

nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 567

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 567, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Rhode Island Regiment, in recognition of their dedicated service during the Revolutionary War.

S. 614

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 614, a bill to designate the area of Summer Row between 16th Street and Northwest and L Street Northwest in Washington, District of Columbia, as “Alexi Navalny Way”.

S. 658

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 658, a bill to prohibit the Securities and Exchange Commission from requiring that personally identifiable information be collected under consolidated audit trail reporting requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 745

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 745, a bill to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to require notification with respect to individualized education program teams, and for other purposes.

S. 761

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 761, a bill to establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 807

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 807, a bill to provide for the crediting of funds received by the National Guard Bureau as reimbursement from States.

S.J. RES. 28

At the request of Mr. RICKETTS, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 28, a joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to “Defining Larger Participants of a Market for General-Use Digital Consumer Payment Applications”.

S. RES. 21

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 21, a resolution designating October 10, 2025, as “American Girls in Sports Day”.

S. RES. 81

At the request of Mr. RICKETTS, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 81, a resolution calling on the United Kingdom, France, and Germany (E3) to initiate the snapback of sanctions on Iran under United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015).

S. RES. 100

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 100, a resolution dissenting from the United States delegation's February 24, 2025, vote at the United Nations General Assembly.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. COONS):

S. 816. A bill to increase United States jobs through greater United States exports to Africa and Latin America, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 816

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 “Increasing American Jobs Through Greater United States Exports to Africa and Latin America Act of 2025”.

SEC. 2. INVESTMENT, TRADE, AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.

(a) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall establish a comprehensive United States strategy

for public and private investment, trade, and development in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean.

(2) FOCUS OF STRATEGY.—The strategy required by paragraph (1) shall focus on increasing exports of United States goods and services to Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean by 200 percent in real dollar value by the date that is 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) CONSULTATIONS.—In developing the strategy required by paragraph (1), the President shall consult with—

(A) Congress;

(B) each agency that is a member of the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee;

(C) the relevant multilateral development banks, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury and the respective United States Executive Directors of such banks;

(D) each agency that participates in the Trade Policy Staff Committee;

(E) the President's Export Council;

(F) each of the development agencies;

(G) any other Federal agencies with responsibility for export promotion or financing and development; and

(H) the private sector, including businesses, nongovernmental organizations, and African and Latin American and Caribbean diaspora groups.

(4) SUBMISSION TO APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—

(A) STRATEGY.—Not later than 200 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees the strategy required by subsection (a).

(B) PROGRESS REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the implementation of the strategy required by paragraph (1).

(b) SPECIAL AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN EXPORT STRATEGY COORDINATORS.—The Secretary of Commerce shall designate an official of the Department of Commerce to serve as Special Africa Export Strategy Coordinator and an official of the Department to serve as Special Latin America and the Caribbean Export Strategy Coordinator—

(1) to oversee the development and implementation of the strategy required by subsection (a);

(2) to coordinate developing and implementing the strategy with—

(A) the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee;

(B) the Director General for the United States and Foreign Commercial Service and Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Global Markets;

(C) the Assistant United States Trade Representative for African Affairs or the Assistant United States Trade Representative for the Western Hemisphere, as appropriate;

(D) the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs or the Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, as appropriate;

(E) the Administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service of the Department of Agriculture;

(F) the Export-Import Bank of the United States;

(G) the United States International Development Finance Corporation; and

(H) the development agencies; and

(3) to consider and reflect on the impact of the promotion of exports of goods and services from the United States on the economies of and employment opportunities in the countries importing those goods and services, with a view toward improving secure

supply chains, avoiding economic disruptions, and stabilizing economic growth through a trade and export strategy.

(C) **TRADE MISSIONS TO AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.**—It is the sense of Congress that, not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce and other high-level officials of the United States Government with responsibility for export promotion, financing, and development should conduct joint trade missions to Africa and to Latin America and the Caribbean.

(d) **TRAINING.**—The President shall develop a plan—

(1) to standardize the training received by United States and Foreign Commercial Service officers, economic officers of the Department of State, and economic officers of the United States Agency for International Development with respect to the programs and procedures of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, the United States International Development Finance Corporation, the Small Business Administration, and the United States Trade and Development Agency; and

(2) to ensure that, not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(A) all United States and Foreign Commercial Service officers that are stationed overseas receive the training described in paragraph (1); and

(B) in the case of a country to which no United States and Foreign Commercial Service officer is assigned, any economic officer of the Department of State stationed in that country receives that training.

