

EC-3713. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; California; South Coast; Attainment Plan for 1997 PM2.5 Standards" (FRL No. 9482-9) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 25, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3714. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Iowa: Prevention of Significant Deterioration; Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule Revision" (FRL No. 9484-5) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 25, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3715. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Assuring the Availability of Funds for Decommissioning Nuclear Reactors" (Regulatory Guide 1.159, Revision 2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 27, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3716. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Notice of Availability of Models for Plant-Specific Adoption of Technical Specifications Task Force Traveler TSTF-510, Revision 2, 'Revision to Steam Generator Program Inspection Frequencies and Tube Sample Selection'" (NUREG-1430, -1431, -1432) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 27, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3717. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Access Authorization Program for Nuclear Power Plants" (Regulatory Guide 5.66, Revision 2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 27, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3718. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Format and Content of License Applications for Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facilities" received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 27, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3719. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Changes to the Ambulatory Surgical Centers Patient Rights Conditions for Coverage" (RIN0938-AP93) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 28, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

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 Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 1770. A bill to prohibit discrimination in adoption or foster care placements based on the sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status of any prospective adoptive or foster parent, or the sexual orientation or gender identity of the child involved; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 1771. A bill for the relief of Patricia Donahue, individually and in her capacity as administratrix of the estate of Michael J. Donahue; Michael T. Donahue; Shawn Donahue; and Thomas Donahue; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 1772. A bill for the relief of Patricia Macarelli, in her capacity as administratrix of the estate of Edward Brian Halloran; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 1773. A bill to promote local and regional farm and food systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BAUCUS:

S. 1774. A bill to establish the Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Management Area, to designate certain Federal land as wilderness, and to improve the management of noxious weeds in the Lewis and Clark National Forest, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. REID, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, and Mr. HELLER):

S. 1775. A bill to promote the development of renewable energy on public lands and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. WICKER, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1776. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to expand the Operation Hero Miles program to include the authority to accept the donation of travel benefits in the form of hotel points or awards for free or reduced-cost accommodations; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. COBURN (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 1777. A bill to require Comptroller General of the United States reports on the major automated information system programs of the Department of Defense; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 1778. A bill to amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to include the provision of diapers and diapering supplies among the activities for which funds may be employed to improve the quality of and access to child care; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BEGICH, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S.J. Res. 29. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. PRYOR, and Mr. CHAMBLISS):

S. Res. 308. A resolution designating November 27, 2011, as "Drive Safer Sunday"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 46

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 46, a bill to reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, and for other purposes.

S. 50

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 50, a bill to strengthen Federal consumer product safety programs and activities with respect to commercially-marketed seafood by directing the Secretary of Commerce to coordinate with the Federal Trade Commission and other appropriate Federal agencies to strengthen and coordinate those programs and activities.

S. 52

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 52, a bill to establish uniform administrative and enforcement procedures and penalties for the enforcement of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act and similar statutes, and for other purposes.

S. 260

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 260, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation.

S. 431

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 431, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 225th anniversary of the establishment of the Nation's first Federal law enforcement agency, the United States Marshals Service.

S. 466

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 466, a bill to provide for the restoration of legal rights for claimants under holocaust-era insurance policies.

S. 626

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of S. 626, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the shipping investment withdrawal rules in section 955 and to provide an incentive to reinvest foreign shipping earnings in the United States.

S. 678

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 678, a bill to increase the penalties for economic espionage.

S. 700

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 700, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the treatment of certain farming business machinery and equipment as 5-year property for purposes of depreciation.

S. 720

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) were added as cosponsors of S. 720, a bill to repeal the CLASS program.

S. 838

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 838, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to clarify the jurisdiction of the Environmental Protection Agency with respect to certain sporting good articles, and to exempt those articles from a definition under that Act.

S. 876

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 876, a bill to amend title 23 and 49, United States Code, to modify provisions relating to the length and weight limitations for vehicles operating on Federal-aid highways, and for other purposes.

S. 939

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 939, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that the volume cap for private activity bonds shall not apply to bonds for facilities for the furnishing of water and sewage facilities.

S. 996

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 996, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the new markets tax credit through 2016, and for other purposes.

S. 1106

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1106, a bill to authorize Department of Defense support for programs on pro bono legal assistance for members of the Armed Forces.

S. 1107

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1107, a bill to authorize and support

psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis data collection, to express the sense of the Congress to encourage and leverage public and private investment in psoriasis research with a particular focus on interdisciplinary collaborative research on the relationship between psoriasis and its comorbid conditions, and for other purposes.

S. 1119

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1119, a bill to reauthorize and improve the Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1133

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1133, a bill to prevent the evasion of antidumping and countervailing duty orders, and for other purposes.

S. 1214

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1214, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, regarding restrictions on the use of Department of Defense funds and facilities for abortions.

S. 1231

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1231, a bill to reauthorize the Second Chance Act of 2007.

S. 1278

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1278, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on indoor tanning services.

S. 1299

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1299, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of Lions Clubs International.

S. 1472

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1472, a bill to impose sanctions on persons making certain investments that directly and significantly contribute to the enhancement of the ability of Syria to develop its petroleum resources, and for other purposes.

S. 1494

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1494, a bill to reauthorize and amend the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act.

S. 1507

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1507, a bill to provide protections from workers with respect to their right to select or refrain from selecting representation by a labor organization.

S. 1527

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1527, a bill to authorize the award of a Congressional gold medal to the Montford Point Marines of World War II.

S. 1541

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) were added as cosponsors of S. 1541, a bill to revise the Federal charter for the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. to reflect a change in eligibility requirements for membership.

S. 1555

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1555, a bill to authorize the use of certain offshore oil and gas platforms in the Gulf of Mexico for artificial reefs, and for other purposes.

S. 1566

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1566, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 regarding public charter schools.

S. 1591

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1591, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Raoul Wallenberg, in recognition of his achievements and heroic actions during the Holocaust.

S. 1616

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BARR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1616, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain stock of real estate investment trusts from the tax on foreign investments in United States real property interests, and for other purposes.

S. 1668

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1668, a bill to provide that the Postal Service may not close any post office which results in more than 10 miles distance (as measured on roads with year-round access) between any 2 post offices.

S. 1676

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Tennessee

(Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1676, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for taxpayers making donations with their returns of income tax to the Federal Government to pay down the public debt.

S. 1692

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1692, a bill to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, to provide full funding for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes program, and for other purposes.

S. 1701

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1701, a bill to amend the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998, and for other purposes.

S. 1707

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1707, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the conditions under which certain persons may be treated as adjudicated mentally incompetent for certain purposes.

S. 1717

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1717, a bill to prevent the escapement of genetically altered salmon in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1769

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1769, a bill to put workers back on the job while rebuilding and modernizing America.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. WICKER, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1776. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to expand the Operation Hero Miles program to include the authority to accept the donation of travel benefits in the form of hotel points or awards for free or reduced-cost accommodations; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Hotels for Heroes Act. Next week is Veterans Day and we owe it to our military men and women to support them every day but especially in their time of need. Today, military families are facing enormous challenges, not just emotionally, but financially. The legislation I am introducing will help more families to be with their loved ones as they recover from injuries and illnesses sustained

defending our country and our way of life.

This bill expands on the popular Hero Miles program created in 2003 by my Maryland delegation colleague, Congressman DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER. The Hero Miles program authorizes the Department of Defense to accept donated frequent traveler miles to provide free round-trip airfare to military members recovering at military or Veterans Administration, VA, medical centers as a result of injuries sustained in overseas conflicts. The program also enables family and friends to visit injured troops while they are being treated. The Fisher House Foundation administers the program. The Foundation is a non-profit best known for its network of comfort homes built on the grounds of major military and VA medical centers.

The bill that I am introducing today would expand the program to allow the Department of Defense to accept the donation of hotel points in addition to airline miles. Congressman RUPPERSBERGER has introduced a companion bill in the House of Representatives. Here in the Senate, I am proud to have bipartisan support for this bill: Senator WICKER is the lead co-sponsor. The Fisher House Foundation, the USO, and the Military Child Education Coalition all support the legislation.

Donating unused frequent flyer airline miles and hotel points is a wonderful and easy way for Americans to express their appreciation for our brave men and women in uniform and their families. The Senate is not renowned for acting expeditiously, but one nice way to help pay tribute to our veterans and active duty servicemen and women would be to pass the Hotels for Heroes Act as soon as possible. I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

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. 1776

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXPANSION OF OPERATION HERO MILES.

(a) EXPANDED DEFINITION OF TRAVEL BENEFIT.—Subsection (b) of section 2613 of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(b) TRAVEL BENEFIT DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘travel benefit’ means—

“(1) frequent traveler miles, credits for tickets, or tickets for air or surface transportation issued by an air carrier or a surface carrier, respectively, that serves the public; and

“(2) points or awards for free or reduced-cost accommodations issued by an inn, hotel, or other commercial establishment that provides lodging to transient guests.”.

(b) CONDITION ON AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT DONATION.—Subsection (c) of such section is amended—

(1) by striking “the air or surface carrier” and inserting “the business entity referred to in subsection (b)”;

(2) by striking “the surface carrier” and inserting “the business entity”; and

(3) by striking “the carrier” and inserting “the business entity”.

(c) USE.—Subsection (d) of such section is amended—

(1) by striking “or” at the end of paragraph (1);

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (2) and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(3) providing humanitarian support to members and eligible beneficiaries receiving care through the military health care system; and

“(4) providing support to allow participation of members and their families in Department of Defense sponsored and authorized programs.”.

(d) ADMINISTRATION.—Subsection (e)(3) of such section is amended by striking “the air carrier or surface carrier” and inserting “the business entity referred to in subsection (b)”.

(e) STYLISTIC AMENDMENTS.—

(1) SECTION HEADING.—The heading of such section is amended to read as follows:

“§2613. Acceptance of frequent traveler miles, credits, points, and tickets: use to facilitate rest and recuperation travel of deployed members and their families, support members and other beneficiaries of the military health care system, and support participation in authorized programs”.

(2) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 155 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 2613 and inserting the following new item:

“2613. Acceptance of frequent traveler miles, credits, points, and tickets: use to facilitate rest and recuperation travel of deployed members and their families, support members and other beneficiaries of the military health care system, and support participation in authorized programs.”.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BEGICH, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S.J. Res. 29. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce an amendment to the United States Constitution to address our country's broken campaign finance system. Joining me in this effort are my colleagues Senators BENNET, HARKIN, DURBIN, SCHUMER, MERKLEY, WHITEHOUSE, BEGICH, and SHAHEEN.

As we head into another election year, we are about to see unprecedented amounts of money spent on efforts to influence the outcome of our elections. With the Supreme Court striking down the sensible regulations Congress has passed, I believe the only way to address the root cause of this problem is by first amending the Constitution.

Such an amendment is not a new idea. Constitutional amendments to