

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 309—SUPPORTING THE PRESERVATION OF INTERNET ENTREPRENEURS AND SMALL BUSINESSES

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. HELLER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

S. RES. 309

Whereas the United States enjoys a strong Internet retail market, which, for the past decade, has provided consumers in the United States with the opportunity to purchase quality products and services at competitive prices;

Whereas the free Internet marketplace has enabled a large number of small retailers and entrepreneurs across the Nation to establish and strengthen businesses on various e-commerce platforms and therefore protect and create jobs, increase consumer choice, create competition in the retail industry, and provide quality goods and services at reasonable and often discounted prices;

Whereas any Federal legislation that would upset the free and fair Internet marketplace and allow State governments to impose new, onerous and burdensome sales tax-collecting schemes on out-of-State, Internet-enabled small businesses would adversely impact hundreds of thousands of jobs, reduce consumer choice, and impede the growth and development of interstate commerce; and

Whereas at a time when national unemployment numbers are high and businesses across the country are struggling to keep their doors open, the Federal Government should promote pro-growth and pro-business policies instead of enacting legislation that extracts additional taxes from our Nation's Internet-enabled businesses: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that Congress should not enact any legislation that would grant State governments the authority to impose any new burdensome or unfair tax collecting requirements on small Internet businesses and entrepreneurs, which would ultimately hurt the economy of, and consumers in, the United States.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am pleased today to be joined by Senators AYOTTE, BEGICH, HELLER, MERKLEY, and SHAHEEN to submit a simple but important bipartisan resolution. Our resolution simply expresses a sense of the Senate that the government should not sack small online businesses with any new tax collecting mandates that would hurt their competitiveness, hurt economic recovery, hurt competition, and harm consumers.

The Internet is transforming the way that commerce is conducted. It is leveling the playing field so that the marketplace—whether for goods and services or for ideas—is less and less dominated by the big and by the powerful. The Internet is democratizing information, speech, and making it easier to exchange ideas as well as goods and services.

The legal regime that the United States currently has in place, which facilitates e-commerce, must be protected. Our Constitution and laws such as the Internet Tax Freedom Act and section 230 of the Communications De-

gency Act, which I championed and protect e-commerce platforms from litigation and small e-commerce businesses from being crushed by layers and layers of state and local taxes, are the pillars that support America's e-commerce platforms and online entrepreneurs' ability to compete.

Everyone in this body recognizes that small businesses are the engines of our economy. They are responsible for the bulk of innovation and job creation in this country—job creation that is so desperately needed right now. In this difficult economic period, however, many State and local governments are facing budgetary shortfalls. It is a difficult challenge that I am sure all of my colleagues recognize, but State budget gaps should not be filled by imposing new tax collecting mandates on the very types of businesses that we rely on to innovate and create the new jobs of tomorrow. But that is what some people are suggesting that Congress allow. I am opposed to that right now, especially given the economic challenges that we face.

Let me give just one example of why we shouldn't upset the legal regime that is currently working to foster innovation, encourage e-commerce and interstate economic activity and which supports jobs. Without the regime that we have in place, a small online retailer, whether it is someone that is selling new merchandise or used merchandise, would be responsible for collecting sales tax for up to 15,000 different sales tax jurisdictions. That is just not a reasonable thing to expect. That is not a reasonable thing to expect particularly, say, from a stay-at-home parent who sells household goods online to supplement the family's income. Or a college student who buys and sells used merchandise online to help finance the increasingly higher costs of attending college. We don't want to saddle online entrepreneurs like these with new tax collecting responsibilities that will, in effect, put them right out of business.

I look forward to working with my Senate colleagues to build support for this resolution and to ensure that we keep the policies in place that enable small businesses, including online businesses, to have a policy environment that allows them to innovate and create good American jobs.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator CHARLES GRASSLEY, intend to object to proceeding to S. 1014, a bill to provide for additional Federal district judgeships, dated November 2, 2011.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public

that a field hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Monday, November 14, 2011, at 10 a.m., in 7th Floor Courtroom of the Robert C. Byrd Federal Courthouse, 300 Virginia Street, East Charleston, WV 25301.

