

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Dorothy Camille Shea, of North Carolina, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and the Deputy Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 582, Dorothy Camille Shea, of North Carolina, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and the Deputy Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations.

Charles E. Schumer, Laphonza R. Butler, Tim Kaine, Jack Reed, Debbie Stabenow, Richard Blumenthal, Mark Kelly, Mazie Hirono, John W. Hickenlooper, Angus S. King, Jr., Tammy Baldwin, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Chris Van Hollen, Jeanne Shaheen, Christopher A. Coons, Sheldon Whitehouse.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

TAX RELIEF FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES AND WORKERS ACT OF 2024—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to consider Calendar No. 349, H.R. 7024.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 349, H.R. 7024, a bill to make improvements to the child tax credit, to provide tax incentives to promote economic growth, to provide special rules for the taxation of certain residents of Taiwan with income from sources within the United States, to provide tax relief with respect to certain Federal disasters, to make improvements to the low-income housing tax credit, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 349, H.R. 7024, a bill to make improvements to the child tax credit, to provide tax incentives to promote economic growth, to provide special rules for the taxation of certain residents of Taiwan with income from sources within the United States, to provide tax relief with respect to certain Federal disasters, to make improvements to the low-income housing tax credit, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Ron Wyden, Tammy Baldwin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Cory A. Booker, Amy Klobuchar, Debbie Stabenow, Richard J. Durbin, Gary C. Peters, Tammy Duckworth, Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tina Smith, Jack Reed, Jeanne Shaheen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Robert P. Casey, Jr.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent the mandatory quorum calls with cloture motions filed today, July 29, be waived.

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

AMENDING TITLE 36, UNITED STATES CODE, TO DESIGNATE THE BALD EAGLE AS THE NATIONAL BIRD

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 4610, and the Senate proceed to its immediate ratification.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4610) to amend title 36, United States Code, to designate the bald eagle as the national bird.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 4610) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 4610

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF BALD EAGLE AS NATIONAL BIRD.

- (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—
- (1) bald eagles are a historical symbol of the United States representing independence, strength, and freedom;
 - (2) the bald eagle is unique to North America;

(3) on June 20, 1782, the bald eagle was adopted as the Coat of Arms for the United States Great Seal;

(4) the bald eagle image remains the leading insignia for all branches of the United States military;

(5) the bald eagle is the leading image on thousands of Federal Government branches, departments, and agencies, including the President, Vice-President, Congress, and Senate;

(6) the bald eagle serves as the logo, trademark, and brand icon for businesses, non-profit organizations, and sports teams across the United States;

(7) bald eagles are integral to the spiritual lives and sacred belief systems of most Indigenous peoples and Tribal communities;

(8) bald eagles are prevalent in belief, practice, stories, ceremonies, dance, traditions, songs, regalia, flags, insignias, arts, craft, and other forms of spiritual reverence;

(9) bald eagle festivals are—

(A) held in over 100 locations across the United States; and

(B) key components of community engagement;

(10) the bald eagle is prevalent on—

(A) hundreds of United States stamps; and

(B) many United States coins and currencies;

(11) the bald eagle is a primary component and symbol on Federal and State flags throughout the United States; and

(12) joint efforts of the Federal Government and State and local governments, non-profit organizations, and individuals have contributed to the successful recovery of the bald eagle.

(b) DESIGNATION.—Chapter 3 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 306. National bird

“The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) is the national bird.”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections for chapter 3 of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the chapter heading, by striking “AND TREE” and inserting “TREE, AND BIRD”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“306. National bird.”.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section, the amendments made by this section, or the adoption of the bald eagle as the national bird of the United States may be construed or used as a reason to alter, change, modify, or otherwise affect any plan, policy, management decision, regulation, or other action of the Federal Government.

NATIONAL FOSSIL ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 3574 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title. The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3574) to amend chapter 3 of title 36, United States Code, to designate the mastodon as the national fossil of the United States.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion

to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 3574) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 3574

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Fossil Act”.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL FOSSIL OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) DESIGNATION.—Chapter 3 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 306. National fossil

“The fossil of the genus *Mammut*, commonly known as the mastodon, is the national fossil.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections for chapter 3 of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking the chapter heading and inserting “**NATIONAL ANTHEM, MOTTO, FLORAL EMBLEM, MARCH, TREE, AND FOSSIL**”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“306. National fossil.”.

