that would change my life forever, but I did not realize its magnitude for years to come. At first, in my mind, we appeared united, but how could a nation that was founded on the belief that all men are created equal and should be free, treat others that looked a certain way differently? Many of my school mates' parents came to get my friends fearing for revenge against them that day because of their religion or heritage. A turban on your head or an unfamiliar religious belief should not mean that you are an enemy. My community is very diverse. In fact, my blond hair and blue eyes make me a minority at my school. I have come to understand that as a nation, we must restore faith in the world's eyes that we are not wealthy bigots, but people who want a free world filled with peace and prosperity for everyone.

As Secretary of State John Kerry once stated, ''We believe that what matters most is not narrow appeals masquerading as values, but the shared values that show the true face of America; not narrow values that divide us, but the shared values that unite us: family, faith, hard work, opportunity and responsibility for all, so that every child, every adult, every parent, every worker in America has an equal shot at living up to their God-given potential. That is the American dream and the American value.''

The attacks on 9/11 were intended to weaken our country and our souls. Instead, we are more cautious, more observant, and more determined than ever to prove to the world that we are a strong and powerful nation whose intent is not domination, but coexistence in a free world that respects human life, the pursuit of happiness, and freedom.

CONGRATULATING THE NORTH CATAWBA FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT ON THEIR 55TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the members of the North Catawba Fire and Rescue Department as they mark their 55th anniversary.

Committed and hardworking firefighters play a vital role in keeping our homes, businesses, and public places safe from the threats of deadly fires.

The residents of North Catawba take comfort in knowing that these men and women are nearby in the event of an emergency.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 11th District of North Carolina, I congratulate the brave men and women of the North Catawba Fire and Rescue Department who are devoted to protecting lives. This sacrifice truly exemplifies the spirit of America.

HONORING REVEREND THEODORE MARTIN HESBURGH

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, president emeritus of the University of Notre Dame, who will be honored on May 22, 2013 in a special reception at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. to celebrate his upcoming 96th birthday and 70th anniversary as a priest. Rev. Hesburgh was ordained as a priest of the Congregation of Holy Cross on June 24, 1943 at Notre Dame.

Rev. Hesburgh taught theology and served as a chaplain to returning veteran students, next moving on to serve as president of the university for thirty-five years. Retiring in 1987, Rev. Hesburgh was considered one of the most distinguished and transformational leaders in American higher education. A familiar face on campus, Rev. Hesburgh was well-known for remembering the names and faces of the university students, always acknowledging others with heartfelt greetings.

Outside of Notre Dame, Rev. Hesburgh continued his distinguished commitment to public service, shaping history at home and abroad. He was first tapped by President Dwight Eisenhower to serve on the National Science Board in 1954. Over the years, Rev. Hesburgh was appointed to over one hundred other advisory boards, developing peaceful solutions to nurture the civil rights movement and immigration reform. Due to his consistent efforts to pursue justice and strengthen human dignity, Rev. Hesburgh served as a member of the Civil Rights Commission for over a decade, including three years as the chairman.

Advising multiple United States presidents, Rev. Hesburgh was awarded the Medal of

Freedom, the highest civilian honor, by President Lyndon Johnson. He was also honored with the Congressional Gold Medal by President Bill Clinton in the Rotunda of the United States Capitol, recognized for his work in civil rights and world peace. Graciously welcoming many American presidents to the University of Notre Dame, Rev. Hesburgh has created a powerful connection between our world leaders and the university.

Rev. Hesburgh has touched the lives of countless individuals around the world on his never-ending mission to spread world peace, eradicate poverty, and alleviate hunger. Approaching his upcoming 96th birthday and 70th anniversary as a priest, there are certainly many accomplishments to celebrate from the Notre Dame campus to the global community. Most of all, I applaud Rev. Hesburgh for following God's calling to the priesthood and being a good and faithful servant to the people.

