

“Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Less Than 60 Feet (18.3 meters) Length Overall Using Jig or Hook-and-Line Gear in the Bogoslof Pacific Cod Exemption Area in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area” (RIN0648-XD886) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1862. A communication from the Acting Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Inseason Adjustment to the 2015 Gulf of Alaska Pollock Seasonal Adjustments” (RIN0648-XD845) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1863. A communication from the Acting Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher/Processors Using Hook-and-Line Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska” (RIN0648-XD876) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1864. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan; Trawl Rationalization Program; Catch Monitor Program; Observer Program” (RIN0648-BD30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1865. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan; Trawl Rationalization Program; Midwater Trawl Fishery Season Date Change” (RIN0648-BE72) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1866. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries Off West Coast States; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; Management Reference Point Updates for Three Stocks of Pacific Salmon” (RIN0648-BE79) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1867. A communication from the Acting Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2015 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for Blueline Tilefish in the South Atlantic Region” (RIN0648-XD869) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 3, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and

were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-33. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Washington urging the United States Congress to support the conversion of the 81st Armored Brigade Combat Team of the Washington National Guard into a Stryker Brigade Combat Team with brigade units stationed in Washington, Oregon, and California; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8008

Whereas, The opportunity exists to add a second Stryker Brigade Combat Team to the Army National Guard's force structure, and to locate this Brigade on the west coast; and

Whereas, There are a variety of practical and strategic reasons which make the 81st Armored Brigade Combat Team a logical candidate for conversion; and

Whereas, A Stryker Brigade Combat Team stationed on the west coast will strengthen our nation's defense by maintaining Stryker capacity focused on the Asia-Pacific Region, enhance Regular Army/Army National Guard partnership, and provide a key domestic response capability; and

Whereas, Transitioning the 81st Armored Brigade Combat Team to a Stryker Brigade Combat Team strategically places Strykers in Washington, Oregon, and California, and will save taxpayers thirty million dollars over the course of an army force generation cycle; and

Whereas, The 81st Armored Brigade Combat Team is headquartered at Camp Murray, Washington, located just across the street from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, which is the United States Army's Stryker Center of Excellence and is within convoy range of the Yakima Training Center; and

Whereas, The extensive Stryker infrastructure available at Joint Base Lewis-McChord and the Yakima Training Center represents a great advantage in leveraging shared resources; and

Whereas, Furthermore, this places the Stryker Brigade Combat Team equipment sets brought back from overseas contingencies into mission-ready use, and available for overseas and domestic contingency response; and

Whereas, Strykers will also give the governors of Washington, Oregon, and California a fast, durable, and effective asset to save lives, protect property, maintain peace, and ensure the continuity of government in times of emergency;

Now, therefore, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that as you consider force structure balance in this era of constrained resources, coupled with the tactical, strategic, and domestic needs of our nation, you will support the conversion of the 81st Armored Brigade Combat Team of the Washington National Guard into a Stryker Brigade Combat Team with brigade units stationed in Washington, Oregon, and California.

Be it resolved, That copies of this Memorial be immediately transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States, General Frank J. Grass, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

POM-34. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Washington urging the United States Congress to expedite appropriation of funds, for Columbia River Basin dreissenid efforts, to significantly enhance monitoring and prevention efforts and to implement the intent of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8013

Whereas, Maintaining a healthy suite of economic, environmental, and social ecosystem services in aquatic systems is integral to the quality of life in the State of Washington; and

Whereas, Healthy aquatic habitats provide clean drinking water, flood control, transportation, recreation, purification of human and industrial wastes, power generation, habitat for native plants and animals, production of fish and other foods, marketable goods, and cultural benefits; and

Whereas, Aquatic invasive species, including Dreissenids (quagga mussels (*Dreissena rostriformis bugensis*) and zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*)), are invasive species that cause irreparable ecological damage to many waters in the United States; and

Whereas, Dreissenids have not yet been detected in the Pacific Northwest. The estimated annual cost to address established populations of dreissenids in the Pacific Northwest economic region is almost five hundred million dollars annually; and

Whereas, The Water Resources Reform and Development Act was signed in June 2014. It authorizes twenty million dollars for Columbia River Basin dreissenid efforts through the Secretary of the Army;

Now, therefore, Your Memorialists respectfully request that Congress expedite appropriation of these funds to significantly enhance monitoring and prevention efforts and to implement the intent of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act.

Be it resolved; That copies of this Memorial be immediately transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States, Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Department of the Interior, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

POM-35. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Nevada urging the United States Congress to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or take any other appropriate action to ensure that the common raven is not a protected species under the Act; to the Committee on Environmental and Public Works.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2

Whereas, The greater sage grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) is a species of bird that inhabits much of the sagebrush habitat in Nevada as well as other western states; and

Whereas, The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that the greater sage grouse is warranted for listing as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, 16 U.S.C. §§1531 et seq.; and

Whereas, Through the enactment of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 15, File Number 48, Statutes of Nevada 2005, at page 3022, the members of the 73rd Session of the Nevada Legislature found that the listing of the greater sage grouse as an endangered or threatened species would have a devastatingly negative impact on Nevada's land development, land use, water use, mining, recreational activities and local economies; and

Whereas, The desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) is a species of tortoise that inhabits the desert habitat of the southwestern United States, including the Mojave desert region of southern Nevada; and

Whereas, The desert tortoise is listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, 16 U.S.C. §§1531 et seq.; and

Whereas, The common raven (*Corvus corax*) is a species of bird that inhabits Nevada and much of the western United States, Mexico, Canada, Europe and Asia; and

