

S. 3944

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3944, a bill to improve the safety of the air supply on aircraft, and for other purposes.

S. 3950

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3950, a bill to establish the Baltic Security and Economic Enhancement Initiative for the purpose of increasing security and economic ties with the Baltic countries and to establish the Baltic Security Initiative for the purpose of deepening security cooperation with the Baltic countries, and for other purposes.

S. 4105

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4105, a bill to treat certain liquidations of new motor vehicle inventory as qualified liquidations of LIFO inventory for purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

S. 4124

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4124, a bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds for the Disinformation Governance Board of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 38

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 38, a concurrent resolution declaring a state of emergency due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, in order to establish a waiver of the minimum tonnage requirements of section 55305 of title 46, United States Code.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED:

S. 4148. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to complete and publish a study and develop a plan relating to the ability of the electric system to meet the electricity demand of new electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Electric Vehicle Grid, Improvement, and Development Act, which would take important steps to prepare our electric grid for the deployment of the electric vehicle charging infrastructure that is essential to meeting our climate goals.

Our Nation's dependence on fossil fuels has created serious challenges for our security, economy, and environment. The electrification of our trans-

portation system will play a crucial role in confronting those challenges. Indeed, electric vehicles will help reduce our dependence on oil, lower carbon emissions and save Americans money at the pump.

The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act took great strides in advancing the deployment of electric vehicles. The bill provided \$15 billion for electric vehicles, including \$7.5 billion to create a national network of electric vehicle charging stations. Of these funds, Rhode Island should receive \$23 million for the deployment of new charging stations across the State.

Investments in electric vehicle charging infrastructure must be paired with grid readiness measures to ensure we can decarbonize as quickly as possible. To that end, the EV GRID Act would direct the Department of Energy to complete a study on the anticipated demand of electric vehicle charging infrastructure on our electric grid. It would also direct the Department, once the study is completed, to submit a plan with recommendations for policymakers to help the electric system meet demand.

This bill is critical to ensuring a smooth transition toward a cleaner, decarbonized transportation sector. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this commonsense legislation.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 4155. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to authorize extraterritorial jurisdiction; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DURBIN. 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. 4155

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

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Alien Tort Statute Clarification Act".

### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Since its founding, the United States has been a proponent of international law and a champion of universal human rights. Section 1350 of title 28, United States Code (referred to in this section as the "Alien Tort Statute"), originally enacted as part of the Act entitled "An Act to establish the judicial courts of the United States", approved September 24, 1789 (1 Stat. 73), continues to serve important purposes in providing remedies to victims of violations of international law and for holding perpetrators of human rights violations accountable.

(2) Some international law violations have been addressed in part by other statutes. But the Alien Tort Statute remains an important tool for addressing international law violations.

(3) Human rights abusers continue to seek refuge in the United States, including foreign government and military officials and leaders of death squads and other violent groups. This undermines the standing of the United States and its capacity to speak with authority on matters of human rights.

(4) When corporations commit or aid and abet human rights violations directly and through their supply chains, they should be held accountable. Failing to do so erodes the foreign policy interests of the United States and the priorities of Congress.

(5) Impunity for corporations who violate human rights unfairly disadvantages businesses that respect and uphold human rights. Companies that respect human rights should have a level playing field with companies that do not, such as those that would continue to do business in areas of the world known for mass atrocities or war crimes, including the Xinjiang region of the People's Republic of China or in the Russian Federation amidst the ongoing invasion of Ukraine.

(6) In many countries where human rights abuses occur, victims are unable to obtain justice because of ongoing conflicts and violence, corruption, and inadequate rule of law. In many such cases, a suit under the Alien Tort Statute is the only option for redress and accountability.

(7) The international law violations for which the Alien Tort Statute provides a remedy are universal and the Alien Tort Statute is a testament to the rule of law in the United States.

(8) The Alien Tort Statute should be available against those responsible for human rights abuses whenever they are subject to personal jurisdiction in the United States, regardless of where the abuse occurred.

### SEC. 3. EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION.

Section 1350 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting "(a) IN GENERAL.—" before "The district"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(b) EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION.—In addition to any domestic or extraterritorial jurisdiction otherwise provided by law, the district courts of the United States have extraterritorial jurisdiction over any tort described in subsection (a) if—

"(1) an alleged defendant is a national of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence (as those terms are defined in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101)); or

"(2) an alleged defendant is present in the United States, irrespective of the nationality of the alleged defendant.".

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 4158. A bill to amend the small business laws to create certain requirements with respect to the SBIR and STTR program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the "Encouraging Small Business Innovation Act," which I introduced today.

During National Small Business Week, we are celebrating the resiliency of our Nation's entrepreneurs who are leading our economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

To promote a strong recovery for the 32.5 million small businesses across the country, Congress should bolster Federal programs that support these entrepreneurs and innovators.

For more than 40 years, the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Programs have spurred innovation, job creation, and economic growth.

These programs have generated breakthroughs in a wide range of sectors, including agriculture, defense, energy, healthcare, and transportation.

Today, the Small Business Administration and 11 participating Federal Agencies leverage the SBIR and STTR Programs to help small innovative firms explore their potential and increase the commercialization of innovations arising out of Federal research and development.

While these critical programs have invested more than \$40 billion in small businesses, many firms, especially those that are minority- or women-owned, still face considerable barriers to participation.

As we look to spur innovation and drive small business growth, Congress should improve the diversity of these programs, enhance access to capital, and expand the eligible uses of funds to better support the needs of U.S. small businesses.

That is why I am proud to introduce this bill to increase the effectiveness of the SBIR and STTR Programs by improving diversity, enhancing access to capital, and expanding the eligible uses of funds.

This bill would direct participating Federal Agencies to use a portion of their SBIR allocation to conduct outreach and provide technical assistance to underserved populations and states.

It would also allow Small Business Investment Companies to participate as investors in SBIR and STTR projects and permanently add testing and evaluation activities permanently as an eligible expense, which can be resource-intensive for small firms, across all relevant agencies.

Additionally, this bill would require participating Federal Agencies to conduct a joint annual meeting to share best practices for improving data collection and streamlining processes across the programs.

I hope my colleagues will join me in support of this bill to improve the effectiveness of the SBIR and STTR Programs.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 616—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH EAST ASIAN NATIONS, ITS 10 MEMBER STATES, BRUNEI, CAMBODIA, INDONESIA, LAOS, MALAYSIA, MYANMAR, THE PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE, THAILAND, AND VIETNAM, AND THE UNITED STATES-ASEAN SPECIAL SUMMIT IN WASHINGTON, D.C., AND REAFFIRMING THE COMMITMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO CONTINUE TO REMAIN A STRONG, RELIABLE, AND ACTIVE PARTNER IN THE ASEAN REGION

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. ROMNEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 616

Whereas the 10 members of the Association of South East Asian Nations ("ASEAN") represent a variety of different cultures and beliefs;

Whereas an estimated 7,000,000 United States citizens identify with an ethnicity represented in ASEAN;

Whereas the United States and ASEAN have been cooperating to advance mutual interests for approximately 45 years, having first established dialogue on September 10, 1977, through the Joint Communique of the First ASEAN-United States Dialogue and the United States acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia at the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference Session in Thailand on July 22, 2009;

Whereas the United States was the first non-ASEAN country to appoint an ambassador to ASEAN on April 29, 2008, and the first non-member to establish a permanent mission to ASEAN in 2010;

Whereas cooperation between the United States Government and the governments and people of ASEAN member states can help realize the common goals of a free, open, peaceful, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region rooted in a rules-based order that promotes security, opportunity, and dignity to all people;

Whereas ASEAN member states have vibrant economies that have given rise to a flourishing middle class and collectively are predicted to become the fourth-largest economy in the world by 2050;

Whereas, in 2020, the 10 ASEAN member states represented the fifth largest economy in the world and constituted the fourth-largest export market of the United States, with total exports from the United States to ASEAN countries reaching \$111,900,000,000;

Whereas ASEAN is the number one destination for United States investment in the Indo-Pacific, with \$328,500,000,000 in cumulative foreign direct investment;

