

being summoned, arrested, and fined by police in Dak Lak Province related to inquiries about legally registering their religious group, commemorating International Religious Freedom Day in 2021, and communication with international diplomatic missions and religious freedom nongovernmental organizations;

Whereas the Department of State's 2022 International Religious Freedom Report documents accounts from a Montagnard Christian in Gia Lai Province that during the year, he was interrogated by police, detained, and beaten multiple times while authorities repeatedly demanded that he renounce affiliation with his church, including an incident in which police burned his Bible and other religious materials, placed the embers on his face, and hung him from the ceiling and beat him with a stick for hours;

Whereas the Department of State's 2022 International Religious Freedom Report documents that police prevented Montagnard Christians from gathering during important religious holidays such as Easter and Christmas or forced them to take down their decorations for Christmas;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) references in its 2023 Annual Report many reports of local authorities harassing members of unregistered Montagnard Protestant groups, disrupting and banning their peaceful religious activities, interrogating and threatening them with imprisonment, imposing heavy fines, and coercing them to denounce and leave their denominations and instead join state-controlled Protestant organizations;

Whereas the 2023 USCIRF Report documents many reports of local authorities harassing members of unregistered Montagnard Protestant groups, disrupting and banning their peaceful religious activities, interrogating and threatening them with imprisonment, imposing heavy fines, and coercing them to denounce and leave their denominations and instead join state-controlled Protestant organizations;

Whereas the 2019 USCIRF Report documents that one-quarter of prisoners of conscience were minority religious groups, including Montagnard Christians;

Whereas the 2019 USCIRF Report estimates that 10,000 individuals in the Central Highlands are refused ID cards, household registration, and birth certificates by local authorities in retaliation for refusing to renounce their faith;

Whereas USCIRF has recommended every year since 2002 that Vietnam be designated a Country of Particular Concern (CPC) under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-292) due to "systematic, ongoing, egregious violations of religious freedom"; and

Whereas, on November 30, 2022, in accordance with the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, the Secretary of State placed Vietnam on the Special Watch List (SWL) for having engaged in or tolerated "severe violations of religious freedom";

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the contributions of the Montagnards who fought loyally and bravely with United States Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and who continue to suffer persecution in Vietnam as a result of this relationship;

(2) condemns ongoing actions by the Government of Vietnam to suppress basic human rights and civil liberties for all its citizens;

(3) calls on the Government of Vietnam to allow human rights groups access to all regions of the country and to end restrictions of basic human rights, including the right for Montagnards to practice their Christian

faith freely, the right to land and property, freedom of movement, the right to retain ethnic identity and culture, and access to an adequate standard of living; and

(4) urges the President and Congress to develop policies that support Montagnards and other marginalized ethnic minority and indigenous populations in Vietnam and reflect United States interests and commitment to upholding human rights and democracy abroad.

SENATE RESOLUTION 396—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING ON OCTOBER 8, 2023, AS "NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK"

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. REED, Mr. CARPER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. KING, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 396

Whereas the United States Fish and Wildlife Service administers the National Wildlife Refuge System to conserve, manage, and, where appropriate, restore fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of current and future generations;

Whereas, in 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt established the first national wildlife refuge on Pelican Island in Florida;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System is administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and has grown to include 568 national wildlife refuges, 38 wetland management districts, and 5 marine national monuments with units located in every State and territory of the United States;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System encompasses more than 850,000,000 acres of unique habitats and ecosystems, including tropical and boreal forests, wetlands, deserts, grasslands, arctic tundras, remote islands, and marine areas, and spans 12 time zones from the United States Virgin Islands to Guam;

Whereas national wildlife refuges support approximately 800 species of birds, 220 species of mammals, 250 species of reptiles and amphibians, and 1,100 species of fish;

Whereas national wildlife refuges provide protection to more than 380 threatened species and endangered species;

Whereas 65 national wildlife refuges were established to conserve species considered to be threatened or endangered under Federal standards, including the American crocodile, California condor, Devil's Hole pupfish, and Antioch Dunes evening primrose;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are the primary Federal lands that support waterfowl habitat;

Whereas, since 1934, the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund has generated more than \$2,000,000,000 and enabled the conservation of more than 6,300,000 acres of habitat for waterfowl and numerous other species in the National Wildlife Refuge System;

Whereas national wildlife refuges protect and conserve climate-resilient habitats that support biodiversity and provide nature-based solutions;

Whereas more than 180 national wildlife refuges conserve marine, coastal, and Great Lakes habitats, helping to protect communities by reducing the risk of storm-surge flooding, especially in low-lying floodplain and coastal areas;

Whereas many national wildlife refuges are managed to reduce wildfire risk by thinning

overgrown forests and removing invasive species;

Whereas meaningful engagement and proactive collaboration with Tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, Alaska Native organizations, and the Native Hawaiian community is an integral aspect of the co-stewardship of our shared natural resources, including National Wildlife Refuge System lands and waters;

Whereas important cultural and historic resources are protected on national wildlife refuges, including—

(1) archaeological sites detailing the lives of Native Americans and early colonists at Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Virginia;

(2) World War II sites in the Pacific, from Attu in Alaska to Midway Atoll in the Hawaiian Islands; and

(3) the remains of the home of the father of Harriet Tubman at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Maryland;

Whereas Tribal consultation is a cornerstone of historic preservation on national wildlife refuges where cultural resources and traditional sacred spaces are important to Native American Tribes, including Pahranaagat National Wildlife Refuge in Nevada, where the Nuwuvu people finalized a plan with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to respect and showcase ancient petroglyphs;

Whereas national wildlife refuges use a range of management tools, including fire management, invasive species control, water management, wildlife health assessments, inventory and monitoring species, facility condition assessments, 5-year infrastructure project plans, and other tools to conserve habitat and ensure opportunities for public access and recreation;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are important recreational and tourism destinations in communities across the United States, and offer a variety of recreational opportunities, including sustainable hunting and fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System receives nearly 68,000,000 annual visits that—

(1) generate more than \$3,200,000,000 for local economies; and

(2) support 41,000 jobs;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System hosts more than 42,000,000 annual birding and wildlife observation visits;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are important to local businesses and gateway communities;

Whereas, for every dollar appropriated to the National Wildlife Refuge System, an average of approximately 5 dollars is returned to local economies;

Whereas 436 units of the National Wildlife Refuge System have hunting programs and 378 units have fishing programs that support, respectively, more than 2,600,000 hunting visits and more than 8,600,000 fishing visits annually;

Whereas national wildlife refuges provide an important opportunity for children to discover and gain a greater appreciation for the natural world;

Whereas more than 15,000 volunteers and approximately 180 national wildlife refuge "Friends" organizations contribute approximately 818,000 volunteer hours annually, the equivalent of 400 full-time employees, and provide an important link between national wildlife refuges and local communities;

Whereas 101 units of the National Wildlife Refuge System are within 25 miles of cities and suburbs where 80 percent of individuals in the United States live;

Whereas, through the Urban Wildlife Conservation Program, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service works to dismantle barriers that have blocked underserved communities from full and equal participation in outdoor recreation and wildlife conservation;

Whereas the Urban Wildlife Conservation Program fosters strong new conservation coalitions, educates and employs youth, engages communities, builds trust in government, and connects individuals with nature;

Whereas national wildlife refuges provide opportunities for people from all backgrounds to explore, connect with, and preserve the natural heritage of the United States;

Whereas, since 1995, national wildlife refuges across the United States have held festivals, educational programs, guided tours, and other events to celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week during the second full week of October;

Whereas the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has designated the week beginning on October 8, 2023, as National Wildlife Refuge Week;

Whereas the designation of National Wildlife Refuge Week by the Senate would recognize more than a century of conservation in the United States, raise awareness about the importance of wildlife and the National Wildlife Refuge System, and celebrate the myriad recreational opportunities available for the enjoyment of this network of protected lands: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning on October 8, 2023, as “National Wildlife Refuge Week”;

(2) encourages the observance of National Wildlife Refuge Week with appropriate events and activities;

(3) recognizes the importance of national wildlife refuges to wildlife conservation, the protection of imperiled species and ecosystems, and wildlife-dependent recreational uses;

(4) acknowledges the importance of national wildlife refuges for their recreational opportunities and contribution to local economies across the United States;

(5) identifies the significance of national wildlife refuges in advancing the traditions of wildlife observation, photography, and interpretation, as well as environmental education;

(6) finds that national wildlife refuges play a vital role in securing the hunting and fishing heritage of the United States for future generations;

(7) recognizes the important work of urban national wildlife refuges in welcoming racially and ethnically diverse urban communities that were long excluded, including work—

(A) to foster strong new conservation coalitions;

(B) to provide education and employment opportunities to youth;

(C) to improve communities;

(D) to build trust in government; and

(E) to connect individuals with nature;

