

SENATE RESOLUTION 63—DESIGNATING THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL 2011 AS “NATIONAL ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK”

Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. TESTER, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. REID of Nevada) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 63

Whereas dangerous asbestos fibers are invisible and cannot be smelled or tasted;

Whereas the inhalation of airborne asbestos fibers can cause significant damage;

Whereas asbestos fibers can cause cancer such as mesothelioma, asbestosis, and other health problems;

Whereas asbestos-related diseases can take 10 to 50 years to present themselves;

Whereas the expected survival time for those diagnosed with mesothelioma is between 6 and 24 months;

Whereas generally, little is known about late-stage treatment of asbestos-related diseases, and there is no cure for such diseases;

Whereas early detection of asbestos-related diseases may give some patients increased treatment options and might improve their prognoses;

Whereas the United States has reduced its consumption of asbestos substantially, yet continues to consume almost 820 metric tons of the fibrous mineral for use in certain products throughout the Nation;

Whereas asbestos-related diseases have killed thousands of people in the United States;

Whereas exposure to asbestos continues, but safety and prevention of asbestos exposure already has significantly reduced the incidence of asbestos-related diseases and can further reduce the incidence of such diseases;

Whereas asbestos has been a cause of occupational cancer;

Whereas thousands of workers in the United States face significant asbestos exposure;

Whereas thousands of people in the United States die from asbestos-related diseases every year;

Whereas a significant percentage of all asbestos-related disease victims were exposed to asbestos on naval ships and in shipyards;

Whereas asbestos was used in the construction of a significant number of office buildings and public facilities built before 1975;

Whereas people in the small community of Libby, Montana have asbestos-related diseases at a significantly higher rate than the national average and suffer from mesothelioma at a significantly higher rate than the national average; and

Whereas the establishment of a “National Asbestos Awareness Week” will raise public awareness about the prevalence of asbestos-related diseases and the dangers of asbestos exposure: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the first week of April 2011 as “National Asbestos Awareness Week”;

(2) urges the Surgeon General to warn and educate people about the public health issue of asbestos exposure, which may be hazardous to their health; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Office of the Surgeon General.

SENATE RESOLUTION 64—AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. ROCKEFELLER submitted the following resolution; from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 64

Resolved, That, in carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of such rules, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized from March 1, 2011, through September 30, 2011, October 1, 2011, through September 30, 2012, and October 1, 2012, through February 28, 2013, in its discretion (1) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate, (2) to employ personnel, and (3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

SEC. 2. (a) The expenses of the Committee for the period from March 1, 2011, through September 30, 2011, under this resolution shall not exceed \$4,636,433, of which amount (1) not to exceed \$50,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended), and (2) not to exceed \$50,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the Committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946).

(b) For the period October 1, 2011, through September 30, 2012, expenses of the Committee under this resolution shall not exceed \$7,948,171, of which amount (1) not to exceed \$50,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended), and (2) not to exceed \$50,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the Committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946).

(c) For the period October 1, 2012, through February 28, 2013, expenses of the committee under this resolution shall not exceed \$3,311,738, of which amount (1) not to exceed \$50,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended), and (2) not to exceed \$50,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946).

SEC. 3. The Committee shall report its findings, together with such recommendations for legislation as it deems advisable, to the Senate at the earliest practicable date, but not later than February 29, 2012, and February 28, 2013, respectively.

SEC. 4. Expenses of the Committee under this resolution shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the Committee, except that vouchers shall not be required (1) for the disbursement of salaries of employees

paid at an annual rate, (2) for the payment of telecommunications provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, United States Senate, (3) for the payment of stationery supplies purchased through the Keeper of the Stationery, United States Senate, (4) for payments to the Postmaster, United States Senate, (5) for the payment of metered charges on copying equipment provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, United States Senate, (6) for the payment of Senate Recording and Photographic Services, or (7) for the payment of franked and mass mail costs by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, United States Senate.

SEC. 5. There are authorized such sums as may be necessary for agency contributions related to the compensation of employees of the Committee from March 1, 2011, through September 30, 2011, October 1, 2011, through September 30, 2012, and October 1, 2012, through February 28, 2013, to be paid from the Appropriations account for “Expenses of Inquiries and Investigations”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 65—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE CONVICTION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF RUSSIA OF BUSINESSMEN MIKHAIL KHODORKOVSKY AND PLATON LEBEDEV CONSTITUTES A POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CASE OF SELECTIVE ARREST AND PROSECUTION THAT FLAGRANTLY UNDERMINES THE RULE OF LAW AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF RUSSIA

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. McCAIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 65

Whereas it has been the long-held position of the United States to support the development of democracy, rule of law, judicial independence, freedom, and respect for human rights in the Russian Federation;

Whereas, on April 1, 2009, President Barack Obama and President of Russia Dmitry Medvedev issued a joint statement affirming that “[i]n our relations with each other, we also seek to be guided by the rule of law, respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights, and tolerance for different views”;

Whereas President Medvedev publicly stated that “Russia is a country of legal nihilism” and that “no European country can boast such a universal disregard for the rule of law” and declared his “main objective is to achieve independence for the judicial system” through “significant, maybe even radical changes”;

Whereas two prominent cases of “universal disregard for the rule of law” in Russia involve the president of the Yukos Oil Company, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, and his partner, Platon Lebedev, who were first convicted and sentenced in May 2005 to serve nine years in a remote penal camp for charges of tax evasion;

Whereas it is believed that Mr. Khodorkovsky was selectively targeted for prosecution because he supported and financed opposition political parties, among other reasons;