TAX RELIEF FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES AND WORKERS ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, tonight, I am very happy to announce that I just filed cloture on the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act, a bill to expand the child tax credit, expand the affordable housing tax credit, help small businesses with the R&D credit, and lift half a million kids out of poverty. For the information of Senators, the step I take tonight sets up a cloture vote on Thursday.

Mr. President, it is time to get this bill done right away. This bipartisan bill passed the House overwhelmingly, 357 to 70. We hope this week the Senate Republicans will join us. Democrats strongly support moving forward on this bill because it is filled with good news for our kids and small businesses and jobs and housing.

For one, Democrats strongly support expanding the child tax credit because we know it will do immense good for tens of millions of families—so many kids. In fact, one of the very first things this majority did in 2021 was expand the child tax credit significantly under the American Rescue Plan, and it cut child poverty in close to half. That turned out to be an enormous success, but unfortunately that provision expired. We have a chance to help more kids get out of poverty—many more kids, millions of kids—through this important provision once again.

The bipartisan tax package will be a boon for small businesses because it will reward them and other businesses for investing in R&D and help them pay for new equipment so they can compete against larger competitors. This will inevitably mean more jobs for Americans. When businesses get this tax credit for investing, they are going

to hire more people, more workers. It particularly benefits small businesses that don't have the flexibility to do these things on their own without this tax break.

Of course, I am very happy that this tax package delivers big wins on something near and dear to my heart: affordable housing. The bill would expand the low-income housing tax credit, LIHTC, very significantly. LIHTC is one of the most effective tools we have for increasing the supply of affordable housing units. I was insistent that this measure go into the bill, and I said it is nonnegotiable. Well, I am glad it is in the bill.

When it comes time to vote later this week, the American people will see for themselves who in reality supports the fine provisions of the tax bill and who does not. When we vote, the American people will see for themselves who, in fact, favors expanding the child tax credit and taking so many kids out of poverty, and they will see who opposes it. The American people will see who supports expanding affordable housing and who doesn't. The American people will see who stands for small businesses and who stands against them, as they have so requested this important R&D credit.

I urge my Republican colleagues not to stand in the way of helping businesses, small businesses, families, and young people keep a roof over their heads when it is time to vote Thursday.

I want to thank Chairman WYDEN for his great leadership on this package, and I thank all the Senate Finance Committee members for their great work.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JULY 30, 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 30; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Neumann nomination; further, that notwithstanding rule XXII, the order of July 25 with respect to the House message to accompany S. 2073 be modified so that at 12 noon, amendment No. 3022 be withdrawn and the Senate vote on the motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 2073 with amendment No. 3021 without further intervening action or debate; further, that following the disposition of the House message to accompany S. 2073, the Senate resume executive session and recess until 2:15 to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; that at 2:30 p.m., the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Neumann nomination; further, that if cloture is invoked on the Neumann nomination, all time be considered expired at 4:15

p.m. and that if the nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senators CRAMER and MERKLEY.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

RECOGNIZING RICK ELECTRIC, INC.

Mr. CRAMER. Madam President, thank you to my friend and colleague Mr. MERKLEY for yielding a few seconds early in the evening.

It is my honor to recognize a remarkable milestone in the Fargo, ND, and Moorhead, MN, area. For 60 years, Rick Electric, Inc., has been a shining example of hard work, dedication, and innovation in the Fargo-Moorhead area.

Founded by David and Beverly Rick in 1964, this family-owned business has been a fixture in Fargo-Moorhead, providing topnotch electrical services and unwavering commitment to excellence. Their sons Gregory and Dennis took the helm in 1998, continuing the legacy of their parents with a passion for their craft and a deep-seated commitment to serving their communities and the region.

Rick Electric's involvement in the National Electric Contractors Association speaks volumes about the family's dedication to upholding the highest standards of safety and professionalism. Their contributions go beyond providing quality service, as they have been integral to the growth and prosperity of the Fargo-Moorhead area and the surrounding region.

