

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3273. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to remove the overtime wages exemption for certain employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to speak in support of the Guaranteeing Overtime for Truckers Act, which I introduced today.

America's truckdrivers are on the frontlines of keeping goods and our economy moving. More than 70 percent of goods across the United States are shipped by truck.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting supply chain crisis exacerbated longstanding challenges for truckers, including long hours away from home and time spent waiting—often unpaid—to load and unload at congested ports, warehouses, and distribution centers.

As our Nation makes historic investments in our port and supply chain infrastructure through the bipartisan infrastructure law, we should also improve wages and working conditions for essential workers and ensure they are paid for all of the hours they work.

However, for more than 80 years, Federal law has denied truckers guaranteed overtime pay benefits that are afforded to nearly all other professions. This means that if a truckdriver experiences delays due to congestion or weather, they are often not paid even though they are working. Requiring overtime will create an incentive for the shippers, receivers, and carriers to get cargo loaded and unloaded—keeping truckers and our supply chain moving.

The motor carrier exemption exacerbates trucking workforce challenges. In fact, a February 2022 freight and logistics supply chain assessment by the Department of Transportation urged Congress to repeal this exemption. Additionally, research suggests that when truck labor rates are fair, there is less driver fatigue, fewer regulatory violations, and lower crash rates.

That is why I am proud to introduce this bill to repeal the overtime exemption for motor carriers.

I want to thank Senator MARKEY for coleading this bill with me, and I hope our colleagues will join us in support of this bill that will ensure that trucker compensation reflects the fact that these jobs are essential.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 458—DENOUNCING EFFORTS BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO EXERT MALIGN INFLUENCE IN LATIN AMERICA

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. BUDD, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr.

DURBIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. KELLY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. BENNET) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 458

Whereas, as of October 2023, the People's Republic of China is the main trading partner for South America, including Brazil, Chile, Peru, and Uruguay, and the second largest trading partner for Central America;

Whereas 21 countries in Latin America have joined the Belt and Road Initiative, 4 countries in Latin America have free trade agreements in place with the People's Republic of China, and 7 countries in Latin America have comprehensive strategic partnership agreements with the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has worked to expand the use cases of the digital yuan for the Belt and Road Initiative, even using the digital yuan to settle cross-border transactions;

Whereas trade between Latin America and the People's Republic of China has grown by more than \$300,000,000,000 annually since 2000;

Whereas the People's Republic of China is a voting member of the Inter-American Development Bank and the Caribbean Development Bank and provides loans to Latin America through the China Development Bank and the Export-Import Bank of China, including to Venezuela, which has approximately \$60,000,000,000 worth of Chinese state loans as of October 2023;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has invested in or bid on numerous infrastructure projects in Latin America, including around the Panama Canal, such as deep-water ports, telecommunications projects, and cyber networks;

Whereas investments offered to countries in Latin America by the People's Republic of China often require countries to renegotiate the terms of their debt and have low or non-existent labor and environmental standards;

Whereas the People's Republic of China's refusal to disclose its lending to foreign countries and reluctance to engage in significant debt restructuring is undermining the missions of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank related to global economic development and stability;

Whereas, in 2021, the People's Republic of China developed a Joint Action Plan with the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States to promote cooperation on governance, economic, and security policy;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has invested more than \$70,000,000,000 in the raw materials sector in Latin America, including critical minerals such as lithium, nickel, and cobalt;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has sought to export military hardware to Latin America and bolster intelligence operations and cooperation with governments in Latin America, including by establishing a defense forum with the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States;

Whereas Taiwan served as a permanent observer to the Central American Parliament for more than 2 decades before the Central American Parliament voted on August 21, 2023, to expel Taiwan and replace it with the People's Republic of China;

Whereas state-owned Chinese media operates in Latin America and conducts malign influence operations with a goal of influencing public opinion relating to activities conducted by the People's Republic of China and the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party; and

Whereas the United States has a vested interest in maintaining and growing the important bilateral and multilateral relationships it has with countries in Latin America, which are underscored through cooperation at the Organization of American States and through trade agreements and strategic dialogues: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) notes the importance of continuing to develop and establish trade agreements with bilateral partners in Latin America and pursue multilateral and regional engagement through international fora to counter involvement of the People's Republic of China in economic, political, and security issues in the Western Hemisphere;

(2) urges additional United States investment in and foreign assistance to Latin America, including by expanding opportunities for private sector investment in critical infrastructure projects or by developing and promoting new public-private partnerships with partners in Latin America to strengthen the economic engagement of the United States and advance democratic governance in the region;

(3) expresses gratitude to Belize, Guatemala, Haiti, Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for their continued support for Taiwan;

(4) condemns efforts by state-owned Chinese media to conduct information operations in Latin America and sow distrust in public institutions, including judicial systems;

(5) supports transparent bidding processes for projects related to the telecommunications and information and communications technology sectors in Latin America as well as other critical infrastructure projects, including cyber and digital connectivity projects;

(6) encourages the President and the Secretary of State to work with the Senate to expeditiously nominate Ambassadors and ensure diplomatic personnel are swiftly confirmed to the relevant posts to ensure continued engagement with partner governments in Latin America;

(7) emphasizes the importance of continuing to provide technical assistance to partners in Latin America, including assistance to counter disinformation, corruption, and economic coercion through available mechanisms such as the United States International Development Finance Corporation;

(8) reaffirms the importance of the annual Summit of the Americas as an opportunity to promote the bilateral and multilateral relationships between the United States and allies and partners in Latin America, including new initiatives established as a result of cooperation at the Summit of the Americas such as the Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity;

(9) acknowledges the 24 active partnerships the United States has with defense and security forces in Latin America through the State Partnership Program of the National Guard, which include an emphasis on implementing the Women, Peace, and Security Strategy of the United States; and

(10) renews its commitment to establishing, upholding, and investing in partnership opportunities between the United States and Latin America.

SENATE RESOLUTION 459—RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AND CELEBRATING THE HERITAGES AND CULTURES OF NATIVE AMERICANS AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NATIVE AMERICANS TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. RISCH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 459

Whereas, from November 1, 2023, through November 30, 2023, the United States celebrates National Native American Heritage Month;

Whereas National Native American Heritage Month is an opportunity to consider and recognize the contributions of Native Americans to the history of the United States;

Whereas Native Americans are descendants of the original, Indigenous inhabitants of what is now the United States;

Whereas the Bureau of the Census estimates that—

(1) in 2020, there were 9,666,058 individuals of American Indian and Alaska Native descent in the United States; and

(2) in 2020, there were 680,442 individuals of Native Hawaiian descent in the United States;

Whereas Native Americans maintain vibrant cultures and traditions and hold a deeply rooted sense of community;

Whereas Native Americans have moving stories of tragedy, triumph, and perseverance that need to be shared with future generations;

Whereas Native Americans speak and write in their Indigenous languages, which have influenced and contributed in a variety of ways to the United States, including the naming of places and sites throughout the United States;

Whereas Congress has consistently reaffirmed support for self-governance and self-determination policies for Native American communities and the commitment of the United States to improving the lives of all Native Americans;

Whereas the United States is committed to—

(1) strengthening the government-to-government relationship with Indian Tribes; and

(2) upholding the Federal trust responsibility to Native American communities;

Whereas Congress has recognized the contributions of the Iroquois Confederacy and the influence of the Iroquois Confederacy on the Founding Fathers in the drafting of the Constitution of the United States with the concepts of—

(1) freedom of speech;

(2) the separation of governmental powers; and

(3) the system of checks and balances between the branches of government;

Whereas, with the enactment of the Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-33; 123 Stat. 1922), Congress—

(1) reaffirmed the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Native American governments; and

(2) recognized the important contributions of Native Americans to the culture of the United States;

