

S. 1669

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1669, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rule requiring access to AM broadcast stations in motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 1673

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1673, a bill to amend title XVIII to protect patient access to ground ambulance services under the Medicare program.

S. 1684

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1684, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a vehicle summer meal delivery pilot program, and for other purposes.

S. 1698

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1698, a bill to require group health plans and group or individual health insurance coverage to provide coverage for over-the-counter contraceptives.

S. 1714

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1714, a bill to provide paid family leave benefits to certain individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 1745

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1745, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand access to the Veterans Community Care Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to include certain veterans seeking mental health or substance-use services, and for other purposes.

S. 1753

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1753, a bill to amend the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 to allow individuals with drug offenses to receive benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 25

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 25, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to "Adverse Effect Wage Rate Methodology for the Temporary Employment of H-2A Nonimmigrants in

Non-Range Occupations in the United States".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 1771. A bill to authorize additional district judges for the district court for the eastern district of California; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce the CASELOAD Act of 2023.

This legislation would address the critical need for additional judges in California's Eastern District, which faces disproportionately high workloads and significant litigation backlogs.

This legislation would add five new judges to the Eastern District of California over the next 4 years to increase that court's capacity to address the needs of its roughly 8.4 million citizens.

The bill adds the judges in three tranches. Two judges would be added in 2025, one judge would be added in 2027, and two would be added in 2029.

It also would authorize the funds necessary for the additional positions.

The Eastern District of California encompasses 34 counties and has roughly 8½ million residents. Despite this massive geographic size and population, the Eastern District has only six permanent judgeships and has not added a permanent seat since 1978.

The judges of the Eastern District face a staggering caseload. The total pending cases per judge as of June 2022 was 1,308, over 2½ the national average for districts.

The people of the Eastern District, as well as the hard-working judicial officers who serve them, would greatly benefit from the additional judgeships that this bill would add.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. CARPER):

S. 1772. A bill to establish a national mercury monitoring program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I rise today to introduce the Comprehensive National Mercury Monitoring Act. I want to thank Senator CARPER, the chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, for his partnership on this bill. Our bipartisan bill would help ensure that we have accurate information about the extent of mercury pollution in the United States.

Mercury is a potent neurotoxin. It poses significant ecological and public health concerns, especially for children and pregnant women. Mercury exposure has gone down as U.S. mercury emissions have declined; however, levels remain unacceptably high in some areas. It is estimated that nearly 100,000 to 200,000 children born in the United States have been exposed to levels of mercury in the womb that are

high enough to impair their neurological development. This exposure can impose a lifelong disability.

In Maine, some of our lands and bodies of water face higher mercury pollution compared to the national average. Maine has been called the "tailpipe of the nation," as the winds carry pollution, including mercury, from the west into Maine.

A system for collecting information, such as we have for acid rain and other pollution, does not exist currently for mercury, even though it is a more toxic pollutant. A comprehensive national mercury monitoring network is needed to help protect human health and track the effect of emissions reductions. This monitoring network would also help policymakers, scientists, and the public better understand the sources, consequences, and trends in U.S. mercury pollution.

Specifically, our legislation would do the following: First, it would direct the Environmental Protection Agency, in conjunction with the Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, National Park Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and other appropriate Federal Agencies, to establish a national mercury monitoring program. This program would be tasked to measure and monitor mercury levels in the air and watersheds, water and soil chemistry, and in marine, freshwater, and terrestrial organisms at multiple sites across the Nation.

Second, our bill would establish a scientific advisory committee to advise on the establishment, site selection, measurement, recording protocols, and operations of the monitoring program.

Third, our bill would establish a centralized database for existing and newly collected environmental mercury data that can be accessed on the internet and that is compatible with similar international efforts.

Fourth, our bill would require a report to Congress every 2 years on the program, including trend data, and an assessment every 4 years of the reduction in mercury deposition rates that would need to be achieved in order to prevent adverse human and ecological effects.

Fifth, the bill would authorize \$95 million over 3 years to carry out these activities.

We must establish a comprehensive, robust national mercury monitoring network to provide the data needed to help make decisions that can protect the people of Maine and the Nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bipartisan legislation, the Comprehensive National Mercury Monitoring Act.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1776. A bill to provide for the protection of and investment in certain Federal land in the State of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to reintroduce the Protecting Unique and Beautiful Landscapes by Investing in California, PUBLIC Lands Act. This measure would increase protections for over 1 million acres of Federal public lands throughout northwest California, the central coast, and Los Angeles, including nearly 600,000 acres of new wilderness, more than 583 miles of new wild and scenic rivers, and over 100,000 acres of an expanded national monument.

This legislation would preserve our public lands for the benefit of current and future generations and help protect California communities from the impacts of the climate crisis.

The PUBLIC Lands Act is grounded in the best conservation principles: It expands access to the outdoors for all, addresses disparities in access to nature, supports locally led efforts, and is based on science.

In northwest California, this bill would designate new wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, recreation and conservation areas, and forest and watershed restoration areas. Importantly, it would increase wildfire resiliency in northwest California, where the impacts of the climate crisis have resulted in more frequent and severe wildfires.

Along the central coast, the bill would designate nearly 250,000 acres of public land in the Los Padres National Forest and Carrizo Plain National Monument as wilderness and establish a 400-mile-long Condor National Recreation trail, stretching from Los Angeles to Monterey County. The designations in the bill would protect the Central Valley's abundant biodiversity, including threatened and endangered species.

In Southern California, the bill would expand the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument to include more of the San Gabriel Mountain range. Los Angeles County is one of the most park-poor, densely populated, and polluted regions in the Nation, and this legislation would begin to rectify that by providing increased outdoor opportunities for Angelenos and ensuring that disadvantaged communities can benefit more easily from our public lands.

I want to highlight that this legislation protects existing water rights, property rights, and land-use authorities. The bill also does not create any new public lands—rather, it protects existing public lands through the designation as wilderness in order to keep these lands as untouched and wild as possible.

The science is becoming increasingly clear that we must conserve 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030 as part of our efforts to solve the climate crisis, protect nature, and save America's wildlife. This legislation would provide significant progress on that goal, helping California and the Biden administration meet our 30x30 goals and reverse the worst effects of climate change.

The bill would also provide outdoor recreation opportunities for park-poor communities. It is imperative that as we conserve our public lands, we do so in a way that also reverses racial and economic disparities in access to nature and parks.

This bill enjoys the support of hundreds of local municipalities and elected officials, community groups, and businesses and local outfitters. It is the product of significant public engagement in the legislative process over decades.

I would like to thank my colleagues and conservation champions, Representatives JARED HUFFMAN, SALUD CARBAJAL, and JUDY CHU, for championing these bills in the House.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass the PUBLIC Lands Act as quickly as possible.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 227—CALLING ON THE PRESIDENT TO SUPPORT THE CREATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL SPECIAL TRIBUNAL TO PROSECUTE RUSSIA'S AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE

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

S. RES. 227

Whereas on February 24, 2022, Russia unleashed a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in contravention of international law and the Charter of the United Nations;

Whereas the Russian armed forces committed mass atrocities in Bucha, Irpin, Kherson, Izyum, Mariupol, Dnipro, and Ukrainian towns occupied by the Russian Federation, including rape, summary execution, and unlawful violence and threats against civilians;

Whereas the Russian armed forces deliberately choose to target civilian infrastructure to terrorize Ukrainian citizens;

Whereas on September 21, 2022, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky stated to the United Nations General Assembly that an aggression tribunal must be established as a "signal to all 'would-be' aggressors, that they must value peace or be brought to responsibility by the world";

Whereas on January 19, 2023, the European Parliament, by a vote of 472 to 19, called for the establishment of "a special international criminal tribunal for the crime of aggression against Ukraine" in order to "send a very clear signal to both Russian society and the international community that Putin and the Russian political and military leadership can be convicted for the crime of aggression in Ukraine";

Whereas on March 27, 2023, the United States Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice, Dr. Beth Van Schaack, stated, "There is no question that Russia's aggression against Ukraine is a manifest violation of the UN Charter";

Whereas Article 2(4) of the Charter of the United Nations states, "All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations";

Whereas United Nations General Assembly Resolution 3314 (XXIX), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 14, 1974, defines aggression as "the use of armed force by a State against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of another State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Charter of the United Nations, as set out in this Definition";

Whereas Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as amended by Resolution RC/Res. 6, adopted by the Review Conference at the 13th plenary meeting on June 11, 2010, states, in part: "For the purpose of this Statute, 'crime of aggression' means the planning, preparation, initiation or execution, by a person in a position effectively to exercise control over or to direct the political or military action of a State, of an act of aggression which, by its character, gravity and scale, constitutes a manifest violation of the Charter of the United Nations.";

Whereas on March 17, 2023, the Pre-Trial Chamber of the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for President Vladimir Putin and Russian Commissioner for Children's Rights Maria Lvova-Belova for their responsibility in the war crimes of unlawful deportation and transfer of children, and the International Criminal Court continues to investigate other international crimes within its jurisdiction that have been committed in Ukraine;

Whereas the International Criminal Court has jurisdiction over war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in Ukraine, but it does not have jurisdiction over crimes of aggression in Ukraine because neither Ukraine nor the Russian Federation have ratified the Rome Statute and its amendments related to the crime of aggression;

Whereas the Russian Federation has committed manifest aggression against the Ukrainian state for which its leadership must be held accountable;

Whereas the international community must hold those responsible for these atrocities to account for their actions, including Russian President Putin and all of the Members of the Security Council of Russia; and

Whereas an international special tribunal must be based on the adoption of a United Nations General Assembly Resolution: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns, in the strongest terms, the Russian Federation's full-scale war and aggression against Ukraine;

(2) regards the Russian Federation's aggression in Ukraine as an affront to humanity and in contravention of international law;

(3) calls on the United States to use its voice and vote in international institutions to support the creation of a special international criminal tribunal to hold accountable the leaders of the Russian Federation who led and sanctioned aggression in Ukraine;

(4) states its expectation that such a tribunal will be formed pursuant to a United Nations General Assembly resolution put forward by friends of Ukraine that would—

(A) direct the Secretary General of the United Nations to negotiate with Ukraine the terms of the tribunal's scope; and

(B) ensure that the role of the United Nations—

(i) would be complementary to the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court; and

(ii) would not limit or affect the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court, including its exercise of jurisdiction over war crimes, crimes against humanity, and possible genocide committed in the context of