

(10) encourages President Abbas to continue strengthening and maintaining security cooperation with Israel;

(11) reiterates that Palestinian political goals will never be achieved through violence; and

(12) calls on all parties to return to the negotiating table immediately and without preconditions, as direct discussions remain the best avenue to ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

SENATE RESOLUTION 303—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING NOVEMBER 8, 2015, AS “NATIONAL NURSE-MANAGED HEALTH CLINIC WEEK”

Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 303

Whereas a nurse-managed health clinic is a nonprofit community-based health care site that offers primary care and wellness services based on the nursing model;

Whereas the nursing model emphasizes—

(1) protection, promotion, and optimization of health;

(2) prevention of illness;

(3) alleviation of suffering; and

(4) diagnosis and treatment of illness;

Whereas an advanced practice nurse leads each nurse-managed health clinic and an interdisciplinary team of highly qualified health care professionals staffs each nurse-managed health clinic;

Whereas each nurse-managed health clinic offers a broad scope of services, including—

(1) treatment for acute and chronic illnesses;

(2) routine physical exams;

(3) immunizations for adults and children;

(4) disease screenings;

(5) health education;

(6) prenatal care;

(7) dental care; and

(8) drug and alcohol treatment;

Whereas, as of September 2015, approximately 500 nurse-managed health clinics—

(1) provided care in the United States; and

(2) recorded more than 2,500,000 patient encounters annually;

Whereas nurse-managed health clinics serve a unique, dual role as healthcare safety net access points and health workforce development sites, because the majority of nurse-managed health clinics—

(1) are affiliated with schools of nursing; and

(2) serve as clinical education sites for students entering the health profession;

Whereas nurse-managed health clinics strengthen the healthcare safety net by expanding access to primary care and chronic disease management services for vulnerable and medically underserved populations in diverse rural, urban, and suburban communities;

Whereas research has shown that—

(1) nurse-managed health clinics experience high rates of—

(A) patient retention; and

(B) patient satisfaction; and

(2) nurse-managed health clinic patients, compared to patients of other similar safety net providers, experience—

(A) higher rates of generic medication fills; and

(B) lower hospitalization rates;

Whereas the 2013 Health Affairs article, “Nurse-Managed Health Centers And Patient-Centered Medical Homes Could Mitigate Expected Primary Care Physician Shortage”, highlights the ability of each

nurse-managed health clinic to bring high-quality care to individuals who may not otherwise receive needed services; and

Whereas each nurse-managed health clinic that offers primary care and wellness services provides quality care in a cost-effective manner: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning November 8, 2015, as “National Nurse-Managed Health Clinic Week”;

(2) supports the ideals and goals of National Nurse-Managed Health Clinic Week; and

(3) encourages the continued support of nurse-managed health clinics so that nurse-managed health clinics may continue to serve as healthcare workforce development sites for the next generation of primary care providers.

SENATE RESOLUTION 304—RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER 28, 2015, AS “SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY” AND SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF THE VALUE OF LOCALLY OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES

Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. COONS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. PETERS, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. ENZI, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. HIRONO, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. UDALL, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. KING, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. TESTER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 304

Whereas there are 28,443,856 small businesses in the United States;

Whereas small businesses represent 99.7 percent of all businesses with employees in the United States;

Whereas small businesses employ over 48.5 percent of the employees in the private sector in the United States;

Whereas small businesses pay over 42 percent of the total payroll of the employees in the private sector in the United States;

Whereas small businesses constitute 97.7 percent of firms exporting goods;

Whereas small businesses are responsible for more than 46 percent of private sector output;

Whereas small businesses generated 63 percent of net new jobs created over the past 20 years;

Whereas 87 percent of consumers in the United States agree that the success of small businesses is critical to the overall economic health of the United States;

Whereas 89 percent of consumers in the United States agree that small businesses contribute positively to local communities by supplying jobs and generating tax revenue;

Whereas 93 percent of consumers in the United States agree that it is important to support the small businesses in their communities; and

Whereas November 28, 2015 is an appropriate day to recognize “Small Business Saturday”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and encourages the observance of “Small Business Saturday” on November 28, 2015; and

(2) supports efforts—

(A) to encourage consumers to shop locally; and

(B) to increase awareness of the value of locally owned small businesses and the impact of locally owned small businesses on the economy of the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2762. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1140, to require the Secretary of the Army and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to propose a regulation revising the definition of the term “waters of the United States”, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2762. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1140, to require the Secretary of the Army and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to propose a regulation revising the definition of the term “waters of the United States”, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 5 and insert the following:

SEC. 5. SUPPLEMENTAL SCIENTIFIC REVIEW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) SUPPLEMENTAL SCIENTIFIC REVIEW PANEL.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary and the Administrator shall establish a panel, to be known as the “Supplemental Scientific Review Panel” (referred to in this subsection as the “Panel”), to submit to the Secretary and the Administrator recommendations regarding metrics, based on the best available scientific information, to quantify the degree of connectivity between any body of water or wetland and a traditionally navigable water.

