

helps spur job growth, high-skilled regional talent pools, and business expansion.

Despite EDA's important work, many communities across the country have yet to benefit from the Agency's programs, including smaller communities, communities of color, and rural areas experiencing higher rates of poverty.

Despite being one of EDA's most successful economic development initiatives, the current University Center Program is not officially authorized by Congress and is currently administered under EDA's Technical Assistance Program. That is why I am proud to reintroduce legislation that would codify and expand the University Center Program, leverage more resources for minority-serving institutions, and support a greater diversity of innovation and entrepreneurship in their communities.

California has several thriving institutions, including Cal State Chico, Cal State Bakersfield, and University of Southern California, that will be able to scale their impact as a result of these new resources. By prioritizing the establishment of new university centers at colleges and universities that serve significant populations of underserved students, we can further strengthen regional economies and help close the racial wealth gap.

Specifically, the bill establishes an EDA University Center Program to help universities collaborate with economic development districts, trade adjustment assistance centers, and other economic development technical assistance and service providers to develop and implement comprehensive economic development strategies and other economic development planning at the local, regional, and State levels, with a focus on innovation, entrepreneurship, and workforce development.

It also prioritizes the participation of minority-serving institutions as part of the University Center Program. Minority-serving institutions provide incredible opportunities for so many low-income and first-generation students. I am proud that my State of California is home to 174 Hispanic-serving institutions and 51 emerging Hispanic-serving institutions, the highest amount in the country.

As a Senator representing one of the most diverse States in the country, I am eager to work with my colleagues to ensure that we improve the equity of EDA programming and help increase the participation of minority-serving institutions.

As the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works continues to draft an EDA reauthorization bill, I urge them to include this legislation to expand and improve the University Center Program.

I want to thank Congressman PETE AGUILAR for introducing this bill with me, and I hope my colleagues will join me in support of this program that benefits almost every State.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 442—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2023 AS “NATIONAL COUNTRY MUSIC MONTH”

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. KAINE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 442

Whereas country music, a uniquely American sound, echoes from the backroads of the United States to the streets of Nashville, Tennessee;

Whereas Bristol, straddling the Tennessee and Virginia state line, is recognized as the “birthplace of country music”;

Whereas the Grand Ole Opry, the most famous stage in country music, has been called the “home of American music”;

Whereas the Ryman Auditorium, the original home of the Grand Ole Opry, has been described as “the Mother Church of country music”;

Whereas country music reminds every American of the importance of faith, family, freedom, hope, opportunity, and patriotism;

Whereas country music has influenced numerous other genres of music;

Whereas country music is an incredibly diverse genre, appealing to Americans from all walks of life;

Whereas country music has millions of fans all across the United States;

Whereas the country music industry contributes billions of dollars in revenue each year to the economy of the United States;

Whereas the Country Music Association first celebrated “National Country Music Month” in 1964; and

Whereas President Nixon issued a presidential proclamation in 1970 to acknowledge October as “National Country Music Month”; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 2023 as “National Country Music Month”;

(2) honors the contributions of country music to the story and history of the United States; and

(3) encourages the American people to observe “National Country Music Month” with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 443—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2023 AS “NATIONAL FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH”

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. KING, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 443

Whereas farm to school programs of varying scale operate in nearly 67,369 schools across the United States;

Whereas farm to school programs connect schools and local farms in order to—

(1) serve nutritious meals in school cafeterias; and

(2) support local farmers, ranchers, and fishermen;

Whereas farm to school programs include experiential education components that can lead to permanent improvements in the diets of children, both in school and at home;

Whereas farm to school programs facilitate the purchase of local food for school meals;

Whereas farm to school programs can benefit small and mid-sized agricultural pro-

ducers by providing access to consistent markets;

Whereas farm to school programs can be particularly important for beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers, as schools provide a consistent and secure customer base;

Whereas farm to school programs can benefit local economies;

Whereas, for every \$1 spent on local foods in schools, up to an additional \$2 circulates in the local economy;

Whereas data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that only 7 percent of children consume the recommended amount of vegetables;

Whereas communities with high levels of poverty have less access to fresh fruits and vegetables than higher income communities;