The purpose of the hearing is to examine Marcellus Shale Gas development and production in West Virginia.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510-6150, or by e-mail to Abigail_Campbell@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Allyson Anderson at (202) 224-7143 or Abigail Campbell at (202) 224-1219.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 2, 2011, at 2:30 p.m. in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 2, 2011, at 9:30 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Ten Years After 9/11: The Next Wave in Aviation Security."

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 2, 2011, at 10 a.m. in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Nominations."

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 2, 2011, at 9:30 a.m., to hold a European Affairs subcommittee hearing entitled, "The European Debt Crisis: Strategic Implications for the Transatlantic Alliance."

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS, HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY, AND GLOBAL WOMEN'S ISSUES

and

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NEAR EASTERN AND SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 2, 2011, at 2:30 p.m., to hold a joint hearing of the Subcommittee on International Operations and Organizations, Human Rights, Democracy, and Global Women's Issues, and the Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South and Central

Asian Affairs entitled, "Women and the Arab Spring."

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 2, 2011, at 2:00 p.m. in room G-50 of the Dirksen Senate office building to conduct a hearing entitled "Ensuring Quality and Oversight in Assisted Living."

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that floor privileges be extended for the balance of the day to my intern, India Wade.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Julia Feinberg and Adam Newman of my staff be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of today's proceedings on the motion to proceed to S. 1769.

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

FOREIGN TRAVEL FINANCIAL REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriate provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following reports for standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel:

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2011

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Paul Grove:									
Uzbekistan	Som		224.00						224.00
United States	Dollar				6,380.00				6,380.00
Mary Katherine Fitzpatrick:									
Russia	Ruble		1,534.00						1,534.00
Georgia	Lari		645.70						645.70
Ukraine	Hryvnia		581.53						581.53
United States	Dollar				12,641.20				12,641.20
Erik Fatemi:									
Cambodia	Riel		991.55						991.55
India	Rupee		2,422.00						2,422.00
United States	Dollar				10,690.00				10,690.00
Adrienne Hallett:									
Cambodia	Riel		814.55						814.55
India	Rupee		2,422.00						2,422.00
United States	Dollar				10,690.00				10,690.00
Laura Friedel:									
Cambodia	Riel		901.55						901.55
India	Rupee		2,162.00						2,162.00
United States	Dollar				10,690.50				10,690.50
Sara Love Swaney:									
Cambodia	Riel		891.55						891.55
India	Rupee		2,102.00						2,102.00
United States	Dollar				10,690.50				10,690.50
Janet Stormes:									
Japan	Yen		10.00		39.00				49.00
South Korea	Won		492.00		62.00				554.00
China	Yuan Renminbi		858.00						858.00
Taiwan	Dollar		295.50						295.00
Philippines	Peso		570.00						570.00
United States	Dollar				6,681.00		35.00		6,716.00
Senator Barbara Mikulski:									
France	Euro		2,513.89		405.43				2,919.32
United States	Dollar				11,722.00				11,722.00
Gabrielle Batkin:									
France	Euro		2,513.89		405.43				2,919.32
United States	Dollar				11,722.00				11,722.00
Julia Frifield:									
France	Euro		1,524.91		89.90				1,614.81
United States	Dollar				11,722.00				11,722.00
Paul Grove:									
Egypt	Pound		92.00						92.00
Israel	Shekel		438.00						438.00
Malta	Euro		226.00						226.00
United States	Dollar				4,354.65				4,354.65
Senator Mark Kirk:									
Malta	Euro		146.01						146.01
Total			25,372.63		108,985.61		35.00		134,393.24

DANIEL INOUE,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Oct. 11, 2011.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2011

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Lindsey Graham:									
United States	Dollar				9,300.40				9,300.40
Afghanistan	Dollar		68.00						68.00