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Panel shall be composed of 9 members, of whom—

(i) 2 shall be appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate;

(ii) 2 shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;

(iii) 2 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(iv) 2 shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives; and

(v) 1 shall be appointed by the President of the National Academy of Engineering.

(B) DATE OF APPOINTMENTS.—The appointment of a member of the Panel shall be made not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(C) QUALIFICATIONS.—Each member of the Panel shall be appointed from among individuals who possess—

(i) expertise in a field of the biogeosciences, such as hydrology, ecology, or geomorphology;

(ii) (I) academic excellence, as determined in accordance with criteria including peer-reviewed journal publications and invited academic conference presentations; or

(II) practical expertise demonstrated by a record of employment as a professional with equivalent experience as an academic scientist; and

(iii) experience regarding collecting and interpreting field measurements of streams and wetlands.

(D) REQUIREMENT.—In appointing members of the Panel, each appointing officer referred

to in subparagraph (A) shall ensure that the Panel includes balanced representation of research expertise across all Level I ecoregions (as defined in section III of the 1997 publication of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation publication entitled "Ecological Regions of North America Toward a Common Perspective").

(E) CHAIRPERSON.—At the first meeting of the Panel, a majority of the members of the Panel present and voting shall elect the Chairperson of the Panel from among the members of the Panel.

(F) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Panel—

- (i) shall not affect the powers of the Panel; and

- (ii) shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

(G) COMPENSATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Panel—

- (I) shall not be considered to be a Federal employee for any purpose by reason of service on the Panel; and

- (II) shall serve without pay.

(ii) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Panel shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Panel.

(H) INITIAL MEETING.—The Panel shall hold the initial meeting of the Panel by not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(I) MEETINGS.—The Panel shall meet at the call of a majority of the members of the Panel.

(J) QUORUM.—Of the members of the Panel, 5 shall constitute a quorum.

(K) RULES OF PROCEDURE.—The Panel may establish rules for the conduct of business of the Panel, subject to the condition that those rules shall not be inconsistent with this Act or any other applicable law.

(3) DUTIES.—The Panel shall—

(A) recommend metrics, based on the best available scientific information and considering the duration, magnitude, and frequency of flows, to quantify the degree of connectivity between any body of water or wetland and a traditionally navigable water;

(B) ensure the recommended metrics account for regional variability in all types of waterbodies and across all States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and other territories and possessions of the United States; and

(C) not later than 1 year after the date on which the Panel first convenes, submit to the Secretary and Administrator a report describing each recommendation of the Panel to which not fewer than 6 members have agreed.

(4) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the Administrator shall provide to the Panel such staff and administrative services as may be necessary and appropriate for the Panel to perform the duties under paragraph (3).

(B) DETAIL OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—An employee of the Federal Government may be detailed to the Panel without reimbursement.

(ii) CIVIL SERVICE STATUS.—The detail of the employee shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(5) FUNDING.—The Secretary and the Administrator shall provide to the Panel such funds as the Secretary and the Administrator determine to be appropriate from amounts made available to the Secretary and the Administrator in appropriations Acts.

(6) TERMINATION.—The Panel shall terminate on the earlier of—

(A) the date that is 180 days after the date on which the report is submitted under paragraph (3)(C); and

(B) the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(7) APPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall apply to the Panel.

(B) PUBLIC MEETINGS AND RELEASE OF PUBLIC VERSIONS OF REPORTS.—The Panel shall—

(i) hold public hearings and meetings to the extent appropriate; and

(ii) release public versions of the report required under paragraph (3)(C).

(C) PUBLIC HEARINGS.—Any public hearings of the Panel shall be conducted in a manner consistent with the protection of information provided to or developed for or by the Panel as required by any applicable law, regulation, or Executive order.

(b) EPHEMERAL AND INTERMITTENT STREAMS ADVISORY COMMISSION.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary and the Administrator shall establish a commission, to be known as the "Ephemeral and Intermittent Streams Advisory Commission" (referred to in this subsection as the "Commission"), to develop criteria to define whether a waterbody or wetland has a significant nexus to a traditional navigable water using the metrics developed by the Panel.

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be composed of 15 members, of whom—

(i) 2 shall be appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate;

(ii) 2 shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;

(iii) 2 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(iv) 2 shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives; and

(v) 7 shall be appointed jointly by the Administrator and the Secretary.

(B) DATE OF APPOINTMENTS.—The appointment of a member of the Commission shall be made not later than the date that is 45 days after the date on which the report of the Panel is submitted under subsection (a)(3)(C).

(C) QUALIFICATIONS.—Each member of the Commission shall be appointed from among individuals who possess—

(i) experience regarding the permitting process under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.);

(ii) experience serving on the Panel; or

(iii) expertise in a field of the biogeosciences, such as hydrology, ecology, or geomorphology; and

(II) academic excellence, as determined in accordance with criteria including peer-reviewed journal publications and invited academic conference presentations.