Whereas Native Americans have made distinct and important contributions to the United States and the world in many fields, including agriculture, environmental stewardship, wayfinding, medicine, music, dance, language, and art;

Whereas contemporary applications of traditional knowledge systems of Native Americans have expanded scientific, environmental, and intercultural understanding;

Whereas Native Americans have distinguished themselves as inventors, entrepreneurs, spiritual leaders, and scholars;

Whereas Native Americans have served with honor and distinction in the Armed Forces of the United States for centuries and have the highest per capita involvement of any population currently serving in the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas the United States has recognized the contribution of the Native American code talkers in World War I and World War II, who used Indigenous languages to communicate an unbreakable military code, saving countless lives in both conflicts; and

Whereas the people of the United States have reason to honor the great achievements and contributions of Native Americans and their ancestors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the month of November 2023 as “National Native American Heritage Month”;

(2) recognizes the Friday after Thanksgiving as “Native American Heritage Day” in accordance with section 2(10) of the Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-33; 123 Stat. 1923); and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Native American Heritage Month and Native American Heritage Day with appropriate programs and activities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1364. Mr. KAINE (for Ms. ROSEN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 408, condemning Hamas for its premeditated, coordinated, and brutal terrorist attacks on Israel and demanding that Hamas immediately release all hostages and return them to safety, and for other purposes.

SA 1365. Mr. KAINE (for Ms. ROSEN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 408, *supra*.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1364. Mr. KAINE (for Ms. ROSEN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 408, condemning Hamas for its premeditated, coordinated, and brutal terrorist attacks on Israel and demanding that Hamas immediately release all hostages and return them to safety, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following: “That the Senate—

(1) condemns Hamas in the harshest terms for its premeditated, coordinated, and brutal terrorist attacks on Israel;

(2) decries Hamas’s abductions and threats made against hostages, including threats to use hostages as human shields;

(3) demands that Hamas provide access and medical care to all hostages;

(4) demands that Hamas immediately release all hostages and return them to safety;

(5) calls on the United States to lead a global effort to demand the release of the hostages held captive by Hamas; and

(6) expresses sympathy to the hostages and those wounded, and to their families, and mourns those killed by Hamas’s terrorist attacks.

SA 1365. Mr. KAINE (for Ms. ROSEN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 408, condemning Hamas for its premeditated, coordinated, and brutal terrorist attacks on Israel and demanding that Hamas immediately release all hostages and return them to safety, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas, on October 7, 2023, Hamas, the Iran-backed terror group, launched premeditated, coordinated, and brutal terrorist attacks from the Gaza Strip into Israel, targeting the Israeli people;

Whereas, on October 7, 2023, Hamas invaded more than 20 communities bordering the Gaza Strip and attacked innocent young people attending the Tribe of Nova music festival;

Whereas, since October 7, 2023, Hamas has killed more than 1,400 Israelis, along with at least 30 United States citizens, and wounded nearly 4,000 people;

Whereas reports and videos have surfaced of Hamas executing Israeli civilians, including entire families being slaughtered and horrific acts of violence targeting young children;

Whereas, since October 7, 2023, Hamas has fired more than 5,000 rockets into Israel;

Whereas it is estimated that nearly 240 people were abducted and are being held hostage in the Gaza Strip;

Whereas more than 20 countries have verified their citizens were either killed or are unaccounted for, with many believed to be taken hostage by Hamas;

Whereas children and the elderly are among those taken hostage by Hamas;

Whereas some hostages, including multiple United States citizens, are known to be in dire need of urgent medical assistance;

Whereas Hamas has threatened to execute hostages and broadcast the executions publicly;

Whereas, in 1997, the United States designated Hamas a foreign terrorist organization;

Whereas United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres condemned the attacks by Hamas in the strongest terms and unequivocally called for the “immediate release of all abducted persons”; and

Whereas the deliberate murder and hostage-taking of innocent civilians are prohibited by international law: Now, therefore, be it

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I have four requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate: