

Washington National Forest Stakeholder Collaborative, ultimately succeeded and made joint recommendations to the U.S. Forest Service for forest management and protection. Preservation advocates consented to timber harvesting and other active forest restoration and management in certain areas, while forest products interests consented to wilderness and light management in other areas. Following this fruitful collaboration, the Forest Service convened the Lower Cowpasture Restoration and Management Project, bringing together the collaborative and other stakeholders to help develop management activities on this particular part of GW Forest in Bath County. Everyone got some of what they wanted, and everyone gave some ground.

The collaborative has now come together to support the wilderness additions in this bill, which designates 4,600 acres to be added to the Rich Hole Wilderness Area and 1,000 acres to be added to the Rough Mountain Wilderness Area. I am proud to once again partner with Senator MARK WARNER and follow the path blazed by Senator John Warner and Representative Rick Boucher, who led the original Virginia Wilderness Act in 1984. I am also proud that this bill has passed the Senate in previous Congresses, including by unanimous consent. I will be pushing to include this bill as part of the 2023 farm bill, and I hope that we can bring this effort to the finish line soon.

Taking care of our Nation's public lands is good for the environment and good for the economy. Land disputes may often be contentious, but these efforts in the GW Forest show they don't have to be. When everyone comes to the table and invests the necessary time, we can find common ground. I hope this will be a lesson for us in other tough policy challenges, and I encourage my Senate colleagues to support this bill.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KING, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 747. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide grants to States, territories, and Indian Tribes to address contamination by perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances on farms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I rise today to introduce the Relief for Farmers Hit with PFAS Act. My colleague Senator KING joins me in introducing this important legislation that would assist farmers across America who have been harmed by PFAS contamination.

PFAS are a class of man-made chemicals—sometimes referred to as “forever chemicals”—that can bioaccumulate in bodies over time. They are traditionally found in nonstick pans, clothing, furniture, and fire-fighting foam and have been linked to cancer, thyroid disease, liver damage,

decreased fertility, and hormone disruption. PFAS contamination is a growing problem, and additional resources are needed to support affected communities.

In Maine, PFAS contamination affecting many different sectors, including agriculture, has been discovered over the past several years. The presence of PFAS in wastewater sludge once spread as fertilizer has prevented some Maine farms from selling their products, thus leading to significant financial hardship for these family farmers. One such farmer is Fred Stone, a dairy farmer in Arundel, ME. In 2016, Fred discovered that the milk produced on his farm contained some of the highest levels ever reported for a PFAS contaminant at that time. More recently, a dairy farm in Fairfield, ME, found PFAS levels in its milk that were 153 times higher than the State's standard.

Dairy is not the only agricultural sector affected by these harmful forever chemicals. Adam Nordell and his wife Johanna Davis, from Unity, ME, learned that PFAS had contaminated the soil and water in their organic vegetable farm, the result of sludge spread on their land in the 1990s. Tests last year showed that Adam and Johanna had levels of PFAS in their blood that were even higher than chemical plant workers who manufactured PFAS for decades and handled them daily.

Currently, USDA provides limited support through the Dairy Indemnity Payment Program to dairy farmers who have been directed to remove their contaminated milk from the commercial market. This program falls far short of meeting the growing needs of all farmers in the State of Maine. Fred Stone, the farmer who first learned of contamination in 2016, has still not been compensated adequately for the contamination he has experienced. What is more, this program helps only dairy farmers, excluding the farmers of other agricultural products who have had their livelihoods disrupted by PFAS contamination. While community organizations and the State of Maine have stepped in to provide some aid, USDA should do more to assist all farmers affected by these chemicals. That is what our legislation aims to do.

Specifically, the funds authorized by the Relief for Farmers Hit with PFAS Act could be used for a variety of purposes at the State level, including providing financial assistance to affected farmers; building capacity for PFAS testing for soil or water sources; monitoring blood for individuals to make informed decisions about their health; upgrading or purchasing equipment to ensure a farm remains profitable during or after known PFAS contamination; developing alternative production systems or remediation strategies; developing educational programs for farmers experiencing PFAS contamination; and researching soil and water remediation systems, and the viability of those systems for farms.

In addition to making new resources available, our bill would create a task force at USDA charged with identifying other USDA programs to which PFAS contamination should be added as a activity. This would help bring even more resources to farmers through existing programs. Additionally, the task force would provide technical assistance to States to help them coordinate their responses effectively.

Mr. President, USDA needs to step up and provide support to farmers, who through no fault of their own are at risk of losing their livelihoods. This is not just a problem in Maine. A recent report released by the Environmental Working Group estimated that approximately 20 million acres of crop land in the United States could be contaminated from PFAS-tainted sludge, which had been used as fertilizer.

Thus far, the Federal Government's response has failed to keep pace with this growing problem. I have urged USDA Secretary Vilsack repeatedly to come to the aid of these affected farmers, and the Relief for Farmers Hit with PFAS Act would direct the Department to help where it is needed most.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. As the members of the Senate Agriculture Committee begin work on the 2023 farm bill, I hope that we can work together to pass the Relief for Farmers Hit with PFAS Act into law.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 101—DESIGNATING MARCH 9, 2023, AS “NATIONAL SLAM THE SCAM DAY” TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT PERVASIVE GOVERNMENT IMPOSTER SCAMS, AND TO PROMOTE EDUCATION TO PREVENT GOVERNMENT IMPOSTER SCAMS

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KELLY, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. BRAUN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 101

Whereas hundreds of thousands of individuals in the United States are targeted by government imposter scams each year, including Social Security-related and Internal Revenue Service-related government imposter scams;

Whereas government imposter scams involve scammers contacting individuals in the United States and impersonating employees of government agencies, such as the Social Security Administration, to demand payment or personal information, which defrauds individuals of the United States and erodes trust in the government agencies that the scammers impersonate;

Whereas, since 2013, the fraud hotline of the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate has received more than 10,000 complaints from individuals in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, of which $\frac{1}{3}$ were reporting possible government imposter scams;

Whereas there were more than 191,000 government imposter scams reported to the Federal Trade Commission in 2022;

Whereas the Federal Trade Commission has estimated that victims lost almost \$509,000,000 in government imposter scams in 2022;

Whereas, according to the Federal Trade Commission, in 2022, older adults reported larger median individual losses as a result of government imposter scams than younger adults;

Whereas, according to the Federal Trade Commission, in 2022, individuals in the United States reported losing more than \$104,500,000 to Social Security-related imposter scams;

Whereas, in 2022, Social Security-related imposter scams represented the largest category of complaints received by the fraud hotline of the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate; and

Whereas increased awareness of, and education about, government imposter scams help to thwart government imposter scammers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 9, 2023, as “National Slam the Scam Day”;

(2) recognizes National Slam the Scam Day as an opportunity to raise awareness about scams that involve individuals impersonating government employees by any means, including by mail, telephone, electronic mail, or internet websites (referred to in this resolving clause as “government imposter scams”);

(3) recognizes that law enforcement agencies, consumer protection groups, telephone companies, area agencies on aging, and financial institutions all play vital roles in—

(A) preventing government imposter scams from targeting the people of the United States; and

(B) educating the people of the United States about government imposter scams;

(4) encourages—

(A) the implementation of policies to prevent government imposter scams; and

(B) the improvement of measures to protect the people of the United States from government imposter scams;

(5) encourages members of the public to—

(A) ignore solicitations from individuals falsely claiming to represent government agencies;

(B) share information about government imposter scams with family and friends; and

(C) report government imposter scams to—

(i) the Office of the Inspector General of the Social Security Administration;

(ii) the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration; or

(iii) the Federal Trade Commission; and

(6) honors the commitment and dedication of the individuals and organizations that work tirelessly to fight against government imposter scams.

SENATE RESOLUTION 102—OBSERVING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF JOHN LESLIE “WES” MONTGOMERY AND COMMEMORATING HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO JAZZ MUSIC

Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 102

Whereas, on March 6, 1923, John Leslie “Wes” Montgomery (referred to in this resolution as “Wes Montgomery”) was born to Frances and Tom Montgomery in Indianapolis, Indiana;

Whereas Wes Montgomery was naturally gifted in the musical arts and became pro-

ficient on the 4- and 6-string guitar in his youth;

Whereas Wes Montgomery was a self-taught musician and learned to play guitar by listening to recordings of jazz guitarist Charlie Christian;

Whereas Wes Montgomery developed a unique fingerstyle playing technique uncommon to jazz guitarists in his day, using the thumb to play bass notes simultaneously with melodic lines;

Whereas Wes Montgomery crafted diverse and unconventional rhythms that became a defining representation of bebop-style jazz guitar;

Whereas Wes Montgomery became famous after performing in jazz clubs in Indianapolis and was later recruited to tour with the Lionel Hampton Orchestra;

Whereas, in 1957, Wes Montgomery joined his brothers Buddy and Monk to perform with other bands and record music with Pacific Jazz Records;

Whereas, following the release of Wes Montgomery’s albums “The Wes Montgomery Trio” and “The Incredible Guitar of Wes Montgomery”, Wes Montgomery’s music became famous internationally, and his band traveled extensively in Europe in the spring of 1965;

Whereas, in 1967, Wes Montgomery’s album “A Day in the Life” was rated the premier album on the Billboard Jazz Albums chart, 2nd on the Billboard R&B Albums chart, and 13th on the Billboard 200 chart; and

Whereas, on June 15, 1968, Wes Montgomery passed at his home in Indianapolis: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) the contributions of John Leslie “Wes” Montgomery to jazz music continue to enrich the music industry and inspire countless musicians across the world; and

(2) the legacy of John Leslie “Wes” Montgomery as a great Hoosier musician should be recognized and celebrated, especially on March 6, 2023, which marks the 100th anniversary of his birth.

SENATE RESOLUTION 103—RECOGNIZING GIRL SCOUTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON ITS 111TH BIRTHDAY AND CELEBRATING ITS LEGACY OF PROVIDING GIRLS WITH A SAFE, INCLUSIVE SPACE WHERE THEY CAN EXPLORE THEIR WORLD, BUILD MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS, AND HAVE ACCESS TO EXPERIENCES THAT PREPARE THEM FOR A LIFE OF LEADERSHIP

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Ms. ERNST) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 103

Whereas March 12, 2023, marks the 111th anniversary of Girl Scouts of the United States of America (referred to in this preamble as “Girl Scouts”), the largest and most impactful leadership program for girls in the world;

Whereas, as of 2023, more than 50,000,000 women trailblazers, visionaries, and leaders are Girl Scouts alumnae who have made the world a better place;

Whereas, in July, 2023, Girl Scouts will host its triennial convention where more than 10,000 girls, alumnae, and supporters

from across the movement will gather to explore, create, and grow alongside thousands of fellow change-makers, dreamers, and doers;

Whereas, during a time when girls are dealing with the impact of COVID-19 pandemic-related learning loss, Girl Scouts offers important out-of-school and afterschool learning enrichment and skill building opportunities that expand their world, allow them to cultivate their talents, and ensure they can confidently pursue their passions and make the world a better place;

Whereas, since its founding, Girl Scouts has emphasized public service and civic engagement and has fostered in girls a sense of community;

Whereas, during a time when girls are experiencing increased levels of anxiety, stress, loneliness, and depression, Girl Scouts continues to provide community, consistency, and connection for girls and is a safe haven in all the uncertainty;

Whereas the commitment of the Girl Scouts to getting girls outdoors, including through exciting summer camp experiences, instills a lifelong appreciation for nature and the environment that is more critical than ever as the United States emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas, at a time when civics education is missing from many schools, Girl Scouts engages girls of all grade levels in civics programming that deepens their understanding of democracy and government, prepares them for a lifetime of civic engagement, and motivates them to take action on issues that are important to them;

Whereas Girl Scouts offers girls 21st-century programming in science, technology, engineering, math, the outdoors, entrepreneurship, and beyond, helping girls develop invaluable life skills;

Whereas, to earn the Gold Award, Girl Scouts take on projects that have a measurable and sustainable impact on a community by assessing a need, designing a solution, completing a project, and inspiring others to sustain it; and

Whereas, as a member organization of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, Girl Scouts is—

(1) part of an international sisterhood of 10,000,000 girls and young women in 152 countries; and

(2) committed to offering girls more opportunities to engage with communities worldwide, make meaningful global connections, and explore global citizenship: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes Girl Scouts of the United States of America for 111 years of providing girls with a safe, inclusive, all-girl space where those girls can hone their skills and develop leadership abilities;

(2) congratulates all Girl Scouts who earned the Gold Award in 2022; and

(3) encourages Girl Scouts of the United States of America to continue to champion the ambitions, nurture the creativity, and support the talents of future women leaders.

SENATE RESOLUTION 104—RECOGNIZING THE HERITAGE, CULTURE, AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF LATINAS IN THE UNITED STATES

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. REED, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. COONS, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. ROSEN,