

months at a time, all of which have forced the Idaho federal court to increasingly rely on out-of-state federal district judges as shown by the 96 percent increase in visiting judge hours in 2008; and

Whereas, the United States District Court for Idaho is recognized within the federal judicial system, by Idaho's lawyers and by the citizens of Idaho as an exemplary court comprised of judges and staff making enormous efforts and sacrifices to meet the demands of its caseload and doing so in a highly competent fashion; and

Whereas, notwithstanding the extraordinary and laudable efforts of the United States District Court for the District of Idaho to meet the demands of its caseload, the resources available to it are inadequate, and the resulting situation has created an unsustainable burden on the court, delayed justice, hindered the rights of the people of Idaho, and hindered the economy of our state; and

Whereas, the people of Idaho have needed a third federal district judge for a very long time and in 2002 Senate Joint Memorial 110 was adopted by the Second Regular Session of the 56th Idaho Legislature urging the Congress of the United States to authorize an additional United States District Court Judge and the staff necessary to assist in the handling of the District of Idaho's increasing caseload, but, to date, Congress has failed to act; and

Whereas, a properly resourced and properly functioning judiciary is a fundamental and core governmental function essential to the preservation of the people's rights and their freedom: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-first Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein.* That we hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to authorize an additional United States District Court Judge and commensurate staff for the District of Idaho to assist in handling current and anticipated caseloads in the District of Idaho; and be it further

*Resolved.* That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, and the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.

POM-100. A resolution adopted by the California State Lands Commission opposing H.R. 1837, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-101. A petition by the Governor's Commission on Disability and Employment in Maine urging Congress to introduce and support passage of the Social Security draft bill—Social Security Work Incentive Amendments of 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEVIN, from the Committee on Armed Services, without amendment:

S. 3254. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, 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 (Rept. No. 112-173).

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 3254. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, 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; from the Committee on Armed Services; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 3255. A bill for the relief of Miguel Santillan; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HELLER:

S. 3256. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to improve nonretaliation provisions relating to equal pay requirements; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COBURN (for himself, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, and Mr. BURR):

S. 3257. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit the use of public funds for political party conventions, and to provide for the return of previously distributed funds for deficit reduction; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mrs. McCASKILL:

S. 3258. A bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to clarify the maximum distance between Farm Service Agency county offices for purposes of the closure or relocation of a county office for the Farm Service Agency; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 3259. A bill for the relief of Dr. Shakeel Afridi; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 3260. A bill to provide that no United States assistance may be provided to Pakistan until Dr. Shakil Afridi is freed; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 3261. A bill to allow the Chief of the Forest Service to award certain contracts for large air tankers; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. KYL, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. WEBB):

S. Res. 476. A resolution honoring the contributions of the late Fang Lizhi to the people of China and the cause of freedom; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. COBURN (for himself, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, and Mr. BURR):

S. 3257. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit the use of public funds for political party conventions, and to provide for the return of previously distributed funds for deficit reduction; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, members of Congress are debating fewer bills, casting fewer votes, and holding fewer hearings. Meanwhile, important government agencies including the Department of Defense and the Government Accountability Office are being targeted by Congress for spending reductions.

What Congress has not considered cutting is the budget for its own summertime parties.

On June 4, 2012, I introduced bipartisan legislation to eliminate taxpayer subsidies for political party conventions in the elections occurring after December 31, 2012. Additionally, the bill would allow Presidential Election Campaign Fund, PECF, funds dispersed before December 31, 2012, to be returned to the U.S. Treasury for the purpose of deficit reduction.

Despite our \$15.6 trillion national debt, political parties received a \$36.6 million check, \$18.3 million per party, from taxpayers to pay for the costs of political conventions occurring this summer. The funds that are used to cover the conventions come from the PECF.

According to the Congressional Research Service, "Federal law places relatively few restrictions on how PECF convention funds are spent, as long as purchases are lawful and are used to defray expenses incurred with respect to a presidential nominating convention." The money is, after all, essentially being used to throw a party.

Beside funding the event itself, the money is used to pay for entertainment, catering, transportation, hotel costs, "production of candidate biographical films," and a variety of other expenses. These events will be weeklong parties paid for by taxpayers, much like the highly maligned General Services Administration conference in Las Vegas.

The \$15.6 trillion debt cannot be eliminated over night. But eliminating taxpayer subsidies for political conventions will show strong leadership to getting our budget crisis in control.

I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will support this commonsense legislation to demonstrate for once and all the party is over when it comes to travel and meetings paid for by the taxpayers.

I want to thank my colleagues for the opportunity to speak on the Senate floor today in support of this bill.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 476—HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE LATE FANG LIZHI TO THE PEOPLE OF CHINA AND THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM

Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. KYL, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. WEBB) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary: