

MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2142, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to establish an efficient system to enable employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, and for other purposes.

S. 2146

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2146, a bill to hold sanctuary jurisdictions accountable for defying Federal law, to increase penalties for individuals who illegally reenter the United States after being removed, and to provide liability protection for State and local law enforcement who cooperate with Federal law enforcement and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 22

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 22, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency relating to the definition of "waters of the United States" under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

S. RES. 237

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 237, a resolution condemning Joseph Kony and the Lord's Resistance Army for continuing to perpetrate crimes against humanity, war crimes, and mass atrocities, and supporting ongoing efforts by the United States Government, the African Union, and governments and regional organizations in central Africa to remove Joseph Kony and Lord's Resistance Army commanders from the battlefield and promote protection and recovery of affected communities.

S. RES. 278

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 278, a resolution welcoming the President of the Republic of Korea on her official visit to the United States and celebrating the United States-Republic of Korea relationship, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. FRANKEN, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2161. A bill to provide for the adjustment of status of certain nationals of Liberia to that of lawful permanent residents and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am pleased to reintroduce the Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act along with Senators WHITEHOUSE, KLOBUCHAR, WARREN, and FRANKEN.

This bill, which I have introduced every Congress since 1999, seeks to provide a path to citizenship for qualifying Liberian refugees who came here decades ago to escape Liberia's civil wars. Since this time, they have been in our country legally through short term extensions of Temporary Protected Status and Deferred Enforced Departure. After years of uncertainty about whether they will be able to stay in their communities or whether their families will be split up, this bill give eligible Liberians the chance to apply for legal permanent residency, and begin the process of finally becoming citizens.

Similar safeguards were included in the last Comprehensive Immigration Reform bill that the Senate passed, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to provide this critical and long overdue support for our Liberian community.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. GARDNER):

S. 2163. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to require that broadband conduits be installed as a part of certain highway construction projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, as a fifth generation Montanan, I have seen firsthand the struggles rural America faces when it comes to broadband connectivity. I worked in the cloud computing industry for 13 years, so I also know the opportunities created by technology and connectivity.

Not only does access to broadband connect rural Americans and tribal communities to the rest of the world, but there are many farming applications that will enable farmers in Montana to be more efficient and equip them to feed the growing population. Despite the importance of connecting these communities, Montana remains ranked among the worst States for broadband connectivity and there are too many instances where the Federal Government stands in the way of broadband infrastructure deployment. This is especially important for States like Montana where 29 percent of the State is federally owned. Every Federal agency has their own set of requirements for siting infrastructure on Federal lands, and the process can take up to 10 years in some cases. This burdensome, bureaucratic process is driving industry away from serving rural America and tribal lands.

That is why I am proud to introduce the bipartisan Streamlining and Investing in Broadband Infrastructure act with my colleagues Senator KLOBUCHAR and Senator GARDNER. The bill implements a dig once policy that in-

corporates broadband conduit installation into new highway projects. It also directs the Federal Government to further consolidate and streamline siting on Federal lands by establishing a fee schedule for the grant of property interests and by developing a master application form for communications construction on all Federal lands. Making effective use of existing resources and streamlining these processes are essential to continue broadband deployment in rural America. By making it easier for providers to lay the groundwork for broadband, we take an important step toward connecting our unserved communities.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 280—RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2015 AS "NATIONAL WOMEN'S SMALL BUSINESS MONTH"

Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. PETERS, Mr. ENZI, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 280

Whereas the Small Business Administration has declared the month of October 2015 to be "National Women's Small Business Month" along with the celebration of the anniversary of the signing of the Women's Business Ownership Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-533; 102 Stat. 2689) that established the National Women's Business Council and the Women's Business Center program;

Whereas there are over 9,900,000 women-owned small businesses in the United States;

Whereas women-owned small businesses collected \$1,600,000,000,000 in total receipts in 2012, which is an increase of 35 percent since 2007;

Whereas the rate of growth for women-owned employer firms is 3 times that of men-owned employer firms;

Whereas, since 2007, the number of women-owned small businesses in the United States has increased by 2,100,000 and women-owned small businesses have added nearly 1,500,000 more jobs;

Whereas Congress continues to support the National Women's Business Council and the focus of the National Women's Business Council on alleviating obstacles faced by women small business owners and women entrepreneurs; and

Whereas the celebration of "National Women's Small Business Month" would honor women small business owners and women entrepreneurs and recognize the significance of their contributions to the small business community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the month of October 2015 as "National Women's Small Business Month";

(2) honors the vital role of women small business owners and women entrepreneurs in the United States during "National Women's Small Business Month";

(3) recognizes the significant contributions of women small business owners and women entrepreneurs to the small business community;

(4) supports and encourages young women entrepreneurs to pursue their passions and create more start-up businesses;