Whereas ASEAN member states surround critical global sea lanes, with \$5,300,000,000,000 of global trade and more than ½ of the world's total shipped tonnage transiting through the waters of such member states each year;

Whereas the ultimate goal of the ASEAN Economic Community (referred to in this preamble as "AEC") is to create one of the largest single market economies in the world and facilitate the free movement of goods, services, and professionals;

Whereas the United States-ASEAN Single Window custom facilitation system expedites intra-ASEAN trade and enhances the ability of United States businesses to operate in the region;

Whereas the United States-ASEAN Business Alliance for Competitive Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises has trained more than 20,000 small-to-medium size enterprises, with nearly ½ of the participants being women entrepreneurs;

Whereas the Mekong-U.S. Partnership, established in 2020 to expand upon the Lower Mekong Initiative, promotes sustainable long-term economic development throughout mainland Southeast Asia and fosters regional cooperation, integration, and capacity building;

Whereas the Japan-U.S.-Mekong Power Partnership aims to "promote a more sustainable energy sector and quality energy infrastructure development" and demonstrates the shared commitment of the United States and other Indo-Pacific nations to strengthen ties with Mekong countries;

Whereas, in 2021, the United States announced several additional initiatives to enhance cooperation with ASEAN, including the United States-ASEAN Health Futures, the United States-ASEAN Climate Futures, the United States-ASEAN Economic Futures, and the Billions Futures;

Whereas the United States is cooperating with ASEAN member states and providing emergency health assistance to enhance the resilience of such member states in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, including through the recently announced United States-ASEAN Health Futures program that builds on the more than \$3,500,000,000 the United States has invested in global health collaboration with ASEAN member states over the last 20 years;

Whereas the United States remains committed to working with ASEAN to improve the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental dignity of the people of ASEAN member states, a key ingredient to maintaining stability, promoting economic growth, and advancing good governance and rule of law;

Whereas the Burmese armed forces conducted an illegitimate coup in 2021, usurped the democratic government of Myanmar, killed hundreds of civilians, and displaced more than 300,000 people;

Whereas the Burmese junta has failed to make meaningful progress on ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus or receive official recognition from ASEAN;

Whereas the United States remains concerned about democratic backsliding and the erosion of protections of fundamental human rights in Southeast Asia;

Whereas the United States opposes all actions and claims that infringe upon the freedom and lawful use of the sea and has a national interest in ensuring freedom of navigation and overflight, open access to the maritime commons of the Indo-Pacific region, and respect for international law in the South China Sea;

Whereas the United States is deeply concerned about recent assertive and unsafe behavior by the People's Republic of China in the South China Sea and urges all countries with competing territorial claims to seek peaceful resolution of disputes through collaborative diplomacy and, as necessary, international dispute resolution mechanisms consistent with international law;

Whereas the United States supports the decision of the Government of the Philippines to use arbitration under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, done at Montego Bay December 10, 1982, to peacefully and lawfully address competing claims;

Whereas the United States supports development of a code of conduct that represents the interests of all parties and promotes peace and stability in the region surrounding the South China Sea, opposes efforts by any nation to use a code of conduct as a vehicle to limit presence in or lawful use of the South China Sea, encourages claimants not to undertake new or unilateral attempts to change the status quo since the signing of the 2002 Declaration of Conduct, including reclamation activities or administrative measures or controls in disputed areas in the South China Sea, and encourages ASEAN countries to adopt a unified position in negotiating the code of conduct;

Whereas the 20th Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training naval exercises featured more than 400 sailors from 21 countries, built greater maritime security on the strength of ASEAN, strengthened navy-to-navy bonds, and exemplified the shared belief in a free and open Indo-Pacific region;

Whereas the Indo-Pacific Strategy of the United States declares that "the United States also welcomes a strong and independent ASEAN that leads in Southeast Asia" and "endorse[s] ASEAN centrality and support[s] ASEAN in its efforts to deliver sustainable solutions to the region's most pressing challenges";

Whereas natural disasters in the ASEAN region over the past 4 decades have resulted