

Whereas, This plan would severely delay mail delivery; and

Whereas, The delay of mail would negatively affect residents and local businesses and harm the community; and

Whereas, The closure is not in the public's best interest and depends on a degradation of service standards that would result in the virtual elimination of overnight mail delivery throughout the country; and

Whereas, According to 39 USC 101(a), federal law stipulates: "The Postal Service shall have as its basic function the obligation to provide postal services to bind the Nation together through personal, educational, literary, and business correspondence of the people. It shall provide prompt, reliable, and efficient services to patrons to all areas and shall render postal services to all communities." Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we hereby urge congressional intervention to stop the proposal to close or consolidate the Lansing mail processing and distribution center which will cause the delay of mail and elimination of overnight delivery of first-class mail; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-365. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan memorializing the Congress of the United States to stop the U.S. Postal Service from closing and consolidating the mail processing and distribution center in Kingsford, Michigan; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 192

Whereas, The United States Postal Service plans to close the mail processing center in Kingsford, Michigan, and consolidate services 100 miles away in Green Bay, Wisconsin. The closure is scheduled to take effect on January 5, 2015; and

Whereas, The consolidation will severely delay mail delivery and result in a degradation of postal service standards by virtually eliminating overnight first-class mail delivery in large portions of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The Kingsford mail processing center is the only center serving the entire Upper Peninsula. The consolidation will require mail to travel up to 230 miles simply for processing and slow current one-day, first-class mail service to two- or three-day service in the Upper Peninsula; and

Whereas, This consolidation is not in the public's best interest. For the past four years, the state of Michigan has looked to the Upper Peninsula and its natural resources as a means for sparking economic growth. This degradation of mail service sends a negative message to developers and investors. In addition, current Upper Peninsula business owners rely greatly on the U.S. Postal Service for their mail and shipping needs. The expected delays will negatively affect these local businesses, particularly small businesses, and residents; and

Whereas, The inevitable delays in mail service run directly counter to federal postal policy established by the U.S. Congress. Section 101 of the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 stipulates:

"The Postal Service shall have as its basic function the obligation to provide postal services to bind the Nation together through personal, educational, literary, and business correspondence of the people. It shall provide prompt, reliable, and efficient services to patrons in all areas and shall render postal services to all communities."

It is difficult to conceive how this closure meets the U.S. Postal Service's obligation to

provide "prompt, reliable, and efficient services to patrons in all areas". Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to stop the U.S. Postal Service from closing and consolidating the mail processing center in Kingsford, Michigan; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, the Postmaster General of the United States, and the Office of the Governor.

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. 3018. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the rules relating to partnership audits and adjustments; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 3019. A bill to amend the War Powers Resolution to provide for the use of military force against non-state actors; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 3020. A bill to establish the composition known as America the Beautiful as the national anthem; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1463

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1463, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit importation, exportation, transportation, sale, receipt, acquisition, and purchase in interstate or foreign commerce, or in a manner substantially affecting interstate or foreign commerce, of any live animal of any prohibited wildlife species.

S. 1695

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1695, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 2644

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2644, a bill to restore the integrity of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2971

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of S. 2971, a bill to promote energy efficiency, and for other purposes.

S. 3015

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3015, a bill to establish a rule of con-

struction clarifying the limitations on executive authority to provide certain forms of immigration relief.

AMENDMENT NO. 4117

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4117 intended to be proposed to H.R. 83, to require the Secretary of the Interior to assemble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States through the development of energy action plans aimed at promoting access to affordable, reliable energy, including increasing use of indigenous clean-energy resources, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4118

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4118 intended to be proposed to H.R. 83, to require the Secretary of the Interior to assemble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States through the development of energy action plans aimed at promoting access to affordable, reliable energy, including increasing use of indigenous clean-energy resources, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 3018. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the rules relating to partnership audits and adjustments; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, today, I am introducing the Partnership Auditing Fairness Act, a bill designed to improve and streamline the audit procedures for large partnerships. This bill would ensure that large for-profit partnerships, like other large profitable businesses, are subject to routine audits by the Internal Revenue Service, IRS, and eliminate audit red tape that currently impedes IRS oversight. This legislation mirrors a provision in the Tax Reform Act of 2014, introduced earlier this year by Congressman DAVID CAMP.

This legislation would fix a problem that has gained only more urgency with time and the explosion in growth of large partnerships, including hedge funds, private equity funds, and publicly traded partnerships. In a September 2014 report, the Government Accountability Office, GAO, determined that the number of large partnerships, defined by GAO as those with at least 100 partners and \$100 million in assets, has tripled since 2002, to over 10,000, while the number of so-called C corporations being created, which include our largest public companies,