

**TAX INCREASE PREVENTION AND RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2005**

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I support the conference report to accompany H.R. 4297, the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005. I wish to commend Chairman GRASSLEY and the House/Senate conferees for forging an important package to ensure continued economic vitality which was spurred by commonsense tax cuts enacted under the leadership of President George W. Bush.

The conference report, which has already passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 244 to 185, will help small businesses, farmers, and working American taxpayers. Most significantly, the conference report: Extends for 2 years the capital gains and dividend tax rate reductions; increases the exemption threshold for the alternative minimum tax, meaning that fewer working Americans will be subjected to this hidden and creeping tax increase; increases important expensing for small businesses; eliminates the income limits on conversions to Roth individual retirement accounts; accelerates the application of \$20 million capital expenditure limitation on tax-exempt State and local bonds used to finance private business manufacturing or the acquisition of land and equipment by certain farmers.

The editorial board of the Wall Street Journal has correctly pointed out that the President's tax cuts and lower rates on dividends and capital gains has resulted in an increase in revenue of \$137 billion, 11.2 percent, as reflected in the Treasury's monthly budget report for May. This is more than triple the rate of inflation and is in addition to the \$274 billion, or a 14.6 percent increase, in Federal revenues for all of fiscal 2005, which ended September 30.

Passage of this measure is essential to continue America's extraordinary economic expansion to benefit all Americans.

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

**EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED**

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

**MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR**

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2791. A bill to amend title 46 and 49, United States Code, to provide improved maritime, rail, and public transportation security, and for other purposes.

**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. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. DORGAN):

S. 2796. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Energy to establish monetary prizes for achievements in overcoming scientific and technical barriers associated with hydrogen energy; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 2797. A bill to provide competitive status to certain Federal employees in the State of Alaska; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2798. A bill to establish improved mandatory standards to protect miners during emergencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

**SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS**

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

By Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. MARTINEZ):

S. Res. 476. A resolution supporting democracy, development, and stabilization in Haiti; considered and agreed to.

**ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS**

S. 908

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. TALENT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 908, a bill to allow Congress, State legislatures, and regulatory agencies to determine appropriate laws, rules, and regulations to address the problems of weight gain, obesity, and health conditions associated with weight gain or obesity.

S. 1698

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1698, a bill to accelerate efforts to develop vaccines for diseases primarily affecting developing countries, and for other purposes.

S. 2284

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2284, a bill to extend the termination date for the exemption of returning workers from the numerical limitations for temporary workers.

S. 2401

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Wyoming

(Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2401, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain energy tax incentives, and for other purposes.

S. 2498

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2498, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit the disclosure of tax return information by tax return preparers to third parties.

S. 2503

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2503, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an extension of the period of limitation to file claims for refunds on account of disability determinations by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S. 2568

At the request of Mr. SARBANES, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2568, a bill to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

S. 2703

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2703, a bill to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

S. 2723

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2723, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the sponsor of a prescription drug plan or an organization offering an MA-PD plan to promptly pay claims submitted under part D, and for other purposes.

S. 2770

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2770, a bill to impose sanctions on certain officials of Uzbekistan responsible for the Andijan massacre.

S. 2787

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2787, a bill to permit United States persons to participate in the exploration for and the extraction of hydrocarbon resources from any portion of a foreign maritime exclusive economic zone that is contiguous to the exclusive economic zone of the United States, and for other purposes.

**STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS**

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. DORGAN):

S. 2796. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Energy to establish monetary prizes for achievements in overcoming scientific and technical barriers

associated with hydrogen energy; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the H-Prize Act 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. 2796

*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 "H-Prize Act of 2006".

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTERING ENTITY.—The term "administering entity" means the entity with which the Secretary enters into an agreement under section 3(c).

(2) DEPARTMENT.—The term "Department" means the Department of Energy.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Energy.

#### SEC. 3. PRIZE AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a program to competitively award cash prizes only in conformity with this Act to advance the research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of hydrogen energy technologies.

(b) ADVERTISING AND SOLICITATION OF COMPETITORS.—

(1) ADVERTISING.—The Secretary shall widely advertise prize competitions to encourage broad participation, including participation by—

(A) individuals;

(B) institutions of higher education, including historically Black colleges and universities and other institutions serving minorities; and

(C) large and small businesses, including businesses owned or controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged persons.

(2) ANNOUNCEMENT THROUGH FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall announce each prize competition by publishing a notice in the Federal Register.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The notice shall include a description of—

(i) the subject of the competition;

(ii) the duration of the competition;

(iii) the eligibility requirements for participation in the competition;

(iv) the process for participants to register for the competition;

(v) the amount of the prize; and

(vi) the criteria for awarding the prize.