It is an honor to recognize Rev. Hesburgh for his patriotism and devoted commitment to bring peace, justice, and humility. His dignity and passion will be admired for generations for the unparalleled achievements and endless kindness that has forever shaped our society.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, on May 17, 2013 I missed a series of votes related to H.R. 1062, the so-called ''SEC Regulatory Accountability Act'', due to a prior commitment to escort my mother as she received an honorary doctorate from the West Virginia University. Had I been present, I would have voted ''no'' on the Hurt amendment, ''yes'' on the Maloney amendment, ''yes'' on the motion to recommit and ''no'' on this bill.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S3633–S3699

Measures Introduced: Thirteen bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 992–1004, and S. Res. 150–151. **Pages S3657–58**

Measures Reported:

S. 330, to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish safeguards and standards of quality for research and transplantation of organs infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S3657**

Measures Considered:

Farm Bill—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of S. 954, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S3634–48, S3652**

Adopted:

By 87 yeas to 8 nays (Vote No. 129), Stabenow (for Cantwell) Amendment No. 919, to allow Indian tribes to participate in certain soil and water conservation programs. **Pages S3634, S3636**

Stabenow (for Sessions) Modified Amendment No. 945, to clarify eligibility criteria for agricultural irrigation assistance. **Page S3637**

Rejected:

By 40 yeas to 58 nays (Vote No. 130), Roberts Amendment No. 948, to improve and extend certain nutrition programs. **Pages S3641–47**

By 26 yeas to 70 nays (Vote No. 131), Gillibrand Amendment No. 931, to strike a reduction in the supplemental nutrition assistance program, with an offset that limits crop insurance reimbursements to providers. **Pages S3636–37, S3647–48**

Pending:

Stabenow (for Leahy) Amendment No. 998, to establish a pilot program for gigabit Internet projects in rural areas. **Page S3652**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 10:30 a.m., on Wednesday, May 22, 2013. **Page S3698**

Appointments:

Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission: The Chair announced, on behalf of the Majority Leader, after consultation with the Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 112–239, the appointment of the following individuals to be members of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission: The Honorable Bob Kerrey, of Nebraska, and The Honorable Larry Pressler of South Dakota. **Page S3698**

Srinivasan Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Srikanth Srinivasan, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit. **Page S3698**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Thursday, May 23, 2013. **Page S3698**

Messages from the House: **Page S3656**

Measures Referred: **Page S3656**

Measures Read the First Time: **Pages S3656, S3698**

Executive Communications: **Pages S3656–57**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S3658–60**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S3660–63**

Additional Statements: **Pages S3655–56**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S3663–97**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S3697**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S3697–98**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—131) **Pages S3636, S3647–48**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:35 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 22, 2013. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S3699.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE, GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, AND THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2014 for the Government Accountability Office, Government Printing Office, and the Congressional Budget Office, after receiving testimony from Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General, Government Accountability Office; Davita Vance-Cooks, Acting Public Printer, Government Printing Office; and Douglas Elmendorf, Director, Congressional Budget Office.

U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN IN ADVERSITY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs concluded a hearing to examine a review of United States foreign assistance for children in adversity, after receiving testimony from Donald Steinberg, Deputy Administrator, and Neil Boothby, Special Advisor for Children in Adversity, both of the United States Agency for International Development; Caroline Ryan, Deputy Coordinator for Technical Leadership, Office of the United States Global AIDS Coordinator, Department of State; Susan Bissell, United Nations Children's Fund, New York, New York; Jedd Medefind, Christian Alliance for Orphans, McLean, Virginia; Phillip Goldman, Maestral International, Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Charles Nelson, Harvard Medical School, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

FINANCIAL STABILITY OVERSIGHT COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Financial Stability Oversight Council annual report to Congress, including S. 892, to amend the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 to impose sanctions with respect to certain transactions in foreign currencies, after receiving testimony from Jacob J. Lew, Secretary of the Treasury.

NOMINATION

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Brian C. Deese, of Massachusetts, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

RAECHEL AND JACQUELINE HOUCK SAFE RENTAL CAR ACT

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance concluded a hearing to examine S. 921, to amend chapter 301 of title 49, United States Code, to prohibit the rental of motor vehicles that contain a defect related to motor vehicle safety, after receiving testimony from David L. Strickland, Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation; Sharon Faulkner, American Car Rental Association, Clifton Park, New York; Rosemary Shahan, Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety, Sacramento, California; Mitch Bainwol, Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, Washington, D.C.; Peter Welch, National Automobile Dealers Association, McLean, Virginia; and Carol Houck, Ojai, California.

NATURAL GAS

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine what the next applications are for natural gas and how this new demand will be met, focusing on domestic supply and natural gas exports, after receiving testimony from Christopher Smith, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy, and Adam Sieminski, Administrator, Energy Information Administration, both of the Department of Energy; Cal Dooley, American Chemistry Council, Charles Ebinger, The Brookings Institution, and Paul N. Cicio, Industrial Energy Consumers of America, all of Washington, D.C.; Pat Outtrim, Cheniere Energy, Inc., Austin, Texas; Deborah Rogers, EnergyPolicyForum, Fort Worth, Texas; E. Harry Vidas, ICF International, Fairfax, Virginia; John Mohlis, The Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council, Portland; and Octavio Simoes, Sempra Energy, San Diego, California.

IRS AND 501(c)(4) APPLICATIONS

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine a review of criteria used by the IRS to identify 501(c)(4) applications for greater scrutiny, after receiving testimony from Steven Miller, Acting Commissioner, and Douglas Shulman, former Commissioner, both of the Internal Revenue Service, and J. Russell George, Inspector General for Tax Administration, all of the Department of the Treasury.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 960, to foster stability in Syria, with amendments; and

S. Res. 143, recognizing the threats to freedom of the press and expression around the world and reaffirming freedom of the press as a priority in the efforts of the United States Government to promote democracy and good governance on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day on May 3, 2013.

AFGHANISTAN'S 2014 ELECTIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs concluded a hearing to examine the prospect for Afghanistan's 2014 elections, after receiving testimony from David D. Pearce, Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Department of State; David Sedney, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia; and Andrew Wilder, United States Institute of Peace, Sarah Chayes, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and Max Boot, Council on Foreign Relations, all of Washington, D.C.

OFFSHORE PROFIT SHIFTING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations concluded a hearing to examine offshore profit shifting and the United States tax code, after receiving testimony from Samuel M. Maruca, Director, Transfer Pricing Operations, Internal Revenue Service, and Mark J. Mazur, Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy, both of the Department of the Treasury; Stephen E. Shay, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Massachusetts; J. Richard Harvey, Jr., Villanova University School of Law, Villanova, Pennsylvania; and Timothy D. Cook, Peter Oppenheimer, and Phillip A. Bullock, all of Apple, Inc., Cupertino, California.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee continued consideration of S. 744, to provide for comprehensive immigration reform.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 21 public bills, H.R. 2061–2081; 1 private bill, H.R. 2082; and 3 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 37; and H. Res. 229–230 were introduced. **Pages H2837–39**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H2839–40**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 228, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3) to approve the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Keystone XL pipeline, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 113–88). **Page H2837**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Webster to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H2805**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:42 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H2809**

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest chaplain, Pastor Mark Turner, South Valley Community Church, Gilroy, California. **Page H2809**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Improving Job Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2013: H.R. 1412, amended, to improve and increase the availability of on-job training and apprenticeship programs carried out by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 416 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 164; **Pages H2813–15, H2830**

American Heroes COLA Act: H.R. 570, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans; **Pages H2815–17**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes.". **Page H2817**

Granting the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Special Service Force, in recognition of its superior service during World War

II: H.R. 324, amended, to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Special Service Force, in recognition of its superior service during World War II, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 415 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 165;

Pages H2817–19, H2830–31

Helping Heroes Fly Act: H.R. 1344, amended, to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to provide expedited air passenger screening to severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 413 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 166;

Pages H2819–25, H2831–32

Freedom to Fish Act: S. 982, to prohibit the Corps of Engineers from taking certain actions to establish a restricted area prohibiting public access to waters downstream of a dam; and **Pages H2825–27**

Authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for the unveiling of a statue of Frederick Douglass: S. Con. Res. 16, to authorize the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for the unveiling of a statue of Frederick Douglass. **Pages H2827–28**

Question of Privilege: Representative Grayson rose to a question of the privileges of the House and offered a resolution. The Chair ruled that the resolution did not constitute a question of the privileges of the House. **Pages H2828–30**

Recess: The House recessed at 3:55 p.m. and reconvened at 5:03 p.m. **Page H2835**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H2813.

