

from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) were added as cosponsors of S. 543, a bill to restrict any State or local jurisdiction from imposing a new discriminatory tax on cell phone services, providers, or property.

S. 570

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 570, a bill to prohibit the Department of Justice from tracking and cataloguing the purchases of multiple rifles and shotguns.

S. 584

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 584, a bill to establish the Social Work Reinvestment Commission to provide independent counsel to Congress and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on policy issues associated with recruitment, retention, research, and reinvestment in the profession of social work, and for other purposes.

S. 598

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 598, a bill to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and ensure respect for State regulation of marriage.

S. 707

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 707, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to provide further protection for puppies.

S. 778

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 778, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to physician supervision of therapeutic hospital outpatient services.

S. 798

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 798, a bill to provide an amnesty period during which veterans and their family members can register certain firearms in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record, and for other purposes.

S. 807

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 807, a bill to authorize the Department of Labor's voluntary protection program and to expand the program to include more small businesses.

S. 951

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota

(Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 951, a bill to improve the provision of Federal transition, rehabilitation, vocational, and unemployment benefits to members of the Armed Forces and veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 987

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 987, a bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration.

S. 1025

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) were added as cosponsors of S. 1025, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the national defense through empowerment of the National Guard, enhancement of the functions of the National Guard Bureau, and improvement of Federal-State military coordination in domestic emergency response, and for other purposes.

S. 1048

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1048, a bill to expand sanctions imposed with respect to the Islamic Republic of Iran, North Korea, and Syria, and for other purposes.

S. 1058

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1058, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure transparency and proper operation of pharmacy benefit managers.

S. 1171

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1171, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion from gross income for employer-provided health coverage for employees' spouses and dependent children to coverage provided to other eligible dependent beneficiaries of employees.

S. 1223

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1223, a bill to address voluntary location tracking of electronic communications devices, and for other purposes.

S. 1280

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1280, a bill to amend the Peace Corps Act to require sexual assault risk-reduction and response training, and the development of sexual assault protocol and guidelines, the establishment of victims advocates, the establishment of a Sexual Assault Advisory Council, and for other purposes.

S. 1308

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr.

GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1308, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to child pornography and child exploitation offenses.

S.J. RES. 17

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 17, a joint resolution approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 17, supra.

S. RES. 175

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 175, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to ongoing violations of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Georgia and the importance of a peaceful and just resolution to the conflict within Georgia's internationally recognized borders.

S. RES. 201

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 201, a resolution expressing the regret of the Senate for the passage of discriminatory laws against the Chinese in America, including the Chinese Exclusion Act.

S. RES. 226

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 226, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President does not have the authority to ignore the statutory debt limit by ordering the Secretary of the Treasury to continue issuing debt on the full faith and credit of the United States.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KYL (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 1344. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to take immediate action to recover ecologically and economically from a catastrophic wildfire in the State of Arizona, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, today I am introducing, with Senator JOHN MCCAIN, S. 1344, which is a response to Arizona's largest wildfire, called the Wallow Fire. This act is the Wallow Fire Recovery and Monitoring Act.

The Wallow Fire in Arizona burned, over about 40 days, 538,000 acres of Arizona land, making it the largest fire in the history of our State. Just to put it into perspective, that is nearly 841 square miles or almost four times the

size of the city of Chicago. The fire destroyed 32 homes and 4 rental cabins. Nearly 10,000 people were evacuated at one point, and the fire cost the taxpayers over \$100 million before it was finally extinguished. Unfortunately, it will likely cost double that amount for the necessary rehabilitation of the forests that needs to occur now. After a fire such as this, there is only a short opportunity to hasten forest rehabilitation, reduce risks of flooding, insect epidemics, and future fires, and capture at least some of the economic benefit from the dead and dying trees to help offset and pay for those restoration costs.

Given the urgent need for action, as I said, I am introducing today the Arizona Wallow Fire Recovery and Monitoring Act, joined by my colleague, JOHN MCCAIN, as an original cosponsor. This legislation would expedite the removal of hazard, dead, and dying trees in community protection management areas within the Wallow Fire area. The removal projects carried out under the act will be completed within 18 months of enactment. The reason for this timeline is that when it comes to timber harvesting of the fire-killed trees, the costs of delay are extreme. Fire-killed trees will lose more than 40 percent of their value in less than 2 years.

Due to the intensity, the size, and the magnitude of the fire, there is a tremendous amount of dead and dying trees within the Wallow Fire area. Portions of the forest that have burned pose a risk to forest users, to communities, and to private property and the remaining resources. These risks include the hazards of falling trees, erosion, flooding, reburns due to excess fuel loads, and insect infestation risk to the remaining live trees. Under these postfire conditions, timber salvage is a management tool to mitigate these risks, generate revenue and jobs, and put the forest on the road to recovery.

We saw the negative consequences of delay firsthand in Arizona after the Rodeo-Chediski Fire in 2002, which at that point had been our State's largest fire. Bureaucratic regulations and lawsuits so severely delayed salvage efforts that by the time the projects were cleared to proceed, the trees had lost most of their economic value. Congress should not stand by and allow this situation to be repeated.

That said, we are not looking to eliminate environmental safeguards or exempt timber harvests from Federal environmental laws. This bill is narrowly tailored, limiting the removal of hazard, dead, and dying trees to those trees located within community protection management areas. One of these areas includes the wildland urban interface and other areas critical to communities. In addition, a comprehensive hazard tree and commercial timber evaluation and an environmental assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, are required. All appeals and judicial

review would follow the processes in the bipartisan Healthy Forest Restoration Act.

The practice of postfire timber salvage may be controversial in part because there is limited scientific information on its ecological effects. Most of the scientific literature that does exist is based on forests in the Pacific Northwest. The forests in that part of the country are very different from the dry ponderosa pine-dominated forests that burned in the Wallow Fire. Thus, the bill would require monitoring for all timber removal projects implemented under the act.

Finally, from a fiscal perspective, there is never going to be enough Federal funding for the forest restoration work that needs to be done to save the forest that remains. Acknowledging this reality, this bill takes the proceeds from the timber removal project sales and keeps them on this forest to help pay for future forest restoration treatments.

This bill strikes a responsible balance between environmental concerns and economics after a catastrophic wildfire. I urge my colleagues to support its swift passage.

The Arizona Wallow Fire Recovery and Monitoring Act requires a comprehensive evaluation of the forest conditions and hazard tree and fire-damaged timber resources across the Wallow Fire Area; limits the areas where dead and dying trees can be removed to Community Protection Management Areas; limits tree removal to hazard trees and trees that are already down, dead, broken or severely root sprung trees where mortality is highly expected; prohibits the construction of new, permanent roads; provides for an expedited, but thorough, environmental review of tree removal projects proposed in the Wallow Fire Area, including full public participation in the development of such projects; uses the processes for appeals and judicial review established in the bipartisan Healthy Forest Restoration Act; requires monitoring of the ecological and economic effects of timber removal projects; and authorizes the use of timber receipts to offset the costs of forest restoration.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 230—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT ANY AGREEMENT TO REDUCE THE BUDGET DEFICIT SHOULD NOT INCLUDE CUTS TO SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS OR MEDICARE BENEFITS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. FRANKEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. RES. 230

Whereas over 34,000,000 retired workers currently receive Social Security benefits in

amounts that average a modest \$14,100 a year;

Whereas, in 2008, 23 percent of retired workers receiving Social Security benefits depended on those benefits for all or almost all of their income;

Whereas according to AARP, Social Security benefits kept 36 percent of seniors out of poverty in 2008;

Whereas reducing Social Security benefits would cause many seniors to have to choose between food, drugs, rent, and heat;

Whereas 95 percent of seniors in the United States, who numbered almost 37,000,000 in 2008, got their health care coverage through the Medicare program;

Whereas without Medicare benefits, seniors, many of whom live off of Social Security benefits, would have to turn to the costly and uncertain private market for health care coverage;

Whereas the Social Security program and the Medicare program are extremely successful social insurance programs that permit seniors in America to retire with dignity and security after a lifetime of hard work; and

Whereas the Social Security program and the Medicare program help relieve young American families from worry about their own futures, allowing freedom of opportunity in America: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that any agreement to reduce the budget deficit should not include cuts to Social Security benefits or Medicare benefits.

SENATE RESOLUTION 231—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2011 AS "NATIONAL CHILD AWARENESS MONTH" TO PROMOTE AWARENESS OF CHARITIES BENEFITTING CHILDREN AND YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND RECOGNIZING EFFORTS MADE BY THOSE CHARITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH AS CRITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUTURE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BURR (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. ALEXANDER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 231

Whereas millions of children and youth in the United States represent the hopes and future of the United States;

Whereas numerous individuals, charities benefitting children, and youth-serving organizations that work with children and youth collaborate to provide invaluable services to enrich and better the lives of children and youth throughout the United States;

Whereas raising awareness of, and increasing support for, organizations that provide access to healthcare, social services, education, the arts, sports, and other services will result in the development of character and the future success of the children and youth of the United States;

Whereas the month of September, as the school year begins, is a time when parents, families, teachers, school administrators, and communities increase their focus on children and youth throughout the United States;

Whereas the month of September is a time for the people of the United States to highlight and be mindful of the needs of children and youth;