As they celebrate this anniversary, I speak on behalf of all North Dakotans in recognizing Rick Electric for 60 years of outstanding service, leadership, and community involvement. The impact they have had on our region cannot be overstated, and I am honored to congratulate them on this remarkable achievement.

Here is to Rick Electric and to many more years of success and prosperity. Thank you for all you have done over these past 60 years. Congratulations and happy birthday.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, the Postal Service in the United States has always in the past been about great service. Their motto said all: Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night shall stop these courageous couriers from swift completion of their

appointed rounds. That just rings with the ethic of good service.

But today the Postal Service is run by a man named Louis DeJoy. Louis DeJoy is the Postmaster General, and I am sorry to report that there is no joy in DeJoy-ville.

Smalltown America relies on the U.S. Postal Service. In the Postal Service's own words, it "operates as a basic and fundamental service provided by the Government of the United States to the American people."

It continues:

Our basic mission is to provide prompt, reliable, efficient mail and packaging service to all Americans, regardless of where they live and at affordable rates.

So one can understand, then, why so many Members of this Chamber on both sides of the aisle are alarmed by the growing chorus of complaints about the deteriorating quality of service by the U.S. Postal Service.

Postmaster General DeJoy labeled his restructuring plan "Delivering for America." A better name for this plan would be "Delaying Mail in America." You only need to look at what is happening in my home State. Postmaster DeJoy's 10-year "Delivering for America" reorganization plan for the U.S. Postal Service calls for consolidating mail processing, which means downgrading regional mail processing facilities, which means sending all the mail to Portland, OR, to be sorted before it is returned to the community it originated in.

Now, my State is 300 miles north to south, 400 miles east to west. That is a very large place, so it takes a lot of time if all the processing occurs in Portland.

Medford in Southern Oregon was the postal sorting facility. It sorted, postmarked, and distributed millions of pieces of mail every year for Southern Oregon. But now, under "Delivering for America"—otherwise known as "Delaying Mail in America"—now all that mail has to be shipped to Portland, OR, 270 miles to the north, and sorted and then trucked 275 miles back to the south even if you are sending a letter just across town. The Postal Service claims that this doesn't delay mail, but they refuse to explain how adding on 500 to 600 extra miles of driving doesn't delay the mail.

Meanwhile, for this deteriorating service, they are raising prices. July 14—a single stamp now costs 73 cents. So, folks, just start to think about, if I want to send a letter, it is going to cost me a dollar, the envelope and the stamp.

The Postal Service says: Our new system is more efficient and more cost-effective.

It is not more cost-effective if people quit using the service because it is so terrible.

You know, these price hikes and these delivery delays—they hit our rural communities the hardest. Smalltown Americans rely on the Postal Service to deliver lifesaving medica-

tions, to pay their bills, to run their small businesses. When they get an order, they need to be able to mail out the product. Newspapers in rural and coastal communities rely on the Postal Service for timely delivery. Even large corporations like Amazon and FedEx and UPS rely on the Postal Service to deliver a huge portion of their packages.

Reliable, timely mail service keeps our friends, families, businesses—and in vote-by-mail States like Oregon—keeps them connected.

That is why I have been raising the alarm about this "Delaying Mail for America" plan of DeJoy's over this last year. I called him up to discuss it. He didn't call me back, so I called him again, and he didn't call me back. So I organized a bipartisan group of Senators to send him a letter. Hopefully it didn't get delayed because he took away so many processing centers. Well, we know he did get the letter because we sent a bunch of them, and we did get some replies. But these letters are from bipartisan Senators who have been seeing the challenges that his plan is creating in their communities.

The letter said: Stop doing this. Stop taking away our processing centers. That is making mail so much slower.

Do you know what? We won a round. He said he will stop taking away these centers at least for the balance of this year—meaning until after the election. Well, that is politics. That is not good business; that is just politics.

But in States that have already suffered the downgrade of their facilities—places like Oregon, Georgia, Virginia, States all over this country—we need those distribution centers reopened. We need the sorting machinery reinstalled. We need reliable, affordable mail service restored.

