



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2014

No. 2

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 7, 2014, at 2 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2014

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, our fortress, stronghold, deliverer, shield, and refuge, we have entered a new year that promises opportunities and challenges. Inspire our lawmakers to seize this season of opportunity, committing themselves to the fulfillment of Your purposes, even in the face of challenges. Keep them in the center of Your will, aligning them with Your providential wisdom and guiding them with Your words. Lord, shield them from discouragement as they persevere with integrity. Finish the good work You have begun, for You are both alpha and omega.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. I welcome back the President pro tempore and the entire staff

and look forward to our continuing work together over the next 2 weeks and to see what happens after that.

Following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will resume the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 265, S. 1845, the unemployment insurance extension.

At 3 p.m. the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Janet Yellen to be Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, postcloture. The time until 5:30 p.m. will be equally divided and controlled.

There will be two rollcall votes at 5:30 p.m., first on confirmation of the Yellen nomination and second on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to the unemployment insurance legislation.

There could be a series of votes after that dealing with other nominations. We will keep everyone advised as to what is going on.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 2019

Mr. REID. I am told that H.R. 2019 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2019) to eliminate taxpayer financing of political party conventions and reprogram savings to provide for a 10-year pediatric research initiative through the Common Fund administered by the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings at this time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard, and the bill will be placed on the calendar.

CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM

Mr. REID. I am optimistic, cautiously optimistic, that the new year will bring a renewed spirit of cooperation to this Chamber. It is very badly needed.

Last year the Senate passed a number of momentous pieces of legislation, including comprehensive immigration, a budget agreement, and a bill to prevent workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation.

There is so much more that needs to be done and there is so much left undone. There has been never-ending obstruction during the entire 5 years that President Obama has been President of the United States.

Setting that aside for a brief moment, today we will address two pressing matters held over from last year: the nomination of Janet Yellen to be head of the Federal Reserve, and extension of unemployment benefits for 1.3 million Americans still struggling to find work. Instead of celebrating the beginning of the New Year on January 1, more than 1 million Americans, including 20,000 veterans and about 20,000 Nevadans, were left wondering how they would feed their families and make their mortgage payments while they continue to look for jobs. Frankly, most of these people aren't making mortgage payments; they are renting. They are trying to make ends meet from month to month.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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S3

Today there is only one job opening for every three people searching. We have never had so many unemployed for such a long period of time.

The long-term unemployment rate is twice as high as it was any other time we have allowed emergency unemployment benefits to end. It will be catastrophic for this to happen for men and women, boys and girls.

What is more, failing to extend unemployment insurance won't only be a hardship for hard-working Americans, it will be a drag on our economy. Allowing this important lifeline to lapse will cost 240,000 jobs.

These people who are drawing unemployment benefits are just getting by. They have to buy groceries, maybe at 7-Eleven. Sometimes they go to a regular store. They have to buy gas for their vehicles. They have to buy bus tickets to get across town to look for a job. A multitude of other things they need are going to be eliminated. That will cost almost a quarter of a million jobs.

By contrast, helping Americans while they search for full-time unemployment is one of the most efficient ways to support economic growth. Each dollar we spend on unemployment insurance benefits increases the gross domestic product by \$1.50. According to leading economists—including Mark Zandi, JOHN MCCAIN's chief economic adviser when he ran for President—they agree that every dollar we spend brings back \$1.50 to our gross domestic product.

In 2012 alone, 500,000 children were kept out of poverty by unemployment benefits. That is one reason it is outrageous that Congress allowed this program—which helps tens of millions of American families with millions of children get by each year—to lapse in December is unconscionable. Today the Senate has a chance to correct this terrible omission.

Just before Christmas my colleague from Nevada, a Republican, DEAN HELLER, joined with the senior Senator from Rhode Island, JACK REED, a Democrat, to propose an extension of unemployment insurance for 1.3 million Americans who lost benefits this past week. I commend these two Senators for their compassionate stance on this issue. The Senate will vote on moving forward on this Reed-Heller bill this evening. I hope a few reasonable and empathetic Republicans will join my colleague from Nevada Mr. HELLER and help us advance this bill today.

Passing this measure is one of the best things we can do for our economy, and it is cost-effective. It is cost-effective in so many different ways, but it is cost-effective to immediately address the worst consequences of growing income inequality in this Nation.

Another way to raise millions of Americans out of poverty is to increase the minimum wage and make it a living wage. People can work two jobs, work so hard—80 hours a week, and some are working over 100 hours a

week—just to make ends meet. They work minimum-wage jobs. Minimum-wage jobs are not living-wage jobs. We are seeing this change all over the country. In the State of Washington, there is one community that has raised it to \$15 an hour.

We have to do more to help people who are willing to work. We want them to make a living wage. The reason that is so very important is that it is believed—it is not believed, polling will indicate this—that two-thirds of small businesses want the minimum wage to be increased. Why? Because it helps them grow their businesses.

When a mother or a father working two or three jobs still can't afford groceries and rent the same month, it is a sign that something is wrong in this country.

Last year the top 1 percent, the very rich, took home so much money that it broke a 1928 record percentage-wise. In the last 30 years the income of the top 1 percent has increased by 300 percent 3 times. But what has happened in that same 30 years to middle-income Americans and the middle class? Their income has dropped by 10 percent—300 percent minus 10 percent. That is not good.

Wages for middle-class families have actually fallen, as I have indicated. They have fallen by almost 10 percent while the cost of housing, food, and gas has gone up. The rich keep getting richer, the poor keep getting poorer, and the middle class is under siege.

This country can't afford to allow the gap between the fabulously wealthy and those who are barely getting by—to keep their incomes going up, the middle class going down, and the poor getting poorer. That is why Democrats this year will renew our efforts to address poverty and economic disparities.

I congratulate wealthy Americans on their good fortune. I think it is tremendous that we are a country of opportunity where people could make money. But we also believe it is time for the middle class to share in the success of economic recovery.

(Mr. MURPHY assumed the Chair.)

The Presiding Officer has spent a great deal of time on the Senate floor trying to bring to the attention of the American people what is going on in the Republican-dominated Congress. The Presiding Officer hasn't come to the floor and berated Republicans about the fact that 90 percent of the American people believe that if a person has mental disabilities, severe mental problems or is a criminal, that they shouldn't be able to buy a gun without a background check. Ninety percent of the American people agree with the Presiding Officer.

Members of Congress, or Republicans, disagree, but it is the same on the other two issues I have talked about—minimum wage. The vast majority of Americans agree with this, Democrats, Independents, and even Republicans. Unemployment insurance is the same.

But in Congress, they disagree with the American people as it relates to background checks. They disagree with the American people as it relates to minimum wage. They disagree with the American people as it relates to the unemployment insurance extension.

They cannot get off the tune they have been singing for such a long time: ObamaCare, ObamaCare, ObamaCare. As we speak, the American people are so much better off because of ObamaCare. If they have a disability, they cannot be denied health insurance coverage. Children stay on their parents' insurance until they are 26. Seniors get wellness checks, Pap smears, mammograms. Many people could never afford that. The doughnut hole for prescription drugs is being closed. Your insurance can't be terminated because someone is hurt and the bill is big. They can't do that anymore. But Republicans can't get off trying to repeal ObamaCare.

ObamaCare is here to stay. As we speak, there are 9 million people who have insurance who didn't have it before. We have about 2.5 million people who have gotten insurance on the Web, including the 14 exchanges of various States, including Nevada.

We have 3 million people who have insurance now because they are on their parents' insurance and can stay there until they are 26. Three million Americans have that because of ObamaCare, and there are about 3 million Americans who are so poor they now qualify for Medicaid. That is 9 million people who didn't have insurance before.

But what is the first thing the House of Representatives is doing? They are going to vote on ObamaCare. They voted to repeal it at least 45 times, which didn't work. We now have one Senator from Wisconsin who is filing a lawsuit today, and he is boasting about this lawsuit: It is a great deal. It would take away the health insurance of the people working in this body—all of these people, plus all of our staffs who aren't here in this building.

Here is what longtime Republican House Member JIM SENSENBRENNER from Wisconsin—with whom I and the Presiding Officer had the good fortune to serve in the House of Representatives—said:

“Senator Johnson's lawsuit is an unfortunate political stunt. I am committed to repealing ObamaCare, but the employer contribution he's attacking is nothing more than a standard benefit that most private and all federal employees receive—including the President, Sensenbrenner said.

“access in the suit will mean that Congress will lose some of its best staff and will be staffed primarily by recent college graduates who are still on their parents' insurance.”

Sensenbrenner is a longtime House Member and former chairman of the Judiciary Committee. He is expressing concerns that were shared publicly and privately by many lawmakers and senior aides about the possible “brain drain” from taking away the employer contribution. Several Republicans, led by Sen. David Vitter of Louisiana, have

floated legislative proposals that would accomplish the same goal as the Johnson lawsuit.

Sensenbrenner went on to say:

"Senator Johnson should spend his time legislating rather than litigating as our country is facing big problems that must be addressed by Congress—not the courts. All Republicans want to repeal ObamaCare, but this politically motivated lawsuit only takes public attention away from how bad all of ObamaCare really is and focuses it on a trivial issue. Fortunately, Senator Johnson's suit is likely frivolous and will not achieve the result he's seeking."

As I stated in my remarks today, we have been able to get a few things done, but we have been unable to get so many important things done because the goal for the last 5 years by the Republicans in the Congress—not Republicans in the country but Republicans in the Congress—has been to do everything they could to make President Obama look bad. Remember, my counterpart said his No. 1 goal in the last Congress was to do everything he could to defeat Obama from being reelected. Well, he was elected overwhelmingly, so that was a futile effort.

We need to get back to working together, as we have always done—until this effort which has been made to disparage and damage in any way they can the President of the United States and, in the process, our country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, if I may take one moment while the distinguished leader is here.

I wish to commend Senator REID for his cooperation. He has worked very hard to bring this together. We had a very complex and very extensive immigration bill, with 300 amendments filed in the Judiciary Committee. After it went through the committee, Senator REID worked hard to get time on the floor and then we passed it with an overwhelming bipartisan majority.

Mr. REID. Would my friend yield for a question?

Mr. LEAHY. Of course.

Mr. REID. Through the Chair to my friend, the President pro tempore of the Senate, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, we hear the Republicans talking that they want to do everything they can to reduce the debt. I ask my friend, twofold: No. 1, the bible for how to reduce the debt was Bowles-Simpson. They set a goal of \$4 trillion. Right now we are almost at \$3 trillion. We have cut spending to reduce the debt by almost \$3 trillion.

Does my friend acknowledge that, by passing the bill reported out of the Judiciary Committee, it would reduce the debt by another \$1 trillion; we would basically reach the goal of Bowles-Simpson if they would just pass immigration reform?

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, addressing the majority leader through the Chair, I would note that even Grover Norquist, who is sort of the guru of many of the Republicans, testified before the Judiciary Committee that

passing this bill and putting it into law would add nearly \$1 trillion or more to the economy. All sorts of business leaders came in and said this would add to our economy. It is one of those rare cases where the AFL-CIO and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce came together because it would dramatically improve the economy, dramatically improve the wages of people, and it would lower the deficit. It is a no-brainer. That is why we came together in the Senate. With the leadership of the distinguished Senator from Nevada and others, Republicans and Democrats, we came together and we passed it.

They should take it up. If they want to make some changes, do so. I am ready to go to conference on it at a moment's notice so we can get this bill passed and on the President's desk.

We have shown we could do it before. We did it with the Violence Against Women Act, which they at first refused to take up in the House. Even the White House was backing off some of the parts we added to it here because they were afraid it might not go through. But Senator CRAPO and I stuck together. A bipartisan group in the House stuck together, and they passed it in the House. We passed it, and it went into law. We added sexual trafficking. It is a good bill.

We can do it, if people want to. But if we take the position that we cannot do anything, that we just want to be naysayers and nihilistic about government, then, of course, we don't do anything. But here is a way to get the economy going. Here is a way to improve our Nation.

Frankly, I just wanted to stand and compliment the distinguished majority leader for speaking of what we can do, and I hope we do.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXTENSION ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1845, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 265, S. 1846, a bill to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, Senators are permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the Reed-Heller bill, which would extend unemployment insurance for 1.3 million Americans—very critical—for 3 months, because it is the

right thing to do for these workers, and it is the smart thing to do for our economy.

Unemployment insurance has been around since the 1930s, and it has historically received bipartisan support. Indeed, I am pleased that Senator HELLER has joined me. So this is a bipartisan bill, also. This is something we have to deal with today. It is a huge crisis. As I said, 1.3 million Americans have lost their benefits as of December 28. But we can expect through this next year approximately 3 million more to exhaust their State benefits—typically 26 weeks—and not have this Federal long-term benefit available to them.

This has always received support on a bipartisan basis because it is not a red State and blue State issue. It is something which impacts this entire country. It impacts people who work. You cannot get this program unless you have a job and, through no fault of your own, you have lost that job. In this economy, people who lose jobs are competing with many others for very few jobs.

These 1.3 million Americans were pushed off an economic cliff just 9 days ago. This vital lifeline would help them cope. They were not let go from their jobs because of something they did. It was through no fault of their own, and they are searching for work in an economy which has nearly three job seekers for every one job opening.

Illustrative of this is a front-page story in the Washington Post today. In Maryland, they are opening up a new dairy operation, and what this story speaks to is something that is happening across this country in so many places:

When the Good Humor ice cream plant closed here two summers ago, more than 400 jobs and a stable, punch-the-clock way of life melted away, another in a string of plant closings that have battered this once-proud manufacturing town.

I would add parenthetically that in Connecticut, Rhode Island, west coast, east coast, north and south, we have seen this happen. Manufacturing plants close, move overseas, and shut down entirely.

The hulking plant sat vacant until a co-op of Virginia dairy farmers purchased it in summer 2013 to process milk and ice cream, though on a far smaller scale than the 60,000 cases of ice cream that global food giant Unilever churned out every day.

Randy Inman, the board president for Shenandoah Family Farms, said he expected the plant's revival to trigger plenty of interest in its three dozen or so initial jobs. What he did not expect: 1,600 applicants and counting—a deluge.

That is what this economy is about. Skilled people lose jobs through plant closures, many of them working for decades, and suddenly they see a possibility. But it is not one job for one applicant. It is 1,600 applicants for about 36 jobs. They are trying—they are trying awfully hard. But unless we pass this legislation this evening and begin the process, we are not trying.

On the economic side of the ledger, moving away from the human dynamic, the nonpartisan Congressional

Budget Office estimates that failure to renew unemployment insurance will cost the economy 200,000 jobs and sap 0.2 percent of economic growth by the end of the year. Why? Because these payments go to people who are really desperate. They need this extra cash. It is about \$300, maybe \$350 a week. They need it to pay rent, to buy groceries, to keep the boiler running in subzero temperatures, to keep their families together as they look for work. By the way, in order to collect, you have to keep looking for work.

So this program is not just fair to people who have worked hard. It is smart for our economy. This is one of the best fiscal tools we have available to ensure that we are creating demand, creating additional jobs. As I indicated, if we do not pass this, if these benefits lapse and go away, 200,000 jobs will be lost—at a time when every Member of this body would say one of the most important jobs is to create more jobs in America. We can do that, but we have to start today on this procedural vote.

Our bill is designed to help families who have weathered the toughest part of the great recession—2008, 2009, 2010—and many were laid off about 1 year ago. The maximum extended unemployment benefits is 72 weeks, which includes, in most cases, 26 weeks of State benefits. So they got through the hardest part of this recession, which suggests to me these are good workers. These are people who were struggling and working when unemployment was much higher, and now they need help. I believe we have to give them that help.

We should be working together to create an expanded economy so the jobs are there, so that when there is a new plant opening it is not just 36 jobs and 1,600 applicants, so it is a lot more jobs. In fact, we would like to see it the other way. We would like to see 1,600 jobs and 1,600 applicants. We have to do that.

I have heard from a lot of my colleagues who said they cannot do this because they need an offset.

This has traditionally been emergency spending. It is emergency spending up until December 28 because we extended it last year on an emergency basis, probably creating on the order of 200,000 jobs—just as we will lose 200,000 jobs if we do not extend it—and helping our economy overall. We have to do this.

We have tailored this—Senator HELLER and I—so that it is just 3 months, so it provides immediate assistance to unemployed workers. It is retroactive, so we will pick up the people who lost their benefits on December 28. But it also gives the Senate, the appropriate committees, and the House the ability to think through this program in an orderly way, to make changes if necessary, and to look for appropriate offsets if it is deemed that those offsets are necessary. But it will in these 3 months ensure that people have some-

thing to help them get by while we do our job.

By my count, colleagues have voted to move forward on these non-offset emergency benefits more than 10 times since 2008. More than ten times we have taken up this unemployment insurance program and we have passed it on an emergency basis without offsets, so this is not a new, novel approach. In fact, what is somewhat new is actually providing offsets for this emergency spending.

I wouldn't hesitate to say I venture that if we brought up a bill that had huge tax cuts, particularly for the wealthiest corporations and individuals, there would be very little discussion on the other side that it should be offset, but when we are talking about a program that helps working people, we have to have offsets? Traditionally, we have not done it, and we can have that conversation, but in order to have it appropriately and help these people, we have to move this legislation forward to give us the time to work constructively, collaboratively, and thoughtfully on the program and also on possible offsets.

We should not be filibustering this measure. We should be passing it and then working collegially and cooperatively to improve the program if we can and, if we deem it appropriate, to pay for the program.

I have heard some of my colleagues say we need offsets. They are very vague about what types of offsets. There are some suggestions about Medicare, Social Security, or discretionary spending. I do not think Americans, our constituents, would want to see those types of cuts. I think they are relieved, in fact, that through the good work of Senator MURRAY and Congressman RYAN, we have a budget for 2 years and we are doing appropriations bills and we are beginning to provide certainty and support for the economy.

I do sense, though, that my constituents know there are many people out there who are struggling to find a job, who want to work and need a little help just to get by. That is what we would be doing if we pass these measures this afternoon or begin the process of passing them this afternoon.

Again, I think if we are going to seriously talk about offsets or programmatic changes or responding to different dynamics in the economy, it should not be done here on the floor with dueling amendments or dueling proposals, it should be done through regular order in the committee.

I offered a 1-year extension that was not offset, and my Republican colleagues objected, and I completely understand the privilege of doing that and the right to do that. One of the arguments was that it should go through committee. This 3-month bill does both. It helps people immediately, and it gives us the time to do our job.

A few weeks ago I also came to the floor to address an argument that has been percolating throughout this dis-

cussion that somehow this whole unemployment insurance program is just being abused, that beneficiaries would rather collect than work. The reality is that I think \$300 a week or \$350 a week is not something for which people would give up good jobs or allow themselves to be displaced from those jobs just to collect the benefit. I believe Americans really want to work and they want to get back to work as quickly as they can. They want to do the work for which they have been trained. They want to do the work in which some of them have spent decades investing not just their time but their whole selves.

One of the interesting things about work is that it is not only a form of economic remuneration, it is a way we define ourselves. Within a few minutes of meeting any stranger, I bet one question pops up: What do you do for a living? It is awfully difficult today for millions of Americans to say: I am just looking desperately for a job. But millions are.

I discussed earlier that there is academic research out there that has been bandied about suggesting that, no, this is a ruse, an abuse. But research actually supports the notion that individuals would rather work than collect unemployment insurance. Unemployment insurance benefits, as I have indicated, are a fraction of what an individual would earn in the job he had previously. These are benefits that keep people whole while they are searching for work.

There was a very eloquent editorial by Charles Blow in the New York Times that addressed some of these issues. I think his words are very thoughtful because they strike the right tone. He wrote:

Whereas I am sure that some people will abuse any form of help, I'm by no means convinced that this is the exclusive domain of the poor and put-upon. Businesses and the wealthy regularly take advantage of subsidies and tax loopholes without blinking an eye. But somehow, when some poor people, or those who unexpectedly fall on hard times, take advantage of benefits for which they are eligible, it's an indictment of the morality and character of the poor as a whole.

I don't think that is the case. I agree with Mr. Blow. These are people who want to work, but they need some help. We have given them help in the past, and we should continue to do so.

This program has been a critical, crucial safety net for families, helping them avoid poverty, helping them get back on their feet, helping them get back into the workforce. It has been with us since the Great Depression. It affects a whole spectrum of individuals. Indeed, if we look at 2012 data, about 40 percent of the households that receive these benefits had an income prior to job loss of between \$30,000 and \$75,000. These are middle-income Americans who would much rather be working and making close to what they made before they were laid off than

collecting \$300 a week. So these benefits are not the exclusive province of the very poor.

In fact, more and more they are middle-class, middle-age people who never thought they would be on unemployment insurance, who need this. They are supporting elderly parents. They have children. They have mortgages. They had a professional career—accountant, paralegal, bookkeeper. They are now looking desperately for work. They are people who used to work in dairy processing plants or people who used to work as vice presidents for sales who are so desperate—I assume some of these people, if we looked at their resumes, would be qualified to do many things other than work at a plant, but they are looking because they desperately need work.

We hear this argument, though: Oh, it is a program that doesn't work and the people are undeserving and we are not even doing them a favor by letting them have this benefit. I disagree. I think we have to pass this measure. We have to do it because it is the right thing for these families, it is the right thing for our constituents, and it is the right thing for the economy. It would be foolish, frankly, to take a program that we are confident can save 200,000 jobs, can increase GDP by .2 percent, that is one of the best forms of fiscal policy to stimulate demand and economic growth, and say we are not going to do it. I think we say we have to do it.

There is another aspect of this, too, particularly appropriate to the issue of long-term unemployment. We are seeing a remarkable number of long-term unemployed individuals in this recession. Typically, Congress has only ended these benefits when the long-term unemployment rate was 1.3 percent. Today it's double that at 2.6 percent. Again, this program is a program that takes care of the long-term unemployed.

The standard program in the States is one of 26 weeks. If you have a brief episode of unemployment, if you lose a job and then 5 weeks later you get a job, you are in that first tranche of State benefits. The long-term unemployed are those who have been without work for at least 26 weeks. We have seen the number of long-term unemployed double since previous recessions—from 1.3 percent to 2.6 percent. So this program is more important now than in any previous economic downturn we have had based upon looking at these numbers. This is another reason we have to extend these benefits.

I urge my colleagues to support this procedural vote so that the full Senate can consider the measure and move toward passage. We need to move swiftly to pass this bipartisan bill to provide some certainty, some stability, and some support for families who are struggling in a very difficult market.

The answer I suggest to those who are considering voting against cloture this evening is, fine, you can come

down and tell the clerk no. What are you going to tell the 1,600 people in Hagerstown, MD, and across this country who are desperately looking for work and need some support? What are you going to tell them? No? I hope not.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF JANET L. YELLEN TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Janet L. Yellen, of California, to be Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Ms. HIRONO. Under the previous order, the time until 5:30 p.m. will be equally divided and controlled in the usual form.

The Senator from Connecticut.

GUN LEGISLATION

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I hope we will confirm Janet Yellen later today.

I come to the floor for a few minutes to do what I have done most weeks since the failure of this Senate to pass commonsense gun legislation in the spring of 2013, to talk about the number of Americans who have lost their lives due to gun violence. That number stands today at 12,041. Over 12,000 people have died at the hands of gun violence since December 14, which of course is the day in which 20 6-year-olds and 7-year-olds and 6 teachers and professionals who were protecting them lost their lives in Newtown, CT.

This is probably the last time we will have the chance to display this particular number because the Web site which has been totalling this is going to stop doing so. It is probably a good thing in this respect: Once that 1 became a crooked number, we weren't going to have room on this poster any longer; and at some point in the middle of next year, the 1 would click up to a 2 and we would be over 20,000 people killed due to guns. Frankly, this doesn't even count the suicides. This is just the people who have died as a result of gun homicides, and the number just goes up and up at a rate which is hard to comprehend.

So I wish to speak for a few minutes about a few of the representative vic-

tims we have seen across the country in the last year, which make up just a small subset of the 12,000 people, and I hope maybe one of these days it will inspire this place to action.

I was at the swearing in of the new mayor of New Haven on New Year's Day. Toni Harp is the first female mayor of New Haven, the 50th mayor of New Haven, and she will inherit a city being absolutely ravaged by gun violence—20 gun homicides in the last year and 67 shootings. Each one of them hurts, but the last one was particularly devastating.

Javier Martinez died on December 28, 2013. Javier attended a local high school focused on learning about and protecting the environment, Common Ground High School. He was described as one of the most outstanding participants in the 20-year history of a program put on through the school whereby kids spent part of their summer on Block Island, a little island in between Connecticut and Rhode Island, where they work to eliminate invasive species and spread the environmental gospel to visitors to that small island.

He was beloved by his family and by his friends. He was thinking of becoming an arborist or environmental scientist. His community—in particular, his pretty, sleepy neighborhood in which this shooting happened—has been absolutely torn apart through the loss of Javier—Bebo, as he was called by his grandparents.

He is one of 20 people in New Haven, CT, who were lost. Twelve of the 20 were under 30 years old. Eleven of them were men; 17 of them were African American. That is the story in New Haven. It is young African American males who are dying almost every week as part of the 12,041.

Just a couple of months earlier, John Allen Read died in Texas due to a gunshot wound. What makes John Allen Reed exceptional is that he was 5 years old. He is one of dozens of accidental gun deaths happening all across this country.

He and his 6-month-old sibling were in the care of a regular baby sitter, but a baby sitter who feared for her safety so she carried a gun with her. But she left the gun on a table and fell asleep. The 5-year-old got the gun. When she woke up to try to find the kids, she found John dead with a fatal gunshot wound.

We heard the stories all throughout 2013. I don't know whether statistically there were more in 2013 than in previous years. But because we don't require much if any training before buying a gun, we have young baby sitters leaving guns unattended with these absolutely devastating results.

How about 4 months before that in Seattle, where Molly Conley, a 15-year-old, a great goalie on her high school team, a straight-A student, was killed while she was walking back with friends after celebrating her recent birthday at a sleepover. Detectives believe a shooter opened fire on Molly Conley and her group of friends.

Her nickname was “4.0” because she was such a good student. “She always smiled. She gave people smiles, and she was joyful and kind. She had a generous spirit,” said Molly’s mother.

Molly, John, and Javier are just three of the voices of victims we need to start talking about on the floor, because if the statistics don’t seem to be moving people to action, maybe the stories will.

As I hope we will this year, let’s be realistic about what we can and can’t do. I have come here every week to talk about the stories of the people who have died at the hands of guns. I understand there is no law that is going to completely eradicate gun violence, and I understand that there is no one solution at hand which will have a radical transformation overnight.

I believe this is about gun laws. But I also understand it is about better mental health treatment. I also understand it is about a culture of violence. I also understand it is about a sense of hopelessness felt by a lot of kids in poor neighborhoods which leads them to violence as a way of solving common, everyday disputes.

So I am ready on the floor of the Senate to have a real, sober, dispassionate argument about what we can do together this year to try to make sure this number in 2014 is just a little bit lower than it was in 2013.

With that in mind, I will leave us with this one last story, and that is the story of Zina Daniel.

Zina Daniel took out a restraining order on her husband after years of violence and abuse. Police were reportedly called to this home dozens of times. Her husband was upset about that restraining order, and knowing that he couldn’t get a gun at a retailer because he wouldn’t pass a background check, he went online to Armslist. Within hours he found a seller who would supply to him a .40 caliber Glock handgun, which he picked up in a McDonald’s parking lot for \$500 cash. The next day, he went into Zina’s workplace, and he murdered her and two other women. He injured four others.

Zina’s brother said this:

I’m a gun owner, a hunter and a member of the National Rifle Association. I believe in the Second Amendment, but I also believe in sensible gun laws. I’ve seen how devastating gun violence can be. And I know that Radcliffe never should have been able to buy a gun online without a background check. A background check would have saved my sister’s life.

I don’t know what we will be able to get done this year. I don’t know if there are 60 votes in the Senate for the kind of expansion of background checks that many of us, including Zina’s brother, would like to see. But let’s not let the whole year go by without at least some attempt among Senators of good will on both sides of the aisle, so that when this number does come back up at the end of 2014, it is just a little bit lower.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

Mr. HELLER. Madam President, I rise today to discuss an issue that has been in the forefront of the minds of many Americans ringing in the new year; that is, extending benefits for the unemployed—something that is important, of course, for a lot of Americans.

Before I begin, I wish to thank my colleague, my friend from Rhode Island, Senator JACK REED, for his hard work and effort on this behalf as we and our staffs worked together to get this proposal moved forward for today’s vote.

I hope that my friends and colleagues in the Senate enjoyed their holidays and that everyone returned refreshed and ready to tackle some of the tough issues we have here in 2014.

Unfortunately, while Congress was in recess, approximately 17,000 Nevadans greeted the new year not with optimistic expectations of a fresh start but with the anxiety of how they are going to feed their families and perhaps even pay their utility bills. When Congress left Washington, DC, in December, a lot of important matters were left undone and expired. As a result, millions of Americans were left with no idea whether their unemployment benefits were going to be fixed retroactively—something that has become, of course, all too common for this Congress to do.

Helping those in need should not be a partisan issue. Providing a limited social safety net is one of the responsibilities of the Federal Government. Unfortunately, instead of planning ahead and figuring out the best way to do that, we are now forced to decide whether to reinstate these benefits after they have expired.

We should provide some relief to the millions of Americans who were left hanging when Congress went home in December and temporarily extend unemployment benefits for the next 3 months. It is the right thing to do. That short period will help these families whose benefits expired abruptly while Congress works out a long-term solution that provides Americans with some certainty and is fiscally responsible.

I understand my colleagues’ concerns about the cost and their desire to pay for this extension. I too want to see our Federal debt brought under control. I think my voting record is proof of that concern.

I too believe Congress should be more focused on passing laws that actually help create jobs. Growing our economy should be the primary focus and concern of this body. As a Senator of the State that leads the Nation in unemployment, believe me, I understand the importance of refocusing on jobs. I would rather be down here today discussing innovative ways to create jobs instead of the need to extend unemployment benefits yet again. But because of this administration and even some of the choices of this body, unfortunately, our economy is not growing quickly enough and many Americans

are still hurting, including a lot of Nevadans.

My State is struggling. I have repeated often on this floor that Nevada consistently tops the chart in unemployment, bankruptcies, and foreclosures. The statistics are surely revealing. But more startling is the obvious increase in impoverished Nevadans whom I meet when I go home. I would like to share an example.

Every Thanksgiving one or two of my children join me in serving Thanksgiving dinner to folks in Reno who are in need and cannot cook a Thanksgiving meal for themselves. This year my daughter Emmy, who is in her freshman year in college, joined me in this experience. Every year that dinner sees more and more attendees. Every year the number of individuals and families who need help increases. This year the venue was absolutely packed. When my daughter and I arrived, the line outside the venue was four blocks long. It is such an obvious example of how so many Nevadans are unable to provide for their basic needs, and this cannot be ignored.

I know many economists point to a national unemployment rate that is improving, but at home we do not feel it. The unemployment rate in Nevada has consistently far exceeded the national average. In fact, the Silver State has led the Nation for the past 3 years in unemployment. The result is, of course, that people in Nevada are really hurting.

It is difficult to stand here in the Nation’s Capital—an area that has largely felt little negative impact of the recession—and describe just how tough times are for so many of my constituents. At these Thanksgiving dinners, I hear about the choices individuals are forced to make—whether to buy gas for their car or pay for heat in the frigid northern Nevada winters or buy school supplies for their children or perhaps save for the future.

These are hard-working individuals who rely on these benefits. They are trying to find jobs. They want to provide for their children. But for these benefits to simply vanish without giving families the time to plan or figure out alternatives to help them get by is just not right.

I too understand the concerns about the cost of these benefits. I would prefer to see them paid for in a manner that does not burden our Nation with more debt. I have previously introduced legislation that would do just that, legislation that would extend unemployment benefits while still paying for them. At the time I introduced my legislation as an alternative to a more costly bill because I think it is important to bring down our Nation’s debt.

I am ready to work with my colleagues to introduce similar legislation again this year, but in the meantime I propose that we pass this short-term extension now. That would allow Congress the opportunity to spend the next 3 months debating how to pay for these

benefits in the future or perhaps how much longer they should be extended. Those are important questions worthy of more debate. But in the meantime, Congress simply must provide some temporary relief for those who are unemployed.

Paying for these benefits would be the best approach. Congress could have taken the harder road to figure out the way to do that before departing for the holiday break and leaving millions of Americans hanging, but it did not. So let's pass this short-term extension and focus on a more fiscally responsible solution for the longer term.

I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The Senator from Oklahoma.

GLOBAL WARMING

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I think we are going to have a lot of discussions on the floor concerning a number of things that happened in the last couple of weeks, not the least of which is what is going on in Antarctica right now, and the fact that some people had to be lifted out of there.

It is kind of interesting, and I don't want anyone to misunderstand me and think that I am reviving a lot of the previous interest concerning the issue of global warming for any reason other than the fact that right now, after it has been determined, without any doubt, that the House and Senate would never pass anything like cap and trade, the President is attempting to do through regulation what he could not do through legislation. What I am concerned about is the expense, and in a minute I will talk about the cost of these issues.

We have a real serious problem in this country. People are concerned about the spending and about what is happening with our military. They are concerned about a lot of issues, but the cost of the overregulation that has taken place in our society is overlooked quite often.

If you ask anyone associated with the farm bureau or anyone in the agricultural community what their major problem is, they will tell you it is the overregulation by the Environmental Protection Agency that is really making it difficult for them to survive. It is the same thing with manufacturers, producers, and others. When we look at the crown jewel of all regulations, it is cap and trade. Cap and trade would constitute the largest tax increase in the history of this country.

I think it is kind of interesting that what is happening right now up in the Antarctic is something that has been happening for quite a long period of time. While there has been a concerted

effort of people who believe that global warming is taking place and that we are all going to die, and all of that, at the same time the evidence out there is almost laughable.

In January of 2004, when Al Gore held a global warming rally in New York City, I remember that it was one of the coldest days in New York City in its history. In March of 2007, a Capitol Hill media briefing on the Senate climate bill was canceled due to a snowstorm. In April of 2007, global warming rallies were greeted by unseasonable snow, and as a result several of them were canceled. In October of 2007, Gore's global warming speech at Harvard University coincided with temperatures that nearly broke a 125-year temperature record. In October of 2007, the British House of Commons held a marathon debate on global warming during London's first October snowfall since 1932.

In December 2008, Al Gore spoke to an audience in Milan, Italy—by the way, I attended that meeting—about global warming, and outside it was snowing, which is a rare event for that area. Snow and freezing rain also struck Rome, Naples, Palermo, and Sicily.

A lot of people are not aware that among those who were responsible for the whole global warming movement was the United Nations. It was an effort—I will not go into it now unless it becomes appropriate and I have more time to talk about it. But the United Nations has one big party every year—usually in December—and it is what we call the global warming party. It is where all the countries come to attend, and they have all-you-can-eat and all-you-can-drink. It is the biggest party of the year.

I can remember going to one of these annual parties when there was someone from Benin, which is a Sub-Saharan African country. I went up to this person and said: You can't tell me you believe all this stuff. The whole idea was to have the 192 countries that go to this party every year believe global warming is taking place, and we are all going to have to stop doing things to try to preclude it from happening, and that would destroy our economies. His response was: Oh, no, but this is the biggest party of the year.

That took place, as I said, in Milan, Italy in 2008. I always remember that one because they had my picture on telephone poles saying "Wanted." I saved several of those and brought them back to the United States so I could distribute it to the people who were enjoying it quite a bit. Anyway, the meeting in Milan was about global warming. Yet there were records set on snowfall and freezing rain.

In March of 2009, NANCY PELOSI—at that time she was the Speaker of the House—had a big global warming rally that was supposed to be the largest one that had ever taken place in this country, and it was snowed out.

In February of 2010, the Senate EPW, Environment and Public Works Com-

mittee—at that time I was the ranking member of the Environment and Public Works Committee—had a hearing entitled "The Global Warming Impacts, Including Public Health, in the United States," and it was canceled due to a major snowstorm. This goes on and on.

One thing that is not on the list, which should be on this list, is what happened in Copenhagen in 2009, and that was the annual party of the United Nations. I remember it so well because people were trying to go over there and say that the United States of America was going to pass cap and trade, and that we would encourage all of them to do it. I am going from memory now, but I am quite sure that Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, NANCY PELOSI, Barack Obama, and John Kerry were all there. At that time, John Kerry was a Member of the Senate. All of them assured these people—these 191 countries—that we were going to pass cap and trade.

I went all the way over and all the way back to spend 3 hours on the ground—and I have to say it was probably the most enjoyable 3 hours I ever spent—to tell them that under no circumstance was the United States going to pass the largest tax increase in history based on trying to stop something they were calling at that time—global warming. The 191 countries which attended that meeting had one thing in common, and that was that they all hated me.

Nonetheless, I was telling them the truth, and they tried to pass it again and again. There probably aren't 35 votes in the Senate right now that would vote for a cap-and-trade bill which would constitute the largest tax increase in the history of this country.

All of that had taken place over a long period of time, and now we are up to 2013 and 2014. In November, President Obama issued an executive order on climate change stating "excessively high temperatures" are "already" harming natural resources, economies, and public health nationwide.

I guess if you say something long enough, sooner or later people are going to believe it because they assume if the President says it, it must be true.

On January 6, AccuWeather issued a warning that a "blast of arctic air will deliver some of the coldest weather in 20 years" to the midsection of the United States.

Meteorologist Ryan Maue of Florida said about the historic cold outbreak: "If you're under 40 [years old], you've not seen this stuff before."

The National Weather Service reported that the temperature at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport hit 16 degrees below zero on January 6, breaking the negative 14-degree record in 1884. This makes Chicago colder than the South Pole where it was 11 degrees below zero. The average temperature in the United States on January 6 was 12.8 degrees.

I say all of this because this is kind of a predicate to what is happening

now. On November 27, the research expedition to gauge the effect of climate change on Antarctica began. This was in the news today.

On December 24, the day before Christmas, a Russian ship carrying climate scientists, journalists, tourists, and crew members for the expedition became trapped in deep ice up to 10-feet thick. An Australian icebreaker was sent to rescue the ship, but on December 30 efforts were suspended due to bad weather.

On January 2, a Chinese icebreaker—and here come the Chinese now—called the *Xue Long*, sent a helicopter that airlifted 52 passengers from the Russian ship to safety to the Australian icebreaker. The Chinese vessel is now also stuck in ice along with the Russian vessel. There are 22 Russian crew members who are still on board the Russian ship, and an unreported number of crew members remain on the Chinese ship.

On January 5, the U.S. Coast Guard was called to assist the ships which were stuck in the Antarctic.

That is what is happening today. Let's go back and relive a little bit of history when I was under a lot of criticism because I was opposed to assertions by Al Gore which the New York Times said might arguably be the first environmental billionaire.

In December 2008, Gore said, "The entire North Polarized cap will disappear in five years." It is 5 years later, and it hasn't disappeared yet. In fact, we have been reading about it.

On December 13, the BBC reported that the Arctic ice cap coverage is "close to 50% more than in the corresponding period of 2012," which means it has increased by 50 percent over this period of time. That means it is increasing by 50 percent over this period of time. This is the same icecap Al Gore said was going to disappear 5 years ago.

President Obama, in May of this last year: "The climate is warming faster than anybody anticipated five or 10 years ago."

To contrast with *The Economist*, they said: "Over the past 15 years, air temperatures on the Earth's surface have been flat. . . ."

Gina McCarthy, recently sworn in as the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, said: "Extreme weather events are proof enough for me to show why action is necessary."

We are talking about action on CO₂.

According to preliminary reports, 2013 turned out to be one of the least extreme weather years on record, which is right after she made that statement. But the one I enjoyed so much was—I have a lot of respect for Gina's predecessor, Lisa Jackson. Lisa Jackson came in as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and I remember her very well because I asked her the question—keep in mind she was appointed by President Obama. Her job is to make people think global

warming is taking place and all of these extreme things are going to happen. I asked her the question: In the event that we did the action—at that time, there were two or three cap-and-trade bills offered in the House and in the Senate. So I said: Let's assume one of these bills passes. Would this reduce CO₂ worldwide? Her reaction was: No, because this is just in the United States. This is not where the problem is.

So by their own admission, even if we were to sustain the economic disaster we would have to have in the event we passed one of these bills, it would not impact or reduce the levels of CO₂.

The other recent study—15 year pause—from *Nature* magazine, said:

For this period, [1998–2012], the observed trend of [temperatures] is . . . not significantly different from zero [and] suggests a temporary 'hiatus' in global warming.

This is a publication that was kind of leading the charge at one time.

So we see these things that are happening and we see that even though, time and time again, just the reverse is true, that we are going through this thing—I always have to go from memory when I go back. I remember the earlier years of this, some 12 years ago when they were looking at the Kyoto treaty. We remember the Kyoto treaty, I say to the Presiding Officer, which was an agreement we would sign on to—an international treaty, the Kyoto treaty—and we would agree to reduce all the CO₂ in this country and all of that. Of course, that didn't happen, but the cost was discussed at that time. I remember back when Republicans were in the majority, I chaired the committee called the Environment and Public Works Committee, and some 12 years ago, about the time of Kyoto, I believed it was true—everybody said global warming was coming and we were all going to die. So I assumed it was true until I started exploring a little bit and hearing quietly from some of the scientists who said: Look. The whole thing is rigged and the science is not the same as the United Nations would have us believe. So one by one they started coming forth. I stood at this podium for about a 3-year period and started naming all of the scientists who said the U.N. scientists, the IPCC, were not being honest and that they had their own agenda they were trying to support. At that time, a group of several universities—MIT was one of them, the Wharton School—a lot of their scientists said what the cost would be if we were to pass global warming legislation that had been proposed. It would be between \$300 billion and \$400 billion a year.

Now, \$300 billion to \$400 billion a year, yes, that would constitute the largest tax increase. I took this to my State of Oklahoma. I did my calculation as I always do. I get the number of people who file Federal tax returns and have them pay taxes and it would be about \$3,000 a year per family. Yet, by their own admission, as Lisa Jackson

said, it would not reduce overall temperatures, even if one believes that is a problem, which I don't.

Anyway, the cost—Charles River came along with a very similar cost—\$350 billion a year. So with all of those costs, we wanted to look at it and see if, in fact, the science was there, and we determined it was not.

If we look at the regulations at the EPA right now—the National Association of Manufacturers has a cumulative impact study, not including ozone or the greenhouse gases, of \$630 billion annually and some 9 million jobs lost. As per the regulations for ozone, 77 counties would be out of attainment in my State of Oklahoma and 7 million jobs lost. That is all of our counties. That means we would have job losses in all of those. Utility MACT, that cost is \$100 billion, and that has already been implemented. That affected all the coal States in a major way. The Boiler MACT cost would be \$63 billion. I mentioned the BLM. The hydraulic fracking regulations would cost about \$100,000 per well. That is an increase everyone else would have to pay in terms of producing right now. Greenhouse gas costs would be between \$300 billion and \$400 billion, as I mentioned before.

If we just take these regulations—the list is a lot longer than that, but this is a huge issue. This is the major problem we are having with the economy right now. Nobody seems to understand it. No one seems to care. I think that a time to bring this up as an issue is right now because of what is happening, what has been publicized recently, so it is our intention to continue to do that.