Whereas the increased consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables is 1 of 6 major strategies to prevent and control obesity, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

Whereas studies have demonstrated that children in schools with an active farm to school program increase their average consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables by 1 or more servings per day;

Whereas farm to school programs—

(1) are popular among children;

(2) can increase interest in school meal programs; and

(3) can decrease food waste; and

Whereas October 2023 would be an appropriate month to designate as “National Farm to School Month”; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 2023 as “National Farm to School Month”;

(2) recognizes support for policy improvements to farm to school programs in legislation reauthorizing child nutrition programs;

(3) encourages schools, early care and education organizations, and local educational agencies to use local farm products in meals; and

(4) encourages schools, early care and education organizations, farmers and farm groups, local businesses, nonprofit institutions, churches, cities, State governments, and other local groups to raise awareness of farm to school efforts in their communities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 444—PROVIDING FOR THE EN BLOC CONSIDERATION OF MILITARY NOMINATIONS

Mr. REED submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 444

Resolved,

SECTION 1. EN BLOC CONSIDERATION OF MILITARY NOMINATIONS.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “military nomination” means a nomination to a position in, or promotion of an individual serving in a position in, an Armed Force.

(b) MOTION TO PROCEED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) AUTHORIZATION.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), during the 118th Congress, it shall be in order for the Majority Leader, or a designee, to make a single motion in Executive Session, or a single motion in Legislative Session to proceed to Executive Session, to the en bloc consideration of 2 or more military nominations that, at the time of the motion—

(i) are pending on the Executive calendar or are on the Secretary's Desk;

(ii) have laid over 1 day, as required under paragraph 1 of rule XXXI of the Standing Rules of the Senate; and

(iii) have been favorably reported to the Senate by the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.

(B) EXCEPTION.—It shall not be in order to include in a motion under subparagraph (A) a nomination to—

(i) a position described in section 151(a) of title 10, United States Code (relating to the membership of the Joint Chiefs of Staff); or

(ii) a position as the commander of a combatant command established under section 161, 167, or 167b of title 10, United States Code.

(2) CONSIDERATION OF MOTION.—A motion to proceed under paragraph (1) shall not be debatable and shall not be divisible or subject to a point of order.

(C) CONSIDERATION OF MILITARY NOMINATIONS.—

(1) CLOTURE MOTION IN ORDER.—If a motion to proceed to 2 or more military nominations under subsection (b)(1) is agreed to, the military nominations considered en bloc shall not be subject to division and it shall be in order for a Senator to present a single cloture motion to bring to a close debate on the military nominations, en bloc, signed in accordance with rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

(2) QUESTION.—When, in accordance with rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Presiding Officer submits to the Senate by a ye-and-nay vote the question on a cloture motion presented under paragraph (1), the question shall be: “Is it the sense of the Senate that debate shall be brought to a close on the military nominations the Senate agreed to consider en bloc?”

(3) VOTE THRESHOLD TO INVOKE CLOTURE.—The question under paragraph (2) shall be decided by a majority of the Senators voting, a quorum being present.

(4) POST CLOTURE CONSIDERATION.—If cloture is invoked under paragraph (3), the military nominations being considered en bloc shall be the unfinished business to the exclusion of all other business until disposed of and there shall be no more than 2 hours of consideration of the military nominations being considered en bloc.

(5) VOTE ON NOMINATIONS.—After no more than 2 hours of consideration of the military nominations under paragraph (4), the Senate shall vote, without any intervening action or debate, except a single quorum call on demand to establish the presence of a quorum (and motions required to establish a quorum), on the confirmation of the military nominations en bloc.

(6) DISPOSING OF NOMINATIONS.—Following confirmation of the military nominations en bloc under paragraph (5), the motion to reconsider the confirmation vote on the military nominations en bloc shall be considered made and laid upon the table and the President shall be immediately notified of the Senate's action on the military nominations.

