AMENDMENT NO. 1444

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1444 intended to be proposed to S. 1867, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 1446

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1446 intended to be proposed to S. 1867, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 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.

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1446 intended to be proposed to S. 1867, supra.

AMENDMENT NO. 1448

At the request of Mr. CHAMBLISS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1448 intended to be proposed to S. 1867, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 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.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 1925. A bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, I am proud to introduce the bipartisan Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2011 and to be joined by Senator CRAPO in doing so. For almost 18 years, the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, has been the centerpiece of the Federal Government's commitment to combat domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. We should reauthorize and strengthen these programs.

Since VAWA'S passage in 1994, no other law has done more to stop domestic and sexual violence in our communities. The resources and training provided by VAWA have changed attitudes toward these reprehensible crimes, improved the response of law enforcement and the justice system, and provided essential services for victims struggling to rebuild their lives. It is a law that has saved countless lives, and it is an example of what we can accomplish when we work together.

As a prosecutor in Vermont, I saw firsthand the destruction caused by domestic and sexual violence. Those were the days before VAWA, when too often people dismissed these serious crimes with a joke, and there were few, if any, services for victims. We have come a long way since then, but there is much more we must do.

Over the last few years, the Senate Judiciary Committee has held several hearings on VAWA in anticipation of this reauthorization. We have heard from people from all around the country, and they have told us the same thing I hear from service providers, experts, and law enforcement officers in Vermont: While we have made great strides in reducing domestic violence and sexual assault, these difficult problems remain, and there is more work to be done.

The victim services funded by VAWA play a particularly critical role in these difficult economic times. The economic pressures of a lost job or home can add stress to an already abusive relationship and can make it even harder for victims to rebuild their lives. At the same time, state budget cuts are resulting in fewer available services. Just this summer, Topeka, Kansas, took the drastic step of decriminalizing domestic violence because the city did not have the funds needed to prosecute these cases. We can and must do better than that. Budgets are tight, but we cannot simply turn our backs on these victims. For many, the programs funded through the Violence Against Women Act are nothing short of a life line.

In Vermont, VAWA funding helped the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence provide services to more than 7,000 adults and nearly 1,400 children last year alone. These women and men, and girls and boys, received shelter, counseling, legal advocacy and access to transitional housing—lifesaving services to help them recover from unspeakable trauma and abuse.

In one case, a mother of three children living in rural Vermont endured a long and abusive marriage in which she was not allowed to get an independent job or even a driver's license. For most of her adult life, she was subjected to physical, sexual and emotional abuse by her husband. After she summoned the courage to call a domestic violence hotline, her husband was arrested. Advocates helped her find temporary housing and gain access to a lawyer who helped her navigate the criminal process and establish supervised visitation for her children. Because of funding provided by VAWA, she and her children are safe and living independently. The lives of this woman and her children are just a few examples of how VAWA is having a real impact in our communities.

I have heard stories like this time and again from victims and advocates in Vermont and across the country. Without this critical funding, state and local programs like the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence will not be able to provide their services to victims in desperate need.

The reauthorization bill that I am introducing with Senator CRAPO reflects Congress's ongoing commitment to end domestic and sexual violence. It seeks to expand the law's focus on sexual assault, to ensure access to services for all victims of domestic and sexual violence, and to address the crisis of domestic and sexual violence in tribal communities, among other important steps. It also responds to these difficult economic times by consolidating programs, reducing authorization levels, and adding accountability measures to ensure that Federal funds are used efficiently and effectively.

The Violence Against Women Act has been successful because it has consistently had strong bipartisan support for nearly two decades. Today, we build on that foundation. I hope that Senators from both parties will join us to quickly pass this critical reauthorization, which will provide safety and security for victims across America.

By Mr. REID:

S.J. Res. 30. A joint resolution extending the cooling-off period under section 10 of the Railway Labor Act with respect to the dispute referred to in Executive Order No. 13586 of October 6, 2011; read the first time.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the joint resolution be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the joint resolution was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S.J. RES. 30

Whereas the labor dispute between numerous rail carriers that are common carriers by rail in interstate commerce, and certain of their employees represented by labor organizations, threatens to interrupt essential freight rail services of the United States;

Whereas it is essential to the national interest that essential freight rail services be maintained;

Whereas Congress finds that emergency measures are essential to maintaining the security and continuity of freight rail services;

Whereas the President, by Executive Order 13586 of October 6, 2011, and pursuant to the provisions of section 10 of the Railway Labor Act (45 U.S.C. 160), created Presidential Emergency Board 243 to investigate the dispute and report findings;

Whereas the recommendations of the Emergency Board 243 issued on November 5, 2011, have been exhausted and have not resulted in settlement of the dispute;

Whereas Congress, under the Commerce Clause of the Constitution, has the authority and responsibility to ensure the uninterrupted operation of essential freight rail services; and

Whereas Congress has in the past enacted legislation for such purposes: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF COOLING-OFF PERIOD.

With respect to the dispute referred to in Executive Order No. 13586 of October 6, 2011, the time period described in the third paragraph of section 10 of the Railway Labor Act

(45 U.S.C. 160) shall be extended until 12:01 a.m. on February 8, 2012, so that no change, except by agreement, shall be made by the rail carriers represented by the National Carriers' Conference Committee or by the employees of such carriers represented by labor organizations that are a party to such dispute, in the conditions out of which the dispute arose as such conditions existed prior to 12:01 a.m. on December 6, 2011.