This has been a relentless 4½-, 5-year war the President has on fossil fuels. It is not just coal, but it is coal, oil, gas, and other fossil fuels. The sad part of this is we could be completely independent from all other countries—certainly from the Middle East—from any other country in terms of supplying our own energy in this country. All we would have to do is do the same thing—allow drilling exploration on Federal public lands as we are doing throughout the country. Right now, we have had a 40-percent surge, increase, in exploration and in production in this country, and at the same time we have had a 40-percent increase overall. That is on State land and on private land. We have had a reduction on Federal land. So we have an exclusion to the problem there, and I think one of the things we can do to help people understand is to let them know that what they have been listening to—what the EPA has been telling our people, what our kids are learning in school on global warming—people are now realizing this is something that is not factual.

We are so inundated right now with problems. We have problems in Afghanistan. We have problems with our foreign policy in the Middle East. We are all concerned about the problems around the world. The area people

aren't talking about is the cost of over-regulation in America that is doing probably as much damage as all the rest of the problems are doing at this time.

So I only wish to submit for the RECORD that some things are happening today that I think the American people need to look at. I think those statements made, which I will come to the floor and talk about later on, from 10 years ago are now becoming a reality.

With that, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 10 minutes.

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

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, there is no doubt our employment situation in America is not good. Unemployment remains consistently high long after the administration has told us the recession is over. The growth that has been projected year after year has not been at the level the experts had projected. CBO has missed the growth levels. The Federal Reserve has missed the growth levels. We have come in below that consistently. Growth is not where we need it to be; there is no doubt about it. So we have a serious unemployment situation.

Perhaps the most grim concept we need to be well aware of is that workforce participation; that is, the percentage of Americans in the working age group who are actually working is lower today than at any time since the 1970s. That is a stunning statistic. Not since women entered the workforce in large numbers have we seen such low workforce participation numbers.

I believe, first and foremost, that an unemployment extension bill is treating the symptoms of the problem. It is an aspirin for a fever, but the fever has been raging for weeks now. Something is causing it, and we need to deal with the cause of it rather than continuing to treat the symptoms. I think that is so important for us to remember.

Also, this Nation is struggling economically for a number of reasons.

One of them clearly is the size of our debt. Our debt is so large—\$17-plus trillion—now that it is causing uncertainty in the economic markets. We have to get our spending under control. We have to do that. Every time we have a desire to do something good, we cannot continue to borrow the money to pay for it.

The unemployment bill that is before us today makes no attempt whatsoever to find spending reductions in other

areas of this monstrosity of a government but borrows every penny of it. They say it is \$6 billion. Well, it is \$6 billion for 90 days—3 months. It is \$26 billion over the full year. That is a huge sum of money.

We just had a big dispute over cutting retirement pay that our military people have earned, and it was a dispute over \$4 billion. That was over 10 years—\$4 billion over 10 years. This is \$6 billion over 3 months. So this is a lot of money, and effort should have been made to try to find offsetting reductions in wasteful spending that occur throughout here before we go again to treat a symptom of a disease.

But the tragedy is—the tragedy is—that the policies of this administration are driving this poor growth record. It just is. First and foremost, the proposals have been to tax, tax, tax—tax more. Taxing the private sector will not create growth, no matter whom you tax. It will not be a growth-producing idea to tax the economy. Experts tell us that. The Congressional Budget Office tells us that.

So this is what we have been seeing every year. The budget that passed out of this Senate, the budget that was proposed by the President of the United States—the budget that passed the Senate with I think virtually every single Democratic Senator voting for it and all Republicans opposing it would have increased taxes \$1 trillion and increased spending \$1 trillion. The taxes were not used to reduce our deficit, as the balanced approach seems to suggest. “We have a balanced approach to reduce our deficits. We are going to tax some and cut spending some.” Oh, no, they did not cut spending at all. Their 10-year budget plan called for raising taxes \$1 trillion and raising spending \$1 trillion. Tax and spend—that is what it was. It was on the floor of the Senate. There is no dispute about that. No one argues about it. But we have agreed to a certain level of spending here to try to bring our economy under control—the Budget Control Act—and we have acknowledged on both sides of the aisle, as have independent experts, that we need to reduce spending and we need to contain the growth of spending and we need to reduce the deficits that are adding to the weakness of our economy and the uncertainty in our economy and creating risks in our economy.

So this bill borrows every penny of it—just a total violation of promised fiscal responsibility. It just is. I wish it were not so. I wish we could just do this and it would not cost anything. But it will cost, and it will hamper growth in our country.

There are other problems. We need more American energy. Energy produced in America creates jobs in America. It creates wealth in America. It keeps us from exporting large amounts—billions and billions of dollars—to Venezuela and the Middle East and other places around the globe. We could be producing that energy here,

creating jobs here, keeping that wealth at home, strengthening our economy, and creating growth. That is what we should be doing.

The administration has blocked American energy. They have dragged their feet in every shape, form, and fashion, whether it is moratoriums in the gulf or blocking in Alaska, blocking the pipeline for our neighbors in Canada, or blocking production on public lands. This is not the way to create an economy.

We need a tax system that is not always going up but is more growth-oriented, simpler, more focused on creating growth. We need to eliminate every unnecessary regulation that burdens the American competitive marketplace and makes us less competitive globally instead of adding to them, and we have never seen anything like the plethora of new regulations being issued day after day, week after week, month after month, many of them challengeable constitutionally as being beyond the power of bureaucrats to issue because Congress did not pass the law to justify it. It is driving up the cost of energy, and it is driving up the cost of production in widgets in America, making us less able to compete with foreign competitors.

We need to stand up for American workers and American manufacturing on the world stage. It is time to tell our trading partners: We are willing to trade with you, big boy, but you have to play by the rules. This idea that you can violate the rules and we are still going to treat you as a great trading partner has to be over. We need to stand up for the American worker on the world stage. It has to be done.

Finally, at a time of high unemployment, should we not ask ourselves why the President of the United States and virtually every Democrat and a number of Republicans voted to double the number of workers who were coming to America under this comprehensive immigration bill? We admit a million a year legally. We believe in immigration, we support immigration, but at some point you are bringing in workers to take jobs from unemployed Americans. So now we are here trying to extend unemployment benefits to help unemployed Americans. Is there no common sense in this body? How can this possibly be? But that is the deal.

I know Senator REID and Senator LEAHY were on the floor earlier today, and they said we have to pass this comprehensive immigration bill. It would not end the illegality. It would reduce it only by about 40 percent, according to the Congressional Budget Office, but it would double the number of guest workers coming in. Guest workers, by definition, are people coming to take jobs.

Why are wages down? One reason is—Professor Borjas at Harvard, who has studied this extensively; the Federal Reserve in Atlanta, which has examined this extensively; the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, which has examined it—what do they find? They find

that for middle- and lower income workers, their wages are significantly adversely impacted by this unprecedented flow of immigrant labor into America.

I do not have anything against people who want to come to America and work. They are good people. They want to have a job. I understand that. But any nation has to ask itself: What is the right amount? How many people can you absorb without causing millions of Americans to lose their jobs? And we now have to come to the floor of the Senate to ask what we can do to help them in this period of pain they are going through.

So I just want to say a couple things. We can do something now for the unemployed, but we need to be paying for it. We need to be staying within the spending limits we have agreed to. We do not need to pass any more laws that increases the amount of money we borrow. We borrow enough. For heaven's sake, we borrow too much right now, and it threatens our financial future, as expert after expert has told us. They have told us we are running a high risk, and nothing could be worse—nothing could be worse—for working Americans than that we have some other new financial crisis to spring up in the months or years to come because we were irresponsible today. Wouldn't that be a disaster? It certainly would.

So I will urge our colleagues to begin to focus on the underlying disease here; that is, the policies of an administration that has produced the slowest postrecession recovery maybe the Nation has ever had, except for the Great Depression, because it is tax more, regulate more, borrow more. That is all it is, and it will not work systemically to put us on the right path.

I know this is a tough challenge for us, but I am convinced that if this Congress puts its mind to it, there are more than a few places we can find waste, fraud, and abuse to help pay for and to assist those who have been unemployed for a long time. I believe we can absolutely do better than we are today about that, and I hope we will do so. It is not right to just say the only people who care about American workers and care about those who are unemployed are those of us who are willing to forget our budget limitations, to forget our financial responsibilities, and just borrow more and spend more, and somehow this is going to fix the problem we are facing. It will not. It will not fix the problem. In fact, it is creating the very disease that is causing workers to be suffering today.

Madam President, I appreciate the opportunity to share these remarks. I will repeat again, we are seeing very tough times for the American worker. Particularly, the lower income workers are having a difficult time, and there are many causes for that. But just taxing more, spending more, and borrowing more is one of the big causes of the problems we have today, and we are not going to fix that problem by

even more of the same policies that got us into the situation we are in today.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask permission to speak for about 10 minutes on the Yellen nomination.

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

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, over the past 5 years the Federal Reserve has pursued unconventional and unprecedented monetary policy. As Vice chair of the Fed, Janet Yellen has been a strong proponent of these policies. As chair, she is likely to continue these same easy-money policies with the same, if not more, vigor as her predecessor.

I have deep concerns about the long-term effects of pursuing these policies. Historical evidence suggests that failing to rein in easy-money policies on a timely basis risks fueling an economic bubble or even hyperinflation.

It is true that one of the lessons learned from the Great Depression was that an overly tight monetary policy in a recession risks economic debilitating deflation. Thus, understandably, when the recession hit in 2008 the Fed sought to avoid the mistakes of the past by lowering interest rates to encourage investment. However, this expansionary monetary policy cannot continue into perpetuity without causing real and lasting damage to our economy.

Just as we should not repeat the mistakes of the Great Depression, we need to be careful not to repeat the mistakes that fueled our recent recession. Let us not forget that our current economic stagnation began with the bursting of the housing bubble in late 2007—a housing bubble fueled by rampant speculation that was driven, in part by historically low interest rates maintained by the Fed between 2001 and 2004.

Yet once again we see the Fed embarking on a policy of sustained historically low interest rates. The Fed has now maintained the Federal funds rate essentially at zero for over 5 years. What may be the future consequences of this policy? What new bubble will arise? At this point, I do not think anyone can answer these questions definitively. But no one can deny that the risks are real and could be devastating.

The Fed, though, has not just sought to maintain record-low interest rates. With its traditional monetary tool tapped out, the Fed has turned to a less conventional and more aggressive program in an attempt to jump-start our economy and lower unemployment.

The Fed is now engaged in an open-ended policy it has termed quantitative easing. Essentially, this is a fancy way to say the Fed is flooding the economy with trillions of dollars through large purchases of mortgage-backed securities and longer-term Treasury securities. As a result of this program, the

Fed has seen its balance sheet more than quadruple from around \$800 billion to nearly \$4 trillion. Vice Chairman Yellen has not presented a plan to Congress on how the Fed plans to deal with this issue.

While I welcome the news from the Fed's December meeting that they intend to reduce the monthly purchases, I fear they may already be in too deep. It remains unclear how the Fed will be able to go about unwinding its nearly \$4 trillion balance sheet without spooking investors.

The stock market has become addicted to the Fed's easy-money policies. This has led one notable investment advisor to question whether the Fed will ever be able to end the quantitative easing program.

While the stock market has become addicted to easy money, the benefit to Main Street has been questionable at best. Unemployment remains high, bank lending remains tight, and savers discouraged.

While the benefits to Main Street remain unnoticeable, they most certainly will feel the pain should the Fed carry on their easy-money policy for too long.

For an example of what Main Street could be in store for one need look no further than the late 1970s and early 1980s. The easy-money policies of the 1970s intended to spur employment resulted in stagflation, a period of hyperinflation and high unemployment. During this period unemployment topped 10 percent while inflation exceeded 14 percent.

The experience of the late 1970s and early 1980s made it clear that once you let the inflation genie out of the bottle it is very difficult to stamp it out. After suffering years of stagflation, Americans were then subject to the pain of unprecedented interest rates as high as 20 percent just to get hyperinflation back under control.

Statements by Ms. Yellen indicate she would be open to inflation exceeding the Fed target of 2 percent as a means to achieve full employment. While achieving full employment may be a noble goal, the Fed has a dismal record at being able to produce sustainable job creation through expansionary monetary policy.

While inflation may aid employment in the very short term, our experience with stagflation in the 1970's shows this tradeoff falls apart quickly as people's expectations change. Sustainable job growth comes not from inflation, but price stability that promotes long-run economic growth. We need a chairman focused on a strong dollar and low inflation.

My concerns about the Fed's easy-money policies and inflation led me to vote against Chairman Bernanke for his second term at the Fed. Because it appears that Ms. Yellen will continue to pursue these misguided policies, I cannot in good conscience vote in favor of her confirmation.

Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, Dr. Yellen's nomination is an opportunity

to review the unprecedented actions of the Federal Reserve over the last several years.

Five years ago, the Fed began using unconventional monetary policy tools, aggressively pursuing quantitative easing and holding interest rates near or at zero percent.

The Fed now has a balance sheet of \$4 trillion, a level roughly equal to one-quarter of annual U.S. economic output.

The Fed has accumulated this balance sheet by buying Treasuries and mortgage-backed securities at a pace of up to \$85 billion each month.

I have been a long-time critic of the Fed's quantitative easing purchases.

Several noted economists have called into question the benefits of these purchases, suggesting they may be outweighed by risks.

These policies, specifically purchasing billions in long-term bonds, can distort pricing in markets and lead to excessive risk taking, creating "bubble-like" conditions according to experts like Larry Fink at BlackRock.

Bill Gross of PIMCO stated that "all asset prices, whether it be bonds, stocks, or alternative assets are basically mispriced, artificially elevated" as a result of the Fed's actions.

I am concerned that the markets have become exceedingly reliant on quantitative easing, circumventing pure economic fundamentals in favor of government-stimulated economy.

Although a reduction in the pace of asset purchases will finally begin this month, in her nomination hearing Dr. Yellen would not commit to a firm deadline for cutting off purchases.

Even after the Fed stops adding to its balance sheet, the question of unwinding the balance sheet remains.

Chairman Bernanke and others have suggested that the Fed might maintain the size of the balance sheet for some time, rather than reducing it to a normal level.

This would mean that the money created to purchase those assets would remain in place.

The President of the Richmond Federal Reserve Bank has called this "tinder on the books of the banking system."

He describes a process where banks begin to rapidly lend out those reserves, creating an increase in deposit growth that would put inflationary pressure on the economy.

All of this unconventional monetary policy has failed to produce the benefits that were promised.

A noted economist recently observed that over the last 4 years, the share of adults who are working has not increased and "GDP has fallen further behind potential as we would have defined it in the fall of 2009."

All that is to say that despite unprecedented amounts of monetary intervention, the economy has barely responded.

I voted against a second term for Chairman Bernanke due to my con-

cerns with the Fed's unconventional monetary policy.

I voted against Dr. Yellen in 2010 for the position of Vice Chair for similar reasons.

Since joining the Board as Vice Chair, Dr. Yellen continues to promote the policies that led me to vote against her initially.

My position remains unchanged, and I will not vote in support of her nomination.

In addition to unprecedented monetary policy, the next Fed Chair will finalize several key financial regulatory reform rules.

These rules must balance the financial stability with the inherent need for markets to take on and accurately price risk.

They must be done without putting the U.S. markets at an undue competitive disadvantage or harming consumers with unintended consequences.

The Chair of the Federal Reserve must understand how different rules interact with each other, what impact they have on the affected entities and the economy at large.

For example, a number of community banks were surprised by certain provisions in the recently adopted Volcker rule pertaining to their ownership of certain securitized products, including trust-preferred securities.

Notwithstanding assurances by regulators that the final Volcker rule would not disrupt their business model, community banks may now potentially have to divest hundreds of millions of dollars in assets to comply with the rule.

I am concerned that the rush to finalize the Volcker rule before year's end—for purely political reasons—was a cause of this carelessness by regulators with respect to community banks.

It remains to be seen what other unintended consequences will result from the Volcker rule's adoption.

Just as some worried that we did not have enough regulations on the books to prevent the economic crisis, some of us worry that the post-crisis response will result in a regulatory regime that stifles growth and job creation.

The Chair of the Federal Reserve must understand the need for that balance and how to carefully manage competing demands without harming the economy.

I appreciate Dr. Yellen's comments about the need to monitor the risks to financial stability that current monetary policy creates.

I also share her stated concerns about the need to avoid "one-size-fits-all" regulations on different kinds of financial institutions, especially ensuring that community banks are subject to "less onerous" supervision and regulation.

However, given my concerns about the Fed's monetary policy and Dr. Yellen's support of quantitative easing and excessively low interest rates, I will not vote in favor of her nomination.

I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, for those who do not remember or those who do not choose to remember, 5 years ago our economy was at the brink of collapse after being rocked by a financial crisis because of incompetence, Wall Street greed, overreach in the financial sector, and more. Washington had let the financial system run wild through deregulation. Banks had overloaded on toxic mortgage securities that they used massive amounts of leverage to purchase. In many cases these Wall Street banks were so large, so complex, so opaque, so overleveraged, they were too big to fail.

Increasingly, these banks are too big to manage and too big to regulate. I remember that time well. I was in Zanesville, OH, when I first got a call to discuss what we needed to do from Chairman Bernanke and President Bush's Secretary of the Treasury Paulson. Five years since the collapse of the markets, 3 years after the passage of the Wall Street reform law, we still cannot say that the Dodd-Frank legislation ended this problem.

In July of last year, Chairman Bernanke said:

I wouldn't be saying the truth if I said that the problem is gone. It is not gone.

That is the Chairman of the Federal Reserve.

At her nomination hearing before the Senate Banking Committee, Governor Yellen, then the Vice Chair—still the Vice Chair of the Federal Reserve—said that ending "too Big to Fail" is "among the most important goals of the post-crisis period."

That is one of the many reasons I rise today to support and argue for Janet Yellen's confirmation as the Chair of the Federal Reserve. In today's complex financial system, it is more important than ever that we have strong regulators such as Governor Yellen who can recognize emerging threats to economic stability and who are not afraid to act when they find abuses that put American consumers and workers at risk.

Throughout her distinguished career at the Fed of more than a decade, Governor Yellen has shown she understands how risky financial practices deep inside the largest Wall Street banks can have a terrible and terrifying impact on American families. She was, 8 or 9 years ago, among the first to recognize the housing bubble that wiped out trillions in wealth and led to the biggest recession since the Great Depression.

In the years since the crash, Governor Yellen has been a voice on the

need for strong, sensible regulation to protect American workers and small businesses instead of the too-big-to-fail banks. While there are many failures that led the economy to the brink of collapse, one of the biggest mistakes on the Federal level was not keeping the average American's financial interest in mind. There is far too much bias in this institution toward Wall Street instead of Main Street.

Most people in my home State of Ohio, in the Presiding Officer's home State of Hawaii, are not millionaires. They are automakers in Lordstown, steelworkers in Cleveland, they are farmers in Darke County, they are hairdressers in Toledo, they are police officers in Columbus. They are the people who make the products we depend on every day.

My State produces more than any but two States in the United States. They are the people who make these products, who teach our children, who protect our communities. They are the average hard-working Americans trying to create a better life for their children. And they, along with millions of other Americans, deserve better than the crisis that we allowed to happen.

Over the years, Washington, the Fed in particular, has too often lacked an important connection to Americans whose lives are so affected by the decisions it makes. Few have been able to keep a perspective where they understand what is happening in middle America, among working-class Americans, among middle-class Americans.

When President Lincoln was in office, he would go out and meet regularly with ordinary Americans either in the White House or outside the White House. While his staff implored him to stay in the White House and win the war and free the slaves and save the Union, President Lincoln said: I need to go out and get my public opinion bath.

We have also seen the new pope, Francis I, exhort his parish priests to "smell like the flock"—to get among them, to understand their lives as much as possible, to drink the water they drink, to be among them, to learn from them and to listen to them. We must know those whom we serve.

In a speech last year before the AFL-CIO, Janet Yellen described the real-world implications of unemployment and noted that the unemployed are not just statistics. She took stock of the work ahead for the Fed, notably ensuring that Dodd-Frank is fully implemented in ending "too big to fail." I think she will break out of the beltway bubble. I think she will get out in the country far more than any of her predecessors have done and consider the lives and work to understand the lives of those people affected by these Federal Central Bank decisions.

As Chair of the Fed Subcommittee on Communications, she has played a strong role in monetary policy and its efforts to put people back to work, despite Congress's unwillingness—this

body's unwillingness—to help. Whether it is extending unemployment benefits, which we should be doing today, whether it is raising the minimum wage, it means engaging in the lives and helping people in this country who may not be as privileged as those of us who have the opportunity to serve in the Senate.

Janet Yellen is qualified to take the helm of the Fed and make history in becoming the first woman to run the Central Bank.

In confirming Ms. Yellen, we can look forward to a new era of recovery and growth. I look forward to working with Janet Yellen and her staff.

I urge my colleagues to confirm Janet Yellen to be Chair of the Federal Reserve.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Janet L. Yellen, of California, to be Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System?

Mr. COBURN. I ask for the ayes and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) would each vote "yea."

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. McCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) would have voted "yea."

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 26, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 1 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Alexander	Donnelly	Mikulski
Ayotte	Feinstein	Murkowski
Baucus	Flake	Murphy
Bennet	Franken	Murray
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Nelson
Booker	Hagan	Pryor
Boxer	Heinrich	Reed
Brown	Hirono	Reid
Burr	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Cantwell	Kaine	Schatz
Cardin	Kirk	Schumer
Carper	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Casey	Landrieu	Tester
Chambliss	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Coats	Levin	Udall (NM)
Coburn	Manchin	Warner
Collins	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Coons	Menendez	Wyden
Corker	Merkley	

NAYS—26

Barrasso	Grassley	Roberts
Blunt	Heller	Rubio
Boozman	Hoeven	Scott
Cochran	Inhofe	Sessions
Cornyn	Isakson	Shelby
Crapo	Johanns	Toomey
Cruz	Johnson (WI)	Vitter
Enzi	Lee	Wicker
Fischer	Risch	

NOT VOTING—18

Baldwin	Heitkamp	Paul
Begich	King	Portman
Durbin	Markey	Sanders
Graham	McCain	Shaheen
Harkin	McConnell	Thune
Hatch	Moran	Warren

The nomination was confirmed.

• Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, extreme weather throughout the Midwest created travel delays that prevented me from being in Washington today for the vote to confirm Janet Yellen as Chairwoman of the Federal Reserve. She is an excellent candidate, given her long history of service at the Fed and her vast amount of expertise, and had I been here, I would have cast an aye vote in support of her nomination, just as I did on the vote to invoke cloture on her nomination.

Dr. Yellen most currently serves as vice chair of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve. Over the span of the last nearly four decades, she has served as a member of the Board of Governors, the chair of President Clinton's Council of Economic Advisors, and as the president and CEO of the 12th District Federal Reserve Bank in San Francisco. She's also spent a good part of her career in the academic world, currently as a professor at Berkeley's Haas School of Business.

The worst financial crisis since the Great Depression sent our economy into a hole that it is still climbing out of today. The good news is that it is emerging from that dark place, thanks in part to the role of the Federal Reserve, led by current Chairman Ben Bernanke. Since the depths of the crisis, the Fed has taken on a more creative role in restoring our economy and stabilizing our financial system, using unconventional tools and setting specific goals for growth.

What makes Dr. Yellen a particularly strong nominee is the attention she has paid to connecting the labor market to monetary policy. Much of her career has been devoted to these subjects. In October 2009, our unemployment rate reached 10 percent. Today, with the help of the Fed's actions, it stands at 7 percent. In my home State of Illinois, unemployment stood at 10.7 percent in 2009, and is down to 8.7 percent today. Though this is far from good enough, it shows real progress.

Our next Fed chair should be able to take on the challenges our economy still faces—lowering the unemployment rate even further and meeting inflationary goals. The focus that Dr. Yellen brings to the labor market gives me confidence that she can help our Nation reach new highs when it comes to creating jobs and getting Americans back to work.

The Wall Street Journal recently prepared an interesting analysis examining more than 700 predictions made by 14 Fed policymakers. That analysis found Dr. Yellen to be the most accurate of the 14. That did not surprise me. Dr. Yellen could not be more deserving of this nomination given her experience and precise economic judgment. She has the know-how to make the decisions that a Fed chair needs to make about how to move our economy further forward successfully and transparently.

I support Dr. Yellen's nomination and look forward to working with her as she becomes our Nation's first Chairwoman of the Federal Reserve.●

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXTENSION ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the next vote be 10 minutes in duration, the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived, and there be 2 minutes equally divided prior to the vote on the motion to proceed to S. 1845.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

There will be 2 minutes equally divided prior to the cloture vote.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, on December 28, 1.3 million Americans lost their

extended unemployment benefits. They are the first wave of what will be more than 3 million other Americans. These people have worked, they have qualified for unemployment insurance, they need help, and we have to help them. If we don't do that, not only will these families suffer, the economy will suffer. The CBO estimated we will lose 200,000 jobs if we don't extend unemployment benefits, and 0.2 percent of growth.

If we want to help working families—people who qualify because they worked and have to continue to look for work to be qualified—and our economy, then vote to at least let us go forward. Give us 3 months to work on issues, funding, and anything else, but don't throw these people off a cliff and leave them without anything.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, this is a serious issue, but if this was anything other than a political exercise, the majority leader would have rescheduled this vote when we did not have 17 Members of the Senate unable to be here and vote on this.

I have no doubt as to what the outcome will be on this cloture vote, but I believe it is purely a scheduling matter. It ought to be postponed to a later time when we can have a real debate so we can look for a way to pay for this extension of unemployment benefits and how to get the economy growing again so people can find jobs. That is what people want; they want to work. They don't want unemployment compensation; they want jobs so they can provide for their families.

Unfortunately, because of the timing of this vote, we know what the outcome is, and it is transparent that this is a political exercise and not a real effort to try to fix the problem.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the vote be scheduled tomorrow at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. PRYOR. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

VOTE EXPLANATIONS

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Unfortunately, I was not here to vote for Janet Yellen, the head of the Federal Reserve. Had I been here to vote, I would have voted to support her in that position.

My flight was delayed, and so I did not get back in time for the vote. I want to make sure that the RECORD shows that I support her as the new chairman of the Fed.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I was on the same flight with Senator SHAHEEN. I was looking forward to having the opportunity to vote for Janet Yellen to be Chair of the Federal Reserve. I am very disappointed I didn't get to formally vote for her, but I want to make sure that the RECORD reflects my strong support.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

YELLEN NOMINATION

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I rise today in opposition to secrecy, in opposition to the veil of secrecy that cloaks the money changing hands that takes place in the temple of the Federal Reserve. While the money changes hands, the monied class gets richer and the middle class gets shortchanged.

It is more than time to part the curtain that hides the trillions of dollars that changes hands. There is a revolving door from Wall Street to the Treasury to the Fed and back again. We have former Secretaries of the Treasury who go from government to Wall Street pocketing hundreds of millions of dollars.

I have called repeatedly for transparency at the Federal Reserve so Americans can see what is being done with their money supply. Every time I call for transparency, people from both sides have said transparency would undermine Fed independence. The problem is that Congress created the Fed and Congress was intended to have oversight over the Fed, and as time has gone on we have lost that oversight, so independence has really led to abuse.

Some say: Well, the Fed is audited each year.

The investigator general who is responsible for auditing the Fed came to Congress in 2009, and here is what she had to say during a question-and-answer session in a House committee. A Congressman asked:

What have you done to investigate the off-balance sheet transactions conducted by the Federal Reserve which, according to Bloomberg, now total \$9 trillion in 8 months?

She fumbled, she repeated herself, she looked silly, and then she said:

You know, I think it may be important at this point to—

Yadda, yadda, yadda, and then several yaddas later, this bombshell from the auditor:

We do not have jurisdiction to directly go out and audit Reserve Bank activities specifically. So, really, there is no audit of the Federal Reserve, so don't let anybody say that we have an audit. No meaningful audit

exists, and when the primary auditor and overseer of the Fed was asked about \$9 trillion, the inspector general had no clue what had been purchased with the money.

Is there a chance the Fed only has our best interests at heart? Sure. But when trillions of dollars change hands, wouldn't one want to know who got the money and whether anyone enriched themselves in the process?

We know \$9 trillion is over half of our entire national debt. This is money that ultimately becomes debt for all of us. It is being doled out, in secret, by our central bank. This is, in a sense, laundering money from the American people to bail out big banks and Wall Street.

This month we learned that the Fed's official balance sheet has reached an astounding \$4 trillion. To put that in perspective, the balance sheet of the Fed is now larger than the fourth largest economy in the world—Germany.

Transparency at the Fed would not hurt the Fed, but a complete lack of transparency continues to hurt and cheat the rest of us. At the very least the American middle class deserves to know what goes on behind the curtain, what decisions are made, and how they benefit Wall Street and the monied class.

Being secret and reckless with trillions of dollars is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the problems associated with the Fed. The history of the Federal Reserve has also been the history of the devaluation of the dollar. There was a time when the dollar was as good as gold. When the people grew restless or concerned that the government was debasing the currency, the people would simply express their displeasure by exchanging their paper for gold. Convertibility was a check and balance against Kings and Queens and any form of government that chose to spend money it did not have. When the government "borrowed" from the currency by diluting its value, the people had recourse to protect themselves. Now, the great American dollar that was once backed by gold is backed by promises.

For many decades the dollar was said to be backed by the full faith and credit of the Federal Government. Trust lingered from the historical evolution, from barter to a medium that people valued such as gold or silver. The trust that still exists today lingers from the thousand-year history when currency had inherent value and that if paper substitutes were used, they could always be exchanged for something of real value.

After World War II we instituted a partial gold standard that allowed foreign countries to exchange their paper for gold—and exchange they did. During the 1960s, as the United States inflated and borrowed to pay for the war on poverty and the war in Vietnam, foreign countries became skittish and turned in their dollars by the millions. Nearly half of the gold reserves were removed by foreign countries in the

space of a few years. President Nixon closed the gold window in 1971, and that was that. The last link to gold was severed. But make no mistake—the trust that remained in the dollar was derived from the historic trust engendered by convertibility of paper to gold.

For decades the full faith and credit promise allowed the Fed to continue to inflate, and still the people remained relatively passive in their acceptance of an unbacked, completely discretionary paper currency—but not without hiccups. Inflation nearly got the better of us in the 1970s, and now debt threatens to do the same.

Something profound, though, occurred in the past few years beginning with the panic of 2008. The Fed began to back the dollar with not just promises but perhaps really bad promises.

Since early 2008 the Fed has added nearly \$3 trillion to its asset sheet, and included among these "assets" is stuff that nobody else seems to want, such as bad car loans and nonperforming mortgages. According to Mauldin and Tepper's book "Code Red," at \$4 trillion, and roughly \$55 billion in equity, the Fed is leveraged at about 77 to 1. Think about that. That is an insane amount of leverage for any bank. The Fed is more leveraged than the balance sheets of Lehman Brothers, Bear Stearns, Freddie or Fannie, before those institutions essentially failed.

Jim Rickards, author of "Currency Wars," notes: The Fed is insolvent on a mark-to-market basis. . . . The Fed has wiped out its capital on a mark-to-market basis. Of course, the Fed carries those notes on its balance sheet "at cost" and does not mark them down to market, but if they did, they would be broke. The insolvency of the Fed will become a major issue in the years ahead and may necessitate a financial bailout of the Fed by the taxpayers.

So the once-proud dollar that was once backed by gold, then backed by the full faith and credit of the world's greatest economy, is now backed by used car loans and underwater mortgages.

But those who trust in paper say: Look. For 50 years now we have had no convertibility, and amazing improvements in productivity and wealth have occurred.

Perhaps. But one might also argue that we are living on the borrowed plumage of the past, that our current acceptance of a paper currency rests on the glory of our industrial and monetary past. No one can tell for sure what the future holds, but I for one am concerned that the panic of 2008 may not have been an anomaly but a harbinger of something far worse. I am concerned we have papered over our problems in a sea of new currency. That quantitative easing has created an illusion of safety and security, but beneath the surface lurks a bigger and more malevolent future.

Don't take my word for it. Listen to some of the economists who predicted the financial crisis of 2008.

Economist Jim Grant recently said:

From the United States to Europe and Asia, the world's central banks are flooding markets with liquidity and pushing deeper into unknown monetary policy territory and I feel this journey will not end well.

Nassim Taleb, author of the "Black Swan," writes:

Someone made a mistake lending and someone made a mistake borrowing . . . and it is a mistake to transform private problems into public debt. We are facing an environment with a huge amount of debt. The next mistake is going to be to overprint, which is going to be the way out for them, which is why I fear hyperinflation.

Yale University housing expert and recent Nobel Prize winner Robert Schiller:

This financial crisis that we've been going through in the last 5 years has been one that seems to reveal the failure to understand price movement . . .

Not shying away from his concerns that the Fed is simply inflating the housing bubble in America's largest cities, he argues:

[Housing prices] are up 12 percent in the last year. That is a very rapid rise in prices, and I believe it is accelerated somewhat by Fed policies . . . the housing market, it has its own momentum right now as people see it coming back. We're sort of in the beginnings of another housing bubble.

Since we abandoned the sequester budgetary caps, any pretense of fiscal discipline is gone. Politicians can attempt to obfuscate the truth with promises of spending restraint in the outyears, but everybody knows that the promise to cut in the outyears is a pipe dream and that all that really counts is the first 2 years of the Ryan-Murray plan that will add over \$60 billion in new spending.

What really causes China concern is not the new spending we are incurring but that the total new debt added over 10 years will be \$7 trillion. China's response to our fiscal lack of discipline was to downgrade our debt. Our \$17 trillion debt is manageable only with the Fed buying it and only with low interest rates.

China's Dagong Global Credit Rating said in their statement on the downgrade:

The deal means only an escape from a debt default for the time being, but hasn't changed the fact that the growth of government borrowing has largely outpaced overall economic growth and fiscal revenues.

These are facts, and both sides—Republicans and Democrats—are ignoring the facts. China, when they downgraded us, said it, and we cannot escape this fact: The growth of government borrowing has largely outpaced economic growth and fiscal revenues. It is sad when the Chinese Government can see major economic problems for us that Washington continues to ignore.

At current rates, we pay about \$237 billion in interest payments. If interest rates rise by 1 percent, interest spending will increase by \$1.2 trillion. If interest rates return to the norms of the

1980s, the taxpayer will be on the hook for an additional \$6.17 trillion. If interest rates go to 10 percent, “Katy, bar the door.” The panic will be upon us.

Most conservatives would be aghast if we talked about price controls. Conservatives realize, as most economists now do, that price controls lead to a glut if the price is too high and to bare shelves if the price is too low. The Soviet Union was brought low for that very reason. No one, no matter how wise, can determine the correct price of bread without a marketplace.

Anytime a government tries to set prices, the consequence is disastrous. But many leaders who are quite aware of the destructive nature of price controls nevertheless advocate for allowing the Fed to set the price of money, for that is what interest rates are—simply the price of money. Like any other price, though, setting interest rates lower than the market rate of interest encourages more use of the money and more economic activity. But if the rates are kept below the market rate, we interrupt the feedback loop that informs producers that they are overproducing, and the bubble expands until overproduction has reached such a point that the correction is a catastrophe. That is what happened with the housing bubble. We kept interest rates too low for too long and the bubble grew and grew and grew and we are still suffering from that. And what are we doing now? Exactly the same thing.

Jim Rickards explains this phenomenon:

Market participants and policymakers rely on market prices to make decisions about economic policy. What happens when the price signals upon which policymakers rely are themselves distorted by prior policy manipulation? First you distort the price signal by market manipulation, but then you rely on the “price” to guide your policy going forward. This is the blind leading the blind.

Politicians have been complacent in letting the Fed manipulate interest rates for many reasons. Many politicians are reticent to get involved in monetary policy. They are worried of being blamed if the economy sours with monetary reforms. Many politicians believe the economy is better off with the Fed than with the panics that occurred before the Fed. But perhaps the variations in the economy of late indicate just as much instability with the Fed as before the Fed.

There is some truth to the fact that big debt and deficit financing in all likelihood require a central bank to pay the debt with inflated dollars, and there is some truth to this.

John Mauldin and Jonathan Tepper’s new book, “Code Red,” highlights this very point:

In 2011, the Federal Reserve financed about three-quarters of the U.S. deficit; in 2012, it financed over half of it; and in 2013, it will finance most of it.

We are on course to finance the entire U.S. debt in 2014.

Now, for anyone imagining a day without a Fed, they would have to pro-

pose a government that would balance its budgets annually. Without fiscal restraint you cannot ever have monetary restraint. The opposite is where we are now. With fiscal irresponsibility, borrowing over \$1 million a minute, you need a compliant monetary policy, and that is exactly what we have.

But there are consequences to massive debts and corresponding massive purchases by the Fed. The consequences can be gradual or abrupt. The gradual bankrupting of America is proceeding apace. We pay for it with new money created by the Fed.

The result is a gradual loss of purchasing power. Over the past 100 years, the dollar has lost 96 percent of its value. A nation can survive this gradual loss we have, but some would argue that the people hurt most are those who are least able to absorb rising prices—the poor and the elderly on fixed incomes.

The other possible outcome is an abrupt loss of confidence in the currency. The panic of 2008 approached mass fear that the system was unsound. Reports that the emperor had no clothes were taken seriously, as even the soundness of money market funds was questioned.

Our system of paper currency now backed by the promises of politicians, a \$17 trillion debt, and used car loans and bad home mortgages is always one panic away from dissolution. When that day comes is uncertain. Can the Fed continue the legerdemain; can the Fed continue the illusion of wealth that comes with freshly inked money? Time will tell. But I, for one, want to know what the Fed is doing. Are individuals enriching themselves at the expense of the public? Does Fed policy enrich one group of individuals at the expense of another? What assets does the Fed hold? What informs their decision-making process?

I, for one, want answers. I, for one, want transparency.

President Obama’s choice of Janet Yellen as the new head of the Federal Reserve is concerning due to the policies Ms. Yellen has promoted in her history at the Fed.

The Federal Reserve’s answer to economic crisis has long been simply to print more money, or what they call “quantitative easing.” It does not take a rocket scientist to figure out that printing money out of thin air is not sound long-term economic policy. But Ms. Yellen has been a major cheerleader for it. The Washington Post’s Neil Irwin wrote that “Yellen has been not merely an engineer of the Fed’s policies of ‘quantitative easing’ and ‘forward guidance,’ but a consistent voice within the central bank to go further.” Quantitative easing is not enough. She wants more.

Will she go further? Will the same policies continue unabated? Those of us who think quantitative easing has gotten out of hand are now being asked to confirm a nominee who thinks the Fed has not done enough along these lines.

The vote was overwhelming to confirm Janet Yellen, but I think we will

rue the day that we endorsed quantitative easing.

I believe the Federal Reserve is structurally flawed. I believe we need to be able to prevent or restrict any Chairman today or in the future from aiding and abetting the allies of banks and big government. As monetary historian Peter Bernholz wrote in his famous book “Monetary Regimes and Inflation”: “. . . we draw the conclusion that the creation of money to finance a public budget deficit has been the reason for hyperinflations.”

I see nothing in Yellen’s past performance at the Fed that would indicate that her policies will be any different than what we see today. In fact, I see evidence that things may well get worse.

I have introduced a bipartisan bill called Federal Reserve Transparency Act, known also as Audit the Fed. The purpose of my bill is to eliminate the current restrictions on GAO audits of the Fed, along with mandating that the Federal Reserve’s credit facilities, securities purchases, and quantitative easing activities become subject to congressional oversight.

Looking into what the Federal Reserve does with our money has significant support from both parties, many Members of which have heard the same concerns back home in their States and districts.

Audit the Fed passed overwhelmingly in the House with 350 votes. Every Republican and 100 Democrats voted for it.

The Federal Reserve is one of the most secretive institutions in our history. For decades, the people in charge at the Fed, politicians, and various “experts” have insisted that such secrecy was integral to its independence and effectiveness.

But the results of complete secrecy have been Fed policies that are questionable at the least. This idea that the Federal Reserve is at the root of some of our economic problems is brandnew to many Americans precisely because we are not allowed to know what this powerful institution does behind closed doors—despite the fact that it has a direct impact on our lives.

I can see no reason why the American public should not be allowed to see behind the veil of secrecy at the Fed. I will continue to do what I can to part that veil. I will continue to fight for a full and persistent audit of the Fed. Audit the Fed passed the House overwhelmingly, but we have been unable to get a vote in the Senate. I will continue to fight for that vote.

Although I was delayed by the weather, I am here today to oppose Janet Yellen’s nomination for two reasons. I believe she will continue the gradual destruction of the dollar’s value and because I believe the time is now for a full audit of the Fed.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, we have the opportunity today to take care of some very important unfinished business. We left town last year without ensuring that millions of American jobseekers could retain access to vital unemployment insurance. I hope we correct this and restore the Federal unemployment program, the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program, which was allowed to expire on December 28.

Unemployment insurance has helped tens of millions of Americans weather the storm of the difficult economy over the last several years. It has helped workers put food on the table, kept a roof over their heads, and kept millions out of poverty.

But because Congress has so far failed to extend it, 1.3 million Americans were abruptly cut off from their vital unemployment insurance the week after Christmas. And over the course of this year, another 3.6 million Americans will be cut off from unemployment insurance as they exhaust their State benefits and have nowhere else to turn. That is a total of 4.9 million Americans—including 35,500 Iowans. They have spent 6 months or more trying to find new work, going out and pounding the pavement day after day, but must now worry about how they and their families and children are going to survive. How will they keep up with their heating bill, their rent, their car payment, or their mortgage?

We used to all agree here in Washington that if you lose your job through no fault of your own, especially at a time of chronic unemployment, you should have some support while you're looking for new work. The American people certainly agree. A poll released last week shows that 55 percent of voters say that Congress should act to maintain the program.

Unfortunately, some people in this chamber seem to think that the misfortune of losing a job means that these hardworking folks are to blame, or that they don't deserve this basic lifeline. Some here in the Senate have even called it a "disservice" to continue this program. That kind of harshness toward people who are trying to

do the right thing but who are victims of circumstance is simply wrong.

Jobseekers are not sitting around watching TV and collecting compensation they don't deserve. In fact, participation in the unemployment insurance program requires that workers have a significant work history—which means they have paid into the system and earned this insurance. Collecting on the insurance also requires workers to have lost their job through no fault of their own, and to be actively looking for work. Participants in the program are playing by the rules. It is now our responsibility to make sure that workers who are out of luck in this economy have some basic income to make ends meet.

The fact is times are still tough and jobs are hard to come by. For every job opening there are three job seekers. That is why so many millions of workers have been searching for new work for such a long time. The American people know this, too. In last week's poll, 57 percent of voters said that the unemployed "would rather work, but cannot find a job in today's economy."

Although the payments under the Federal program were modest—after cuts due to sequestration, payments averaged just \$269 per week—these funds were crucial for keeping households afloat. For many, this is their last lifeline. If Congress fails to restore the Federal program, millions of people will face real economic devastation.

Also, we have to remember that unemployment insurance is not just a lifeline for families, but for our economy as a whole. After all, one of the best ways to grow our economy and to create jobs is to support spending power. And that is exactly what unemployment insurance does. When unemployed workers can continue to pay their bills, businesses can continue to make sales and provide services, and the economy grows. The Congressional Budget Office has found that unemployment insurance is one of the most efficient policy tools we have to improve economic growth. If the Federal unemployment insurance program is restored and extended through 2014, it will increase GDP by 0.2 percent and create 200,000 jobs. Those jobs will be lost if we do not act.