(D) REQUIREMENTS.—In appointing members of the Commission, each appointing officer referred to in subparagraph (A) shall ensure that the Commission includes—

(i) balanced representation of research expertise across all Level I ecoregions (as defined in section III of the 1997 publication of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation publication entitled "Ecological Regions of North America Toward a Common Perspective"); and

(ii) equal representation of the following groups:

(I) Individuals who represent—

(aa) the interests of builders and developers;

(bb) agricultural interests;

(cc) energy and mineral development; or

(dd) the commercial timber industry.

(II) Individuals who represent—

(aa) nationally or regionally recognized environmental organizations;

(bb) sport, recreational, and commercial fishing interests;

(cc) sportsman's organizations; or

(dd) municipal water supply interests.

(III) Individuals who—

(aa) hold a State, county, or local elected office;

(bb) are employed by a State agency responsible for the management of the environment or natural interests; or

(cc) represent the affected public at-large.

(E) CHAIRPERSON.—At the first meeting of the Commission, a majority of the members of the Commission present and voting shall elect the Chairperson of the Commission from among the members of the Commission.

(F) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Commission—

(i) shall not affect the powers of the Commission; and

(ii) shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

(G) COMPENSATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Commission—

(I) shall not be considered to be a Federal employee for any purpose by reason of service on the Commission; and

(II) shall serve without pay.

(ii) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Commission.

(H) INITIAL MEETING.—The Commission shall hold the initial meeting of the Commission not earlier than the date on which the report of the Panel is submitted under subsection (a)(3)(C).

(I) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the call of a majority of the members of the Commission.

(J) QUORUM.—Of the members of the Commission, 9 shall constitute a quorum.

(K) RULES OF PROCEDURE.—The Commission may establish rules for the conduct of business of the Commission, subject to the condition that those rules shall not be inconsistent with this Act or any other applicable law.

(3) DUTIES.—The Commission shall—

(A) develop criteria to define whether a waterbody or wetland has a significant nexus to traditional navigable water using the metrics developed by the Panel, including the measures of flow described in paragraphs (2)(C) and (3)(E) of section 4(b);

(B) ensure those criteria account for regional variability in all types of waterbodies and wetlands and across all States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and other territories and possessions of the United States;

(C) not later than 180 days after the date on which the Commission holds the initial meeting under paragraph (2)(H), submit to the Secretary and the Administrator a draft report that—

(i) describes the criteria developed by the Commission; and

(ii) is subject to a 60-day period for public comment; and

(D) after addressing the comments received during the 60-day comment period under subparagraph (C)(ii), submit to the Secretary and the Administrator a final report.

(4) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the Administrator shall provide to the Commission such staff and administrative services

as may be necessary and appropriate for the Commission to perform the duties under paragraph (3).

(B) **DETAIL OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—An employee of the Federal Government may be detailed to the Commission without reimbursement.

(ii) **CIVIL SERVICE STATUS.**—The detail of the employee shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(5) **FUNDING.**—The Secretary and the Administrator shall provide to the Commission such funds as the Secretary and the Administrator determine to be appropriate from amounts made available to the Secretary and the Administrator in appropriations Acts.

(6) **TERMINATION.**—The Commission shall terminate on the earlier of—

(A) the date that is 180 days after the date on which the final report is submitted under paragraph (3)(D); and

(B) the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(7) **APPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall apply to the Commission.

(B) **PUBLIC MEETINGS AND RELEASE OF PUBLIC VERSIONS OF REPORTS.**—The Commission shall—

(i) hold public hearings and meetings to the extent appropriate; and

(ii) release public versions of the reports required under subparagraphs (C) and (D) of paragraph (3).

(C) **PUBLIC HEARINGS.**—Any public hearings of the Commission shall be conducted in a manner consistent with the protection of information provided to or developed for or by the Commission as required by any applicable law, regulation, or Executive order.

(c) **REVISED DEFINITION.**—A revision to or guidance on a regulatory definition described in section 4(a) shall have no force or effect until after the Secretary and the Administrator carry out each action described in this section.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 3, 2015, at 9:30 A.M.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. BARRASSO. 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 November 3, 2015, at 2:45 p.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 3, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Nominations."

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 3, 2015, at 2:45 p.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE AND REGIONAL SECURITY COOPERATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 3, 2015, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Putin's Invasion of Ukraine and the Propaganda that Threatens Europe."

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PRIVACY, TECHNOLOGY, AND THE LAW

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and the Law be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 3, 2015, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Data Brokers—Is Consumers' Information Secure?"

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Chuck Podolack, a legislative fellow in Senator FLAKE's office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of this year.

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

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Amy Crane, an intern in my office, be granted floor privileges for the duration of today's session of the Senate.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 304, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 304) recognizing November 28, 2015, as "Small Business Saturday" and supporting efforts to increase awareness of the value of locally owned small businesses.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reso-

lution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 304) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2232

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2232) to require a full audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks by the Comptroller General of the United States, and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. I now ask for a second reading and, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2015

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Wednesday, November 4; 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; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate then resume consideration of S.J. Res. 22, with the time until 12 noon equally divided in the usual form; finally, that at 12 noon, the Senate vote on passage of S.J. Res. 22.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator PORTMAN.

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

The Senator from Ohio.

TAX CODE REFORM

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise this evening to talk about an issue