

seek to further research on the use of natural solutions to address evolving infrastructure needs across the country. The bill also requires the Secretary of the Interior to assess the costs and effectiveness of select natural infrastructure projects on an annual basis.

The bill defines natural infrastructure as constructed landscape features and systems that employ nature-based solutions that promote, use, restore, or emulate natural ecological processes. These features, when compared to grey infrastructure solutions, are often more cost-effective, increase community resilience to climate change impacts, and attract community support. The American Society of Civil Engineers estimates that our country's need for infrastructure repairs through 2025 totals over \$4 trillion. In order to meet our country's short- and long-term infrastructure needs, research is needed to inform the decisions being made by the people charged with addressing these infrastructure needs—civil engineers, local governments, developers, and the construction industry. The Joint Natural Infrastructure Science Program established by this bill directs USGS and FS to work with colleges and universities to advance ongoing natural infrastructure research efforts to inform future infrastructure projects. The bill also establishes a stakeholder advisory group to inform the Secretary of the Interior on appropriate research topics to be assessed by the Joint Natural Infrastructure Science Program.

The bill authorizes \$4 million in appropriations for each fiscal year from 2023 through 2033 for both the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to implement the Joint Natural Infrastructure Program. Additionally, the bill requires the Secretary of the Interior to publish an annual report on no fewer than 30 natural infrastructure projects across the country to assess the cost and effectiveness of the projects as well as provide recommendations on ways to improve future natural infrastructure projects in terms of construction, costs, and effectiveness. The selected projects should be diverse in terms of both geographic location as well as project type. These reports, coupled with the research generated by the Joint Natural Infrastructure Science Program, will help inform future infrastructure projects as we seek out cost-effective solutions all across the country that maximize human and environmental benefits in the face of evolving challenges, including the increasing impacts of climate change.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 771—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2022, AS “NATIONAL STILLBIRTH PREVENTION DAY”, RECOGNIZING TENS OF THOUSANDS OF AMERICAN FAMILIES THAT HAVE ENDURED A STILLBIRTH, AND SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY TO KEEP OTHER FAMILIES FROM EXPERIENCING THE SAME TRAGEDY

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KING, and Mr. PETERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

## S. RES. 771

Whereas, 23,000 pregnancies in the United States end in stillbirth each year, and the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the crisis;

Whereas racial disparities persist in birth outcomes, with Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous families at the greatest risk of losing a baby to stillbirth;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the annual number of stillbirths far exceeds the number of deaths among children under 15 years of age due to sudden infant death syndrome, car accidents, drowning, guns, fire, poison, and flu combined;

Whereas, in the last 2 decades, the stillbirth rate in the United States declined by a negligible 0.4 percent, and in a report published by the World Health Organization comparing progress in improving stillbirth rates, the United States ranked 183 out of 195 countries;

Whereas stillbirths are devastating and have a profound and lifelong impact on the families who endure them;

Whereas stillbirth is linked to an increased risk of maternal mortality;

Whereas, with increased awareness and better data collection, the United States will be able to better understand why stillbirths in the United States are happening at an alarming rate and identify what can be done to combat this crisis;

Whereas proven stillbirth prevention efforts have the power to save a minimum of 7,500 babies every year from preventable stillbirth in the United States, and innovations in stillbirth prevention could save thousands of additional families in the United States from the heartache of losing a baby each year;

Whereas recognizing “National Stillbirth Prevention Day” is an opportunity to increase awareness, support evidence-based prevention efforts, promote research, encourage improved data collection and greater understanding, and provide community to those who have experienced stillbirth; and

Whereas “National Stillbirth Prevention Day” calls on the President and all other Federal officials to use their authorities to reduce stillbirths in the United States by at least 33 percent and ensure every expectant family is educated on how to reduce the risk of losing a baby to stillbirth: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of “National Stillbirth Prevention Day”;

(2) understands the importance of advancing evidence-based prevention efforts; and

(3) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the

United States to observe National Stillbirth Prevention Day with appropriate awareness programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 772—RECOGNIZING THE SERIOUSNESS OF MYOTONIC DYSTROPHY AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2022, AS “INTERNATIONAL MYOTONIC DYSTROPHY AWARENESS DAY”

Mr. KAINE (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

## S. RES. 772

Whereas myotonic dystrophy is a rare, multi-systemic, inherited disease that affects approximately 1 in 2,100 individuals and more than 150,000 individuals in the United States;

Whereas 1 in 8,000 individuals are living with myotonic dystrophy globally, yet thousands of individuals do not know they have the disease and are in need of care;

Whereas myotonic dystrophy is the most common form of adult-onset muscular dystrophy, and the symptoms of the disease become more severe with each generation;

Whereas the disease is caused by a mutation in the DMPK gene, resulting in myotonic dystrophy type 1, or the CNBP gene, resulting in myotonic dystrophy type 2;

Whereas those mutations prevent those genes from functioning properly, impacting multiple body systems;

Whereas those mutations are autosomal dominant mutations, in which one copy of the altered gene is sufficient to cause the disorder, and affected individuals have a 50 percent chance of passing on the mutated gene to their children;

Whereas, through this inherited genetic anomaly, individuals with myotonic dystrophy experience varied and complex symptoms, ranging from skeletal muscle problems, early cataracts, and excessive daytime sleepiness to heart, breathing, digestive, hormonal, speech, swallowing, diabetic, immune, vision, and cognitive difficulties;

Whereas myotonic dystrophy is a highly variable and complicated disorder, and the younger an individual is when symptoms first appear, the more severe symptoms are likely to be;

Whereas misdiagnoses have persisted for decades, and delays in diagnosing myotonic dystrophy are common;

Whereas there are currently no treatments approved by the Food and Drug Administration for myotonic dystrophy;

Whereas the Myotonic Dystrophy Foundation was founded in 2007 with a mission to enhance the quality of life of individuals living with myotonic dystrophy and accelerate research focused on finding treatments and a cure;

Whereas, in 2014, Congress enacted the Paul D. Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Community Assistance, Research and Education Amendments of 2014 (Public Law 113-166; 128 Stat. 1879), which advanced muscular dystrophy research and public health surveillance activities, including for myotonic dystrophy;

Whereas, in September 2017, recognizing the seriousness of the disease and the especially disabling impact of myotonic dystrophy on individuals with congenital

myotonic dystrophy, the Social Security Administration added congenital myotonic dystrophy to the Compassionate Allowance Program, which allows individuals to quickly qualify for disability benefits, including health insurance coverage;

Whereas, in 2018, Congress added myotonic dystrophy to the list of eligible conditions for research funding under the Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program of the Department of Defense, which resulted in more than \$6,000,000 in new research awards; and

Whereas a more robust scientific investment in myotonic dystrophy research will improve health outcomes, reduce disability, and increase life expectancy for individuals living with myotonic dystrophy, and holds great promise for helping individuals with similar genetic diseases: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of September 15, 2022, as “International Myotonic Dystrophy Awareness Day”;

(2) recognizes the seriousness of myotonic dystrophy; and

(3) supports the goals and ideals of International Myotonic Dystrophy Awareness Day, which include—

(A) committing to promoting and advancing the health, well-being, and inherent dignity of all children and adults with myotonic dystrophy;

(B) supporting the advancement of scientific and medical myotonic dystrophy research;

(C) fostering biopharmaceutical innovation that will lead to Food and Drug Administration-approved treatments and eventually a cure for myotonic dystrophy;

(D) advancing programs and policies that assist individuals living with myotonic dystrophy and the caregivers of such individuals; and

(E) encouraging awareness and education of myotonic dystrophy for patients, caregivers, clinicians, and researchers.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 773—COMMEMORATING THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE ABRAHAM ACCORDS DECLARATION

Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 773

Whereas, on September 15, 2020, the United States, Israel, United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain signed the historic Abraham Accords;

Whereas, on December 22, 2020, Morocco signed the Abraham Accords;

Whereas, on January 6, 2021, Sudan signed the Abraham Accords;

Whereas the Abraham Accords created formal diplomatic ties between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco increasing the number of Arab states with formal diplomatic ties with Israel to six;

Whereas the Abraham Accords marked the first instance of normalized relations between Israel and Arab countries in more than two decades;

Whereas the leadership and success of prior normalization agreements between Israel and Egypt in 1979 and between Israel and Jordan in 1994 paved the way for creating formal diplomatic ties with other Arab and Muslim-majority countries;

Whereas the Abraham Accords have reduced the likelihood of armed conflict, im-

proved ties between Israel and neighboring countries, and advanced the cause of achieving lasting peace in the Middle East, including through a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that ensures mutual recognition and guarantees that Israelis and Palestinians live side-by-side with freedom, security, and prosperity;

Whereas the Abraham Accords provide an opportunity to make tangible improvements in the lives of Palestinians, including increased multilateral investment in the Palestinian economy among signatory countries of the Abraham Accords;

Whereas continued political, economic, and security cooperation between the United States, Israel, and Arab states remains vital to the prosperity and security of the Middle East;

Whereas the relationship between the United States and Israel is rooted in shared values and interests;

Whereas the Abraham Accords demonstrably have advanced religious freedom in the Middle East, including through interfaith and intercultural dialogue between Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain;

Whereas new opportunities for multilateral cooperation generated by the Abraham Accords may improve the ability of the United States to meet nascent threats and emerging challenges;

Whereas the Embassy of Israel in Abu Dhabi was opened on January 24, 2021, and the United Arab Emirates became the first Gulf country to open an embassy in Tel Aviv, Israel, on May 30, 2021;

Whereas Israel opened a resident embassy in Manama, Bahrain, in September 2021, and the first ambassador to Israel from Bahrain assumed his post in August 2021;

Whereas the Foreign Ministers of Israel, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco, and the United States convened at the Negev Summit in Sde Boker, Israel, resulting in the establishment of the Negev Forum and six working groups tasked with furthering multilateral cooperation in the areas of energy, education and coexistence, food and water security, health, regional security, and tourism;

Whereas the Abraham Accords have catalyzed increases in trade, tourism, and investment in the Middle East, benefitting the people of those countries;

Whereas, at the 2022 World Economic Forum, the Minister of State for Foreign Trade of the United Arab Emirates indicated that bilateral trade with Israel has surpassed \$2,500,000,000 since the signing of the Abraham Accords;

Whereas, on May 31, 2022, Israel and the United Arab Emirates signed a comprehensive free-trade agreement to cover 96 percent of bilateral trade, amounting to approximately \$1,000,000,000;

Whereas trade between the United Arab Emirates and Israel is expected to surpass \$10,000,000,000 within 5 years, economic conditions that were made possible by the Abraham Accords;

Whereas trade between Israel and Bahrain increased to \$1,200,000 in May 2022, up from \$0 in May 2021;

Whereas trade between Israel and Morocco increased to \$3,100,000 in May 2022, an increase of 94 percent since May 2021;

Whereas the Abraham Accords have facilitated direct commercial airline flights, improving people-to-people ties in spite of obstacles created by the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas, on July 14, 2022, the United States and Israel signed the Jerusalem U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership Joint Declaration, which calls for a deepening and broadening of the Abraham Accords; and

Whereas destabilizing developments in the Middle East continue to demonstrate the importance of the Abraham Accords: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the second anniversary of the signing of the Abraham Accords;

(2) reaffirms the enduring and ironclad alliance between the United States and Israel;

(3) believes that the United States should—

(A) prioritize the expansion and strengthening of the Abraham Accords to encourage other countries to normalize relations with Israel and ensure that existing agreements reap tangible security and economic benefits for the citizens of those countries;

(B) with other signatory countries of the Abraham Accords, promote and develop new areas of regional collaboration including maritime security, defense cooperation, clean energy initiatives, water security initiatives, and direct flights; and

(C) build on the Abraham Accords to help advance prospects for peace between Israel and the Palestinians, make tangible improvements in the lives of the Palestinian people, and make progress toward a negotiated solution that ensures mutual recognition;

(4) supports efforts to increase security and prosperity in the Middle East and North Africa via continued security and defense cooperation in furtherance of the Abraham Accords;

(5) encourages the expansion of the Abraham Accords to include countries that do not have diplomatic relations with Israel, and urges the President to take the necessary steps to secure comparable agreements with other Arab and Muslim-majority countries; and

(6) supports opportunities to expand economic ties between the United States, Israel, and Arab states through comprehensive economic partnerships and other trade initiatives.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 774—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2022 AS NATIONAL DEMOCRACY MONTH AS A TIME TO REFLECT ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO A MORE FREE AND STABLE WORLD

Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 774

Whereas, 2,000 years after the ancient Greeks laid the groundwork for democracy, the founders of the United States built an even greater system of government, a democratic republic, propelling the United States to become the most advanced nation in human history;

Whereas the model of government of the United States has been reproduced around the world;

Whereas Presidents Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln described democracy, respectively, as the “light that led us out of gothic darkness” and the “last best hope” of humankind;

Whereas, according to Freedom House, more than 1 in 3 people in the world do not live in states considered free;

Whereas the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights, including the addition of the Reconstruction Era amendments, enshrine the rights and civil liberties of citizens of the United States, including the right to vote in free and fair elections;