(d) MULTIPLE MOTIONS AUTHORIZED.—There shall be no limit on the number of motions in order under this resolution.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1358. Mr. HICKENLOOPER proposed an amendment to the bill S. 447, to establish a demonstration program for the active remediation of orbital debris and to require the development of uniform orbital debris standard practices in order to support a safe and sustainable orbital environment, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1358. Mr. HICKENLOOPER proposed an amendment to the bill S. 447, to establish a demonstration program for the active remediation of orbital debris and to require the development of uniform orbital debris standard practices in order to support a safe and sustainable orbital environment, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Orbital Sustainability Act of 2023” or the “ORBITS Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The safety and sustainability of operations in low-Earth orbit and nearby orbits in outer space have become increasingly endangered by a growing amount of orbital debris.

(2) Exploration and scientific research missions and commercial space services of critical importance to the United States rely on continued and secure access to outer space.

(3) Efforts by nongovernmental space entities to apply lessons learned through standards and best practices will benefit from government support for implementation both domestically and internationally.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that to preserve the sustainability of operations in space, the United States Government should—

(1) to the extent practicable, develop and carry out programs, establish or update regulations, and commence initiatives to minimize orbital debris, including initiatives to demonstrate active debris remediation of orbital debris generated by the United States Government or other entities under the jurisdiction of the United States;

(2) lead international efforts to encourage other spacefaring countries to mitigate and remediate orbital debris under their jurisdiction and control; and

(3) encourage space system operators to continue implementing best practices for space safety when deploying satellites and constellations of satellites, such as transparent data sharing and designing for system reliability, so as to limit the generation of future orbital debris.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ACTIVE DEBRIS REMEDIATION.—The term “active debris remediation”—

(A) means the deliberate process of facilitating the de-orbit, repurposing, or other disposal of orbital debris, which may include moving orbital debris to a safe position, using an object or technique that is external or internal to the orbital debris; and

(B) does not include de-orbit, repurposing, or other disposal of orbital debris by passive means.

(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(4) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—The term “demonstration project” means the active orbital debris remediation demonstration project carried out under section 4(b).

(5) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible entity” means—

(A) a United States-based—

(i) non-Federal, commercial entity;

(ii) institution of higher education (as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a))); or

(iii) nonprofit organization;

(B) any other United States-based entity the Administrator considers appropriate; and

(C) a partnership of entities described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

(6) ORBITAL DEBRIS.—The term “orbital debris” means any human-made space object orbiting Earth that—

(A) no longer serves an intended purpose; and

(B)(i) has reached the end of its mission; or

(ii) is incapable of safe maneuver or operation.

(7) PROJECT.—The term “project” means a specific investment with defined requirements, a life-cycle cost, a period of duration with a beginning and an end, and a management structure that may interface with other projects, agencies, and international partners to yield new or revised technologies addressing strategic goals.

(8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

(9) SPACE TRAFFIC COORDINATION.—The term “space traffic coordination” means the planning, coordination, and on-orbit synchronization of activities to enhance the safety and sustainability of operations in the space environment.

SEC. 4. ACTIVE DEBRIS REMEDIATION.

(a) PRIORITIZATION OF ORBITAL DEBRIS.—

(1) LIST.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, the National Space Council, and representatives of the commercial space industry, academia, and nonprofit organizations, shall publish a list of select identified orbital debris that may be remediated to improve the safety and sustainability of orbiting satellites and on-orbit activities.

(2) CONTENTS.—The list required under paragraph (1)—

(A) shall be developed using appropriate sources of data and information derived from governmental and nongovernmental sources, including space situational awareness data obtained by the Office of Space Commerce, to the extent practicable;

(B) shall include, to the extent practicable—

(i) a description of the approximate age, location in orbit, size, mass, tumbling state, post-mission passivation actions taken, and national jurisdiction of each orbital debris identified; and

(ii) data required to inform decisions regarding potential risk and feasibility of safe remediation;

(C) may include orbital debris that poses a significant risk to terrestrial people and assets, including risk resulting from potential environmental impacts from the uncontrolled reentry of the orbital debris identified; and

(D) may include collections of small debris that, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, are untracked.

(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY; PERIODIC UPDATES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the list required under paragraph (1) shall be published in unclassified form on a publicly accessible internet website of the Department of Commerce.