

Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; and

Whereas scientific research highlights essential pathways forward, including—

(1) establishing the effective conservation, restoration, and durable protection of not less than 30 percent of an ecologically representative area of the lands, freshwaters, and oceans in the United States and in the world by 2030 by working collaboratively with governments, land owners, fishers, indigenous peoples, communities, and others;

(2) restoring or rewilding species, degraded habitats, and ensuring integrity and connectivity of protected areas;

(3) retaining and protecting highly intact ecosystems;

(4) reducing pesticide use to levels not higher than necessary for ecologically sustainable and safe food production; and

(5) addressing the threats posed by invasive species: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) it is in the national interest for the Federal Government to establish a national biodiversity strategy to—

(A) ensure the conservation and restoration of the biodiversity of the United States;

(B) secure and restore the ecosystem services provided by nature for current and future generations;

(C) deliver on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;

(D) set ambitious, yet necessary, goals for protecting biodiversity in the coming decades;

(E) promote social equity and justice in the conservation of the biodiversity of the United States;

(F) coordinate the actions of Federal agencies to advance the conservation of biodiversity;

(G) promote collaboration among Federal, State, and Tribal governments, nongovernmental stakeholders, civil society, and international parties to advance conservation;

(H) honor the Federal trust obligations to Indian Tribes and Native Americans; and

(I) provide global leadership in addressing the biodiversity crisis; and

(2) the national biodiversity strategy described in paragraph (1) should include direction on—

(A) achieving the national goal of conserving not less than 30 percent of the lands and waters of the United States to protect biodiversity and address climate change by 2030 (referred to in this resolution as “30x30”), supporting international efforts to achieve the same goal on a global scale, and setting other goals necessary to reduce the threats to biodiversity as indicated by the best available scientific information;

(B) taking action to protect threatened, endangered, and at-risk species from further imperilment or extinction;

(C) climate adaptation and mitigation strategies for biodiversity conservation, including—

(i) leading international agreements to combat climate change, including the decision of the 21st Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change adopted in Paris on December 12, 2015 (commonly known as the “Paris Agreement”);

(ii) establishing climate refugia and climate corridors for conservation of species affected by climate change; and

(iii) the rapid build-out of renewable energy;

(D) reviewing existing laws, plans, programs, and strategies that are relevant to addressing threats to biodiversity to assess how the laws, plans, programs, and strategies can contribute to the objectives of this resolution and, as necessary, recommending new laws, plans, programs, and strategies;

(E) ensuring integration of biodiversity protection across the activities of the Federal Government, including foreign policy and foreign assistance;

(F) advancing conservation in collaboration with State and Tribal governments and on private lands through incentives, funding, technical support, and partnerships;

(G) incorporating indigenous knowledge and practices to support conservation and biodiversity, safeguarding the rights and needs of indigenous peoples, and ensuring fulfillment of the Federal trust obligations that apply to government decisionmaking that impacts the interests of Native Americans;

(H) ensuring equitable access to nature, inclusive decisionmaking on biodiversity protection, and just allocations of resources to achieve the goals of this resolution, including with respect to systematically and deliberately targeted populations such as communities of color, low-income communities, and Native American communities;

(I) establishing regular monitoring and reporting on the status of biodiversity in the United States and globally, including a quadrennial assessment reported to Congress and the people of the United States;

(J) prioritizing programs to identify knowledge gaps and accelerate research and development of new conservation solutions across sectors;

(K) assessing and integrating the role of the United States in international biodiversity, ecosystem services, and nature conservation in—

(i) national security and foreign policy strategies, including in international development policies, planning and finance, diplomatic dialogues, and trade agreements; and

(ii) advancing global adoption of and progress toward 30x30; and

(L) funding existing conservation programs, developing new funding sources, and reducing subsidies that harm biodiversity in amounts commensurate with the scale of the harm to biodiversity.

SENATE RESOLUTION 495—HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC UNDER THE STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

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

S. RES. 495

Whereas Nebraska has the highest percentage of citizens with Czech ancestry of any State in the United States;

Whereas the State Partnership Program was created in 1993 to link a State's National Guard with a partner nation's military, security forces, and disaster response organizations in a cooperative, mutually beneficial relationship;

Whereas, in July 1993, the partnership between the State of Nebraska and the Czech Republic under the State Partnership Program was established;

Whereas the State Partnership Program has fostered military-to-military cooperation and enhanced interoperability between units of the Nebraska National Guard and the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic;

Whereas that cooperation has included joint training exercises, exchanges of personnel, and sharing of military expertise and practices;

Whereas, since 1993, the Nebraska National Guard has executed more than 300 engage-

ments with the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic and has engaged with more than 2,500 members of those forces;

Whereas the State Partnership Program has been mutually beneficial for the Nebraska National Guard and the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic, strengthening diplomatic, military, and cultural ties and contributing to regional and international security and cooperation;

Whereas the State Partnership Program has better prepared the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic for North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) exercises, integration in NATO air mobility operations, cyber defense, and combined exercises with other State Partnership Program partners;

Whereas the Czech Republic has been a trusted and valuable member of the NATO alliance since the Czech Republic joined the alliance in 1999;

Whereas the Czech Republic has contributed to various NATO-led missions, including in Afghanistan, where 11,500 Czech soldiers were deployed and 14 were killed in action fighting the Taliban;

Whereas the Czech Republic has provided significant military and humanitarian support to Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees in response to Russia's unprovoked and illegal invasion of Ukraine in February 2022; and

Whereas the Czech Republic has been recognized with awards for joint military operations carried out in cooperation with the United States, NATO achievements, and acts of heroism and service: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the cooperation and beneficial relationship between the Czech Republic and the State of Nebraska and the steadfast partnership between the Czech Republic and the United States over the past 30 years;

(2) expresses appreciation for the commitment of the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic to the Nebraska National Guard in advancing peace, stability, and mutual understanding;

(3) expresses continued support for the State Partnership Program between the State of Nebraska and the Czech Republic;

(4) commends the Czech Republic for committing to meet the NATO target of spending at least two percent of its Gross Domestic Product on defense in 2024; and

(5) commends the Czech Republic for increasing its cooperation with Taiwan, including collaboration that may enhance Taiwan's defense posture.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1376. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1373 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 2670, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1376. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1373 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 2670, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for

such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In the motion introduced by Mr. Schumer to recommit the conference report to accompany H.R. 2670, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2024, strike “that makes” and all that follows through the period at the end and insert “that includes section 716 of the House-passed NDAA”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. REED. Madam President, I have seven 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:

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a classified briefing.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

The Committee on Rules and Administration is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, FORESTS, AND MINING

The Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I would like to ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to Joe Farinash for the remainder of 2023.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2023

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, December 13; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2670 postcloture; further, that all time during adjournment, recess, morning business, and leader remarks count postcloture.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REED. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:30 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate December 12, 2023:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

HARRY COKER, JR., OF KANSAS, TO BE NATIONAL CYBER DIRECTOR.