Whereas, The International Union for Conservation of Nature estimates the global population of the common raven as greater than 16 million and trending upwards, thus classifying it as a species of least concern; and

Whereas, A known cause of decline in the sage grouse population is egg depredation by the common raven, and research conducted at Idaho State University has suggested that reductions in the raven population significantly increase sage grouse nest success; and

Whereas, The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has identified the common raven as the most highly visible predator of hatching and juvenile desert tortoises, and research published by the Western Ecological Research Center of the United States Geological Survey recommends controlling certain raven populations to assist in the recovery of desert tortoise populations; and

Whereas, The common raven is a protected species under the regulations adopted pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, 16 U.S.C. §§1703 et seq., which drastically curtails the ability of this State to manage the population of the common raven in order to protect sage grouse nests and desert tortoises: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of Nevada, Jointly, That the members of the 78th Session of the Nevada Legislature urge the United States Congress to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or take any other appropriate action to ensure that the common raven is not a protected species under that Act; and be it further

Resolved, That the members of the 78th Session of the Nevada Legislature urge the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to:

1. Work with the Nevada Department of Wildlife to decrease common raven populations in this State; and

2. Adopt regulations allowing the State of Nevada to manage the common raven population and reduce the number of common ravens in this State; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation, the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the President of the Nevada Cattlemen's Association, the President of the Nevada Farm Bureau Federation, the Chair of the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council and the Executive Director of the Western Governors' Association; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

POM-36. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging the President of the United States to allow an additional 25,000 refugee visas for certain displaced individuals, with preference for placement in Michigan; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 9

Whereas, The United States has long been a safe harbor for persecuted foreign nationals. Through the U.S. refugee visa program, individuals and their families who are harassed, oppressed, or have faced harassment or oppression at home because of their race, religion, nationality, public opinion, or social association can find relief in the U.S. When a humanitarian crisis occurs, the U.S. may also grant eligible individuals refugee visas. Once in the country, federal resettlement agencies help match refugees with local communities that can help support their needs; and

Whereas, The number of refugee visas available is determined and set by the Presi-

dent of the United States. In consultation with the cabinet and the House and Senate committees on the judiciary, the President assesses all concerns of humanitarian and national interest to determine the number of visas that will be available for the upcoming fiscal year; and

Whereas, The recent crisis in Syria and Iraq has forced hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, largely from religious minorities in the region—many of which are Assyrians, Chaldeans, Syriacs, and Yazidis—from their hometowns that have been ransacked by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Those displaced persons are unable to return to their homes, and most do not have access to resources needed to fulfill basic needs, including food, water, and shelter. Moreover, these refugees face constant fear of persecution due to nothing more than the faith they claim, and their pronouncement of faith has led to violence as explicit as crucifixions, beatings, and slavery. Minimal support has been offered to many of the more than three million Iraqis refugees, two million of which were displaced last year alone, and those fortunate to remain in temporary shelters are overburdening and overcrowding neighboring nations and communities who stand on constant guard for fear that they will be the next target of ISIL. As this regional conflict endures, the displacement and imminent migration and persecution of refugees will continue; and

Whereas, Displaced Iraqi refugees must be offered relief from this regional instability and granted entry into the United States. Iraqi refugees have complemented our American society with a proven history of contributing to the economic and social well-being of this nation. In the Chaldean or Catholic Iraqi community of Metro Detroit, which is the largest concentration of Chaldeans outside of Iraq, 61 percent of households founded their own business, and this network of businesses is indispensable to the local economy. Moreover, organizations like the Chaldean Community Foundation offer resources to bind and strengthen the community as well as welcome and support refugees, in part by using community businesses to invest in new members and encourage the advancement of the community; and

Whereas, The current allotment of refugee visas may not be adequate to accommodate these individuals. When an unforeseen emergency arises, the President has the flexibility to issue emergency refugee visas for an affected group if the remaining annual allotment is insufficient to assist these displaced individuals, and

Whereas, The Chaldean Church and its bishop have garnered support for this request and driven a body of people able and willing to sustain and support the incoming refugees. The community stands ready to assist persecuted Iraqis and victims of war rebuild their lives in the U.S.: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the President of the United States to allow an additional 25,000 refugee visas for displaced Iraqis, being the Assyrians, Chaldeans, Syriacs, and Yazidis displaced because of their faith; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge that these refugees be given preference for placement in the state of Michigan; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. VITTER for the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

*Douglas J. Kramer, of Kansas, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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 Mr. JOHNSON:

S. 1522. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide a pathway for temporary seasonal employees in Federal land management agencies to compete for vacant permanent positions under internal merit promotion procedures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. VITTER):

S. 1523. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. NELSON, Mrs. McCASKILL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. BURR):

S. 1524. A bill to enable concrete masonry products manufacturers to establish, finance, and carry out a coordinated program of research, education, and promotion to improve, maintain, and develop markets for concrete masonry products; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 1525. A bill to block any action from being taken to finalize or give effect to a certain proposed rule governing the Federal child support enforcement program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 1526. A bill to amend title 10 and title 41, United States Code, to improve the manner in which Federal contracts for construction and design services are awarded, to prohibit the use of reverse auctions for design and construction services procurements, to amend title 31 and 41, United States Code, to improve the payment protections available to construction contractors, subcontractors, and suppliers for work performed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PERDUE (for himself and Mr. KAINE):

S. 1527. A bill to enable more responsible and efficient spending on Department of State activities and foreign operations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.