Congress has a long history of acting to ensure basic security for working people during tough economic times. In the past, when the job market was this challenging, politicians on both sides of the aisle agreed that the Federal Government had an obligation to step in and help the long-term unemployed while they are struggling to find a work. Indeed, the current program of extended unemployment benefits was put in place in 2008 by President George W. Bush when the unemployment rate was 5.6 percent. While unemployment is falling, it is still at a high rate, 7.0 percent. And that's just the official rate. Unofficially, when we include those folks who want to work full-time but can only find part-time

work and those who have given up actively looking for work, the rate is actually 13.2 percent.

Long-term unemployment has been at record highs for years. Currently 37 percent of unemployed workers have been looking for new work for at least 6 months. Congress has never allowed Federal unemployment insurance to expire when more than 23 percent of unemployed workers were long-term unemployed.

Our economy is recovering, but we are not there yet. American jobseekers and their families still need Federal unemployment insurance. Our economy needs these families to have some basic means of survival. There is no justification for not restoring the current program. This is a modest, short-term extension of 3 months. I would prefer to see us approve a year-long extension, so that families who rely on the program have peace of mind that they will not be cut off from this lifeline again. But I am pleased that Senator HELLER has joined with Senator REED, myself, and others to put forward this proposal.

Congress has an obligation to restore and continue the Federal unemployment insurance program to ensure that Americans and their families can survive while trying to get back on their feet and find new work. They are depending on us. I urge the Senate to act to restore the Federal unemployment insurance program.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

JACKSON, MISSOURI

• Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Jackson, MO, as it celebrates its 200th anniversary in 2014. Jackson is a proud community with a long history of hard work and an unmistakable spirit of community.

Founded in 1814, Jackson is the county seat of Cape Girardeau County in southeast Missouri. With only 300 residents at its founding, the town still supported five stores, two shoemakers, and a tannery—a thriving hub for the time. Jackson's growth has been slow and steady, but stable. Today, nearly 14,000 people live and work in Jackson.

As it embarks on its 200th year, Jackson is one of the fastest growing communities in Missouri. Its city slogan, "The City of Beautiful Homes, Churches, and Schools," aptly represents a community committed to progress and improvement. In 2009, Money Magazine named Jackson 59th on its list of best small towns in the United States. With the many thousands of small towns across our country, this is a considerable distinction—although, to be sure, Jackson is worthy of a spot much higher.

Jackson's small town feel makes it a great place to call home. The citizens come together for events ranging from the annual Independence Day celebration in the city park, to its

Homecomers event in historic uptown, to cheering for their hometown teams under the Friday night lights of football games. There are numerous other activities to keep Jackson residents busy; building families and friendships is at the core of each.

The city of Jackson's officials and citizens should take pride in the core values of the community they call home on its 200th anniversary. Please join me in saluting Jackson, MO, as it celebrates this milestone.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees. (The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 23, 2013, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by one of its reading clerks, announcing that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1614. An act to require Certificates of Citizenship and other Federal documents to reflect name and date of birth determinations made by a State court and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

HR. 623. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain property located in Anchorage, Alaska, from the United States to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium.

H.R. 767. An act to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to modify the Pilot Project offices of the Federal Permit Streamlining Pilot Project.

H.R. 2319. An act to clarify certain provisions of the Native American Veterans' Memorial Establishment Act of 1994.

H.R. 3304. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3343. An act to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to clarify the rules regarding the determination of the compensation of the Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia.

H.R. 3487. An act to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act to extend through 2018 the authority of the Federal Election Commission to impose civil money penalties

on the basis of a schedule of penalties established and published by the Commission, to expand such authority to certain other violations, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the enrolled bills were subsequently signed on December 23, 2013 by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. LEVIN).

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 27, 2013, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by one of its reading clerks, announcing that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 30. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2019. An act to eliminate taxpayer financing of political party conventions and reprogram savings to provide for a 10-year pediatric research initiative through the Common Fund administered by the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4149. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0354)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4150. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0700)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4151. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0698)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4152. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; AQUILA—Aviation by Excellence AG Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0963)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4153. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; ExtremeAir GmbH Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0998)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4154. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd and Co KG Turbofan Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0397)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4155. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0096)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4156. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Thielert Aircraft Engines GmbH Reciprocating Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0561)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4157. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Turbofan Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0750)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4158. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Turbofan Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0880)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4159. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Turbofan Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0029)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4160. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; DASSAULT AVIATION Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-00626)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4161. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation,

transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; AQUILA—Aviation by Excellence AG Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0963)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4162. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; EADS CASA (Type Certificate Previously Held by Construcciones Aeronauticas, S.A.) Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0870)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4163. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0630)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4164. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; AERMACCHI S.p.A. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0939)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4165. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0523)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4166. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Erickson Air-Crane Incorporated Helicopters (Type Certificate previously held by Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation)" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0556)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4167. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Turbomeca S.A. Turboshaft Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2012-0940)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4168. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0212)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4169. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives;

Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0418)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4170. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0329)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4171. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0871)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4172. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2012-0426)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4173. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2012-1069)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4174. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0673)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4175. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Chief Counsel for Safety, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Passenger Train Emergency Systems II" (RIN2130-AC22) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4176. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of VOR Federal Airway V-45, North Carolina" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0991)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4177. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of VOR Federal Airway V-374, Northeastern United States" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0989)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4178. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Adminis-

tration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Part 95 Instrument Flight Rules; Miscellaneous Amendments (4); Amdt. No. 510" ((RIN2120-AA63)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4179. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (12); Amdt. No. 3563" ((RIN2120-AA65)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4180. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (43); Amdt. No. 3565" ((RIN2120-AA65)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4181. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (61); Amdt. No. 3562" ((RIN2120-AA65)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4182. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (101); Amdt. No. 3564" ((RIN2120-AA65)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4183. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Magee, MS" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0430)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4184. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Star, NC" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0440)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4185. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Umatilla, FL" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4186. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Adminis-

transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Aliceville, AL" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0431)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4187. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Battle Mountain, NV" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0530)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4188. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class D Airspace and Class E Airspace; Laguna AAF, AZ" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0659)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4189. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Danville, VA" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0469)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4190. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Olean, NY" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0681)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4191. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Tazewell, TN" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0513)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4192. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D and E Airspace, and Establishment of Class E Airspace; Salisbury, MD" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0449)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2013; 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-166. A joint resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of California relative to the Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 7

Whereas, Residents across the County of Los Angeles suffer intrusive and disruptive low-flying helicopter traffic above their neighborhoods; and

Whereas, The County of Los Angeles is home to a unique and very large concentra-

tion of scenic, historic, entertainment, and transportation venues, including movie studios, movie stars' homes, outdoor entertainment facilities, the coastline, Griffith Park, the Hollywood sign, and many others, that generate extensive helicopter tours engaged in sightseeing activity; and

Whereas, The County of Los Angeles has a high concentration of media helicopters engaged in monitoring traffic conditions, following car chases, and filming celebrity events, which often involve hovering for extended periods of time; and

Whereas, The County of Los Angeles is home to the world's leading civil helicopter manufacturer, which conducts extensive helicopter flight testing in the region; and

Whereas, The unique terrain of canyons and valleys in the County of Los Angeles often amplifies noise from helicopters in otherwise quiet residential areas; and

Whereas, Helicopter noise in the County of Los Angeles interrupts daily life for many residents by interfering with the ability to hear conversations, the television, the radio, or the telephone, and disrupting sleep cycles; and

Whereas, Despite multiple efforts from several community and homeowner organizations in the County of Los Angeles to address these disturbances, helicopter traffic in the County of Los Angeles is not currently regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) or any other agency; and

Whereas, The FAA requires a specific minimum flying altitude for fixed-wing aircraft, but it does not require a specific minimum flying altitude for helicopters; and

Whereas, The lack of effective regulations for commercial helicopter operations in the County of Los Angeles negatively impacts the safety and quality of life of the county's residents; and

Whereas, The State of California is preempted by federal law from adopting altitude, flight path, and other necessary regulations to mitigate the impacts of commercial helicopters; and

Whereas, There is a lack of clarity as to the rulemaking authority of the FAA; and

Whereas, Two companion measures in Congress, Senate Bill No. 208 and House Bill No. 456, known as the Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2013, would require the Administrator of the FAA to prescribe regulations for helicopter operations in the County of Los Angeles that are needed to address residents' concerns over safety, noise, and other associated impacts; and

Whereas, The following local government entities in the County of Los Angeles have recently voted to support the proposed federal legislation or its predecessor, the Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2011: the County of Los Angeles, the City of Los Angeles, the City of Hermosa Beach, the City of Lomita, the City of Palos Verdes Estates, the City of Rancho Palos Verdes, the City of Redondo Beach, the City of Rolling Hills Estates, and the City of West Hollywood: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature supports the Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2013 (S. 208 and H.R. 456) and respectfully memorializes the Congress of the United States to promptly pass and President Barack Obama to sign that legislation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-167. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of

Michigan urging the Congress of the United States to adopt House Concurrent Resolution 50, regarding the National Railroad Monument in Durand, Michigan; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 227

Whereas, Railroads are an integral part of our nation's past, present, and future. The railroad industry played a vital role in building and developing the United States. This role should not be forgotten; and

Whereas, Durand, Michigan, is at the historic crossroads of three major railroads and is home to one of the largest surviving train stations in the United States. The existing statuary, structures, and historic railroad equipment at Diamond District Park in Durand make it an ideal location for a National Railroad Memorial; and

Whereas, Congressional House Concurrent Resolution 50 would designate a National Railroad Monument located in Diamond District Park in historic downtown Durand, Michigan, as the "National Railroad Memorial". This recognition would help draw visitors from around the world to the educational programming and exhibits in Durand, Michigan. It would help ensure that current and future generations do not forget the historical importance of the railroad industry to our nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the Congress of the United States to adopt House Concurrent Resolution 50, regarding the National Railroad Monument in Durand; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-168. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to forest protection and restoration; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 24

Whereas, One of the greatest ongoing challenges for California is to ensure an adequate supply of water for myriad human uses and other environmental needs while also addressing the increasing and negative impacts of climate change on our watersheds; and

Whereas, The large majority of the water used by California originates in the 10 million-acre forested area of northern California feeding the Sacramento River, with the Sacramento River providing 60 percent of the water for the Central Valley and state water projects, drinking water for 25 million Californians, and over 80 percent of the freshwater to San Francisco Bay; and

Whereas, California's forests represent our largest, safest, and most expandable opportunity to actively remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere; and

Whereas, The forests and watersheds of California face multiple challenges and pressures, including the loss and degradation of forests by the subdivision, fragmentation, and development of lands, the planting of unnaturally dense forests as a result of fire suppression, and stresses from a changing climate; and

Whereas, California's forests provide an essential natural infrastructure that collects, stores, filters, and transports water in a materially more cost-effective manner than any built infrastructure; and

Whereas, Managing these forested watersheds to restore and enhance their sustained water provision services will also create rural jobs and enhance the state's ability to address climate change, including by reducing firefighting costs; and

Whereas, In addition to supplying the majority of the state's water and sequestering vast amounts of carbon, forests clean our air and provide habitat for wildlife, all while supporting rural economies through outdoor recreation such as hunting, fishing, hiking, and camping, as well as through the forest products industry; and

Whereas, Preventing further loss of California's forests, restoring degraded forest areas, and improving management are critical parts of ensuring that our watersheds continue to store carbon and produce high-quality clean water in the future: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of California recognizes the value of forests in providing critical ecosystem services, including water supply and climate stabilization services; and be it further

Resolved, That the state and federal governmental agencies with jurisdiction over forest resource management are encouraged to collaborate across jurisdictions with regard to landscape-scale efforts to maintain and restore California's forests to protect the state's natural resources and water supply for future generations; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to the Minority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-169. A resolution adopted by the Municipal Legislature of Moca, Puerto Rico relative to urging the President and the Congress of the United States of America to initiate the process of admission of Puerto Rico as the 51st state of the United States of America; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

RESOLUTION NO. 27

Whereas, Since the discovery of Puerto Rico in 1493 to the year 1898, the Island was a colony of Spain and from 1898 to the present, it has been a colony of the United States, making Puerto Rico the oldest colony of the Western Hemisphere.

Whereas, According to the United States Census Bureau, Puerto Ricans who reside in the Island are approximately 3.7 million inhabitants, whereas 4.3 million Puerto Ricans reside in the fifty (50) states of the Union. Although those that live in Puerto Rico and in the U.S. mainland are American citizens by birth, those that reside in Puerto Rico do not have all the privileges, rights and obligations of U.S. citizenship.

Whereas, The American citizens who reside in the fifty states of the Union enjoy all the economic, social and political benefits, since they reside in one of the states of the Nation.

Whereas, Many of the 4.3 million American citizens of Puerto Rican origin who reside in the states, are professionals in the fields of health, the sciences, security, education and politics that have moved from the Island looking for better quality of life and the totality of the rights and privileges that being a citizen of the great American Nation offers. In addition, they are part of the Hispanic labor force that moves the economy of the Federation of the States.

Whereas, The question that we should ask ourselves is: how can the 3.7 million American citizens who live in Puerto Rico reach the fullness of our U.S. citizenship, that is, to be American citizens one hundred percent (100%) with all the rights, privileges and obligations.

Whereas, This can be obtained by two forms. First, by means of moving or relocating to any of the fifty (50) states of the great American Nation; or second, by granting the Territory of Puerto Rico the opportunity to become the 51st State of the Union. In this way, we will be able to reach the full rights held by American citizens who reside in the fifty (50) states.

Whereas, Puerto Ricans through the vote in the plebiscite of November 6, 2012, rejected by an ample majority the current territorial status known as Commonwealth and favored statehood by an overwhelming majority of the voters among the status options presented in the ballot: Now, therefore, be it Resolved by the Municipal Legislature of Moca, Puerto Rico, the following:

Section 1: Request President Barack Obama and the Congress of the United States, initiate the process of admission of Puerto Rico as the 51st State of the United States of America.

Section 2: This Resolution will be approved in both official languages of Puerto Rico, Spanish and English.

Section 3: This Resolution will take effect immediately upon passage by the Municipal Legislature and signed by the Mayor.

Section 4: Copies of this Resolution shall be sent to the President of the United States, the Vice-President of the United States, the Secretary of State of the United States, and to all the Members of the United States Congress.

POM-170. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to the federal Renewable Fuel Standard program; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21

Whereas, The Renewable Fuel Standard program was created under the Energy Policy Act of 2005, and established the first renewable fuel volume mandate in the United States; and

Whereas, The Energy Policy Act of 2005 required 7.5 billion gallons of renewable fuel to be blended into gasoline by 2012 and, under the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, the Renewable Fuel Standard program was expanded to include diesel, in addition to gasoline; and

Whereas, The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 increased the volume of renewable fuel required to be blended into transportation fuel from 9 billion gallons in 2008 to 36 billion gallons by 2022; and

Whereas, The 2013 requirement of corn-starch-derived ethanol of 13.8 billion gallons represents approximately 84 percent of the total renewable fuel mandated in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007; and

Whereas, At the time that the Renewable Fuel Standard program became law, the daily price of a metric ton of corn used in biofuel ethanol production was \$99, and at the time the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 became law, the daily price of a metric ton of corn used in biofuel ethanol production had risen to nearly \$180, with the latest price of a metric ton of corn currently reported by the United States Department of Agriculture as approximately \$310, representing an increase of over 300 percent since the inception of the Renewable Fuel Standard program; and

Whereas, The Environmental Protection Agency has determined that as a result of the Renewable Fuel Standard program, the increase in overall commodity prices expected as a result of the demand for agricultural products used in biofuel production will result in an annual increase of food costs to consumers of over \$3 billion by 2022; and

Whereas, Agriculture is a vital component of California's economic livelihood with livestock, poultry and related products, accounting for approximately 26 percent, or \$12.4 billion of California's gross agricultural cash income in 2011; and

Whereas, California leads the nation in milk production with over 1.75 million dairy cows that primarily depend on feed corn; and

Whereas, The loss of alternative feedstock acreage to biofuel crop production combined with the unprecedented rise in corn prices due to the requirements of the Renewable Fuel Standard program have significantly contributed to the loss of dairy production capacity in California, as represented by the 387 California dairies that have gone out of business since 2007, with over 100 dairy farms lost in 2012 alone: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature recognize and support the benefits from a robust and thriving agricultural sector, and join a diverse group of businesses, industry representatives, and beef, dairy, and poultry producers across California in urging Congress to reform the Renewable Fuel Standard program, or the United States Environmental Protection Agency to use all available authority, to expeditiously transition away from biofuel sources that compete with food production, as well as implement aggressive mechanisms to promote the development of advanced, sustainable noncrop-based fuels, including, but not limited to, cellulosic ethanol; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to the Minority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-171. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to Sickle Cell Anemia Awareness Month; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28

Whereas, Sickle cell anemia and sickle cell disease, used interchangeably, refer to a group of inherited disorders that affect the red blood cells; and

Whereas, Sickle cell anemia is a disease in which a person's body produces abnormally shaped red blood cells that resemble a crescent or sickle, and which do not last as long as normal round red blood cells, which leads to anemia. The sickle cells also get stuck in blood vessels and block blood flow, which can cause pain and organ damage; and

Whereas, Sickle cell anemia is a genetic disorder where individuals with the disease are born with two sickle cell genes, each inherited from one parent. An individual with only one sickle cell gene has a "sickle cell trait," which occurs in one out of every 12 African Americans and in one out of every 100 Latinos in the United States; and

Whereas, Unlike most people with sickle cell anemia, most people who have a sickle cell trait never know they have it and can live their entire lives without any complications from it; and

Whereas, Serious problems associated with a sickle cell trait are rare. However, exercise-related sudden death in individuals who have a sickle cell trait most commonly occurs in those undergoing intense physical exertion, such as military recruits in basic training and athletes during conditioning workouts; and

Whereas, Individuals with a sickle cell trait should not be excluded from physical activity, including sports, unless recommended to by medical personnel. Instead, people should be educated about precautions that should be taken, including drinking adequate amounts of fluids, pacing training with longer periods of rest and recovery, avoiding participation in performance tests such as sprints and mile runs, and, most importantly, being familiar with the symptoms of overexertion; and

Whereas, It is estimated that more than 90,000 Americans have sickle cell anemia. Sickle cell anemia occurs in one out of every 500 African American births and in one out of every 36,000 Latino births; and

Whereas, Sickle cell anemia can be a life-threatening condition, and access to comprehensive care can be limited by social, economic, cultural, and geographic barriers; and

Whereas, The average cost of hospitalization for sickle cell anemia in 2004 was \$6,223, for more than 84,000 hospital admissions that year. Total hospitalization costs for individuals with sickle cell anemia equaled \$488,000,000, of which 65 percent were covered by Medicaid funds; and

Whereas, Individuals living with sickle cell anemia encounter barriers to obtaining quality care and improving their quality of life. These barriers include limitations in geographic access to comprehensive care, the varied use of effective treatments, the high reliance on emergency departments and on public health programs, and the limited number of health care providers with knowledge and experience to manage and treat sickle cell anemia; and

Whereas, The Sickle Cell Anemia Control Act was signed into law in 1972 by President Richard Nixon after pledging that his administration would "reverse the record of neglect on the dreaded disease" by increasing funding for and expanding sickle cell anemia-related programs, including the development of comprehensive sickle cell anemia centers; and

Whereas, In 1975, the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc. and its member organizations began conducting monthlong events in September to call attention to sickle cell anemia and the need to address the problem at national and local levels, and chose September as National Sickle Cell Awareness Month in order for the public to reflect on the children and adults whose lives, education, and careers have been affected by this disease; and

Whereas, In 2003, the Sickle Cell Treatment Act was signed into law; and

Whereas, The effort to officially recognize Sickle Cell Anemia Awareness Month succeeded at the federal level in 1983 when the United States House of Representatives unanimously passed, and President Ronald Reagan signed, the first resolution introduced by the Congressional Black Caucus that recognized September as National Sickle Cell Anemia Awareness Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature recognizes September 2013, and each September thereafter, as Sickle Cell Anemia Awareness Month; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges the Congress of the United States to support the President's continuation of funding for the Sickle Cell Disease Treatment Demonstration Program, the Registry and Surveillance System for Hemoglobinopathy Program Initiative, and the Public Health Approach Disorders program, and to make sickle cell anemia and other genetic hemoglobin disorders a public health priority; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to

the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President pro Tempore of the United States Senate, each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

POM-172. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to the dischargeability of private student loan debt; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11

Whereas, This resolution shall be known as the Financial Fresh Start Resolution of 2013; and

Whereas, Existing federal law exempts from discharge in a bankruptcy case filed under Chapter 7 or Chapter 13 of the Bankruptcy Code specified educational loans made; or secured, by a lender other than the federal government, also known as private student loans, unless the debtor convinces a bankruptcy court that repayment would be an undue hardship on the debtor and the debtor's dependents, a sometimes difficult and expensive process not required to discharge other unsecured nonpriority debt; and

Whereas, Californians should have the same ability to discharge their private student loan debt as they do to discharge their unsecured nonpriority debt; and

Whereas, Californians who are not given relief from their burden of private student loan debt, even after a successful completion of a bankruptcy case, are seriously hindered from establishing personal economic stability and contributing to the economic growth of the state; and

Whereas, United States Senator Dick Durbin and Representative Steve Cohen have recently introduced the following legislation in their respective congressional houses that would permit private student loan debt to be discharged in bankruptcy and are substantially similar to legislation they each introduced in 2010 and 2011:

(a) The Fairness for Struggling Students Act of 2013.

(b) The Private Student Loan Bankruptcy Fairness Act of 2013; and

Whereas, The inability of Californians to more easily discharge private student loan debt prevents them from gaining the "fresh start" that a successful bankruptcy case is intended to provide: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly That the Legislature urges the President and the Congress of the United States to support and pass legislation that would allow private student loan debt to be dischargeable in a bankruptcy case filed under Chapter 7 or Chapter 13 of the Bankruptcy Code similar to the dischargeability of unsecured nonpriority debt; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Minority Leader of the United States Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-173. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to student loan interest rates; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 20

Whereas, Just last year, Congress passed, and President Obama signed, an extension to

maintain the interest rate for Federal Direct Stafford Loans at 3.4 percent through June 30, 2013; and

Whereas, On July 1, 2013, unless actions are taken, the interest rate for Federal Direct Stafford Loans will double from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent; and

Whereas, This higher interest rate level is the same level that graduate students and unsubsidized loan borrowers pay, which could limit access to California's public postsecondary educational institutions by dissuading students from using loans to help pay for their postsecondary education; and

Whereas, The average student loan borrower graduates with a debt of \$27,000, and the scheduled interest rate increase for Federal Direct Stafford Loans would cost almost 10 million borrowers approximately \$1,000 more per year of education over the life of a loan; and

Whereas, Raising the interest rate for Federal Direct Stafford Loans will make it even harder for college graduates facing an already difficult postgraduation job market to repay their loans; and

Whereas, Student loan debt affects Americans of all ages, as 45 percent of all American families hold outstanding student loan debt, including 36 percent of families in households headed by a person 45 to 54 years of age, inclusive, 29 percent of families in households headed by a person 55 to 64 years of age, inclusive, and 13.3 percent of families in households headed by a person 65 to 73 years of age, inclusive; and

Whereas, Student loan debt has a ripple effect on the economy, as two million more adults 18 to 34 years of age, inclusive, live in a household headed by their parents; and

Whereas, Each new household leads to an estimated \$145,000 of economic growth, suggesting that a delay in household formation could be slowing broader economic growth; and

Whereas, The Bipartisan Policy Center estimates that Echo Boomers—those born between 1981 and 1995—will account for 75 percent to 80 percent of owner-occupied home acquisitions by 2020, yet the current homeownership rate for young people is among the lowest in decades while mortgage interest rates are at historically low levels; and

Whereas, Student loan debt also has a significant impact on retirement, as 62 percent of workers 30 to 39 years of age, inclusive, 20 percent of whom hold more than \$50,000 in student loan debt, are projected to have insufficient resources for retirement; and

Whereas, According to the Congressional Budget Office, the federal government makes 36 cents in profit for every dollar it lends to all student borrowers, and student loans are estimated to bring in \$34 billion next year alone; and

Whereas, Higher education loans should be used to subsidize the cost of higher education, not to be used as a source of profit for the federal government; and

Whereas, Federal Direct Stafford Loans have been a critical component, in addition to other forms of financial aid, for low- and middle-income students working towards a postsecondary degree, and over two-thirds of student loan borrowers are from families with annual incomes under \$50,000: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature respectfully requests that the Congress and the President of the United States enact legislation that prevents the doubling of interest rates for Federal Direct Stafford Loans and creates a long-term legislative solution to maintain affordable and reliable federal student loan rates while preserving funding for other federal educational programs and benefits; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-174. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to preschool for all in California; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16

Whereas, To be competitive in the 21st century global economy; California must have a dynamic and educated workforce; and

Whereas, To strengthen and grow the middle class, California must broaden investments proven to prepare students for college and careers, and proven to create economic opportunity; and

Whereas, Research by a Nobel Laureate economist shows that every dollar invested in high-quality early education can save more than \$7 later on, by boosting grade level proficiency and graduation rates, increasing earned income and job stability, reducing teen pregnancy, and reducing violent crime; and

Whereas, Study after study, over 100 in the United States alone, shows that preschool significantly benefits children's school success; and

Whereas, Research has shown that the early years in a child's life, when the human brain is forming, represent a critically important window of opportunity to develop a child's full potential and shape key academic, social, and cognitive skills that determine a child's success in school and in life; and,

Whereas, During the preschool years, children not only develop core academic knowledge in preliteracy and early math, but they develop critically important learning skills, such as paying attention, managing emotions, and completing tasks; and

Whereas, Research has shown that California's academic achievement gap exists before children start school; and

Whereas, Research shows that students who start out behind too often also stay behind, and those who are not reading proficiently in third grade are four times more likely to not graduate from high school; and

Whereas, In 2012, 52 percent of California third graders tested below proficient in English-Language Arts and more than 30 percent are not proficient in Mathematics; and

Whereas, Since 2008, over 110,000 children have lost access to preschool and child care programs due to \$1 billion in state budget cuts; and

Whereas, Over 220,000 low-income three- and four-year-old children who are eligible for the California State Preschool Program or the federal Head Start program do not receive services; and

Whereas, President Barack Obama in his 2013 State of the Union speech called on states to partner with the federal government to make sure every child, regardless of their parents ability to pay, has access to high quality preschool: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature respectfully urges the Congress to enact President Barack Obama's budget proposal to increase funding for preschool and early learning; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature respectfully urges the Superintendent of Public Instruction to prepare a plan for making California competitive for future increases in federal

funding to preschool and early learning programs; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-175. A memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of New Mexico requesting the New Mexico Congressional Delegation in Washington, D.C. to vote to support legislation that would remove the deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

A MEMORIAL

Whereas, equal rights for women are not specifically included in the United States constitution; and

Whereas, the rights of women in the United States to receive equal pay for equal work, be protected against domestic violence and have fair work-leave policies and access to the reproductive health care services of their choice, among others, are daily being questioned and restricted; and

Whereas, protection of women's rights at present is through a patchwork of existing laws, executive actions and judicial decisions that address individual cases of discrimination one by one as they arise; and

Whereas, each or all of these individual existing laws, executive actions and judicial decisions may be ignored, eroded or overturned; and

Whereas, an amendment that would guarantee rights for women that are equal to those of men would provide a fundamental legal remedy against all cases of discrimination based on gender; and

Whereas, resolutions to pass an amendment to the United States constitution that would guarantee equal rights for women and men have been introduced into congress each year since 1923; and

Whereas, thirty-five of the thirty-eight states required for the amendment to become part of the constitution ratified the equal rights amendment by the deadline of 1982; and

Whereas, the deadline for ratification is not in the binding text of the document itself and, in fact, was later extended by another congress for an additional three years, thus establishing the precedent that congress has the power to do so; and

Whereas, in the one hundred twelfth congress, Senate Joint Resolution 39, introduced by Senator Ben Cardin, and House Joint Resolution 47, introduced by Representative Tammy Baldwin, would remove the deadline for ratification of the amendment so that an additional three states may ratify it; and

Whereas, New Mexicans feel justly proud that New Mexico was one of the first states in the union to ratify the equal rights amendment in 1973, and it passed its own equal rights amendment to the constitution of New Mexico in 1972: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of New Mexico, That it call upon the New Mexico congressional delegation in Washington, D.C., to vote in favor of legislation that would remove the deadline for ratification of the equal rights amendment so that efforts can proceed to get ratification by the necessary additional three states so that, finally, the guarantee of equal rights for women and men in the United States will become the law of the land; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this memorial be transmitted to each member of the New Mexico congressional delegation and to the chief clerks of the house of representatives and the senate of the United States congress.

POM-176. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging Congress to raise permanently the cap on new H1-B temporary work visas available to immigrant professionals and to eliminate the cap for those holding a U.S. master's degree or higher; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 108

Whereas, The United States has risen to preeminence in the world by cultivating the talents of its own residents while, at the same time, welcoming the most talented people from around the world. Many of our nation's leading companies, such as Dow Chemical and Masco, were founded by immigrants. In Michigan, one-third of high-tech businesses over the last decade were started by immigrants; and

Whereas, Our nation remains a leader in developing foreign talent. U.S. universities and colleges educate hundreds of thousands of international students each year. In Michigan, more than 25,000 international students attend Michigan's higher education institutions, ninth most in the nation. Over 37 percent of individuals receiving doctorate degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics nationwide are international students; and

Whereas, We are failing as a nation to retain foreigners educated in the United States and to welcome talented professionals from other nations. Under the H-1B temporary work visa program, highly educated scientists, engineers, computer programmers, and other technical experts may immigrate to the United States for employment. However, the federal government severely limits the number of visas available. Only 65,000 new H-1B visas are available each year to individuals with a bachelor's degree or higher, with an additional 20,000 visas available to individuals with a U.S. master's degree or higher; and

Whereas, The federal cap on H-1B visas is not meeting the demand of U.S. businesses. The 2013 caps were reached in just over two months. These arbitrary caps are holding back economic growth in Michigan and the rest of the United States. These caps should be based on a data-driven approach that, along with the availability of qualified American workers, factors in the positive impact of immigrant professionals to jobs and entrepreneurialism in our economy. In a highly competitive global environment, the United States cannot afford to turn back the brightest and most talented people. Our nation's loss will inevitably be another nation's gain: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge Congress to raise permanently the cap on new H-1B temporary work visas available to immigrant professionals and to eliminate the cap for those holding a master's degree or higher from U.S. universities; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-177. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to the federal Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 22

Whereas, Thousands of Californians served in uniform in the war in Afghanistan; and

Whereas, Countless local Afghan nationals provided trusted and life-saving support to Americans and their allies in Afghanistan as interpreters, advisers, liaisons, and other functionaries; and

Whereas, More than 8,000 Afghani interpreters worked for the United States during the conflict, risking the lives of their families and themselves to assist American troops and the United States government; and

Whereas, It was recently pointed out in the New York Times that with United States Armed Forces currently withdrawing from Afghanistan, many of the local nationals who provided support to American forces are now the target of Taliban and other insurgent attacks. In February 2013, two interpreters were gunned down in Logar Province, south of Kabul, Afghanistan. In December 2012, an interpreter working in Jalalabad was singled out while heading home on leave, and Taliban assailants killed his two brothers in the attack; and

Whereas, The United Nations has reported that casualties resulting from targeted killings of civilians by antigovernment elements increased by 53 percent in the first six months of 2012, in comparison to the corresponding period in 2011; and

Whereas, The federal Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 authorizes the issuance of up to 1,500 special immigrant visas (SIVs) annually through the 2013 fiscal year to Afghan nationals who have worked for or on behalf of the United States Government in Afghanistan and who find their lives in danger as a consequence of their employment; and

Whereas, Although 7,500 SIVs were intended to be issued by the federal Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009, only about 1,000 have been issued to date, and as of last fall, there was a backlog of more than 5,000 applicants waiting to begin the process. This delay further risks the lives of important, dedicated allies who have already risked their lives in the call of duty to our soldiers and our country; and

Whereas, There are significant differences between the visa programs created for Iraq and Afghanistan. While the Iraq program allowed for up to 25,000 visas, the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 only makes 7,500 visas available. Additionally, the Afghan visa program limits family members to only a spouse and dependent children under 21 years of age, while the Iraq program allowed for parents, siblings, and all children; and

Whereas, The Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 presents the opportunity to save the lives of Afghans who saved the lives of Americans and to maintain our commitment to these important allies who are in harm's way: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature calls upon the United States Congress and the President's administration to expedite actions at the United States Department of State to process the visa applications of our Afghan allies who have been identified and vetted by the United States military or other agencies as having risked their lives by supporting and working for United States troops overseas, and to expand the number of visas offered to our Afghan allies; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Leader of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, and each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-178. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to immigration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3

Whereas, The United States of America is a nation of values, founded on the principles that all men and women are created equal, and the promise of freedom for all; and

Whereas, We are a nation of immigrants, who believe in the promise of freedom and opportunity; and

Whereas, The current immigration system is broken, antiquated, and not meeting the challenges of the 21st century. It separates families, including same-sex couple families, creates long backlogs for families seeking reunification, and neglects the hard work and financial contributions immigrants make to our country; and

Whereas, Since 2008, more than 1.6 million immigrants have been deported, and one in every 10 American children faces the threat of the deportation of a parent; and

Whereas, It is estimated that about 11 million undocumented immigrants are in the United States, and California has the largest population of immigrants, both legal and undocumented; and

Whereas, Immigrants and their children constitute nearly one-half of California's population and live and work in all 58 counties, most notably in the San Diego, Central Valley, Los Angeles, Ventura, and greater San Francisco areas; and

Whereas, Approximately 77 percent of undocumented immigrants who reside in California live with family members who are legal United States residents and citizens; and

Whereas, One in 10 workers in California is an undocumented immigrant, and immigrants are vibrant, productive, and vital part of the state's growing economy; and

Whereas, Immigrants are essential in keeping the American economy strong; from technology programmers in the Silicon Valley to restaurant owners and workers, immigrants are filling an intrinsic need in the labor force; and

Whereas, Agricultural workers have been performing very important and difficult work to maintain America's food supply, and have a role of ensuring that Americans have safe and secure agricultural products to sell and consume; and

Whereas, Students should not be punished for their immigration status. Instead, they should be given recognition for their sacrifice, hard work, and determination; and

Whereas, The United States can do a better job of attracting and keeping the world's best and brightest. A comprehensive immigration reform should also grant immigrants who have received a Ph.D. or master's degree in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics from an American university the opportunity to invest in and contribute to this great nation. For the future of our economy, it makes no sense to educate the world's future innovators and entrepreneurs only to ultimately force them to leave our country at the moment they are most able to contribute to our economy; and

Whereas, Modernizing our antiquated and dysfunctional immigration system will uphold our nation's basic values of fairness and equality, as well as access to health care; and

Whereas, A comprehensive, as well as compassionate, approach to solve our broken immigration system should be one that works for all communities and families in America; and

Whereas, A just immigration reform must ensure that it reflects one of our basic values—that we all are created equal—thus immigration reform must recognize each immigrant's full humanity; and

Whereas, A proposal must be comprised of tenets that achieve all of the following: (1)

establish an earned citizenship process that requires immigrants to pay back taxes and learn English; (2) enhance security in our ports of entry to secure our nation; (3) reform immigration enforcement programs that separate families to ensure that family unification systems are strengthened; (4) upgrade the current visa programs, including the creation of a guest worker program for agricultural workers, in order to have a legal workforce and a system that better enforces labor protections; and (5) uphold due process as well as the inherent rights of all immigrants: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature urges the President and the Congress of the United States to take a humane and just approach to solving our nation's broken immigration system; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, to the Governor of California, and to the author of this resolution.

POM-179. A joint resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of California relative to the Startup Act 3.0; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 9

Whereas, The United States is a nation of immigrants, with a long history of welcoming indigents from other nations and giving them a chance at achieving the American Dream; and

Whereas, Immigrants have formed the backbone of the nation's economy; and

Whereas, Open economies grow faster than closed ones, and as a beacon of hope, America has historically had an unbeatable advantage over societies that shut immigrants out, or stifled their creative and innovative spirit; and

Whereas, The United States economy has been enriched by the innovative and entrepreneurial spirit of immigrants from around the world; and

Whereas, According to the Kauffman Foundation on Entrepreneurship, of the current Fortune 500 companies, including Apple, Google, and eBay, more than 40 percent were founded by first- or second-generation Americans, and these companies employ more than 10 million people; and

Whereas, Foreign nationals residing in the United States were named as inventors or coinventors in one-quarter of all patent applications filed in 2006; and

Whereas, Fifty-two percent of Silicon Valley startups between 1995 and 2005 were founded or cofounded by immigrants, generating \$52 billion in revenues and employing 450,000 workers; and

Whereas, In the past seven years, the national rate of startups by immigrants has dropped to 42 percent according to scholars at Harvard and Duke Universities; and

Whereas, The number of foreign nationals with advanced degrees awaiting permanent-resident status in the United States has grown to over one million in the past several years; and

Whereas, Under current law, only around 120,000 visas are available annually for skilled workers in key employment categories and only 7 percent of these visas can be allocated to immigrants from any one country. So immigrants from countries with large populations, like India and China, which are the source of the vast majority of startups in the United States, have access to only 8,400 visas per year; and

Whereas, The result of this policy is that many of these highly skilled immigrants must wait more than a decade for visas; and

Whereas, Many of these highly skilled innovators are deciding instead to return home, or immigrate to other countries that welcome them with open arms, such as Singapore, Canada, Dubai, Australia, the United Kingdom, and Chile. As a result, these innovators are founding companies in these other countries and competing with American companies for market share; and

Whereas, The issue of illegal immigration has taken on national prominence in recent years and the resolution of the broader issue should be the result of bipartisan efforts; and

Whereas, United States Senators Jerry Moran (R-Kansas), Mark Warner (D-Virginia), Chris Coons (D-Delaware), and Roy Blunt (R-Missouri) have introduced S. 310, and United States House Representatives Michael Grimm (R-New York), Loretta Sanchez (D-California), and others have introduced H.R. 714 in the 113th Congress of the United States, and this legislation is known as the Startup Act 3.0; and

Whereas, Entrepreneurs and highly skilled workers can contribute to the continued success of the nation and further the development of an innovation-based economy that will help future generations compete in the global marketplace; and

Whereas, There has been bipartisan support in Congress for proposed changes to immigration law seeking to create new jobs and drive economic growth; such as:

(1) Creation of an Entrepreneur's Visa for up to 75,000 legal immigrants who start up new businesses to create jobs in the United States with a path to permanent residency if their businesses continue to hire more workers.

(2) Authorization to adjust the status of not more than 50,000 aliens who have earned a master's degree or a doctorate degree at an American institution of higher education in a STEM field (science, technology, engineering, or mathematics) to that of aliens conditionally admitted for permanent residence to remain in this country.

(3) Elimination of per-country caps for employment-based immigrant visas: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature urge the United States Congress and the President to establish new entrepreneur and STEM-related visa categories for legal immigrants as part of comprehensive federal immigration reform; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-180. A joint resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of California relative to firearms; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1

Whereas, The Sandy Hook Elementary School mass shooting in Newtown, Connecticut, which resulted in the death of 20 children and 6 adults, demonstrated the need for stronger laws to prevent gun violence; and

Whereas, Numerous factors contribute to the occurrence of mass shootings, including unregulated access to assault weapons and assault magazines, insufficient background checks, and needed improvements to our mental health system, among others; and

Whereas, Semiautomatic assault weapons designed with military features allow for the

rapid fire of potentially large numbers of bullets, and are distinguishable from standard sporting firearms by features such as the ability to accept a detachable magazine, pistol grips, and folding or telescoping stocks; and

Whereas, Semiautomatic assault weapons are frequently used in mass shootings, including the 1993 101 California Street shooting in San Francisco that involved two TEC-9 semiautomatic handguns, and the recent Aurora, Colorado, shooting that involved an AR-15 style semiautomatic assault rifle with a 100-round ammunition drum; and

Whereas, The United States Supreme Court has affirmed once and for all that Americans have a right to keep and bear arms. However, as conservative justice Antonin Scalia outlined, the District of Columbia v. Heller decision does not prohibit laws forbidding firearms in places such as schools or regulation of unusually dangerous weapons, nor does it restrict laws prohibiting felons and the mentally ill from carrying guns; and

Whereas, The National Firearms Act of 1934 regulates the possession and transfer of fully automatic machine guns through background checks, registration, and excise taxes, but individual states are able to enact their own stronger gun legislation and regulations which may or may not be similar to other states; and

Whereas, Seven states, including California, have enacted laws strictly regulating the possession, manufacture, and transfer of assault weapons; and

Whereas, Because our borders are porous and only a small number of states regulate assault weapons and high-capacity assault magazines, states, like California, that take steps to protect their communities from these weapons are vulnerable to criminals who use those weapons without a comprehensive federal approach to curb gun violence; and

Whereas, It is estimated that 40 percent of firearm transfers are completed without a federal background check, including the transfer of semiautomatic firearms from a private collection; and

Whereas, California requires background checks for all firearms sales and transfers through various means; and

Whereas, Nine categories of individuals are prohibited from purchasing and possessing firearms, including the dangerously mentally ill; and

Whereas, Mental health records are reported by the state and imported into the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, but currently many state and federal agencies are not fully participating in this system: now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That a comprehensive federal approach to reducing and preventing gun violence is needed to protect the Second Amendment rights of law abiding citizens while ensuring that our communities are safe from future mass shootings; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges the President and the Congress of the United States to promptly place under the scope of the National Firearms Act generically defined assault weapons, as now is the case with California, and high-capacity assault magazines; and be it further

Resolved, That a universal background check through the National Instant Criminal Background Check System should be required for the transfer of all firearms; and be it further

Resolved, That the President of the United States should take steps to ensure all states and applicable federal agencies are reporting all necessary records to the National Instant

Criminal Background Check System; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

POM-181. A joint resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of California relative to immigration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 8

Whereas, This country was built by immigrants seeking a better life; and

Whereas, Estimates suggest there are 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the shadows in the United States, including millions of children brought to this country undocumented who have grown up here and call the United States home, suffering from the dysfunctional immigration policy; and

Whereas, A logical and streamlined path to citizenship for individuals after they gain legal status would stimulate the economy by allowing them to get college degrees and driver's licenses, buy homes, start new companies, and create legal, tax-paying jobs, affording them a chance at the American Dream; and

Whereas, The United States Congress last enacted major immigration legislation more than 25 years ago; and

Whereas, Since that time, fragmented attempts at immigration reform have failed to create rational and effective systems needed to maintain international competitiveness. Whether in an industry like agriculture, which requires large numbers of workers able to perform physically demanding tasks, or in technology or health care, where the demand for employees with advanced degrees is projected to exceed supply within the next five years, immigration policy must be designed to respond to emerging labor needs, in all sectors of the United States economy; and

Whereas, Our national interests and security are not served by our outdated, inefficient, and slow-moving immigration system. Patchwork attempts to mend its deficiencies undermine our potential for prosperity and leave us vulnerable and unable to meet the needs of the modern world; and

Whereas, To help our country recover from the financial crisis, labor mobility is crucial to our economic prosperity. Yet our rigid, outdated immigration policies are making it difficult for our companies and our nation to compete. Information released in a study by the University of California, Los Angeles, stated that legalizing the status of undocumented immigrants working and living in the United States would create around \$1.5 trillion in additional gross domestic product growth over the next 10 years and increase wages for all workers. A study done by the University of California, Davis, indicates that the last large wave of immigrants, from 1990 to 2007, raised the income of the native-born American worker by an average of \$5,000; and

Whereas, California has the largest share of immigrants in the country. They are a vital and productive part of our state's economy and are active in a variety of industries, including technology, biotech, hospitality, agriculture, construction, services, transportation, and textiles. They also represent a large share of our new small business owners and create economic prosperity and needed jobs for everyone; and

Whereas, Keeping these families, business owners, and hard workers in the shadows of society serves no one; and

Whereas, Our state, for economic, social, health, security, and prosperity reasons, must support policies that allow individuals to become legal and enfranchised participants in our society and economy; and

Whereas, Comprehensive immigration reform should include a reasonable and timely path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants living and working in the United States already. It should include comprehensive background checks, and require demonstrated proficiency in English and payment of all current and back taxes, and should have the flexibility to respond to emerging business trends; and

Whereas, The Migration Policy Institute, a nonpartisan research group in Washington, D.C., estimated that in 2012 the federal government spent \$18 billion on immigration enforcement and that the number of United States Border Patrol agents has doubled since 2004; and

Whereas, Increased enforcement has given the federal government the ability to prioritize the deportation of lawbreakers and dangerous individuals and to ensure our border's security. Nevertheless, this enforcement should not be done in an inhumane way; and

Whereas, Immigration enforcement should continue to focus on criminals, not on hard-working immigrant families, and not at the expense of efficient trade with two of our top three economic partners; and

Whereas, The United States loses large numbers of necessary, highly skilled workers due to the lengthy and complicated processes currently in place to get or keep a legal residency option; and

Whereas, Reform should also include an expedited process for those residing abroad and applying for legal visas. Additionally, reform should offer permanent residency opportunities to international students in American universities who are highly trained and in high demand, and in so doing avoid an intellectual vacuum after their graduation; and

Whereas, This reform should recognize the societal and cultural benefits of keeping the family unit intact. The system should take into account special circumstances surrounding candidates for probationary legal status, such as those of minors brought to the country as children or workers whose labor is essential to maintain our country's competitiveness: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature urges the President and the Congress of the United States to take a comprehensive and workable approach to solving our nation's historically broken immigration system, using the principles described in this resolution; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-182. A resolution adopted by the Municipal Legislature of Aguada, Puerto Rico relative to urging the President of the United States of America to immediately and unconditionally release a political prisoner; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

RESOLUTION No. 19

Whereas, Section 5005 of Act No. 81 of August 30, 1991, as amended, known as "Autonomous Municipalities Act of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico", provides that the Municipal Legislature may approve those ordinances, resolutions and regulations on issues and matters of competition or munic-

ipal jurisdiction, pursuant to this Act or any other law, must be submitted for consideration or approval.