By Mr. REID:

S.J. Res. 31. A joint resolution applying certain conditions to the dispute referred to in Executive Order 13586 of October 6, 2011, between the enumerated freight rail carriers, common carriers by rail in interstate commerce, and certain of their employees represented by labor organizations that have not agreed to extend the cooling-off period under section 10 of the Railway Labor Act beyond 12:01 a.m. on December 6, 2011; read the first time.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the joint resolution be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the joint resolution was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S.J. RES. 31

Whereas the labor dispute between numerous rail carriers that are common carriers by rail in interstate commerce, and certain of their employees represented by labor organizations, threatens to interrupt essential freight rail services of the United States;

Whereas it is essential to the national interest that essential freight rail services be maintained;

Whereas Congress finds that emergency measures are essential to maintaining the security and continuity of freight rail services;

Whereas the President, by Executive Order 13586 of October 6, 2011, and pursuant to the provisions of section 10 of the Railway Labor Act (45 U.S.C. 160), created Presidential Emergency Board 243 to investigate the dispute and report findings;

Whereas the recommendations of the Emergency Board 243 issued on November 5, 2011, have been exhausted and have not resulted in settlement of the dispute;

Whereas Congress, under the Commerce Clause of the Constitution, has the authority and responsibility to ensure the uninterrupted operation of essential freight rail services; and

Whereas Congress has in the past enacted legislation for such purposes: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REQUIRED CONDITIONS.

The following conditions shall apply to the dispute referred to in Executive Order 13586 of October 6, 2011, between the enumerated freight rail carriers, common carriers by rail in interstate commerce, and certain of their employees represented by labor organizations that have not agreed to extend the cooling-off period under section 10 of the Railway Labor Act (45 U.S.C. 160) beyond 12:01 a.m. on December 6, 2011:

(1) The parties to such dispute shall take all necessary steps to restore or preserve the conditions out of which such dispute arose as such conditions existed before 12:01 a.m. on December 6, 2011, except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3).

(2) The report and recommendations of the Emergency Board 243 shall be binding on the parties upon the enactment of this joint resolution and shall have the same effect as though arrived at by agreement of the parties under the Railway Labor Act (45 U.S.C. 151 et seq.), except that nothing in this joint resolution shall prevent a mutual written agreement to any terms and conditions different from those established by this joint resolution.

(3)(A) If there are unresolved implementing issues remaining with respect to the report and recommendations or agreement under paragraph (2) after 10 days after the date of enactment of this joint resolution, the parties to the dispute shall enter into binding arbitration to provide for a resolution of such issues.

(B) The National Mediation Board established by section 4 of the Railway Labor Act (45 U.S.C. 154) shall appoint an arbitrator to resolve the issues described in subparagraph (A). Except as provided in this joint resolution, such arbitration shall be conducted as if it were under section 7 of such Act, and any award of such arbitration shall be enforceable as if under section 9 of such Act.

(4) Within thirty days after the date of enactment of this joint resolution, the binding arbitration entered into pursuant to paragraph (3) shall be completed.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 340—TO AMEND THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE TO PROHIBIT A MEMBER, OFFICER, OR EMPLOYEE OF THE SENATE FROM DISCLOSING OR USING ANY MATERIAL NONPUBLIC INFORMATION LEARNED DURING THE COURSE OF HIS OR HER SERVICE FOR PERSONAL GAIN

Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 340

Resolved,

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT TO THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE.

Rule XXXVII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by—

(1) redesignating paragraph 15 as paragraph 16; and

(2) inserting after paragraph 14 the following:

''15. A Member, officer, or employee of the Senate shall not disclose or use any material nonpublic information learned during the course of his or her service for personal gain.''.

SENATE RESOLUTION 341—DESIGNATING THE FIRST FULL WEEK OF DECEMBER IN 2011 AS ''NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE WEEK''

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. BURR, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. CANTWELL and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 341

Whereas Christmas trees are grown in all 50 States;

Whereas Christmas trees have been sold commercially in the United States since about 1850;

Whereas Edward Johnson, assistant to Thomas Edison, came up with the idea of electric lights for Christmas trees in 1882;

Whereas President Calvin Coolidge started the National Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony on the White House lawn in 1923;

Whereas there are close to 15,000 farms growing Christmas trees in the United States;

Whereas there are approximately 100,000 people employed full or part-time in the Christmas tree industry;

Whereas Christmas tree farms in the United States planted approximately 35,000,000 Christmas trees in 2011 to replace those harvested in 2010; and

Whereas growing Christmas trees preserves green space and small family-owned farms, provides habitats for wildlife, and sequesters carbon dioxide: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the first full week of December in 2011 as ''National Christmas Tree Week'';

(2) encourages the celebration of Christmas trees during that week;

(3) recognizes the role Christmas trees have played in the history of the United States;

(4) reaffirms the environmental benefits of Christmas tree farms and recycled Christmas trees;

(5) encourages the recycling of Christmas trees after the holiday season; and

(6) celebrates the joy Christmas trees bring to families across the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1452. Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1246 submitted by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill S. 1867, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1453. Mr. KYL (for himself and Mr. CORKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1183 proposed by Mr. SESSIONS to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1454. Mr. JOHNSON, of South Dakota (for himself and Mr. THUNE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2354, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1452. Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1246 by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill S. 1867, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the amendment add the following: