

H.R. 3636. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow labor organizations and management organizations to receive the results of visa petitions about which such organizations have submitted advisory opinions.

H.R. 3694. An act to combat trafficking in human organs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4939. An act to increase engagement with the governments of the Caribbean region, the Caribbean diaspora community in the United States, and the private sector and civil society in both the United States and the Caribbean, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5312. An act to amend the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 to authorize activities for support of networking and information technology research, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3636. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow labor organizations and management organizations to receive the results of visa petitions about which such organizations have submitted advisory opinions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3694. An act to combat trafficking in human organs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 4939. An act to increase engagement with the governments of the Caribbean region, the Caribbean diaspora community in the United States, and the private sector and civil society in both the United States and the Caribbean, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 5312. An act to amend the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 to authorize activities for support of networking and information technology research, and for other purposes; 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-174. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to enact the resilient Federal Forests Act; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1011

Whereas, national forest lands are the largest single source of water in the United States and, in some regions of the west, contribute nearly 50% of the overall water supply; and

Whereas, the unhealthy state of these forests has resulted in catastrophic wildfires that are threatening the reliability, volume and quality of water for tens of millions of Americans; and

Whereas, severe drought and record-breaking wildfire seasons have highlighted the need for the implementation of a process that would require and provide for the United States Forest Service to accelerate restoration work in our national forests, which would protect critical headwaters and make forest lands more resilient against prolonged dry conditions, insect infestation and fire; and

Whereas, failure to take quick action will result in a continued increase in the frequency and intensity of destructive

wildfires, impacting the nation's water resources for decades at considerable cost to stakeholders and United States taxpayers; and

Whereas, the customs, cultures and economic well-being of our local communities, as well as important historic and cultural aspects of our local heritage, are being ignored, which adversely affects the lives and jobs of the people of the United States and devastates local and state economies; and

Whereas, on June 4, 2015, Representative Bruce Westerman introduced H.R. 2647, the Resilient Federal Forests Act. The bill passed in the House on July 9, 2015 and was transmitted to the Senate, where it died in committee; and

Whereas, the Resilient Federal Forests Act expedites and improves forest management activities through a collaborative process, resulting in the protection of water resources.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress enact the Resilient Federal Forests Act.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-175. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to act to prohibit Federal agencies from recommending and identifying Arizona's public lands as wilderness areas without express congressional consent; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1014

Whereas, through federal land management planning and associated guidelines, federal agencies are recommending and identifying Arizona's public lands as wilderness areas; and

Whereas, these administratively recommended wilderness areas circumvent congressional intent and lack full and appropriate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analyses; and

Whereas, the identification of these de facto wilderness areas has resulted in significant restrictions on public access and recreation, paralyzing restrictions on the Arizona Game and Fish Department's ability to manage wildlife and potentially catastrophic restrictions on vegetation and habitat improvement projects, including fire management activities; and

Whereas, the conservation of wildlife resources is the trust responsibility of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, and this responsibility extends to all lands within Arizona to ensure abundant wildlife resources for current and future generations; and

Whereas, the designation of Arizona's public lands as wilderness areas has resulted in the erosion of the Arizona Game and Fish Department's ability to comply with its federal mandate to proactively recover threatened and endangered species; and

Whereas, according to federal land management agency guidelines, an administratively recommended wilderness area must be managed to "protect and maintain the social and ecological characteristics that provide the basis for wilderness recommendation" in perpetuity or until Congress takes action to formally designate the area as a wilderness area; and

Whereas, allowable activities within administratively recommended wilderness areas will be left to the discretion of federal staff and deciding officers, resulting in even

greater restrictions and limitations than those formally vetted and designated by Congress; and

Whereas, congressionally designated wilderness provides clearer guidance for management and coordination with this state, specific processes for wildlife management exemptions and direction for collaboration via existing state agreements and guidelines; and

Whereas, administratively recommended wilderness areas circumvent the spirit of NEPA and congressional intent and lack transparency; and

Whereas, with the implementation of federal land management plans, recommended wilderness areas constitute a significant and immediate change in management without a fully disclosed impact analysis required by NEPA; and

Whereas, the federal land management plans lack full NEPA disclosure of potential impacts to this state and the public, assurances protecting this state's ability to proactively manage wildlife and fulfill its public trust responsibility, including specific management activities, and analyses of the cumulative impacts of further loss of public lands that provide for S.C.M. 1014 multiple-use and wildlife-related recreational and economic opportunities; and

Whereas, the areas being recommended as wilderness were not included within the original wilderness designations with purposeful intent by Congress; and

Whereas, the subsequent expansion of previously designated wilderness is an overreach of the federal agencies and disingenuous to the public, subverting original collaboration, coordination, negotiation and agreements; and

Whereas, the federal agency planning documents suggest that no significant management action or recommendation to Congress will take place before further NEPA analyses are completed. Within the recently released Prescott and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest recommended wildernesses, the United States Forest Service indicates that these areas are simply preliminary administrative recommendations and that further NEPA analyses are necessary. However, in transmittal letters, the United States Forest Service states that "the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the . . . Forest's Revised Resource Management Plan contains the NEPA analysis necessary to support a legislative proposal." This is an egregious lack of transparency.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the Congress of the United States act to prohibit federal agencies from recommending and identifying Arizona's public lands as wilderness areas without express congressional consent.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-176. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Iowa calling upon the United States Congress, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the President of the United States, and this country's future President of the United States and administration, to continue to support the renewable fuel standard in order to encourage American energy production and to strengthen rural communities; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE RESOLUTION 118

Whereas, in accordance with the federal Energy Policy Act of 2005, Pub. L. No. 109-58,