(8) recognizes the commitment of the National Wildlife Refuge System to engagement, relationships, knowledge-sharing, and co-stewardship of National Wildlife Refuge System lands and waters with Tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, Alaska Native organizations, and the Native Hawaiian community;

(9) acknowledges the role of national wildlife refuges in conserving waterfowl and waterfowl habitat under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.);

(10) reaffirms the support of the Senate for wildlife conservation and the National Wildlife Refuge System; and

(11) expresses the intent of the Senate—

(A) to continue working to conserve wildlife; and

(B) to support the management of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service of the National Wildlife Refuge System for current and future generations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 397—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 16, 2023, AND OCTOBER 16, 2024, AS “WORLD FOOD DAY”

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. BOOZMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 397

Whereas hunger and malnutrition are daily facts of life for hundreds of millions of people around the world;

Whereas women and children suffer the most serious effects of hunger and malnutrition;

Whereas millions of children die each year from hunger-related illness and disease;

Whereas many people suffer permanent physical or mental impairment because of vitamin or protein deficiencies;

Whereas those in rural areas experience disproportionate levels of hunger;

Whereas the severity and frequency of food insecurity remained unacceptably high in 2022, represented by—

(1) the 2,400,000,000 people, nearly 30 percent of the global population, who experienced moderate to severe food insecurity in 2022, an increase of 391,000,000 compared to 2019;

(2) the more than 3,100,000,000 people, over 40 percent of the global population, who were unable to afford a healthy diet in 2022, an increase of 134,000,000 compared to 2019; and

(3) the approximately 735,000,000 people who faced hunger in 2022, an increase of 122,000,000 compared to 2019;

Whereas the United States has a long tradition of demonstrating humanitarian concern for the hungry and malnourished people of the world;

Whereas there is an ever-increasing concern in the United States and in other countries about threats to the future food supply, including—

(1) misuse and overuse of land and water;

(2) loss of biological diversity;

(3) erosion of genetic resources on a global scale; and

(4) transboundary pests and diseases, such as the desert locust for plants and anthrax for livestock;

Whereas the world community increasingly and consistently calls upon the United States to resolve food problems stemming from natural- and human-made disasters by providing humanitarian assistance;

Whereas the United States—

(1) plays a major role in the development and implementation of international food and agricultural trade standards and practices; and

(2) recognizes the positive role that the global food trade can play in enhancing human nutrition and alleviating hunger;

Whereas, although progress has been made in reducing the incidence of hunger and malnutrition in the United States, certain groups remain vulnerable to malnutrition and related diseases;

Whereas the conservation of natural resources, the preservation of biological diversity, and strong public and private agricultural research programs are required for the United States to—

(1) remain food secure;

(2) continue to aid the hungry and malnourished people of the world;

(3) assist in building a more resilient global food system; and

(4) preserve and sustain our forests, land, oceans, and waterways;

Whereas the United States is a world leader in the development of agricultural innovation and technology aimed at enhancing the improved production, safety, and quality of the world food supply, and the United States must continue to maintain that role;

Whereas private voluntary organizations and businesses working with national governments and the international community is essential in the search for ways to increase food production in developing countries and improve food distribution to hungry and malnourished people;

Whereas the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (referred to in this preamble as the “FAO”) is mandated to lead global efforts to address food and nutrition security issues;

Whereas the member nations of the FAO have unanimously designated October 16 of each year as “World Food Day”;

Whereas the FAO has worked to organize activities and efforts on “World Food Day” in more than 130 countries to promote awareness of and action for people suffering from hunger and malnutrition;

Whereas past observances of “World Food Day” have been supported—

(1) by proclamations of Congress, the President, the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the territories and possessions of the United States; and

(2) by programs of the Department of Agriculture and other Federal departments and agencies;

Whereas private voluntary organizations and community leaders are participating in planning “World Food Day” observances in 2023 and 2024, and a growing number of these organizations and leaders are using “World Food Day” as a focal point for year-round programs; and

Whereas the people of the United States can express their concern for the plight of hungry and malnourished people throughout the world by studying, advocating, and taking action: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 16, 2023, and October 16, 2024, as “World Food Day”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the days with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 398—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 25 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 29, 2023, AS “NATIONAL CLEAN ENERGY WEEK”

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. COONS, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. KING, Mr. REED, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. CASSIDY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 398

Whereas, across the United States, clean and readily abundant forms of energy are powering more homes and businesses than ever before;

Whereas clean energy generation is readily available from zero- and low-emissions sources;

Whereas the clean energy sector is a growing part of the economy and has been a key