

face daily insecurity, discrimination, hardship, and violence from state and non-state actors;

Whereas Syrian opposition forces have repeatedly signaled their intent to respect the rights and dignity of religious and ethnic minorities in Syria, but there have been incidents of members of such minorities fleeing their homes while there is documented violence and expulsions against Kurdish communities by elements of the Syrian National Army;

Whereas the restoration and stabilization of all regions of Syria will provide an opportunity for its longstanding diverse ethnic and religious communities to flourish;

Whereas the Syrian Democratic Forces (referred to in this preamble as the “SDF”) has been a critical partner to United States and allied counter-ISIS and broader counterterrorism efforts in Syria, and the United States should continue to support and partner with the SDF;

Whereas the SDF has played a critical role in securing and maintaining ISIS detention facilities and ensuring that ISIS terrorists do not pose a renewed threat to the region or United States allies or partners;

Whereas the search continues for Austin Bennett Tice, an American journalist, who was kidnapped in Syria on August 14, 2012; and

Whereas the Syrian Democratic Council—
(1) serves as the civil administration for much of northeast Syria; and
(2) has provided critical public services and maintained civilian infrastructure in that region throughout the Syrian conflict: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) commits to protecting and upholding the internationally recognized human rights of members of all religious and ethnic minority communities in Syria;

(2) calls for an inclusive and peaceful political transition process in Syria that preserves and protects the rights and livelihoods of all Syria communities, including its religious and ethnic minority communities;

(3) supports the preservation, documentation, and restoration of—

(A) religious and cultural heritage sites in Syria; and

(B) community buildings of religious and ethnic minority communities in the region;

(4) calls upon all state and non-state actors—

(A) to cease any and all support for, or commission of, all current violence in Syria; and

(B) to refrain from future violence and acts of reprisal or repression against all Syrians, including religious and ethnic minority communities in Syria;

(5) encourages the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development—

(A) to advocate for the protection of religious and ethnic minorities in Syria; and

(B) to engage in appropriate steps, including targeted sanctions relief and development programming to support humanitarian needs, development, and reconstruction in Syria, including in religious and ethnic minority communities; and

(6) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to finding and securing the release of Austin Tice.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 46—PROVIDING FOR CORRECTIONS IN THE ENROLLMENT OF S. 4367

Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following con-

current resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 46

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That in the enrollment of S. 4367, an Act to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes, the Secretary of the Senate shall make the following corrections:

(1) In paragraph (2) of section 203(d) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2231(d)) (as added by section 1109(a)(3)(C)), strike “maximum Federal cost” and insert “Federal share of the cost”.

(2) In section 204(c)(1) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2232(c)(1)) (as amended by section 1110(a)(1)), strike “United States funds” and insert “United States”.

(3) In section 1142(3), strike “in paragraph (4) and inserting the following” and insert “by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following”.

(4) In section 1203(a)(1), strike “food” and insert “flood”.

(5) In paragraph (2) of section 1113(d) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (100 Stat. 4232; 110 Stat. 3719; 136 Stat. 3781) (as added by section 1355(1)(B))—

(A) in the paragraph heading, strike “RECONNAISSANCE STUDY” and insert “PRE-DESIGN PLANNING COSTS”; and

(B) strike “a reconnaissance study carried out by the Secretary” and insert “pre-design planning costs”.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3343. Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for Mr. DAINES) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3373, to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to extend the time period during which licensees are required to commence construction of certain hydropower projects.

SA 3344. Mr. BLUMENTHAL proposed an amendment to the bill S. 5136, to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of Plum Island.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3343. Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for Mr. DAINES) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3373, to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to extend the time period during which licensees are required to commence construction of certain hydropower projects; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF TIME TO COMMENCE CONSTRUCTION OF CERTAIN HYDROPOWER PROJECTS.

(a) DEFINITION OF COVERED PROJECT.—In this section, the term “covered project” means a hydropower project with respect to which the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued a license before March 13, 2020.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF EXTENSION.—Notwithstanding section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806), on the request of a licensee of a covered project, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission may, after reasonable notice and for good cause shown, extend in accordance with subsection (c) the period during which the licensee is required to commence construction of the covered

project for an additional 4 years beyond the 8 years authorized by that section.

(c) PERIOD OF EXTENSION.—An extension of time to commence construction of a covered project under subsection (b) shall—

(1) begin on the date on which the final extension of the period for commencement of construction granted to the licensee under section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806) expires; and

(2) end on the date that is 4 years after the latest date to which the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is authorized to extend the period for commencement of construction under that section.

(d) REINSTATEMENT OF EXPIRED LICENSE.—If the time period required under section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806) to commence construction of a covered project expires after December 31, 2023, and before the date of enactment of this Act—

(1) the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission may reinstate the license for the applicable project effective as of the date of expiration of the license; and

(2) the extension authorized under subsection (b) shall take effect on the date of that expiration.

SA 3344. Mr. BLUMENTHAL proposed an amendment to the bill S. 5136, to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of Plum Island; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Plum Island Preservation Study Act”.

SEC. 2. PLUM ISLAND PRESERVATION STUDY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) STUDY AREA.—The term “study area” means the consolidated Federal asset commonly known as “Plum Island” in the State of New York and all improvements on and to the Federal asset, including—

(A) the Orient Point facility; and

(B) all real and personal property, all transportation assets, and all associated infrastructure that support—

(i) Plum Island operations; and

(ii) access to Plum Island.

(b) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a study to determine the appropriateness of—

(A) designating all or a portion of the study area as a unit of the National Park System or a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System; or

(B) providing protection for the resources of the study area by other means.

(2) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) evaluate the national significance of the study area;

(B) consult with interested Federal agencies, State or local governmental entities, private and nonprofit organizations, or any other interested individuals; and

(C) identify cost estimates for any Federal acquisition, development, interpretation, operation, and maintenance associated with the alternatives considered.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available to carry out the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that describes—

(A) the findings and conclusions of the study; and

(B) any recommendations of the Secretary.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator Chuck Grassley, intend to object to proceeding to H.R. 8753, a bill to direct the United States Postal Service to designate single, unique ZIP Codes for certain communities, and for other purposes, dated December 18, 2024.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I have three 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 FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 18, 2024, at 10 a.m., to consider pending nominations.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session

of the Senate on Wednesday, December 18, 2024, at 2 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 Wednesday, December 18, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the privileges of the floor be granted to the following member of Senator SINEMA's staff: Kelsie Hovenden.

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

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I am grateful to stand here tonight.

I ask unanimous consent that floor access be granted to my communications director Jeff Giertz, the father of two amazing daughters and whose Christmas card was so moving to me. He should be home with them at this late hour, but I hope you will give him permission to be on the floor without objection.

And to my chief of staff Veronica Duron, who does not have two beautiful daughters but who has a lot of plants that need watering, she should probably be home doing that, but I

would like to get her permission to be on the Senate floor as well.

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

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2024

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today momentarily, that it recess until 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 19; further, that all time during adjournment, recess, morning business, leader remarks, and consideration of the House message to accompany S. 4367 count as postcloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 82.

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

RECESS UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand in recess under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:38 p.m., recessed until Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 10 a.m.