

text of the proposed bill or resolution has been made available at least five business days in advance, it shall not be in order for the Committee to consider any amendment in the first degree proposed to any measure under consideration by the Committee unless such amendment has been delivered to the office of the Committee and circulated via e-mail to each of the offices by at least 5:00 p.m. the day prior to the scheduled start of the meeting.

Rule 17. In the event the Chairman introduces a substitute amendment or a Chairman's mark, the requirements set forth in Rule 16 shall be considered waived unless such substitute amendment or Chairman's mark has been made available at least five business days in advance of the scheduled meeting.

Rule 18. It shall be in order, without prior notice, for a Member to offer a motion to strike a single section of any bill, resolution, or amendment under consideration.

Rule 19. This section of the rule may be waived by agreement of the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Rule 20. The Chairman is authorized to sign himself or by delegation all necessary vouchers and routine papers for which the committee's approval is required and to decide in the committee's behalf all routine business.

Rule 21. The Chairman is authorized to engage commercial reporters for the preparation of transcripts of committee meetings and hearings.

Rule 22. The Chairman is authorized to issue, on behalf of the committee, regulations normally promulgated by the committee at the beginning of each session.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

Rule 23. The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member, acting jointly, are authorized to approve on behalf of the committee any rule or regulation for which the committee's approval is required, provided advance notice of their intention to do so is given to Members of the committee.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2014

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent, for myself as chairman of the Select Committee on Ethics and for Senator BOXER as vice chairman of the committee, that the following "Annual Report for 2014-Select Committee on Ethics" be printed in the RECORD. The committee issues this report today as required by the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007.

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

Annual Report of the Select Committee on Ethics

The Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007 (the "Act") calls for the Select Committee on Ethics of the United States Senate to issue an annual report not later than January 31st of each year providing information in certain categories describing its activities for the preceding year. Reported below is the information describing the Committee's activities in 2014 in the categories set forth in the Act:

(1) The number of alleged violations of Senate rules received from any source, including the number raised by a Senator or

staff of the Committee: 45. (In addition, one alleged violation from the previous year was carried into 2014.)

(2) The number of alleged violations that were dismissed—

(A) For lack of subject matter jurisdiction or in which, even if the allegations in the complaint are true, no violation of Senate rules would exist: 27.

(B) Because they failed to provide sufficient facts as to any material violation of the Senate rules beyond mere allegation or assertion: 17.

(3) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry: 2. (This figure includes 1 matter from the previous calendar year carried into 2014.)

(4) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry that resulted in an adjudicatory review: 0.

(5) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry and the Committee dismissed the matter for lack of substantial merit: 0.

(6) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry and the Committee issued private or public letters of admonition: 0.

(7) The number of matters resulting in a disciplinary sanction: 0.

(8) Any other information deemed by the Committee to be appropriate to describe its activities in the previous year:

In 2014, the Committee staff conducted two new Member and staff ethics training sessions; 16 Member and committee office campaign briefings; 13 employee code of conduct training sessions; five public financial disclosure clinics, seminars, and webinars; 34 ethics seminars and customized briefings for Member DC offices, state offices, and Senate committees; one private sector ethics briefings; and 12 international briefings.

In 2014, the Committee staff handled approximately 9,648 telephone inquiries and 1,510 inquiries by email for ethics advice and guidance.

In 2014, the Committee wrote approximately 925 ethics advisory letters and responses including, but not limited to, 756 travel and gifts matters (Senate Rule 35) and 99 conflict of interest matters (Senate Rule 37).

In 2014, the Committee issued 3,354 letters concerning financial disclosure filings by Senators, Senate staff and Senate candidates and reviewed 1,650 reports.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING BOB MORALES

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and work of Teamsters Local 350 Secretary-Treasurer Bob Morales, who died in South San Francisco on January 26 at the age of 71. Bob was a great labor leader and a dear personal friend, and I will miss him terribly.

Born in El Salvador in 1943, Bob came to the United States with his family as a teenager. After completing his education in San Francisco, he served in the United States Army for 2 years, reaching the rank of Sergeant Fifth Class.

Bob began his extraordinary career with the Metal Polishers and Platers Union of the AFL-CIO. He joined the Teamsters Local 350 in 1973 as a busi-

ness representative, quickly becoming secretary-treasurer after only 2 years. In this role, Brother Bob negotiated some of the best union contracts in the Nation, providing his members with outstanding wages and benefits. A fearless advocate for California workers, Bob held several positions within the Teamsters, serving as the first and only director of the union's Solid Waste, Recycling and Related Industries Division, secretary-treasurer of Teamsters Joint Council 7, and Chairman of both the California and National Teamsters Hispanic Caucuses. As a testament of his successful leadership, Bob's colleagues named him a trustee to the Western Conference of Teamsters Pension Trust—the largest labor pension fund in the western United States. In 1992, Bob was honored as Labor's Man of the Year in San Francisco.

Beyond his tireless work in the labor movement, Bob was involved with numerous charitable organizations, including the United Way of California, the Martin Luther King Jr. Society of San Francisco, the A. Philip Randolph Institute, the Hispanic Foundation, and the San Francisco Senior Centers.

On behalf of the people of California who Bob so diligently served, I send my deepest condolences to his wife Maria, son David, their extended family, and Bob's many friends, colleagues, and admirers.●

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF SCHOOL CHOICE

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, the Senate passed a resolution that I was proud to cosponsor recognizing this week as National School Choice Week.

As a former school board member, I understand that State and local governments are best equipped to make education decisions for their communities—not Washington. Students and parents deserve to choose the education that meets their needs. I am committed to empowering parents with the ability to choose the best education options for their children.

I asked Arkansans to share with me why school choice is important to them. Crystal Holland of Beebe wrote to me about her son, Hunter, who has high-functioning autism. She wrote that he was misdiagnosed with ADHD when he was 4 years old and diagnosed with autism when he was 11 years old. "He missed out on some very important critical skills because of all the discipline problems he was having due to anxiety," Holland wrote. "School choice allows me to homeschool him as a result and I am very thankful for the opportunity."

Bob and Mary Anne Fielder of Hot Springs included competition in their email to me. "Competition is always good. You would see a much improved public school system," they wrote.

I agree with the Fielders. Competition among schools improves the standards for everybody. This Congress

we will take important steps to improve education nationwide by fixing No Child Left Behind. This is a key vehicle to providing flexibility to States and to families so they can make the choices about education opportunities for their children.

This week I skyped with students at public charter schools across Arkansas. The students said having educational options was important to them because it allows them to be better prepared for their interests beyond high school graduation.

I am proud to support National School Choice Week and the outstanding educational choices that Arkansas offers. When it comes to education, it is important that we get the job done right. Allowing the freedom to choose between educational options for children is one way we can help parents make the best decision for their children's futures. ●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:09 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 351. An act to provide for expedited approval of exportation of natural gas, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 351. An act to provide for expedited approval of exportation of natural gas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-459. A communication from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant

to law, the report of a rule entitled "Animal Welfare; Retail Pet Stores and Licensing Exemptions; Technical Amendment" ((RIN0579-AD57) (Docket No. APHIS-2011-0003)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 27, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-460. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Electronic Submission of Technical Reports" ((RIN0750-AI25) (DFARS Case 2014-D001)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-461. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Defense Contractors Performing Private Security Functions" ((RIN0750-AI31) (DFARS Case 2014-D008)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-462. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Updated Descriptions of Product Service Groups Subject to Trade Agreements" ((RIN0750-AI49) (DFARS Case 2015-D004)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-463. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Further Implementation of Trafficking in Persons Policy" ((RIN0750-AH93) (DFARS Case 2013-D007)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2015; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-464. A communication from the Under Secretary for Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a Foreign Policy Report on the imposition of a license requirement on exports, reexports, and transfers (in-country) to the Crimea region of Ukraine; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-465. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cuba: Providing Support for the Cuban People" (RIN0694-AG42) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-466. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Assessment of Demand Response and Advanced Metering"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-467. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Final Rule to Revise the Code of Federal Regulations for Species Under the Jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service; Correction" (RIN0648-XC659) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-468. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2015-0001-2015-0003); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-469. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sulfoxaflor; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions" (FRL No. 9920-45) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 23, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-470. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Extension of the Laboratory and Analytical Use Exemption for Essential Class I Ozone-Depleting Substances" ((RIN2060-AS38) (FRL No. 9921-52-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 23, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-471. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Promulgation of State Implementation Plan Revisions; Infrastructure Requirements for the 1997 and 2006 PM2.5, 2008 Lead, 2008 Ozone, and 2010 NO2 National Ambient Air Quality Standards; South Dakota" (FRL No. 9922-04-Region 8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 23, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-472. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Partial Exemption of Certain Chemical Substances from Reporting Additional Chemical Data" ((RIN2070-AK01) (FRL No. 9921-56)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 23, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-473. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "New Source Performance Standards and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Delegation of Authority to New Mexico" (FRL No. 9921-77-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 23, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-474. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of California; Sacramento Metro Area; Attainment Plan for 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard" (FRL No. 9921-99-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 23, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-475. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Montana; Revisions to Administrative Rules of Montana - Prevention of Significant Deterioration"