Whereas authorities in Russia subsequently expropriated Yukos assets and assigned ownership to a state company that is chaired by an official in the Kremlin;

Whereas courts around the world have described the Yukos proceedings as impartial

and have rejected motions from prosecutors in Russia seeking extradition of Yukos officials or materials;

Whereas, on February 5, 2007, prosecutors in Russia suspiciously brought new charges against Mr. Khodorkovsky and Mr. Lebedev on the eve of their eligibility for parole, accusing them of embezzling the entire Yukos oil production for 6 years (1998 through 2003);

Whereas, on December 16, 2010, and just days before judge Viktor Danilkin's verdict, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin publicly called Mr. Khodorkovsky a "thief" who must "sit in jail," and stated that "we should presume that Mr. Khodorkovsky's crimes have been proven in court";

Whereas, on December 27, 2010, Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev were convicted of embezzlement charges and sentenced to six additional years in prison;

Whereas the United States Department of State's 2009 Country Report on Human Rights Practices in Russia reported that "the arrest, conviction, and subsequent treatment of Khodorkovsky raised concerns about due process and the rule of law, including the independence of courts" and that Khodorkovsky was "selectively targeted for prosecution because of his political activities and as a warning to other oligarchs against involvement in political or civil society issues";

Whereas, following the 2010 conviction, the editorial boards of the New York Times, Washington Post, and Wall Street Journal stated respectively that the "latest prosecution suggests that Russia's judiciary is still under Mr. Putin's thumb and Mr. Medvedev's talk of reform is just talk," "Russia remains the country of Mr. Putin," and "the Kremlin again chose to flout the rule of law, the political opposition and human rights";

Whereas the Senate has consistently voiced concern about the impartial treatment of Mr. Khodorkovsky and Mr. Lebedev at the hands of the Government of Russia;

Whereas, on December 9, 2003, the Senate unanimously passed S. Res. 258 (108th Congress), calling on the authorities in Russia to "dispel international concerns that the cases against Mikhail B. Khodorkovsky and other business leaders and politically motivated"; and

Whereas, on November 18, 2005, the Senate unanimously passed S. Res. 322 (109th Congress), expressing the sense that "the criminal justice system in Russia has not accorded Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev fair, transparent, and impartial treatment under the laws of the Russian Federation": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) in cases dealing with perceived threats to authorities, the judiciary of Russia is frequently used as an instrument of the Kremlin and is not truly independent or fair;

(2) Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev are political prisoners who have been denied basic due process rights under international law;

(3) in light of the record of selective prosecution, politicization, and abuse of process involved in their cases, and as a demonstration of Russia's commitment to the rule of law, democracy, and human rights, the 2010 conviction issued by authorities in Russia against Mr. Khodorkovsky and Mr. Lebedev should be overturned; and

(4) the Government of Russia is encouraged to take these actions to uphold the rule of law, democratic principles, and human rights to further a more positive relationship between the Governments and people of the United States and Russia in a new era of mutual cooperation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 66—AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY THE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Ms. LANDRIEU submitted the following resolution; from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 66

Resolved, That, in carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with jurisdiction under rule XXV of such rules, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized from March 1, 2011, through September 30, 2011, and October 1, 2011, through September 30, 2012, and October 1, 2012, through February 28, 2013, in its discretion—

(1) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) to employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

SEC. 2. (a) The expense of the committee for the period March 1, 2011, through September 30, 2011, under this resolution shall not exceed \$1,732,860, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$25,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946); and

(2) not to exceed \$10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946).

(b) For the period of October 1, 2011, through September 30, 2012, expenses of the committee under this resolution shall not exceed \$2,970,617, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$25,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, organizations thereof (as authorized by section 292(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946); and

(2) not to exceed \$10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946).

(c) For the period of October 1, 2012, through February 28, 2013, expenses of the committee under this resolution shall not exceed \$1,237,755, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$25,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946); and

(2) not to exceed \$10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946).

SEC. 3. The committee may report its findings, together with such recommendations for legislation as it deems advisable, to the Senate at the earliest practicable date, but not later than February 28, 2013.

SEC. 4. Expenses of the committee under this resolution shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the committee, except that vouchers shall not be required—

(1) for the disbursement of salaries of employees paid at an annual rate;

(2) for the payment of telecommunications provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, United States Senate;

(3) for the payment of stationery supplies purchased through the Keeper of the Stationery, United States Senate;

(4) for payments to the Postmaster, United States Senate;

(5) for the payment of metered charges on copying equipment provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, United States Senate;

(6) for the payment of Senate Recording and Photographic Services; or

(7) for payment of franked mail costs by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, United States Senate.

SEC. 5. There are authorized such sums as may be necessary for agency contributions related to the compensation of employees of the committee from March 1, 2011, through September 30, 2011, October 1, 2011, through September 30, 2012, and October 1, 2012, through February 28, 2013, to be paid from the Appropriations account for "Expenses of Inquiries and Investigations".

SENATE RESOLUTION 67—AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

Ms. STABENOW submitted the following resolution; from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 67

Resolved, That, in carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of such rules, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry is authorized from March 1, 2011, through September 30, 2011; October 1, 2011, through September 30, 2012, and October 1, 2012, through February 28, 2013, in its discretion (1) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate, (2) to employ personnel, and (3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

SEC. 2(a). The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2011, through September 30, 2011, under this resolution shall not exceed \$2,800,079 of which amount (1) not to exceed \$200,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended), and (2) not to exceed \$40,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946).

(b) For the period October 1, 2011, through September 30, 2012, expenses of the committee under this resolution shall not exceed \$4,800,136 of which amount (1) not to exceed \$200,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended), and (2) not to exceed \$40,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946).