

from all backgrounds in exploring, connecting with, and preserving the natural heritage of the Nation;

Whereas, since 1995, refuges across the Nation have held festivals, educational programs, guided tours, and other events to celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week during the second full week of October;

Whereas the week beginning on October 10, 2010, has been designated as "National Wildlife Refuge Week" by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

Whereas, in 2010, the designation of National Wildlife Refuge Week would recognize more than a century of conservation in the United States and would serve to raise awareness about the importance of wildlife and the National Wildlife Refuge System and to celebrate the myriad recreational opportunities available to enjoy this network of protected lands: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning on October 10, 2010, as "National Wildlife Refuge Week";

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Wildlife Refuge Week;

(3) acknowledges the importance of national wildlife refuges for their recreational opportunities and contribution to local economies across the United States;

(4) pronounces that national wildlife refuges play a vital role in securing the hunting and fishing heritage of the United States for future generations;

(5) recognizes the importance of national wildlife refuges to wildlife conservation and the protection of imperiled species and ecosystems;

(6) applauds the work of refuge "Friends" groups, national and community organizations, and public partners that promote awareness, compatible use, protection, and restoration of national wildlife refuges;

(7) reaffirms the support of the Senate for wildlife conservation and the National Wildlife Refuge System; and

(8) expresses the intent of the Senate—

(A) to continue working to conserve wildlife; and

(B) to manage the National Wildlife Refuge System for current and future generations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 645—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN VENEZUELA ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2010

Mr. ENSIGN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 645

Whereas both the United States and Venezuela were among the 21 original members that founded the Organization of American States on May 5, 1948;

Whereas both the United States and Venezuela joined the other 34 Organization of American States member nations and approved and accepted the Inter-American Democratic Charter on September 11, 2001;

Whereas Article 1 of the Organization of American States Inter-American Democratic Charter states the peoples of the Americas have a right to democracy and their governments have an obligation to promote and defend it;

Whereas Article 4 of the Organization of American States Inter-American Democratic Charter states transparency in government

activities, probity, responsible public administration on the part of governments, respect for social rights, and freedom of expression and of the press are essential components of the exercise of democracy;

Whereas Article 57 of the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela guarantees the right of all citizens to freely express their thoughts and opinions;

Whereas Article 106 of the Charter for the Organization of American States establishes "an Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, whose principal function shall be to promote the observance and protection of human rights and to serve as a consultative organ of the Organization in these matters";

Whereas the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights report entitled Democracy and Human Rights in Venezuela, published February 24, 2010, found that the government of President Hugo Chavez employs the punitive power of the state to intimidate or punish people inside Venezuela on account of their political opinions;

Whereas the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights report entitled Democracy and Human Rights in Venezuela found that conditions do not exist for human rights defenders and journalists to be able to freely carry out their work in Venezuela;

Whereas the Department of State declared on November 29, 2009, that the United States "commends the Honduran people for peacefully exercising their democratic right to select their leaders in an electoral process that began over a year ago";

Whereas, prior to the election in Honduras, President Chavez announced on Venezuelan state television that he put the military of Venezuela on alert in response to the removal by the people of Honduras of Chavez's ally Manuel Zelaya;

Whereas the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights report entitled Democracy and Human Rights in Venezuela concluded that constraints on freedom of expression and the right to protest peaceably and the existence of a climate hostile to the free exercise of dissenting political participation contribute to the weakening of the rule of law and democracy in Venezuela;

Whereas, on June 14, 2010, the Department of State described an arrest order issued by the government of President Chavez for the owner of Venezuela's last remaining independent television station as "the latest example of the government of Venezuela's continuing assault on the freedom of the press" and urged Venezuela to "honor its commitment under the Inter-American Democratic Charter to uphold the principle that respect for human rights, including freedom of the press, is essential to representative democracies"; and

Whereas the people of Venezuela will hold parliamentary elections on September 26, 2010: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the people and Government of the United States support the right of the people of Venezuela to free and fair elections as guaranteed by the Organization of American States Democratic Charter;

(2) the people and Government of the United States support the right of the people of Venezuela to the freedom of speech, the freedom of assembly, and their right to freely express their political views as guaranteed by the Organization of American States Democratic Charter; and

(3) the people and Government of the United States summarily reject any effort by President Chavez to invoke the punitive

power of the state to intimidate or punish the people of Venezuelan who exercise their right to express their political opinions, their right to assemble, and their right to vote in a free and fair elections.

SENATE RESOLUTION 646—DESIGNATING THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2010, AS "FEED AMERICA DAY"

Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. COCHRAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 646

Whereas Thanksgiving Day celebrates the spirit of selfless giving and an appreciation for family and friends;

Whereas the spirit of Thanksgiving Day is a virtue upon which the United States was founded;

Whereas, according to the Department of Agriculture, roughly 35,000,000 people in the United States, including 12,000,000 children, continue to live in households that do not have an adequate supply of food; and

Whereas selfless sacrifice breeds a genuine spirit of thanksgiving, both affirming and restoring fundamental principles in our society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates Thursday, November 18, 2010, as "Feed America Day"; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to sacrifice 2 meals on Thursday, November 18, 2010, and to donate the money that would have been spent on that food to the religious or charitable organization of their choice for the purpose of feeding the hungry.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce Senate Resolution 646, also known as Feed America Day.

Feed America Day began in 2002 as a small effort in Provo, UT. From that small beginning, the campaign has received support from over 1,100 large and small cities. This includes over 60 cities that have responded with proclamations, covering a population exceeding seven million.

This eighth year of promoting Feed America Day is held on the Thursday immediately preceding Thanksgiving Day. On that day, each person is encouraged to fast two meals and then to contribute to a food bank, church, or charity the equivalent dollar amount saved.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has reported that 35 million Americans, including 12 million children, live in homes that do not have an adequate supply of food. This resolution recalls that selfless sacrifice breeds a genuine spirit of thanksgiving, both affirming and restoring fundamental principles in our society. In that spirit, I encourage individuals and families to remember to help those in need one week before Thanksgiving.