

submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 576

Whereas, starting February 17, 2009, full-power television stations will shut down their traditional analog signals and will broadcast in digital only pursuant to the Digital Television Transmission and Public Safety Act of 2005 (47 U.S.C. 309 note);

Whereas some studies indicate that 64 percent of consumers know about the transition to digital television, and of those consumers 74 percent have major misconceptions about the impact of the transition on their television services;

Whereas many consumers who will be left without any television service after February 17, 2009, may be unaware of both the transition and the Government coupon program created to defray the cost of a converter box;

Whereas markets in the West and in Midwest have the highest percentage of consumers who rely on over-the-air television signals;

Whereas the Salt Lake City, Utah, area has the single highest percentage of consumers who rely on over-the-air television signals among major cities in the United States, with nearly 23 percent of all households with television sets, more than 200,000 homes, relying on free analog television signals;

Whereas more than 20 percent of homes with television sets in Fresno, California, and Minneapolis, Minnesota, also rely solely on free over-the-air television signals;

Whereas the transition to digital television is significant to vulnerable populations such as senior citizens and low-income and minority households; and

Whereas designating a "Digital Television Transition Awareness Month" will help Congress to encourage the development of local action plans focused on strategic outreach to the communities most affected by the transition to digital television, including senior citizens and residents of rural areas: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates August 2008 as "Digital Television Transition Awareness Month"—

(A) to increase public awareness regarding the February 17, 2009, transition to digital television; and

(B) to encourage consumers to become educated about participating in the Government coupon program for obtaining converter boxes;

(2) encourages consumers to make the transition to digital television well before February 17, 2009, so that consumers have time to obtain and connect converter boxes; and

(3) encourages local nonprofit organizations, such as religious congregations, scout troops, and school-based community service groups—

(A) to assist households to apply for and obtain Government coupons and converter boxes and to install converter boxes; and

(B) to educate consumers about Internet websites and other sources of valuable information regarding the transition to digital television.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce with my good friend from Minnesota, Senator AMY KLOBUCHAR, S. Res. 576, which would designate August 2008 as Digital Television Transition Awareness Month.

Pursuant to the Digital Television Transmission and Public Safety Act of 2005, starting on February 17, 2009, full-power television stations will shut down their traditional analog signals and will broadcast in digital only. Concentrating efforts to educate consumers well in advance about both the upcoming transition and their options will ensure as smooth a transition as possible. That is why Senator KLOBUCHAR and I, along with dozens of original cosponsors, have introduced this resolution today.

I believe that the month of August is a perfect time to highlight the ongoing educational efforts about the transition to digital television next year. After all, we want to encourage those who will need to take some action to do so now, rather than wait until the last moment.

Several studies indicate that many consumers who will be left without any television service after February 17, 2009, may be unaware of the transition and the Government coupon program created to defray the cost of converter boxes. While 64 percent of consumers know about the transition to digital television, 74 percent of that group has major misconceptions about the impact of the transition on their television services. The transition to digital television is especially significant to vulnerable populations such as senior citizen, low-income, and minority households.

I note that television markets in the West and Midwest have the highest percentage of consumers who rely on over-the-air television signals. In Utah alone, Salt Lake City has the highest percentage of homes in a major metropolitan area, with almost one in four relying on free analog television signals.

The Federal Communications Commission, FCC, recently adopted a proposal to educate consumers about the impending transition. In addition, there are many sources of information on the transition, coupon program and consumer options available on the Internet. These Web sites are comprehensive and provide links to the Government coupon program site where consumers must register to receive the coupons. However, these sites do not reach certain populations, those most likely to be affected by the transition, as effectively.

Congress can and should do more, not only to educate consumers, but also to foster local outreach programs to assist these consumers as they obtain coupons or choose and install converter boxes. Designating August 2008 as Digital Television Transition Awareness Month, timed specifically to take advantage of the congressional recess, will place particular emphasis on educating consumers well in advance of the transition, and will be an integral part of the overall educational program endorsed by the FCC.

I hope that this resolution will be passed and my colleagues will join me in doing all they can to make the transition from analog to digital television easier for those most affected across our Nation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 577—TO EXPRESS THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE USE OF GASOLINE AND OTHER FUELS BY FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. GREGG, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BURR, Mr. SUNUNU, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. REID, and Mr. DORGAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 577

Whereas each day, as Americans contend with rising gasoline prices, personal stories reflect the ways in which—

- (1) family budgets are suffering; and
- (2) the cost of gasoline is impacting the way Americans cope with that serious problem in family and work environments;

Whereas, as a consequence of economic pressures, Americans are finding ways to reduce consumption of gasoline, such as—

- (1) driving less frequently;
- (2) altering daily routines; and
- (3) even changing family vacation plans;

Whereas those conservation efforts bring hardships but save funds that can be redirected to meet essential family needs;

Whereas, just as individuals are reducing energy consumption, the Federal Government, including Congress, should take steps to conserve energy;

Whereas a Government-wide initiative to conserve energy would send a signal to Americans that the Federal Government—

- (1) recognizes the burdens imposed by unprecedented energy costs; and
- (2) will participate in activities to reduce energy consumption; and

Whereas an overall reduction of gasoline consumption by the Federal Government by even a few percentage points would send a strong signal that, as a nation, the United States is joining to conserve energy: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that the President should require all Federal departments and agencies to take initiatives to reduce daily consumption of gasoline and other fuels by the departments and agencies.

SENATE RESOLUTION 578—RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE CONGRESSIONAL CLUB

Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. NELSON of Nebraska) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 578

Whereas the Congressional Club was organized in 1908 by 25 women who were influential in Washington's official life and who wanted to establish a nonsectarian and non-political group that would promote friendship and cordiality in public life;

Whereas those women founded the Club to bring the wives of Members of Congress together in a hospitable and compatible environment in the Nation's Capital;

Whereas the Congressional Club was officially established in 1908 by a unanimous vote in both the Senate and the House of Representatives and is the only club in the world to be founded by an Act of Congress;

Whereas the Act entitled "An Act to incorporate the Congressional Club" (35 Stat. 476, chapter 226) was signed by President Theodore Roosevelt on May 30, 1908;

Whereas the Congressional Club's founding was secured by the enactment of that Act unanimously on May 28, 1908, in order to overcome the opposition of Representative John Sharp Williams of Mississippi, who opposed all women's organizations;

Whereas, when Representative Williams was called out of the chamber by Mrs. Williams, the good-mannered representative obliged and withdrew his opposition and request for a recorded vote, saying, "upon this particular bill there will not be a roll call, because it would cause a great deal of domestic unhappiness in Washington if there were";

Whereas the first Congressional Clubhouse was at 1432 K Street Northwest in Washington, District of Columbia, and opened on December 11, 1908, with a reception for President-elect and Mrs. William Taft;

Whereas, after Mrs. John B. Henderson of Missouri donated land on the corner of New Hampshire Avenue and U Street Northwest, the cornerstone of the current Clubhouse was laid at that location on May 21, 1914;

Whereas that Clubhouse was built by George Totten in the Beaux Arts style and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places;

Whereas the mortgage on the Clubhouse was paid for by the sales of the Club's cookbook and the mortgage document was burned by Mrs. Bess Truman in a silver bowl on the 40th anniversary of the Club's founding;

Whereas the Congressional Club has remained a good neighbor on the U Street corridor for more than 90 years, encouraging the revitalization of the area during a time of socioeconomic challenges and leading the way in upkeep and maintenance of historic property;

Whereas the Congressional Club honors and supports the people in its neighborhood by inviting the local police and fire departments to the Clubhouse for lunch and delivering trays of Member-made cookies and candies to them during the holidays, by hosting an annual Senior Citizens Appreciation Day luncheon for residents of a neighborhood nursing home, and by hosting an annual holiday brunch for neighborhood children each December that includes a festive meal, gifts, and a visit from Santa Claus;

Whereas the Congressional Club has hosted the annual First Lady's Luncheon every spring since 1912 and annually donates tens of thousands of dollars to charities in the name of the First Lady;

Whereas, among its many charitable recipients, the Congressional Club has chosen mentoring programs, United National Indian Tribal Youth, literacy programs, the White House library, youth dance troupes, domestic shelters, and child care centers;

Whereas the Congressional Club members, upon the suggestion of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, have been encouraged to become discussion leaders on national security in their home States, from the trials of World War II to the threats of terrorism;

Whereas the Congressional Club extends the hand of friendship and goodwill globally

by hosting an annual diplomatic reception to entertain the spouses of ambassadors to the United States;

Whereas the Congressional Club is solely supported by membership dues and the sale of cookbooks and has never received any Federal funding;

Whereas the 14 editions of the Congressional Club cookbook, first published in 1928, reflect the life and times of the United States with recipes and signatures of Members of Congress, First Ladies, Ambassadors, and members of the Club;

Whereas the Congressional Club membership has expanded to include spouses and daughters of Representatives, Senators, Supreme Court Justices, and Cabinet members;

Whereas 7 members of the Congressional Club have become First Lady: Mrs. Florence Harding, Mrs. Lou Hoover, Mrs. Bess Truman, Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy, Mrs. Patricia Nixon, Mrs. Betty Ford, and Mrs. Barbara Bush;

Whereas several members of the Congressional Club have been elected to Congress, including Mrs. Jo Ann Emerson, Mrs. Lois Capps, and Mrs. Mary Bono, and former presidents of the Congressional Club Mrs. Lindy Boggs and Mrs. Doris Matsui;

Whereas leading figures in politics, the arts, and the media have visited the Clubhouse throughout the past 100 years;

Whereas the Congressional Club is home to the First Lady's gown display, a museum with replica inaugural and ball gowns of the First Ladies from Mrs. Mary Todd Lincoln to Mrs. Laura Bush;

Whereas the Congressional Club is charged with receiving the Presidential couple, honoring the Vice President and spouse, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and spouse, and the Chief Justice and spouse, and providing the orientation for spouses of new Members of Congress; and

Whereas the Congressional Club will celebrate its 100th anniversary with festivities and ceremonies during 2008 that include the ringing of the official bells of the United States Congress, a Founder's Day program, a birthday cake at the First Lady's Luncheon, an anniversary postage stamp and cancellation stamp, a 100-year pin and pendant designed by former president Lois Breaux, and invitations to President and Mrs. Bush, Speaker and Mr. Pelosi, and Chief Justice and Mrs. Roberts to visit and celebrate 100 years of public service, civility, and growth at the Congressional Club: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Congressional Club;

(2) acknowledges the contributions of political spouses to public life in the United States and around the world through the Congressional Club for the past 100 years;

(3) honors the past and present membership of the Congressional Club; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) to strive for greater friendship, civility, and generosity in order to heighten public service, elevate the culture, and enrich humanity; and

(B) to seek opportunities to give financially and to volunteer to assist charitable organizations in their own communities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 579—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING MAY 26, 2008, AS "NATIONAL HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK"

Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. MARTINEZ, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. BURR, and Mr. NELSON of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 579

Whereas, as hurricane season approaches, National Hurricane Preparedness Week provides an opportunity to raise awareness of steps that can be taken to help protect citizens, their communities, and property;

Whereas the official 2008 Atlantic hurricane season occurs in the period beginning June 1, 2008, and ending November 30, 2008;

Whereas hurricanes are among the most powerful forces of nature, causing destructive winds, tornadoes, floods, and storm surges that can result in numerous fatalities and cost billions of dollars in damage;

Whereas, in 2005, a record-setting Atlantic hurricane season caused 28 storms, including 15 hurricanes, of which 7 were major hurricanes, including Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma;

Whereas, for 2008, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced that the outlook for the hurricane season was near to above normal, with a 60 to 70 percent chance of 12 to 16 named storms, including 6 to 9 hurricanes and 2 to 5 major hurricanes;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reports that over 50 percent of the population of the United States lives in coastal counties that are vulnerable to the dangers of hurricanes;

Whereas, because the impact from hurricanes extends far beyond coastal areas, it is vital for individuals in hurricane-prone areas to prepare in advance of the hurricane season;

Whereas cooperation between individuals and Federal, State, and local officials can help increase preparedness, save lives, reduce the impact of each hurricane, and provide a more effective response to those storms;

Whereas the National Hurricane Center within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration recommends that each at-risk family in the United States develop a family disaster plan, create a disaster supply kit, secure their house, and stay aware of current weather situations to improve preparedness and help save lives, and

Whereas the designation of the week beginning May 26, 2008, as "National Hurricane Preparedness Week" will help raise the awareness of the people of the United States to assist them in preparing for the upcoming hurricane season: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning May 26, 2008, as "National Hurricane Preparedness Week";

(2) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) to be prepared for the upcoming hurricane season; and

(B) to promote awareness of the dangers of hurricanes to help save lives and protect communities; and

(3) recognizes—

(A) the threats posed by hurricanes; and

(B) the need for the people of the United States to learn more about preparedness so that they may minimize the impacts of, and provide a more effective response to, hurricanes.