(e) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on Finance, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.

(2) **DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES.**—The term “development agencies” means the United States Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the United States International Development Finance Corporation, the United States Trade and Development Agency, the United States Department of Agriculture, and relevant multilateral development banks.

(3) **MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS.**—The term “multilateral development banks” has the meaning given that term in section 1701(c)(4) of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262r(c)(4)) and includes the African Development Foundation.

(4) **TRADE POLICY STAFF COMMITTEE.**—The term “Trade Policy Staff Committee” means the Trade Policy Staff Committee established pursuant to section 2002.2 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations.

(5) **TRADE PROMOTION COORDINATING COMMITTEE.**—The term “Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee” means the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee established under section 2312 of the Export Enhancement Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 4727).

(6) **UNITED STATES AND FOREIGN COMMERCIAL SERVICE.**—The term “United States and Foreign Commercial Service” means the United States and Foreign Commercial Service established by section 2301 of the Export Enhancement Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 4721).

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr.

REED, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 819. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax rate parity among all tobacco products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 819

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 “End Tobacco Loopholes Act”.

SEC. 2. INCREASING EXCISE TAXES ON CIGARETTES AND ESTABLISHING EXCISE TAX EQUITY AMONG ALL TOBACCO PRODUCT TAX RATES.

(a) **TAX PARITY FOR ROLL-YOUR-OWN TOBACCO.**—Section 5701(g) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “\$24.78” and inserting “\$49.56”.

(b) **TAX PARITY FOR PIPE TOBACCO.**—Section 5701(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “\$2.8311 cents” and inserting “\$49.56”.

(c) **TAX PARITY FOR SMOKELESS TOBACCO.**—

(1) Section 5701(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$1.51” and inserting “\$26.84”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “50.33 cents” and inserting “\$10.74”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) **SMOKELESS TOBACCO SOLD IN DISCRETE SINGLE-USE UNITS.**—On discrete single-use units, \$100.66 per thousand.”

(2) Section 5702(m) of such Code is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “or chewing tobacco” and inserting “, chewing tobacco, or discrete single-use unit”;

(B) in paragraphs (2) and (3), by inserting “that is not a discrete single-use unit” before the period in each such paragraph; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) **DISCRETE SINGLE-USE UNIT.**—The term ‘discrete single-use unit’ means any product containing, made from, or derived from tobacco or nicotine that—

“(A) is not intended to be smoked; and

“(B) is in the form of a lozenge, tablet, pill, pouch, dissolvable strip, or other discrete single-use or single-dose unit.”

(d) **TAX PARITY FOR SMALL CIGARS.**—Paragraph (1) of section 5701(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “\$50.33” and inserting “\$100.66”.

(e) **TAX PARITY FOR LARGE CIGARS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Paragraph (2) of section 5701(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “52.75 percent” and all that follows through the period and inserting the following: “\$49.56 per pound and a proportionate tax at the like rate on all fractional parts of a pound but not less than 10.066 cents per cigar.”

(2) **GUIDANCE.**—The Secretary of the Treasury, or the Secretary’s delegate, may issue guidance regarding the appropriate method for determining the weight of large cigars for purposes of calculating the applicable tax under section 5701(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(3) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 5702 of such Code is amended by striking subsection (1).

(f) **TAX PARITY FOR ROLL-YOUR-OWN TOBACCO AND CERTAIN PROCESSED TOBACCO.**—

Subsection (o) of section 5702 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting “, and includes processed tobacco that is removed for delivery or delivered to a person other than a person with a permit provided under section 5713, but does not include removals of processed tobacco for exportation” after “wrappers thereof”.

(g) **IMPOSITION OF TAX ON NICOTINE FOR USE IN VAPING, ETC.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 5701 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i) and by inserting after subsection (g) the following new subsection:

“(h) **NICOTINE.**—On taxable nicotine, manufactured in or imported into the United States, there shall be imposed a tax equal to the dollar amount specified in section 5701(b)(1) per 1,810 milligrams of nicotine (and a proportionate tax at the like rate on any fractional part thereof).”

(2) **TAXABLE NICOTINE.**—Section 5702 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(q) **TAXABLE NICOTINE.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the term ‘taxable nicotine’ means any nicotine which has been extracted, concentrated, or synthesized.

“(2) **EXCEPTION FOR PRODUCTS APPROVED BY FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION.**—Such term shall not include any nicotine if the manufacturer or importer thereof demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Secretary of Health and Human Services that such nicotine will be used in—

“(A) a drug—

“(i) that is approved under section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act or licensed under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act; or

“(ii) for which an investigational use exemption has been authorized under section 505(i) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act or under section 351(a) of the Public Health Service Act; or

“(B) a combination product (as described in section 503(g) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act), the constituent parts of which were approved or cleared under section 505, 510(k), or 515 of such Act.

“(3) **COORDINATION WITH TAXATION OF OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCTS.**—Tobacco products meeting the definition of cigars, cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, pipe tobacco, and roll-your-own tobacco in this section shall be classified and taxed as such despite any concentration of the nicotine inherent in those products or any addition of nicotine to those products during the manufacturing process.

“(4) **REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations or other guidance as is necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this subsection, including regulations or other guidance for coordinating the taxation of tobacco products and taxable nicotine to protect revenue and prevent double taxation.”

(3) **TAXABLE NICOTINE TREATED AS A TOBACCO PRODUCT.**—Section 5702(c) of such Code is amended by striking “and roll-your-own tobacco” and inserting “roll-your-own tobacco, and taxable nicotine”.

(4) **MANUFACTURER OF TAXABLE NICOTINE.**—Section 5702 of such Code, as amended by paragraph (2), is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(r) **MANUFACTURER OF TAXABLE NICOTINE.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Any person who extracts, concentrates, or synthesizes nicotine shall be treated as a manufacturer of taxable nicotine (and as manufacturing such taxable nicotine).

“(2) **APPLICATION OF RULES RELATED TO MANUFACTURERS OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS.**—Any

reference to a manufacturer of tobacco products, or to manufacturing tobacco products, shall be treated as including a reference to a manufacturer of taxable nicotine, or to manufacturing taxable nicotine, respectively.”.

(h) INCREASING TAX ON CIGARETTES.—

(1) SMALL CIGARETTES.—Section 5701(b)(1) of such Code is amended by striking “\$50.33” and inserting “\$100.66”.

(2) LARGE CIGARETTES.—Section 5701(b)(2) of such Code is amended by striking “\$105.69” and inserting “\$211.38”.

(i) TAX RATES ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION.—Section 5701 of such Code, as amended by subsection (g), is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(j) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any calendar year beginning after 2025, the dollar amounts provided under this chapter shall each be increased by an amount equal to—

“(A) such dollar amount, multiplied by

“(B) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year, determined by substituting ‘calendar year 2024’ for ‘calendar year 2016’ in subparagraph (A)(ii) thereof.

“(2) ROUNDING.—If any amount as adjusted under paragraph (1) is not a multiple of \$0.01, such amount shall be rounded to the next highest multiple of \$0.01.”.

(j) FLOOR STOCKS TAXES.—

(1) IMPOSITION OF TAX.—On tobacco products manufactured in or imported into the United States which are removed before any tax increase date and held on such date for sale by any person, there is hereby imposed a tax in an amount equal to the excess of—

(A) the tax which would be imposed under section 5701 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 on the article if the article had been removed on such date, over

(B) the prior tax (if any) imposed under section 5701 of such Code on such article.

(2) CREDIT AGAINST TAX.—Each person shall be allowed as a credit against the taxes imposed by paragraph (1) an amount equal to \$500. Such credit shall not exceed the amount of taxes imposed by paragraph (1) on such date for which such person is liable.

(3) LIABILITY FOR TAX AND METHOD OF PAYMENT.—

(A) LIABILITY FOR TAX.—A person holding tobacco products on any tax increase date to which any tax imposed by paragraph (1) applies shall be liable for such tax.

(B) METHOD OF PAYMENT.—The tax imposed by paragraph (1) shall be paid in such manner as the Secretary shall prescribe by regulations.

(C) TIME FOR PAYMENT.—The tax imposed by paragraph (1) shall be paid on or before the date that is 120 days after the effective date of the tax rate increase.

(4) ARTICLES IN FOREIGN TRADE ZONES.—Notwithstanding the Act of June 18, 1934 (commonly known as the Foreign Trade Zone Act, 48 Stat. 998, 19 U.S.C. 81a et seq.), or any other provision of law, any article which is located in a foreign trade zone on any tax increase date shall be subject to the tax imposed by paragraph (1) if—

(A) internal revenue taxes have been determined, or customs duties liquidated, with respect to such article before such date pursuant to a request made under the first proviso of section 3(a) of such Act, or

(B) such article is held on such date under the supervision of an officer of the United States Customs and Border Protection of the Department of Homeland Security pursuant to the second proviso of such section 3(a).

(5) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any term used in this subsection which is also used in section 5702 of such Code shall have the same meaning as such term has in such section.

(B) TAX INCREASE DATE.—The term “tax increase date” means the effective date of any increase in any tobacco product excise tax rate pursuant to the amendments made by this section (other than subsection (j) thereof).

(C) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary’s delegate.

(6) CONTROLLED GROUPS.—Rules similar to the rules of section 5061(e)(3) of such Code shall apply for purposes of this subsection.

(7) OTHER LAWS APPLICABLE.—All provisions of law, including penalties, applicable with respect to the taxes imposed by section 5701 of such Code shall, insofar as applicable and not inconsistent with the provisions of this subsection, apply to the floor stocks taxes imposed by paragraph (1), to the same extent as if such taxes were imposed by such section 5701. The Secretary may treat any person who bore the ultimate burden of the tax imposed by paragraph (1) as the person to whom a credit or refund under such provisions may be allowed or made.

(k) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) through (4), the amendments made by this section shall apply to articles removed (as defined in section 5702(j) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) after the last day of the month which includes the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) DISCRETE SINGLE-USE UNITS AND PROCESSED TOBACCO.—The amendments made by subsections (c)(1)(C), (c)(2), and (f) shall apply to articles removed (as defined in section 5702(j) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) after the date that is 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) LARGE CIGARS.—The amendments made by subsection (e) shall apply to articles removed after December 31, 2025.

(4) TAXABLE NICOTINE.—The amendments made by subsection (g) shall apply to articles removed in calendar quarters beginning after the date which is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(1) TRANSITION RULE FOR PERMIT AND BOND REQUIREMENTS.—A person which is lawfully engaged in business as a manufacturer or importer of taxable nicotine (within the meaning of subchapter A of chapter 52 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended by this section) on the date of the enactment of this Act, first becomes subject to the requirements of subchapter B of chapter 52 of such Code by reason of the amendments made by this section, and submits an application under such subchapter B to engage in such business not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, shall not be denied the right to carry on such business by reason of such requirements before final action on such application.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8—SUPPORTING THE LOCAL RADIO FREEDOM ACT

Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. KING, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. RICKETTS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mr. RISCH) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. CON. RES. 8

Whereas the United States enjoys broadcasting and sound recording industries that are the envy of the world due to the mutually beneficial relationship that has existed among these industries for many decades;

Whereas, for nearly a century, Congress has rejected repeated calls by the recording industry to impose a performance fee on local radio stations for simply playing music on the radio, as such a fee would upset the mutually beneficial relationship between local radio and the recording industry;

Whereas local radio stations provide free publicity and promotion to the recording industry and performers of music in the form of radio airplay, interviews with performers, introduction of new performers, concert promotions, and publicity that promotes the sale of music, concert tickets, ring tones, music videos, and associated merchandise;

Whereas committees in the Senate and the House of Representatives have previously reported that “the sale of many sound recordings and the careers of many performers have benefitted considerably from airplay and other promotional activities provided by both noncommercial and advertiser-supported, free over-the-air broadcasting”;

Whereas local radio broadcasters provide tens of thousands of hours of essential local news and weather information during times of national emergencies and natural disasters, as well as public affairs programming, sports, and hundreds of millions of dollars worth of time for public service announcements and local fundraising efforts for worthy charitable causes, all of which are jeopardized if local radio stations are forced to divert revenues to pay for a new performance fee;

Whereas there are many thousands of local radio stations that will suffer severe economic hardship if any new performance fee is imposed, as will many other small businesses that play music, including bars, restaurants, retail establishments, sports and other entertainment venues, shopping centers, and transportation facilities; and

Whereas the hardship that would result from a new performance fee would hurt businesses in the United States and ultimately the consumers in the United States who rely on local radio for news, weather, and entertainment, and such a performance fee is not justified when the current system has produced the most prolific and innovative broadcasting, music, and sound recording industries in the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress should not impose any new performance fee, tax, royalty, or other charge—

(1) relating to the public performance of sound recordings on a local radio station for broadcasting sound recordings over the air; or

(2) on any business for the public performance of sound recordings on a local radio station broadcast over the air.

AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF ESCORT COMMITTEE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Presiding Officer of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort the President of the United States into the House Chamber for the joint session to be held at 9 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4, 2025.

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