Senate Referral: S. 309 was held at the desk.

Page H2813

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2830, H2830–31 and H2831–32. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Committee Meetings

CFTC: MARKET PERSPECTIVES

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "The Future of the CFTC: Market Perspectives". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Appropriations: Full Committee held a markup on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for FY 2014; and consideration of the Report on the Suballocations of Budget Allocations. The bill was ordered reported, as amended. The Report on the Suballocations of Budget Allocation for FY 2014 was approved, as amended.

PRESIDENT'S FISCAL YEAR 2014 BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Reviewing the President's Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Proposal for the U.S. Department of Education". Testimony was heard from Arne Duncan, Secretary, Department of Education.

CYBER THREATS AND SECURITY SOLUTIONS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Cyber Threats and Security Solutions". Testimony was heard from Patrick D. Gallagher, Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology, Director National Institute of Standards and Technology; and public witnesses.

CYBERSECURITY: AN EXAMINATION OF THE COMMUNICATIONS SUPPLY CHAIN

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled "Cybersecurity: An Examination of the Communications Supply Chain". Testimony was heard from Mark Goldstein, Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

QUALIFIED MORTGAGES: EXAMINING THE IMPACT OF THE ABILITY TO REPAY RULE

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit held a hearing entitled "Qualified Mortgages: Examining the Impact of the Ability to Repay Rule". Testimony was heard from Peter Carroll, Assistant Director for Mortgage Markets, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau; and Kelly Cochran, Assistant Director for Regulations, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES OF DODD-FRANK'S CONFLICT MINERALS PROVISION

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Monetary Policy and Trade held a hearing entitled "The Unintended Consequences of Dodd-Frank's

Conflict Minerals Provision''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CALL FOR ECONOMIC LIBERTY IN THE ARAB WORLD

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''The Call for Economic Liberty in the Arab World''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE GROWING CRISIS IN AFRICA'S SAHEL REGION

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations; Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa; and Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade held a joint hearing entitled ''The Growing Crisis in Africa's Sahel Region''. Testimony was heard from Donald Y. Yamamoto, Acting Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of African Affairs, Department of State; Nancy E. Lindborg, Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance, U.S. Agency for International Development; and public witnesses.

VISA SECURITY AND OVERSTAYS

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security held a hearing entitled ''Visa Security and Overstays: How Secure is America?''. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Homeland Security officials: John Wagner, Acting Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Office of Field Operations, Customs and Border Protection; James Dinkins, Executive Associate Director, Homeland Security Investigations, Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Shonnie Lyon, Acting Director, Office of Biometric Identity Management, National Protection and Programs Directorate; Rebecca Gambler, Director of the Homeland and Security and Justice, Government Accountability Office.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 982, the ''Furthering Asbestos Claim Transparency Act of 2013''. The bill was ordered reported, without amendment.

DATA COLLECTION ISSUES IN RELATION TO THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE MAGNUSON–STEVENS FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittees on Fisheries, Wildlife Oceans and Insular Affairs held a hearing on data collection issues in relation to the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Testimony was heard from Richard Merrick, Chief Science Advisor, National Marine Fisheries Services, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and public witnesses.

PERSPECTIVES ON THE MANAGEMENT OF FEDERAL AND STATE LAND

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation held a hearing entitled ''Perspectives on the Management of Federal and State Land''. Testimony was heard from Gary Herbert, Governor, State of Utah.

EXAMINING THE CONCERN ABOUT OBAMACARE OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Health Care and Entitlements; Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Job Creation and Regulatory Affairs held a joint hearing entitled ''Examining the Concern About ObamaCare Outreach Campaign''. Testimony was heard from Gary Cohen, Deputy Administrator and Director, Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

NORTHERN ROUTE APPROVAL ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 3, the ''Northern Route Approval Act''. The Committee granted, by voice vote, a structured rule for H.R. 3. The rule provides 90 minutes of general debate equally divided among and controlled by the respective chairs and ranking minority members of the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Energy and Commerce, and Natural Resources. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule makes in order as original text for purpose of amendment an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113–11 and provides that it shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against the amendment in the nature of a substitute. The rule makes in order only those further amendments printed in the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Chairman Shuster and Representatives

Whitfield, Terry, Rush, Shea-Porter, Weber (TX), and Jackson Lee.

CURRENT AND FUTURE APPLICATIONS OF BIOMETRIC TECHNOLOGIES

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Research and Subcommittee on Technology held a hearing entitled ''The Current and Future Applications of Biometric Technologies''. Testimony was heard from Charles H. Romine, Director, Information Technology Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology; and public witnesses.

NEXT STEPS IN HUMAN EXPLORATION TO MARS AND BEYOND

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Space held a hearing entitled ''Next Steps in Human Exploration to Mars and Beyond''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE ROLE OF U.S. SHIPS AND MARINERS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation held a hearing entitled ''Maritime Transportation: The Role of U.S. Ships and Mariners''. Testimony was heard from John Porcari, Deputy Secretary, Department of Transportation; General William M. Fraser III, Commander, Transportation Command; and public witnesses.

UNDERSTANDING THE COST DRIVERS OF PASSENGER RAIL

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Railroad, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials held a hearing entitled ''Understanding the Cost Drivers of Passenger Rail''. Testimony was heard from Joseph H. Boardman, President and CEO, Amtrak; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on the following: legislation concerning the ''Veterans Integrated Mental Health Care Act of 2013''; legislation concerning the ''Demanding Accountability for Veterans Act of 2013''; H.R. 241, the ''Veterans Timely Access to Health Care Act''; H.R. 288, the ''CHAMPVA Children's Protection Act of 2013''; and H.R. 1284, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for coverage under the beneficiary travel program of the Department of Veterans Affairs of certain disabled veterans for travel for certain special disabilities rehabilitation, and for other purposes. Testimony was heard from Representatives Ross and Guthrie; Robert L. Jesse, M.D. Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

PRESIDENT'S AND OTHER BIPARTISAN PROPOSALS TO REFORM MEDICARE

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on the President's and Other Bipartisan Proposals to Reform Medicare. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission concluded a hearing to examine the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, focusing on accomplishments and challenges, including crackdowns on civil society in Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union, anti-Semitism and discrimination in the OSCE region, challenges faced by Roma in various countries, recent and upcoming election observations, and protecting human rights in the fight against terrorism, after receiving testimony from Janez Lenarcic, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Warsaw, Poland.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, *p. D398)*

H.R. 1071, to specify the size of the precious-metal blanks that will be used in the production of the National Baseball Hall of Fame commemorative coins. Signed on May 17, 2013. (Public Law 113–10)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2013

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to hold closed hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2014 for the Army, 9 a.m., SD–192.

Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2014 for the United States Forest Service, 9:30 a.m., SD–124.

Committee on the Budget: to hold hearings to examine supporting broad-based economic growth and fiscal responsibility through tax reform, 2:30 p.m., SD–608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Anthony Renard Foxx, of North Carolina, to be Secretary of Transportation, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife, to hold hearings to examine nutrient trading and water quality, 2:30 p.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine S. 662, to reauthorize trade facilitation and trade enforcement functions and activities, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on International Development and Foreign Assistance, Economic Affairs, International Environmental Protection, and Peace Corps, to hold hearings to examine different perspectives on international development, 10:30 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: business meeting to consider S. 959, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to compounding drugs, S. 957, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the pharmaceutical distribution supply chain, the nominations of Mark Gaston Pearce, of New York, Richard F. Griffin, Jr., of the District of Columbia, Sharon Block, of the District of Columbia, Harry I. Johnson III, of Virginia, and Philip Andrew Miscimarra, of Illinois, all to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board, and any pending nominations, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine performance management and congressional oversight, focusing on 380 recommendations to reduce overlap and duplication, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Full Committee, to hold an oversight hearing to examine business practices of durable medical equipment companies, 2 p.m., SD–342.

Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Brian C. Deese, of Massachusetts, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and Michael Kenny O'Keefe and Robert D. Okun, both to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, 5 p.m., S–216, Capitol.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: to hold hearings to examine how the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Pipeline can develop a high-skilled American workforce for small business, focusing on bridging the skills gap, 10 a.m., SR–428A.

Special Committee on Aging: to hold hearings to examine the Medicare prescription drug program, focusing on 10 years later, 2:30 p.m., SD–366.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Full Committee, markup on Homeland Security Appropriations Bill for FY 2014, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, markup on H.R. 1960, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014", 10:30 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Intelligence, Emerging Threats and Capabilities, markup on H.R. 1960, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014", 12 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, markup on H.R. 1960, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014", 1:30 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Military Personnel, markup on H.R. 1960, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014", 3:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled "Examining the Regulatory and Enforcement Actions of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission", 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "Examining SAMHSA's Role in Delivering Services to the Severely Mentally Ill", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, markup on H.R. 2052, the "Global Investment in American Jobs Act of 2013", 4 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy, hearing entitled "Federal and State Partnership for Environmental Protection Act of 2013; the "Reducing Excessive Deadline Obligations Act of 2013;" and the "Federal Facility Accountability Act of 2013", 10:15 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled "The Annual Report of the Financial Stability Oversight Council", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "Who Is Too Big to Fail: Are Large Financial Institutions Immune from Federal Prosecution?", 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 850, the "Nuclear Iran Prevention Act of 2013", 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, hearing entitled "The Middle East and North Africa FY 2014 Budget: Priorities and Challenges", 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence, hearing entitled "Assessing the Threat to the Homeland from al Qaeda Operations in Iran and Syria", 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Protecting U.S. Citizens' Constitutional Rights During the War on Terror", 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Full Committee, hearing on S. 744, the "Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act"; and the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986: Lessons Learned or Mistakes Repeated?, 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing on the following measures: H.R. 1964, the "National Petroleum Reserve Alaska

Access Act''; H.R. 1965, the ''Federal Lands Jobs and Energy Security Act''; H.R. 1394, the ''Planning for American Energy Act of 2013''; H.R. 555, the ''BLM Live Internet Auctions Act'', 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The IRS Targeting Americans for Their Political Beliefs'', 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Full Committee, markup on the following legislation: H.R. 2061 the ''Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2013''; H.R. 568, to amend title 5, United States Code, to require that the Office of Personnel Management submit an annual report to Congress relating to the use of official Time by Federal employees; H.R. 1380, the ''Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act''; legislation regarding Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau Pay for Performance; and H.R. 1171, the ''FOR VETS Act of 2013'', 1 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 1911, the ''Smarter Solutions for Students Act'', 3 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled ''Exascale Computing Challenges and Opportunities'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, hearing entitled ''Saving Taxpayer Dollars: Freezing the Federal Real Estate Footprint'', 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, hearing entitled ''The President's Fiscal Year 2014 Budget: Administration Priorities for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency'', 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Expediting Claims or Exploiting Statistics?'' An Examination of VA's Special Initiative to Process Rating Claims Pending Over Two Years'', 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Ongoing Intelligence Activities'', 10:30 a.m., HVC–304. This is a closed hearing.

Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Ongoing Intelligence Activities'', 1 p.m., HVC–304. This is a closed hearing.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: to hold hearings to examine the current economic outlook, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 22

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond one hour), Senate will continue consideration of S. 954, the Farm bill.

At 4 p.m., Senate will begin consideration of S. Res. 65, Iran Sanctions Resolution, with a vote on or in relation to the resolution at approximately 5 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, May 22

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of H.R. 3—Northern Route Approval Act (Subject to a Rule).

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