(c) ADMINISTERING THE COMPETITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with a private, nonprofit entity to administer the prize competitions, subject to this Act.

(2) DUTIES.—The duties of the administering entity under the agreement shall include—

(A) advertising prize competitions and the results of the prize competitions;

(B) raising funds from private entities and individuals to pay for administrative costs and contribute to cash prizes;

(C) working with the Secretary to develop the criteria for selecting winners in prize competitions, based on goals provided by the Secretary;

(D) determining, in consultation with the Secretary, the appropriate amount for each prize to be awarded;

(E) selecting judges in accordance with section 4(d), using criteria developed in consultation with the Secretary; and

(F) preventing the unauthorized use or disclosure of the intellectual property, trade secrets, and confidential business information of registered participants.

(d) FUNDING SOURCES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Cash prizes under this Act shall consist of funds appropriated under section 8 and any funds provided by the administering entity for the cash prizes (including funds raised pursuant to subsection (c)(2)(B)).

(2) OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The Secretary may accept funds from other Federal agencies for the cash prizes.

(3) NO SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.—The Secretary may not give any special consideration to any private sector entity or individual in return for a donation to the administering entity.

(e) ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRIZES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not issue a notice required by subsection (b)(2) until all the funds needed to pay out the announced amount of the prize have been appropriated or committed in writing by the administering entity.

(2) INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF PRIZE.—The Secretary may increase the amount of a prize after an initial announcement is made under subsection (b)(2) if—

(A) notice of the increase is provided in the same manner as the initial notice of the prize; and

(B) the funds needed to pay out the announced amount of the increase have been appropriated or committed in writing by the administering entity.

#### SEC. 4. PRIZE CATEGORIES.

(a) CATEGORIES.—The Secretary shall establish prizes for—

(1) advancements in components or systems related to—

(A) hydrogen production;

(B) hydrogen storage;

(C) hydrogen distribution; and

(D) hydrogen utilization;

(2) prototypes of hydrogen-powered vehicles or other hydrogen-based products that best meet or exceed objective performance criteria, such as completion of a race over a certain distance or terrain or generation of energy at certain levels of efficiency; and

(3) transformational changes in technologies for the distribution or production of hydrogen that meet or exceed far-reaching objective criteria that—

(A) shall include minimal carbon emissions; and

(B) may include cost criteria designed to facilitate the eventual market success of a winning technology.

(b) AWARDS.—

(1) ADVANCEMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To the extent permitted under section 3(e), the prizes authorized under subsection (a)(1) shall be awarded biennially to the most significant advance made in each of the 4 subcategories described in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of subsection (a)(1) since the submission deadline of the previous prize competition in the same category under subsection (a)(1) or the date of enactment of this Act, whichever is later, unless no such advance is significant enough to merit an award.

(B) MAXIMUM AMOUNT FOR SINGLE PRIZE.—No single prize described in subparagraph (A) may exceed \$1,000,000.

(C) INSUFFICIENT TOTAL FUNDS.—If less than \$4,000,000 is available for a prize competition under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary may—

(i) omit 1 or more subcategories;

(ii) reduce the amount of the prizes; or

(iii) not hold a prize competition.

(2) PROTOTYPES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To the extent permitted under section 3(e), prizes authorized under

subsection (a)(2) shall be awarded biennially in alternate years from the prizes authorized under subsection (a)(1).

(B) TOTAL NUMBER OF PRIZES.—The Secretary may award no more than 1 prize under subsection (a)(1) in each 2-year period.

(C) MAXIMUM AMOUNT FOR SINGLE PRIZE.—No single prize under this paragraph may exceed \$4,000,000.

(D) INSUFFICIENT QUALIFIED ENTRIES.—If no registered participant meets the objective performance criteria established pursuant to subsection (c) for a competition under this paragraph, the Secretary shall not award a prize.

(3) TRANSFORMATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To the extent permitted under section 3(e), the Secretary shall announce 1 prize competition authorized under subsection (a)(3) as soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) AMOUNT OF PRIZE.—A prize offered under this paragraph shall—

(i) be in an amount not less than \$10,000,000;

(ii) be paid to the winner in a lump sum; and

(iii) include an additional amount paid to the winner as a match for each dollar of non-Federal funding raised by the winner for the hydrogen technology beginning on the date the winner was named.

(C) MATCHING.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The match described in subparagraph (B)(iii) shall be provided until the earlier of—

(I) the date that is 3 years after the date the prize winner is named; or

(II) the date on which the full amount of the prize has been paid out.

(ii) ELECTION.—A prize winner may elect to have the match amount paid to another entity that is continuing the development of the winning technology.

(iii) RULES.—The Secretary shall announce the rules for receiving the match in the notice required by section 3(b)(2).

(D) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall award a prize under this paragraph only when a registered participant has met the objective criteria established for the prize pursuant to subsection (c) and announced pursuant to section 3(b)(2).

(E) TOTAL AMOUNT OF FUNDS.—

(i) FEDERAL FUNDS.—Not more than \$10,000,000 in Federal funds may be used for the prize award under this paragraph.

(ii) MATCHING FUNDS.—As a condition of entering into an agreement under section 3(c), the administering entity shall seek to raise \$40,000,000 in non-Federal funds toward the matching award under this paragraph.

(c) CRITERIA.—In establishing the criteria required by this Act, the Secretary shall consult with—

(1) the Hydrogen Technical and Fuel Cell Advisory Committee of the Department;

(2) other Federal agencies, including the National Science Foundation; and

(3) private organizations, including professional societies, industry associations, the National Academy of Sciences, and the National Academy of Engineering.

(d) JUDGES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For each prize competition, the Secretary shall assemble a panel of qualified judges to select the 1 or more winners on the basis of the criteria established under subsection (c).

(2) INCLUSIONS.—Judges for each prize competition shall include individuals from outside the Department, including from the private sector.

(3) PROHIBITIONS.—A judge may not—

(A) have personal or financial interests in, or be an employee, officer, director, or agent of, any entity that is a registered participant

in the prize competition for which the judge will serve as a judge; or

(B) have a familial or financial relationship with an individual who is a registered participant in the prize competition for which the judge will serve as a judge.

#### SEC. 5. ELIGIBILITY.

To be eligible to win a prize under this Act, an individual or entity—

(1) shall have complied with all the requirements in accordance with the Federal Register notice required under section 3(b)(2);

(2) in the case of a private entity, shall be incorporated in and maintain a primary place of business in the United States;

(3) in the case of an individual (whether participating singly or in a group), shall be a citizen of, or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in, the United States; and

(4) shall not be a Federal entity, a Federal employee acting within the scope of employment, or an employee of a national laboratory acting within the scope of employment.

#### SEC. 6. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the Federal Government shall not, by virtue of offering or awarding a prize under this Act, be entitled to any intellectual property rights derived as a consequence of, or direct relation to, the participation by a registered participant in a competition authorized by this Act.

(b) NEGOTIATION OF LICENSES PERMITTED.—This section does not prevent the Federal Government from negotiating a license for the use of intellectual property developed for a prize competition under this Act.

#### SEC. 7. LIABILITY.

(a) WAIVER OF LIABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of participation in a competition under this Act, the Secretary may require registered participants to waive claims against the Federal Government and the administering entity (except claims for willful misconduct) for any injury, death, damage, or loss of property, revenue, or profits arising from the participation of the registered participants in a competition under this Act.

(2) NOTICE REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall provide notice of any waiver required under this subsection in the notice required by section 3(b)(2).

(3) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary may not require a registered participant to waive claims against the administering entity arising out of the unauthorized use or disclosure by the administering entity of the intellectual property, trade secrets, or confidential business information of the registered participant.

(b) LIABILITY INSURANCE.—

(1) REQUIREMENTS.—As a condition of participation in a competition under this Act, a registered participant shall be required to obtain liability insurance or demonstrate financial responsibility, in amounts determined by the Secretary, for claims by—

(A) a third party for death, bodily injury, or property damage or loss resulting from an activity carried out in connection with participation in a competition under this Act; and

(B) the Federal Government for damage or loss to Government property resulting from such an activity.

(2) FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INSURED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Government shall be named as an additional insured under the insurance policy of a registered participant required under paragraph (1)(A).

(B) MANDATORY INDEMNIFICATION.—As a condition of participation in a competition under this Act, a registered participant shall be required to agree to indemnify the Fed-

eral Government against third party claims for damages arising from or related to competition activities.

#### SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) AWARDS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this Act for the period of fiscal years 2007 through 2016—

(A) \$20,000,000 for awards described in section 4(a)(1);

(B) \$20,000,000 for awards described in section 4(a)(2); and

(C) \$10,000,000 for the award described in section 4(a)(3).

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—In addition to the amounts authorized in paragraph (1), there are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for the administrative costs of carrying out this Act \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2016.

(b) CARRYOVER OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds appropriated for prize awards under this Act—

(A) shall remain available until expended; and

(B) may be transferred, reprogrammed, or expended for other purposes only after the expiration of 10 fiscal years after the fiscal year for which the funds were originally appropriated.

(2) RELATION TO OTHER LAW.—No provision in this Act permits obligation or payment of funds in violation of section 1341 of title 31, United States Code (commonly known as the “Anti-Deficiency Act”).

#### SEC. 9. MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.

The Secretary shall ensure that funds provided under this Act will be used only to supplement, and not to supplant, Federal research and development programs.

#### SEC. 10. SUNSET.

The authority provided by this Act shall terminate on September 30, 2017.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 2797. A bill to provide competitive status to certain Federal employees in the State of Alaska; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, as we approach the start of National Police Week and the annual memorial service, I would like to take this opportunity once again to speak about the life and accomplishments of the late Thomas P. O'Hara, a National Park Service Protection Ranger and pilot and an Alaskan hero.

Thomas P. O'Hara was assigned to the Katmai National Park and Preserve in the Bristol Bay region of western Alaska. On December 19, 2002, Ranger O'Hara and his passenger, a Fish and Wildlife Service employee, were on a mission in the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge. Their plane went down on the tundra.

When the plane was reported overdue, a rescue effort consisting of 14 single engine aircraft, an Alaska Air National Guard plane, and a Coast Guard helicopter quickly mobilized. Many of the single-engine aircraft were piloted by Tom's friends. The wreckage was located late in the afternoon of December 20. The passenger survived the crash, but Ranger Tom did not.

Tom O'Hara was an experienced pilot with 11,000 hours as a pilot-in-command. He was active in the communities of Naknek and King Salmon

where he grew up, flying children to Bible camp and coaching young wrestlers. Tom provided a strong link between the residents of Bristol Bay and the National Park Service.

Although Tom O'Hara was a most valued employee of the National Park Service, he did not enjoy the same status as National Park Service employees with competitive career status. Tom was hired under a special hiring authority established under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, ANILCA, which permits land management agencies like the National Park Service to hire, on a noncompetitive basis, Alaskans who by reason of having lived or worked in or near public lands in Alaska, have special knowledge or expertise concerning the natural or cultural resources of public lands and the management thereof.

Tom O'Hara possessed this knowledge and offered it freely to the National Park Service. But because he was hired under this special authority, his opportunities for transfer and promotion within the Park Service were limited, even though his service was exemplary.

As a lasting memorial to Tom O'Hara's exemplary career, I am introducing legislation today that will grant competitive status to ANILCA local hire employees who hold permanent appointments with the Federal land management agencies after the completion of 2 years of satisfactory service. In Tom's honor, the short title of this legislation is the Thomas P. O'Hara Public Land Career Opportunity Act of 2006.

It is my sincere hope that the enactment of this legislation will encourage other Alaskans, particularly Alaska Natives, to follow in Tom O'Hara's footsteps and seek lifelong careers with the Federal land management agencies.

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. 2797

*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 “Thomas P. O'Hara Public Land Career Opportunity Act of 2006”.

#### SEC. 2. COMPETITIVE STATUS FOR CERTAIN FEDERAL EMPLOYEES IN THE STATE OF ALASKA.

Section 1308 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3198) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) COMPETITIVE STATUS.—An individual appointed to a permanent position under subsection (a) shall be converted to competitive status after—

“(1) if the appointment is full time, the completion of 2 years of competitive and satisfactory full time service; or

“(2) if the appointment is less than full time, the period that is equivalent to 2 years of competitive and satisfactory full time service.”.

### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 476—SUPPORTING DEMOCRACY, DEVELOPMENT, AND STABILIZATION IN HAITI

Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. MARTINEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 476

Whereas Haiti has a per capita gross domestic product (GDP) of \$361, over 65 percent of the population lives under the poverty line, 50 percent of the population does not have access to clean water, and nearly 50 percent of the population is illiterate, according to the World Bank;

Whereas the Government of Haiti has fundamental requirements with respect to providing citizen security, protecting the rule of law, controlling drug trafficking, and fighting corruption;

Whereas, on March 2, 2004, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan stated, “We should put the people of Haiti at the center of everything we try to do, and try and help them build a better future. And as I have indicated before, I hope this time the international community will go in for the long haul and not a quick turn-around. We need to work with them to stabilize the country, and sustain the effort. It may take years and I hope we will have the patience to do it.”;

Whereas the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) was established by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1542 on April 30, 2004, and extended again until August 15, 2006, by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1658, “with the intention to renew for further periods”;

Whereas over 40 countries participate in MINUSTAH, including 12 countries from the Western Hemisphere;

Whereas the leadership of MINUSTAH is comprised of representatives from Canada, Brazil, and Chile;

Whereas more than 3,500,000 Haitians registered to vote in Haiti according to the Organization of American States;

Whereas more than 2,000,000 Haitians voted in the national elections on February 7, 2006, according to the Haitian Provisional Electoral Council (CEP); and

Whereas more than \$1,000,000,000 was pledged at the International Donors Conference in July 2004 in support of Haiti’s Interim Cooperation Framework: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) urges reconciliation among the people of Haiti, including a government led by President-elect Rene Preval that respects the rights of all political parties;

(2) supports the efforts of President-elect Preval to coordinate municipal and local elections in 2006;

(3) thanks the countries that are contributing personnel to MINUSTAH, particularly Brazil, whose President, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, announced on March 13, 2006, that peacekeepers from Brazil will stay in Haiti for as long as the new government in Haiti needs them;

(4) supports efforts by the United States to encourage Canada, Chile, and Argentina to maintain their commitments to MINUSTAH;

(5) strongly encourages the members of the United Nations Security Council to continue to support the current troop levels of MINUSTAH and to raise significantly the numbers of United Nations civilian police forces;

(6) urges the broader international community to continue to support MINUSTAH, to fulfill the pledges made at the July 2004 International Donors Conference, and to plan for a new multi-year commitment of support at a new donor’s conference to be held no later than July 2006;

(7) recommends the creation of an effective demobilization, disarmament, and reintegration program to encompass former military members and gangs;

(8) recommends that the new government cooperate fully with MINUSTAH in assuring police and judiciary reform; and

(9) supports assistance from the United States Government to support the reconstruction of Haiti, including programs to promote job creation, governance and rule of law, protection of the environment, access to basic education and health care, and reconstruction of vital infrastructure.

### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

#### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Friday, May 12, 2006, at 10 a.m. to hold a hearing on Nominations.

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

### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2791

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2791) to amend titles 46 and 49, United States Code, to provide improved maritime, rail, and public transportation security, and for other purposes.

Mr. FRIST. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

### SUPPORTING DEMOCRACY DEVELOPMENT AND STABILIZATION IN HAITI

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 476, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 476) supporting democracy development and stabilization in Haiti.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statement relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD as if read, without intervening action our debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 476) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 476

Whereas Haiti has a per capita gross domestic product (GDP) of \$361, over 65 percent of the population lives under the poverty line, 50 percent of the population does not have access to clean water, and nearly 50 percent of the population is illiterate, according to the World Bank;

Whereas the Government of Haiti has fundamental requirements with respect to providing citizen security, protecting the rule of law, controlling drug trafficking, and fighting corruption;

Whereas, on March 2, 2004, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan stated, “We should put the people of Haiti at the center of everything we try to do, and try and help them build a better future. And as I have indicated before, I hope this time the international community will go in for the long haul and not a quick turn-around. We need to work with them to stabilize the country, and sustain the effort. It may take years and I hope we will have the patience to do it.”;

Whereas the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) was established by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1542 on April 30, 2004, and extended again until August 15, 2006, by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1658, “with the intention to renew for further periods”;

Whereas over 40 countries participate in MINUSTAH, including 12 countries from the Western Hemisphere;

Whereas the leadership of MINUSTAH is comprised of representatives from Canada, Brazil, and Chile;

Whereas more than 3,500,000 Haitians registered to vote in Haiti according to the Organization of American States;

Whereas more than 2,000,000 Haitians voted in the national elections on February 7, 2006, according to the Haitian Provisional Electoral Council (CEP); and

Whereas more than \$1,000,000,000 was pledged at the International Donors Conference in July 2004 in support of Haiti’s Interim Cooperation Framework: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) urges reconciliation among the people of Haiti, including a government led by President-elect Rene Preval that respects the rights of all political parties;

(2) supports the efforts of President-elect Preval to coordinate municipal and local elections in 2006;

(3) thanks the countries that are contributing personnel to MINUSTAH, particularly Brazil, whose President, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, announced on March 13, 2006, that peacekeepers from Brazil will stay in Haiti for as long as the new government in Haiti needs them;

(4) supports efforts by the United States to encourage Canada, Chile, and Argentina to maintain their commitments to MINUSTAH;