Whereas, Oscar Lopez Rivera has been jailed for more than 32 years in the United States, serving a sentence for reasons related to the struggle for the independence of Puerto Rico. Other political prisoners serving sentences equally disproportionate have since been released, first under President Jimmy Carter and then, in 1999, being president, William J. Clinton, Oscar is the political prisoner serving the longest prison sentence, surpassing the Nobel Peace Prize and former South African President Nelson Mandela.

Whereas, A cause for the release of Oscar Lopez has joined Puerto Ricans of all faiths. Political, religious and civic organizations have called for Oscar back home. His prolonged confinement, far from serving any purpose, it has become a sign of inhumanity and injustice. The consensus forged in Puerto Rico for the freedom of Oscar, also have joined international entities.

Whereas, The Municipal Legislature joins Aguada, in turn, in a gesture of solidarity, to request the President of the United States, Barack Hussein Obama, making use of its prerogatives, available for immediate and unconditional release of Oscar Lopez Rivera: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Municipal Legislature of Aguada, Puerto Rico, the following:

Section 1st: Aguada Municipal Legislature requests the President of the United States of America, Barack Hussein Obama, who in the exercise of its powers granted immediate and unconditional freedom of Oscar Lopez Rivera.

Section 2nd: Copies of this Resolution, translated into English, will be sent to the President and the Presidents of both legislative bodies of the Congress of the United States.

Section 3rd: This Resolution shall take effect immediately after its approval.

POM-183. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION No. 19

Whereas, In 1993, congress adopted a policy known as Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT), prohibiting service personnel from inquiring, or volunteering information, about their sexual orientation. Prior to 1993, federal law and military regulations prohibited homosexuality in the Armed Forces of the United States; and

Whereas, From 1980 until the repeal of DADT in 2011, over 32,000 service personnel were separated from the Armed Forces of the United States under DADT and its predecessor policies; and

Whereas, More than 13,000 service personnel were separated from the Armed Forces of the United States after the adoption of DADT. Approximately one-quarter of these discharges occurred during the service member's first four months of service; and

Whereas, California law prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, ethnic group identification, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, color, genetic information, or disability; and

Whereas, Generally, veterans separated from the military with a discharge that is characterized as "dishonorable" or "other than honorable" are ineligible to receive federal or state veterans' benefits, including applicable spousal benefits; and

Whereas, Section 711.1 of the Military and Veterans Code assists veterans by requiring the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide Internet resources, Internet links, and

printed materials regarding, or created by, veterans' legal services organizations that specialize in military discharge upgrades, or links to Internet resources that provide information and printed resources provided by veterans' legal services organizations. It also provides that if the federal government acts to provide benefits to discharged veterans who were denied those benefits solely on the basis of sexual orientation pursuant to any federal policy prohibiting homosexual personnel from serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, the state shall provide to those veterans any state-offered benefits; and

Whereas, We must work to ensure that California veterans who were discriminated against solely on the basis of their sexual orientation can access benefits regardless of the classification of their discharge: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature urges Congress and the President to provide benefits, including applicable spousal benefits, to those veterans discriminated against solely on the basis of their sexual orientation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-184. A resolution from town of Richmond, Wisconsin relative to amending campaign contribution rules; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-185. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Rockland County, New York, supporting United States Senate Bill S. 744—The Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013, and urging the United States House of Representatives to pass similar legislation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-186. A resolution adopted by the Board of Selectmen, Town of Seymour, Connecticut, urging the Congress of the United States to restore the presumption of a service connection for Agent Orange exposure to United States Veterans who served on the inland waterways, in the territorial waters, and in the airspace over the combat zone; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HARKIN, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1562. A bill to reauthorize the Older Americans Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 1895. A bill to establish a commission to examine the United States monetary policy, evaluate alternative monetary regimes, and recommend a course for monetary policy going forward; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. INHOFE):

S. Res. 328. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on steps the Government of Iran must take before further bilateral negotiations between the Government of Iran and the United States Government occur; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 273

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 273, a bill to modify the definition of fiduciary under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to exclude appraisers of employee stock ownership plans.

S. 666

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 666, a bill to prohibit attendance of an animal fighting venture, and for other purposes.

S. 740

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 740, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require drug manufacturers to provide drug rebates for drugs dispensed to low-income individuals under the Medicare prescription drug benefit program.

S. 888

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 888, a bill to provide end user exemptions from certain provisions of the Commodity Exchange Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

S. 1091

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1091, a bill to provide for the issuance of an Alzheimer's Disease Research Semipostal Stamp.

S. 1249

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1249, a bill to rename the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking of the Department of State the Bureau to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and to provide for an Assistant Secretary to head such Bureau, and for other purposes.

S. 1577

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1577, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to improve upon the definitions provided for points and fees in connection with a mortgage transaction.

S. 1708

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hamp-

shire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1708, a bill to amend title 23, United States Code, with respect to the establishment of performance measures for the highway safety improvement program, and for other purposes.

S. 1733

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1733, a bill to stop exploitation through trafficking.

S. 1737

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 1737, a bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

S. 1738

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1738, a bill to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

S. 1754

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1754, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve the financial aid process for homeless children and youths and foster children and youth.

S. 1761

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1761, a bill to permanently extend the Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act of 2009 and establish a private right of action to enforce compliance with such Act.

S. 1808

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 1808, a bill to prevent adverse treatment of any person on the basis of views held with respect to marriage.

S. 1845

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1845, a bill to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1845, supra.

S. 1881

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1881, a bill to expand sanctions imposed with respect to Iran and to impose additional sanctions with respect to Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 1894

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1894, a bill to provide for the repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act if it is determined that the Act has resulted in increasing the number of uninsured individuals.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 1895. A bill to establish a commission to examine the United States monetary policy, evaluate alternative monetary regimes, and recommend a course for monetary policy going forward; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1895

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Centennial Monetary Commission Act of 2013".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Constitution endows Congress with the power "to coin money, regulate the value thereof".

(2) Following the financial crisis known as the Panic of 1907, Congress established the

National Monetary Commission to provide recommendations for the reform of the financial and monetary systems of the United States.

(3) Incorporating several of the recommendations of the National Monetary Commission, Congress created the Federal Reserve System in 1913. As currently organized, the Federal Reserve System consists of the Board of Governors in Washington, District of Columbia, and the Federal Reserve Banks organized into 12 districts around the United States. The stockholders of the 12 Federal Reserve Banks include national and certain state-chartered commercial banks, which operate on a fractional reserve basis.

(4) Originally, Congress gave the Federal Reserve a monetary mandate to provide an elastic currency, within the context of a gold standard, in response to seasonal fluctuations in the demand for currency.

(5) Congress also gave the Federal Reserve a financial stability mandate to serve as the lender of last resort to solvent but illiquid banks during a financial crisis.

(6) In 1977, Congress changed the monetary mandate of the Federal Reserve to a dual mandate for maximum employment and stable prices.

(7) Empirical studies and historical evidence, both within the United States and in other countries, demonstrate that price stability is desirable because both inflation and deflation damage the economy.

(8) The economic challenge of recent years—most notably the bursting of the housing bubble, the financial crisis of 2008, and the ensuing anemic recovery—have occurred at great cost in terms of lost jobs and output.

(9) Policymakers are reexamining the structure and functioning of financial institutions and markets to determine what, if any, changes need to be made to place the financial system on a stronger, more sustainable path going forward.

(10) The Federal Reserve has taken extraordinary actions in response to the recent economic challenges.

(11) The Federal Open Market Committee has engaged in multiple rounds of quantitative easing, providing unprecedented liquidity to financial markets, while committing to holding short-term interest rates low for a seemingly indefinite period, and pursuing a policy of credit allocation by purchasing Federal agency debt and mortgage-backed securities.

(12) In the wake of the recent extraordinary actions of the Federal Reserve, Congress—consistent with its constitutional responsibilities and as it has done periodically throughout the history of the United States—has once again renewed its examination of monetary policy.

(13) Central in such examination has been a renewed look at what is the most proper mandate for the Federal Reserve to conduct monetary policy in the 21st century.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.

There is established a commission to be known as the “Centennial Monetary Commission” (in this Act referred to as the “Commission”).

SEC. 4. DUTIES.

(a) **STUDY OF MONETARY POLICY.**—The Commission shall—

(1) examine how United States monetary policy since the creation of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System in 1913 has affected the performance of the United States economy in terms of output, employment, prices, and financial stability over time;

(2) evaluate various operational regimes under which the Board of Governors of the

Federal Reserve System and the Federal Open Market Committee may conduct monetary policy in terms achieving the maximum sustainable level of output and employment and price stability over the long term, including—

(A) discretion in determining monetary policy without an operational regime;

(B) price level targeting;

(C) inflation rate targeting;

(D) nominal gross domestic product targeting (both level and growth rate);

(E) the use of monetary policy rules; and

(F) the gold standard; and

(3) recommend a course for United States monetary policy going forward, including—

(A) the legislative mandate;

(B) the operational regime;

(C) the securities used in open market operations; and

(D) transparency issues.

(b) **REPORT ON MONETARY POLICY.**—Not later than June 30, 2014, the Commission shall submit to Congress and make publicly available a report containing a statement of the findings and conclusions of the Commission in carrying out the study under subsection (a), together with the recommendations the Commission considers appropriate.

SEC. 5. MEMBERSHIP.

(a) **NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.**—

(1) **VOTING MEMBERS BY POSITION.**—The Commission shall contain 6 voting members as follows:

(A) The Chair of the Joint Economic Committee, who shall serve as Chair of the Commission.

(B) The ranking minority member of the Joint Economic Committee, who shall serve as Vice Chair of the Commission.

(C) The Chair of the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives or another majority member of such Committee designated by the Chair.

(D) The ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives or another minority member of such Committee designated by the ranking minority member.

(E) The Chair of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate or another majority member of such Committee designated by the Chair.

(F) The ranking minority member of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate or another minority member of such Committee designated by the ranking minority member.

(2) **APPOINTED VOTING MEMBERS.**—The Commission shall contain 6 voting members, who may not be Members of Congress, as follows:

(A) Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(B) One member appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

(C) Two members appointed by the majority leader of the Senate.

(D) One member appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.

(3) **NON-VOTING MEMBERS.**—The Commission shall contain 2 non-voting members as follows:

(A) One member appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(B) One member who is the president of a district Federal reserve bank appointed by the Chair of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

(b) **PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.**—Each member shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.

(c) **TIMING OF APPOINTMENT.**—All members of the Commission shall be appointed not before January 5, 2013, and not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) **VACANCIES.**—A vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its powers, and shall be

filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

(e) **MEETINGS.**—

(1) **INITIAL MEETING.**—The Commission shall hold its initial meeting and begin the operations of the Commission as soon as is practicable.

(2) **FURTHER MEETINGS.**—The Commission shall meet upon the call of the Chair or a majority of its members.

(f) **QUORUM.**—Seven voting members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum but a lesser number may hold hearings.

(g) **MEMBER OF CONGRESS DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “Member of Congress” means a Senator or a Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress.

SEC. 6. POWERS.

(a) **HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.**—The Commission or, on the authority of the Commission, any subcommittee or member thereof, may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act, hold hearings, sit and act at times and places, take testimony, receive evidence, or administer oaths as the Commission or such subcommittee or member thereof considers appropriate.

(b) **CONTRACT AUTHORITY.**—To the extent or in the amounts provided in advance in appropriation Acts, the Commission may contract with and compensate government and private agencies or persons to enable the Commission to discharge its duties under this Act, without regard to section 3709 of the Revised Statutes (41 U.S.C. 5).

(c) **OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission is authorized to secure directly from any executive department, bureau, agency, board, commission, office, independent establishment, or instrumentality of the Government, any information, including suggestions, estimates, or statistics, for the purposes of this Act.

(2) **REQUESTING OFFICIAL DATA.**—The head of such department, bureau, agency, board, commission, office, independent establishment, or instrumentality of the government shall, to the extent authorized by law, furnish such information upon request made by—

(A) the Chair;

(B) the Chair of any subcommittee created by a majority of the Commission; or

(C) any member of the Commission designated by a majority of the commission to request such information.

(d) **ASSISTANCE FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.**—

(1) **GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.**—The Administrator of General Services shall provide to the Commission on a reimbursable basis administrative support and other services for the performance of the functions of the Commission.

(2) **OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.**—In addition to the assistance prescribed in paragraph (1), at the request of the Commission, departments and agencies of the United States shall provide such services, funds, facilities, staff, and other support services as may be authorized by law.

(e) **POSTAL SERVICE.**—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the United States.

SEC. 7. COMMISSION PERSONNEL.

(a) **APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION OF STAFF.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to rules prescribed by the Commission, the Chair may appoint and fix the pay of the executive director and other personnel as the Chair considers appropriate.

(2) **APPLICABILITY OF CIVIL SERVICE LAWS.**—The staff of the Commission may be appointed without regard to the provisions of

title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and may be paid without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of that title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates, except that an individual so appointed may not receive pay in excess of level V of the Executive Schedule.

(b) **CONSULTANTS.**—The Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, but at rates for individuals not to exceed the daily equivalent of the rate of pay for a person occupying a position at level IV of the Executive Schedule.

(c) **STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.**—Upon request of the Commission, the head of any Federal department or agency may detail, on a reimbursable basis, any of the personnel of such department or agency to the Commission to assist it in carrying out its duties under this Act.

SEC. 8. TERMINATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall terminate on February 28, 2015.

(b) **ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES BEFORE TERMINATION.**—The Commission may use the period between the submission of its report and its termination for the purpose of concluding its activities, including providing testimony to committees of Congress concerning its report.

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act and such sums shall remain available until the date on which the Commission terminates.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 328—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ON STEPS THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN MUST TAKE BEFORE FURTHER BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OCCUR

Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 328

Whereas, on September 27, 2013, the President of Iran, Hassan Rouhani, and President Barack Obama engaged in the first direct contact between Iranian and United States leaders since 1979;

Whereas the Government of Iran has yet to take any practical steps towards halting Iran's nuclear programs and remains a committed state-sponsor of terrorist groups that have been responsible for American deaths in Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Afghanistan;

Whereas, since the election of President Rouhani, the persecution by the Government of Iran of religious minorities, notably Christians, has increased not decreased;

Whereas United States citizens remain imprisoned in Iran, including Pastor Saeed Abedini, Amir Hekmati, and Robert Levinson;

Whereas President Rouhani has called Israel the "Zionist state" that has been "a wound that has sat on the body of the Muslim world for years and needs to be removed", and Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei has called Israel a "rabid dog" facing "annihilation";

Whereas a Joint Plan of Action was released from Geneva on November 24, 2013, outlining first step, voluntary measures to be taken over a six month duration providing the Government of Iran with some \$7,000,000,000 in relief from economic sanctions, while extracting no substantive concessions from Iran on their nuclear program; and

Whereas the representatives of the United States engaging in these negotiations failed to raise the issue of the United States citizens imprisoned in Iran and to rebuke their Iranian counterparts for their vicious rhetoric against Israel at the highest levels: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that, before further bilateral negotiations between the Government of Iran and the United States Government occur, the Government of Iran must—

(1) immediately and without conditions release all United States citizens unjustly detained in Iran; and

(2) publicly affirm the right of Israel to exist as a Jewish state.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Krishna Patel, a detailee on Senator TIM JOHNSON's banking committee staff, be granted floor privileges for the duration of today's session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER pro tempore. Without objection.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Dr. Jeff Fine and Lawrence Meehan, fellows in my office, be granted privileges of the floor for this session of the 113th Congress.

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

JOINT REFERRAL—EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, as in executive session, the nomination of Rhea Sun Suh, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary of Fish and Wildlife, sent to the Senate by the President, be referred jointly to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, as in executive session, the nomination of Arun MadhaAn Kumar, of California, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service, sent to the Senate by the President, be referred jointly to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate

completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, January 7, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1845, the unemployment insurance extension, and the time until 10:30 be equally divided and controlled in the usual form; that at 10:30 the Senate vote on the motion to proceed to the bill; that the Senate recess from 12:30 to 2:15 to allow for our weekly caucus meetings.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. The first vote will be at 10:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:53 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, January 7, 2014, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

TIMOTHY G. MASSAD, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 13, 2017, VICE GARY GENSLE, TERM EXPIRED.

TIMOTHY G. MASSAD, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION, VICE GARY GENSLE.

J. CHRISTOPHER GLANCARLO, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING APRIL 13, 2014, VICE JILL SOMMERS, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JESSICA GARFOLA WRIGHT, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PERSONNEL AND READINESS, VICE ERIN C. CONATON, RESIGNED.

JO ANN ROONEY, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, VICE ROBERT O. WORK, RESIGNED.

JAMIE MICHAEL MORIN, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE DIRECTOR OF COST ASSESSMENT AND PROGRAM EVALUATION, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, VICE CHRISTINE H. FOX, RESIGNED.

WILLIAM A. LAPLANTE, JR., OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE, VICE SUE C. PAYTON.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

FRANK G. KLOTZ, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR NUCLEAR SECURITY, VICE THOMAS P. D'AGOSTINO, RESIGNED.

MADELYN R. CREEDON, OF INDIANA, TO BE PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, VICE NEILE L. MILLER, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

BRAD R. CARSON, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, VICE JOSEPH W. WESTPHAL.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

ARUN MADHAVAN KUMAR, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES AND FOREIGN COMMERCIAL SERVICE, VICE SURESH KUMAR, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

KATHERINE M. O'BRIEN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, VICE RAPHAEL WILLIAM BOSTIC.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

WANDA FELTON, OF NEW YORK, TO BE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 20, 2017. (REAPPOINTMENT)

SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION CORPORATION

LESLIE E. BAINS, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2015, VICE WILLIAM S. JASIEŃ, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

KELLY R. WELSH, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, VICE CAMERON F. KERRY.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

KATHRYN B. THOMSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, VICE ROBERT S. RIVKIN, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

KATHRYN D. SULLIVAN, OF OHIO, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR OCEANS AND ATMOSPHERE, VICE JANE LUBCHENCO, RESIGNED.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

ROBERT MICHAEL SIMON, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY, VICE SHERBURNE B. ABBOTT.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DEBRA L. MILLER, OF KANSAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2017, VICE FRANCIS MULVEY, TERM EXPIRED.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

TERRELL MCSWEENEY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2010, VICE JON D. LEIBOWITZ, RESIGNED.

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

JOSEPH P. MOHOROVIC, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM OCTOBER 27, 2012, VICE NANCY ANN NORD, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PAUL NATHAN JAENICHEN, SR., OF KENTUCKY, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION, VICE DAVID T. MATSUDA, RESIGNED.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

JO EMILY HANDELSMAN, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY, VICE CARL WIEMAN, RESIGNED.

CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

DAVID J. ARROYO, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2016, VICE ELIZABETH COURTNEY, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

RHEA SUN SUH, OF COLORADO, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE, VICE THOMAS L. STRICKLAND, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ELLEN DUDLEY WILLIAMS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY-ENERGY, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, VICE ARUN MAJUMDAR, RESIGNED.

CHRISTOPHER SMITH, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY (FOSSIL ENERGY), VICE CHARLES DEWITT MCCONNELL, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

JANICE MARION SCHNEIDER, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, VICE WILMA A. LEWIS, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ELIZABETH M. ROBINSON, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF ENERGY, VICE KRISTINA M. JOHNSON, RESIGNED.

FRANKLIN M. ORR, JR., OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, VICE STEVEN ELLIOT KOONIN.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NEIL GREGORY KORŃZE, OF NEVADA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, VICE ROBERT V. ABBEY, RESIGNED.

ESTHER PUAKELA KIA'AINA, OF HAWAII, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, VICE ANTHONY MARION BABAUTA.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

MARC A. KASTNER, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, VICE WILLIAM F. BRINKMAN.

JONATHAN ELKIND, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY (INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS), VICE DAVID B. SANDALOW, RESIGNED.

STEVEN CROLEY, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, VICE GREGORY HOWARD WOODS.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

MICHAEL L. CONNOR, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, VICE DAVID J. HAYES, RESIGNED.

TOMMY PORT BEAUDREAU, OF ALASKA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, VICE RHEA S. SUH.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

ROY K. J. WILLIAMS, OF OHIO, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, VICE JOHN R. FERNANDEZ, RESIGNED.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

VICTORIA MARIE BAECHER WASSMER, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE BARBARA J. BENNETT, RESIGNED.

CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD

RICHARD J. ENGLER, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE WILLIAM E. WRIGHT, TERM EXPIRED.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

THOMAS A. BURKE, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE PAUL T. ANASTAS, RESIGNED.

KENNETH J. KOPOCIS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE PETER SILVA SILVA, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

RICHARD G. FRANK, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE SHERRY GLIED, RESIGNED.

UNITED STATES TAX COURT

TAMARA WENDA ASHFORD, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE MARY ANN COHEN, RETIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

KAREN DYNAN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, VICE JANICE EBERLY.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

R. GIL KERLIKOWSKIE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE ALAN D. BERSIN, RESIGNED.

UNITED STATES TAX COURT

L. PAIGE MARVEL, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

SARAH BLOOM RASKIN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, VICE NEAL S. WOLIN.

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

RHONDA K. SCHMIDTLEIN, OF MISSOURI, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 16, 2021, VICE SHARA L. ARANOFF, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

STEFAN M. SELIG, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE, VICE FRANCISCO J. SANCHEZ, RESIGNED.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MICHAEL G. CARROLL, OF NEW YORK, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, VICE DONALD A. GAMBATESA, RESIGNED.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

JANET L. YELLEN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ALTERNATE GOVERNOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE BEN S. BERNANKE, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RICHARD STENGEL, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY, VICE TARA D. SOVENSCHINE.

SARAH SEWALL, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE AN UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE (CIVILIAN SECURITY, DEMOCRACY, AND HUMAN RIGHTS), VICE MARIA OTERO, RESIGNED.

PUNEET TALWAR, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (POLITICAL-MILITARY AFFAIRS), VICE ANDREW J. SHAPIRO.

FRANK A. ROSE, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (VERIFICATION AND COMPLIANCE), VICE ROSE EILENE GOTTEMÖELLER.

CHARLES HAMERMAN RIVKIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS), VICE JOSE W. FERNANDEZ, RESIGNED.

CARLOS PASCUAL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (ECONOMIC RESOURCES), VICE JOHN STERN WOLF.

PEACE CORPS

CAROLYN HESSLER RADELET, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE PEACE CORPS, VICE AARON S. WILLIAMS, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TOMASZ P. MALINOWSKI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND LABOR, VICE MICHAEL H. POSNER, RESIGNED.

MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION

DANA J. HYDE, OF MARYLAND, TO BE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION, VICE DANIEL W. YOHANNES.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DANIEL W. YOHANNES, OF COLORADO, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

ROSE EILENE GOTTEMÖELLER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ARMS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, VICE ELLEN O. TAUSCHER, RESIGNED.

BATHSHEBA NELL CROCKER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS), VICE ESTHER BRIMMER, RESIGNED.

KEITH M. HARPER, OF MARYLAND, FOR THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL.

PETER A. SELFIDGE, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, AND TO HAVE THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE, VICE CAPRICIA PENAVIC MARSHALL, RESIGNED.

ANTHONY LUZZATTO GARDNER, OF NEW YORK, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE EUROPEAN UNION, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY.

CRYSTAL NIX-HINES, OF CALIFORNIA, FOR THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HER TENURE OF SERVICE AS THE UNITED STATES PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION.

ADAM M. SCHEINMAN, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE, TO BE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT FOR NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

ROBERT A. WOOD, OF NEW YORK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, FOR THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT.

TINA S. KAIDANOW, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE COORDINATOR FOR COUNTERTERRORISM, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR AT LARGE, VICE DANIEL BENJAMIN, RESIGNED.

PAMELA K. HAMAMOTO, OF HAWAII, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

UNITED NATIONS

LESLIE BERGER KIERNAN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS FOR U.N. MANAGEMENT AND REFORM, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

LESLIE BERGER KIERNAN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING HER TENURE OF SERVICE AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS FOR U.N. MANAGEMENT AND REFORM.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MICHAEL ANDERSON LAWSON, OF CALIFORNIA, FOR THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION.

INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

CATHERINE ANN NOVELLI, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ALTERNATE GOVERNOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS; UNITED STATES ALTERNATE GOVERNOR OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE ROBERT D. HORMATS, RESIGNED.

EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

CATHERINE ANN NOVELLI, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ALTERNATE GOVERNOR OF THE EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT, VICE ROBERT D. HORMATS, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CATHERINE ANN NOVELLI, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE (ECONOMIC GROWTH, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT), VICE ROBERT D. HORMATS, RESIGNED.

KEVIN WHITAKER, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-

COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA.

JOSEPH WILLIAM WESTPHAL, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA.

GEORGE JAMES TSUNIS, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY.

KAREN CLARK STANTON, OF MICHIGAN, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE.

DOUGLAS ALAN SILLIMAN, OF TEXAS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE STATE OF KUWAIT.

ROBERT A. SHERMAN, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC.

ERIC T. SCHULTZ, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA.

EUNICE S. REDDICK, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF NIGER.

BRIAN A. NICHOLS, OF RHODE ISLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF PERU.

LUIS G. MORENO, OF TEXAS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO JAMAICA.

CARLOS ROBERTO MORENO, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO BELIZE.

NOAH BRYSON MAMET, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

DONALD LU, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA.

HELEN MEACHER LA LIME, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA.

AMY JANE HYATT, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU.

MICHAEL STEPHEN HOZA, OF WASHINGTON, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON.

JOHN HOOVER, OF MASSACHUSETTS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE.

BRUCE HEYMAN, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO CANADA.

MATTHEW T. HARRINGTON, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO.

MICHAEL A. HAMMER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE.

MARK GILBERT, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO NEW ZEALAND, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF SAMOA.

JOHN L. ESTRADA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

THOMAS FREDERICK DAUGHTON, OF ARIZONA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA.

MAUREEN ELIZABETH CORMACK, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA.

MARK BRADLEY CHILDRESS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA.

ARNOLD A. CHACON, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE, VICE LINDA THOMAS-GREENFIELD, RESIGNED.

DWIGHT L. BUSH, SR., OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO.

TIMOTHY M. BROAS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS.

COLLEEN BRADLEY BELL, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO HUNGARY.

ROBERT C. BARBER, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ICELAND.

LARRY EDWARD ANDRE, JR., OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA.

CYNTHIA H. AKUETTEH, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE GABONESE REPUBLIC, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MICHAEL KEITH YUDIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, VICE ALEXA E. POSNY.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

PORTIA Y. WU, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR, VICE JANE OATES.

DAVID WEIL, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, VICE PAUL DECAMP.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

JAMES H. SHELTON III, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, VICE ANTHONY W. MILLER, RESIGNED.

MASSIE RITSCH, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, VICE PETER CUNNINGHAM.

THEODORE REED MITCHELL, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, VICE MARTHA J. KANTER.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

VIVEK HALLEGGERE MURTHY, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE MEDICAL DIRECTOR IN THE REGULAR CORPS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE, SUBJECT TO QUALIFICATIONS THEREFOR AS PROVIDED BY LAW AND REGULATIONS, AND TO BE SURGEON GENERAL OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE REGINA M. BENJAMIN, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ERICKA M. MILLER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, VICE EDUARDO M. OCHOA.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION

HEATHER L. MACDOUGALL, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 27, 2017, VICE HORACE A. THOMPSON, TERM EXPIRED.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

FRANCE A. CORDOVA, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS, VICE SUBRA SURESH, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

JAMES COLE, JR., OF NEW YORK, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, VICE CHARLES P. ROSE.

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

STEVEN JOEL ANTHONY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 28, 2018, VICE JEROME F. KEVER, TERM EXPIRED.

THE JUDICIARY

STEVEN M. WELLNER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE KAYE K. CHRISTIAN, RETIRED.

SHERRY MOORE TRAFFORD, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE NATALIA COMBS GREENE, RETIRED.

WILLIAM WARD NOOTER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE A. FRANKLIN BURGESS, RETIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

SUZANNE ELEANOR SPAULDING, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE RAND BEERS.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

JAMES C. MILLER, III, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR THE TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2017. (REAPPOINTMENT)

POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

TONY HAMMOND, OF MISSOURI, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 14, 2018. (REAPPOINTMENT)

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

STEPHEN CRAWFORD, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2015, VICE ALAN C. KESSLER, RESIGNED.

DAVID MICHAEL BENNETT, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2018, VICE THURGOOD MARSHALL, JR., TERM EXPIRED.

POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

NANCI E. LANGLEY, OF HAWAII, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 22, 2018. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

JOHN ROTH, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE RICHARD L. SKINNER, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

YVETTE ROUBIDEAUX, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

VINCENT G. LOGAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE SPECIAL TRUSTEE, OFFICE OF SPECIAL TRUSTEE FOR AMERICAN INDIANS, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, VICE ROSS OWEN SWIMMER, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DANIEL BENNETT SMITH, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH), VICE PHILIP S. GOLDBERG.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

CAROLINE DIANE KRASS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, VICE STEPHEN WOOLMAN PRESTON, RESIGNED.

THE JUDICIARY

JILL A. PRYOR, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT, VICE STANLEY B. BIRCH, JR., RETIRED.

CAROLYN B. MCHUGH, OF UTAH, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE TENTH CIRCUIT, VICE MICHAEL R. MURPHY, RETIRED.

MICHELLE T. FRIEDLAND, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT, VICE RAYMOND C. FISHER, RETIRED.

NANCY L. MORITZ, OF KANSAS, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE TENTH CIRCUIT, VICE DEANELL REECE TACHA, RETIRED.

JOHN B. OWENS, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT, VICE STEPHEN S. TROTT, RETIRED.

DAVID JEREMIAH BARRON, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FIRST CIRCUIT, VICE MICHAEL BOUDIN, RETIRED.

ROBIN S. ROSENBAUM, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT, VICE ROSEMARY BARKETT, RESIGNED.

JULIE E. CARNES, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT, VICE JAMES LARRY EDMONDSON, RETIRED.

GREGG JEFFREY COSTA, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT, VICE FORTUNATO P. BENAVIDES, RETIRED.

ROSEMARY MARQUEZ, OF ARIZONA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA, VICE FRANK R. ZAFATA, RETIRED.

PAMELA L. REEVES, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE, VICE THOMAS W. PHILLIPS, RETIRING.

TIMOTHY L. BROOKS, OF ARKANSAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS, VICE JIMM LARRY HENDREN, RETIRED.

JEFFREY KER MEYER, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT, VICE MARK B. KRAVITZ, DECEASED.

JAMES DONATO, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, VICE JAMES WARE, RETIRED.

BETH LABSON FREEMAN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, VICE AN ADDITIONAL POSITION IN ACCORDANCE WITH 28 USC 333(b)(1).

JENNIFER PRESCOTT MAY-PARKER, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE

EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA, VICE MALCOLM J. HOWARD, RETIRED.

PEDRO A. DELGADO HERNANDEZ, OF PUERTO RICO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO, VICE DANIEL R. DOMINGUEZ, RETIRED.

BRUCE HOWE HENDRICKS, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA, VICE MARGARET B. SEYMOUR, RETIRED.

ALISON RENEE LEE, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA, VICE CAMERON M. CURRIE, RETIRING.

VINCE GIRDHARI CHHABRIA, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, VICE SUSAN Y. ILLSTON, RETIRED.

MATTHEW FREDERICK LEITMAN, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN, VICE MARIANNE O. BATTANI, RETIRED.

JUDITH ELLEN LEVY, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN, VICE NANCY G. EDMUNDS, RETIRED.

LAURIE J. MICHELSON, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN, VICE GEORGE CARAM STEEH III, RETIRED.

JAMES MAXWELL MOODY, JR., OF ARKANSAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS, VICE SUSAN WEBBER WRIGHT, RETIRING.

LINDA VIVIANNE PARKER, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN, VICE ROBERT H. CLELAND, RETIRED.

CHRISTOPHER REID COOPER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, VICE ROYCE C. LAMBERTH, RETIRED.

DANIEL D. CRABTREE, OF KANSAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF KANSAS, VICE JOHN W. LUNGSTRUM, RETIRED.

M. DOUGLAS HARPOLE, OF MISSOURI, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI, VICE RICHARD E. DORR, DECEASED.

SHERYL H. LIPMAN, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE, VICE JON P. MCCALA, RETIRED.

GERALD AUSTIN MCHUGH, JR., OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA, VICE HARVEY BARTLE, III, RETIRED.

EDWARD G. SMITH, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA, VICE BERLE M. SCHILLER, RETIRED.

CYNTHIA ANN BASHANT, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, VICE IRMA E. GONZALEZ, RETIRED.

STANLEY ALLEN BASTIAN, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON, VICE EDWARD F. SHEA, RETIRED.

DIANE J. HUMETWEA, OF ARIZONA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA, VICE MARY H. MURGULA, ELEVATED.

JON DAVID LEVY, OF MAINE, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MAINE, VICE GEORGE Z. SINGAL, RETIRED.

STEVEN PAUL LOGAN, OF ARIZONA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA, VICE JAMES A. TEILBOEG, RETIRED.

DOUGLAS L. RAYES, OF ARIZONA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA, VICE FREDERICK J. MARTONE, RETIRED.

MANISH S. SHAH, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS, VICE JOAN HUMPHREY LEFKOW, RETIRED.

JOHN JOSEPH TUCHI, OF ARIZONA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA, VICE ROSLYN MOORE-SILVER, RETIRED.

MARK C. MASTROLIANI, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS, VICE MICHAEL A. PONSOR, RETIRED.

INDIRA TALWANI, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS, VICE MARK L. WOLF, RETIRED.

THEODORE DAVID CHUANG, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND, VICE ROGER W. TITUS, RETIRING.

GEORGE JARROD HAZEL, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND, VICE ALEXANDER WILLIAMS, JR., RETIRED.

JAMES D. PETERSON, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN, VICE JOHN C. SHABAZ, RETIRED.

NANCY J. JOSENSTENGEL, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS, VICE G. PATRICK MURPHY, RETIRING.

RONNIE L. WHITE, OF MISSOURI, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI, VICE JEAN C. HAMPTON, RETIRED.

MICHAEL P. ROGGS, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA, VICE JULIE E. CARNES.

TANYA S. CHUTKAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, VICE AN ADDITIONAL POSITION IN ACCORDANCE WITH 28 U.S.C. 133 (b) (1).

MARK HOWARD COHEN, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA, VICE CLARENCE COOPER, RETIRED.

M. HANNAH LAUCK, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA, VICE JAMES R. SPENCER, RETIRING.

LEIGH MARTIN MAY, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA, VICE BEVERLY B. MARTIN, ELEVATED.

ELEANOR LOUISE ROSS, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA, VICE CHARLES A. PANNELL, JR., RETIRED.

LEO T. SOROKIN, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS, VICE JOSEPH L. TAURO, RETIRED.

JAMES ALAN SOTO, OF ARIZONA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA, VICE DAVID C. BURY, RETIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ANDREW MARK LUGER, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE B. TODD JONES, TERM EXPIRED.

DAMON PAUL MARTINEZ, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE KENNETH J. GONZALES, RESIGNED.

KEVIN W. TECHAU, OF IOWA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE STEPHANIE M. ROSE, RESIGNED.

GARY BLANKINSHIP, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE RUBEN MONZON, RESIGNED.

ROBERT L. HOBBS, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE JOHN LEE MOORE, TERM EXPIRED.

AMOS ROJAS, JR., OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE CHRISTINA PHARO, TERM EXPIRED.

PETER C. TOBIN, OF OHIO, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE CATHY JO JONES, RESIGNED.

DEBO P. ADEGBILE, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, VICE THOMAS E. PEREZ, RESIGNED.

LESLIE RAGON CALDWELL, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, VICE LANNY A. BREUER, RESIGNED.

JOHN P. CARLIN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, VICE LISA O. MONACO, RESIGNED.

PETER JOSEPH KADZIK, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, VICE RONALD H. WEICH, RESIGNED.

PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD

ELISEBETH COLLINS COOK, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 29, 2020. (RE-APPOINTMENT)

ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

MYRNA PEREZ, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 12, 2015, VICE ROSEMARY E. RODRIQUEZ, TERM EXPIRED.

THOMAS HICKS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 12, 2017, VICE GRACIA M. HILLMAN, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SLOAN D. GIBSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, VICE W. SCOTT GOULD.

LINDA A. SCHWARTZ, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (POLICY AND PLANNING), VICE RAUL PEREA-HENZE, RESIGNED.

HELEN TIERNEY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

CONSTANCE B. TOBIAS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS, VICE JAMES PHILIP TERRY, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

JON M. HOLLADAY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, VICE EVAN J. SEGAL.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

DAVID RADZANOWSKI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION, VICE ELIZABETH M. ROBINSON.

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

RICHARD A. KENNEDY, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 30, 2016, VICE WILLIAM COBEY, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

JOSEPH S. HEZIR, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, VICE STEVEN JEFFREY ISAKOWITZ, RESIGNED.

MORRIS K. UDALL AND STEWART L. UDALL FOUNDATION

CHARLES P. ROSE, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MORRIS K. UDALL AND STEWART L. UDALL FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 26, 2019, VICE ROBERT BOLDREY, TERM EXPIRED.

MARK THOMAS NETHERY, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MORRIS K. UDALL AND STEWART L. UDALL FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 6, 2018, VICE ERIC D. EBERHARD, TERM EXPIRED.

ANNE J. UDALL, OF OREGON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MORRIS K. UDALL AND STEWART L. UDALL FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 6, 2016. (REAPPOINTMENT)

CAMILLA C. FEIBELMAN, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MORRIS K. UDALL AND STEWART L. UDALL FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 15, 2017, VICE STEPHEN M. PRESCOTT, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

NANI A. COLORETTI, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, VICE DANIEL M. TANGHERLINI, RESIGNED.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD

ALAN L. COHEN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 30, 2016, VICE DANA K. BILYEU, TERM EXPIRED.

LANHEE J. CHEN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 30, 2018, VICE MARK J. WARSHAWSKY, TERM EXPIRED.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

HENRY J. AARON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 30, 2014, VICE JEFFREY ROBERT BROWN, TERM EXPIRED.

HENRY J. AARON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 30, 2020. (RE-APPOINTMENT)

INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION

MARK E. LOPES, OF ARIZONA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 20, 2016, VICE HECTOR E. MORALES, TERM EXPIRED.

MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION

SUSAN MCCUE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS, VICE KENNETH FRANCIS HACKETT, TERM EXPIRED.

INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

MARK E. LOPES, OF ARIZONA, TO BE UNITED STATES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS, VICE GUSTAVO ARNAVAT, RESIGNED.

UNITED STATES ADVISORY COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

ALFREDO J. BALSERA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES ADVISORY COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2014, VICE ELIZABETH F. BAGLEY, TERM EXPIRED.

ALFREDO J. BALSERA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES ADVISORY COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2017. (RE-APPOINTMENT)

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

LINDA THOMAS-GREENFIELD, AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (AFRICAN AFFAIRS), TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 27, 2015, VICE JOHNNIE CARSON.

HARRY S. TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

VICKI MILES-LAGRANGE, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HARRY S. TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 10, 2015, VICE ROGER L. HUNT, TERM EXPIRED.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

SHELLY COLLEEN LOWE, OF ARIZONA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2018, VICE JANE M. DOGETT, TERM EXPIRED.

PATRICIA NELSON LIMERICK, OF COLORADO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2018, VICE ROBERT S. MARTIN, TERM EXPIRED.

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

JOSEPH PIUS PIETRZYK, OF OHIO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2014. (RE-APPOINTMENT)

MARTHA L. MINOW, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2014. (REAPPOINTMENT)

MARTHA L. MINOW, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2017. (REAPPOINTMENT)

GLORIA VALENCIA-WEBER, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2014. (REAPPOINTMENT)

GLORIA VALENCIA-WEBER, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2014. (REAPPOINTMENT)

SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2017. (REAPPOINTMENT)

LAURIE I. MIKVA, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2016. (REAPPOINTMENT)

VICTOR B. MADDOX, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2016. (REAPPOINTMENT)

JOHN GERSON LEVI, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2014. (REAPPOINTMENT)

JOHN GERSON LEVI, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2014. (REAPPOINTMENT)

HARRY JAMES FRANKLYN KORRELL III, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2014. (REAPPOINTMENT)

CHARLES NORMAN WILTSE KECKLER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2016. (REAPPOINTMENT)

ROBERT JAMES GREY, JR., OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2017. (REAPPOINTMENT)

ROBERT JAMES GREY, JR., OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2014. (REAPPOINTMENT)

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

THOMAS EDGAR ROTHMAN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2016. (NEW POSITION)

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

MARK D. GEARAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 1, 2015. (REAPPOINTMENT)

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate January 6, 2014:

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

JANET L. YELLEN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.