The Postal Service has repeatedly said to my team that they aren't hearing about any significant issues for the Delivering for America plan. Well, maybe that is because they are not asking, or maybe that is because the letters of complaint came to us rather than them.

So I have collected some concerns from my Oregon constituents. I asked them—particularly in the Medford and Eugene area, where the two service centers were recently downgraded—if they had been affected.

I didn't receive one or two letters. You know, if you asked DeJoy, apparently, he would only expect me to receive letters that say how great the Postal Service was doing. I didn't receive any letters like that. I received hundreds of pages of responses, and they are describing—these Oregonians—the same problems that the Postmaster General's inspector general found in his recent report on Virginia.

And, right now, the inspector general is preparing a report on Oregon, and I fully expect it will have similar issues documented. But, for now, let me document the issues by citing those letters that my constituents sent to me.

A woman in Medford said:

I am a 71-year-old disabled senior citizen. I order medicine, food, and household items through the mail. It is consistently late.

A constituent in Klamath Falls reported:

It's taking 2 to 3 weeks to send mail from Klamath Falls to Klamath Falls. Ridiculous!

Her comment, of course, is a reflection of the mail having to be trucked almost 300 miles to be sorted and then trucked back.

I have heard from many small-town Oregonians who are concerned about the delivery of their lifesaving medications. An Oregonian from White City shared:

My elderly mother relies on mail delivery of her medications. Twice in the last few weeks she's had to go days without necessary inhalers because of postal delays. Miserable, breathless, dangerous days.

Patricia Coats, in Waldport, on the coast said:

We get our medications through the mail. . . . In some instances it's been delayed to the point that my husband has gone without for up to 5 to 7 days.

Antoinette Corrente Evans, in Grants Pass, said:

My insurance company will not let me order early to compensate for the delays.

So, if I run out before delivery, I need to pay the full price for my expensive medicines.

And these delays can seriously affect medical care as well as the delivery of pharmaceuticals.

Blanche McKenna, in Ashland, a mother, said:

As guardian for my son with severe disabilities, I need to go through mail service to give written consent for his services. . . . It took weeks for a simple consent to get to his provider, delaying much needed services.

Those are services for her disabled son.

These late deliveries risk lives; they risk livelihoods. Businesses of all sizes depend on the Postal Service.

Honora Ni Aodagain, in Grants Pass, said:

I depend a lot on the mail as part of my business. . . . Packages are not showing up when they are supposed to. Payments for bills are not getting to the vendor on time. It's a source of major frustration.

And that word, "frustration," showed up time and time and time again.

Carolyn Rust, in Eugene, described how hard it is to keep the books balanced:

Our company has seen our accounts payable deliveries delayed by 5 to 10 days. This has resulted in late fees.

We finally resorted [to] paying all of our vendors a week early so . . . our payment would be received within a day of being due.

We also have seen checks from our customers take 3 to 4 weeks to be delivered.

Now, businesses aren't the only ones getting smacked with late fees for bills they have paid on time; ordinary folks are as well.

Nadya Geras-Carson, in Eugene, told me:

My bills arrive basically a day before they are due. . . . Which means, even if I mail the payment back on the next day, it is already late, and I am charged a late payment fee.

Diana Dillard, in Brookings, said:

On March 27, we mailed our Verizon and Geico payments as usual.

On April 10, we received notification that our payments had not been received and . . . we were facing [a] cut-off of services.

We made arrangements to pay over the phone and were shocked and angered when Verizon charged us \$10 to speak to a customer service agent. . . . Extremely frustrating.

A woman in Baker City said:

I pay my estimated taxes quarterly. . . . More than one time, checks I have mailed never reached their addresses. . . . Local services recommend using a credit card to avoid late payment because of poor USPS service—even just across town.

Another constituent, Denise Brooks, wrote to say:

I work with a non-profit organization in Medford that provides assistance to the working poor and [to the] homeless. The one-week delivery time can have catastrophic outcomes to families [who are] already struggling.

The delays cause late fees of \$75 added onto . . . families' rent obligations and the potential for eviction from their rental.

Late deliveries are a massive problem for one of the Postal Service's most important customers: newspapers. Timeliness is essential for newspapers. In this fast-changing world, nobody wants to read news that happened 3 or 4 days earlier. That seems like it is almost a month old. It just feels that way. But most small, local, and regional newspapers can't afford to hire a delivery service. So they rely on the Postal Service to deliver the papers.

But since July of 2022, the Postal Service has jacked up the delivery prices for newspapers by about 42 percent. It makes it a lot more expensive for small newspapers that are often already struggling from the loss of advertisements for local goods in this electronic age, the loss of classified ads. It makes it much more expensive to deliver their newspapers.

We need these smalltown newspapers to thrive. But if the newspapers are delivered late and if the cost of delivery is going up, that is just one more challenge affecting them and making it harder for them to thrive.

And when people get their papers late, it isn't just that they are frustrated; it is that they start canceling their subscriptions—again, hitting our small newspapers hard.

Publisher Joe Warren, with Country Media, which has community papers up and down the Oregon coast, told my team:

Delivery is sporadic. Some weeks local mail—which is guaranteed the same day if we get papers to them by a certain time [of day]—is not happening. . . . Some weeks it's the next day or two.

Other publishers have told me that they have taken it upon themselves to hand-deliver papers to some subscribers because the Postal Service simply did not deliver, while still charging them an arm and a leg.

Perhaps Matt Hall, who has multiple newspapers in Southern Oregon, said it best when he said to my office:

The USPS treats newspapers like a mine.

They know we are a reliable source of revenue, but they keep extracting, and soon there will be nothing left.

Postmaster DeJoy claims that their service changes are necessary to run the Postal Service like a profitable business. But here is the thing: Profitable businesses thrive by delivering good service. If they don't deliver good service, they don't stay profitable, and, very soon, they are out of business.

That is the challenge. This is not a sustainable situation. The challenges reported by my constituents back home in Oregon: late deliveries of life-saving medications; small businesses and individuals struggling to pay their vendors, struggling to get their checks delivered on time to avoid late fees; newspapers losing subscribers; mail taking weeks to go to a house just down the street because it has to go hundreds and hundreds of miles to be sorted, instead of going to a more local regional sorting facility.

Now, we need to reverse DeJoy's downgrades. Now, we need to restore reliable, affordable mail delivery. Now is the time to take the Delivery for America plan and return it to the sender.

Let's restore the vision that is so powerful in the USPS—U.S. Postal Service—motto: that rain nor heat nor gloom of night shall stop courageous couriers from swift completion of their appointed rounds.

Let's not accept a world where there is no "joy" in "DeJoyville" and our constituents are so poorly served.

MORNING BUSINESS

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(A) of

the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 0H-24. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 22-23 of April 19, 2022.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 0H-24

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(A), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of Australia.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1). AECA Transmittal No.: 22-23; Date: April 19, 2022; Implementing Agency: Navy.

(iii) Description: On April 19, 2022, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 22-23 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of one hundred six (106) Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio System (MIDS JTRS) (5) terminals; fifteen (15) MIDS JTRS (6) terminals; and seven (7) Multifunctional Information Distribution System MIDS-Low Volume Terminal (MIDS-LVT) (4) Block Upgrade Two (BU2) retrofit kits. Also included were Low Volume Terminal (LVT) Cryptographic Modules (LCM). The estimated total cost was \$42 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$40 million of this total.

This transmittal reports the inclusion of the following additional MDE items: fifty (50) MIDS JTRS (5) terminals; six (6) MIDS JTRS (6) terminals; and three (3) MIDS JTRS (7) terminals. The estimated total value of the new items is \$20 million. The non-MDE value will remain at \$2 million. The estimated total case value will increase by \$20 million to a revised \$62 million. MDE constitutes \$60 million of this total.

(iv) Significance: This notification is being provided as the additional MDE items were not enumerated in the original report. The inclusion of this MDE represents an increase in capability over what was previously notified. The proposed articles and services will support Australia in maintaining its current force projection capability and enhances interoperability with U.S. forces well into the future.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States. Australia is one of our most important allies in the Western Pacific. The strategic location of this political and economic power contributes significantly to ensuring peace and economic stability in the region.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the original notification applies to items reported here.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: July 18, 2024.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent