

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1285–S1327

Measures Introduced: Eight bills and seven resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2078–2085, S.J. Res. 33, and S. Res. 370–375. **Page S1315**

Measures Passed:

Biosecurity and Agro-Defense: Senate agreed to S. Res. 373, recognizing the importance of biosecurity and agro-defense in the United States. **Page S1326**

World Wildlife Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 374, designating March 3, 2014, as “World Wildlife Day”. **Page S1326**

Measures Considered:

Child Care and Development Block Grant Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1086, to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990. **Pages S1285–88**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, with the concurrence of the Republican Leader, Senate begin consideration of S. 1086, to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990; provided further, that the cloture motion filed on Thursday, February 27, 2014, with respect to the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, be withdrawn. **Page S1305**

Military Sexual Assault—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that upon disposition of the nomination of John Roth, of Michigan, to be Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security, Senate execute the previous order with respect to S. 1752, to reform procedures for determinations to proceed to trial by court-martial for certain offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and S. 1917, to provide for additional enhancements of the sexual assault prevention and response activities of the Armed Forces. **Page S1327**

Adegbile Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Debo P. Adegbile, of New York, to be an Assistant Attorney General. **Pages S1288–95**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 47 yeas to 52 nays (Vote No. 48), Senate rejected the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1295**

Subsequently, Senator Reid entered a motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on the nomination. **Page S1295**

Gottemoeller Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Rose Eilene Gottemoeller, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security. **Pages S1304–05**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 55 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. 57), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1304**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that following morning business on Thursday, March 6, 2014, the time until 11:20 a.m. be equally divided between the Majority Leader and the Republican Leader, or their designees; that at 11:20 a.m. on Thursday, March 6, 2014, Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination of Rose Eilene Gottemoeller, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security; that following disposition of the Gottemoeller nomination, Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations of Suzanne Eleanor Spaulding, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, and John Roth, of Michigan, to be Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security, that there be two minutes for debate prior to each vote, equally divided in the usual form, and that all after the first vote be ten minutes in length; and that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations. **Pages S1304–05**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By a unanimous vote of 98 yeas (Vote No. EX. 50), Pedro A. Delgado Hernandez, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico. **Pages S1296, S1300–02, S1327**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 57 yeas to 41 nays, 1 responding present (Vote No. 49), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S1295–96**

By a unanimous vote of 99 yeas (Vote No. EX. 52), Pamela L. Reeves, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee. **Pages S1302, S1327**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 62 yeas to 37 nays (Vote No. 51), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1302**

By a unanimous vote of 100 yeas (Vote No. EX. 54), Timothy L. Brooks, of Arkansas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas. **Pages S1302, S1327**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 59 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. 53), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S1302–03**

By 58 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 56), Vince Girdhari Chhabria, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California. **Pages S1304, S1327**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 57 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. 55), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S1303–04**

Messages from the House: Pages S1313–14

Measures Referred: Page S1314

Measures Placed on the Calendar: Pages S1314, S1326

Measures Read the First Time: Pages S1314, S1326

Executive Communications: Pages S1314–15

Executive Reports of Committees: Page S1315

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S1315–17

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S1317–25

Additional Statements: Pages S1311–13

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: Page S1326

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Page S1326

Privileges of the Floor: Page S1326

Record Votes: Ten record votes were taken today. (Total—57) **Pages S1295–96, S1301–04**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:36 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 6, 2014. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S1327.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NATIONAL SECURITY SPACE LAUNCH PROGRAMS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Defense concluded a hearing to examine national security space launch programs, after receiving testimony from Cristina Chaplain, Director, Acquisition and Sourcing Management, Government Accountability Office; Michael Gass, United Launch Alliance, Centennial, Colorado; Elon Musk, Space Exploration Technologies, Hawthorne, California; and Scott Pace, George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs Space Policy Institute, Washington, D.C.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Charles T. Hagel, Secretary, General Martin E. Dempsey, USA, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Robert F. Hale, Under Secretary, Comptroller, all of the Department of Defense.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces concluded a hearing to examine nuclear forces and policies in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from M. Elaine Bunn, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Nuclear and Missile Defense Policy, Lieutenant General Stephen W. Wilson, USAF, Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command, Major General Garrett Harencak, USAF, Assistant Chief of Staff, Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration, and Vice Admiral Terry J. Benedict, USN, Director, Strategic Systems Programs, all of the Department of Defense.

PRESIDENT’S PROPOSED BUDGET REQUEST

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015, after receiving testimony from Sylvia M. Burwell, Director, Office of Management and Budget.

PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED BUDGET REQUEST

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015, after receiving testimony from Jacob J. Lew, Secretary of the Treasury.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of L. Reginald Brothers, Jr., of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary for Science and Technology, and Francis Xavier Taylor, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, both of the Department of Homeland Security, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Maria Contreras-Sweet, of California, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

INCOME SECURITY AND THE ELDERLY

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine income security and the elderly, focusing on securing gains made in the war on poverty, and if trends in marriage, work, and pensions may increase vulnerability for some retirees, after receiving testimony from Barbara D. Bovbjerg, Managing Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security, Government Accountability Office; Patricia Neuman, The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, and Joan Entmacher, National Women's Law Center, both of Washington, D.C.; and Dixie Shaw, Catholic Charities Maine, Caribou.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 8 public bills, H.R. 4148–4155; and 4 resolutions, H.J. Res. 112; H. Con. Res. 89; and H. Res. 499–500, were introduced. **Pages H2198–99**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H2199**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 501, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2824) to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to stop the ongoing waste by the Department of the Interior of taxpayer resources and implement the final rule on excess spoil, mining waste, and buffers for perennial and intermittent streams, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2641) to provide for improved coordination of agency actions in the preparation and adoption of environmental documents for permitting determinations, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules (H. Rept. 113–374). **Page H2198**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Fleischmann to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H2151**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:52 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H2156**

Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures which were debated yesterday, March 4th:

United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act: H.R. 938, amended, to strengthen the strategic alliance between the United States and Israel, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ ye-and-nay vote of 410 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 95 and **Pages H2167–68**

Better Buildings Act: H.R. 2126, amended, to facilitate better alignment, cooperation, and best practices between commercial real estate landlords and tenants regarding energy efficiency in buildings, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ ye-and-nay vote of 375 yeas to 36 nays, Roll No. 98. **Pages H2177–78**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "To promote energy efficiency, and for other purposes." **Page H2178**

Suspending the Individual Mandate Penalty Law Equals Fairness Act: The House passed H.R. 4118, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to delay the implementation of the penalty for failure to comply with the individual health insurance mandate, by a ye-and-nay vote of 250 yeas to 160 nays, Roll No. 97. **Pages H2168–77**

Rejected the Horsford motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Ways and Means with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a ye-and-nay vote of 185 yeas to 227 nays, Roll No. 96. **Pages H2175–76**

H. Res. 497, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 3826) and (H.R. 4118), was agreed to by a recorded vote of 228 ayes to 182 noes, Roll No. 94, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 221 yeas to 184 nays, Roll No. 93.

Pages H2160–67

Electricity Security and Affordability Act: The House began consideration of H.R. 3826, to provide direction to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency regarding the establishment of standards for emissions of any greenhouse gas from fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units. Consideration of the measure is expected to resume tomorrow, March 6th.

Pages H2178–92, H2192–95

Pursuant to the rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113–40 shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule.

Page H2185

Agreed to:

Capito amendment (No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 113–373) that clarifies that the bill does not preclude a performance standard that is based on a technology developed in a foreign country, as long as that technology has been demonstrated to be achievable at a power plant in the United States;

Pages H2189–90

McKinley amendment (No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 113–373) that requires the EPA when submitting their report to Congress to consult with the Energy Information Administration; Comptroller General; National Energy Technology Laboratory; and the National Institute for Standards and Technology;

Page H2190

McKinley amendment (No. 5 printed in H. Rept. 113–373) that states when reporting to the Congress, the amendment will, additionally, require the EPA to look at the economic impact of such rule or guidelines, including the potential effects on: require capital investments and projected costs for operation and maintenance of new equipment required to be installed; and the global competitiveness of the United States; and

Pages H2190–91

Latta amendment (No. 7 printed in H. Rept. 113–373) that clarifies that the definition of “demonstration project” refers to projects that are receiving federal government funding or financial assistance.

Pages H2193–94

Proceedings Postponed:

Smith (TX) amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 113–373) that seeks to require the Administrator to apply the specific criteria, under the bill, for setting a standard based on the best system of emission reduction for new sources within the coal

category, when setting a standard for any fossil fuel category;

Pages H2186–88

Capps amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 113–373) that seeks to allow the EPA to consider all pollution control technologies being used in the United States or elsewhere when setting new power plant emission standards;

Pages H2188–89

Schakowsky amendment (No. 6 printed in H. Rept. 113–373) that seeks to accept the scientific finding of the EPA that greenhouse gas pollution is “contributing to long-lasting changes in our climate that can have a range of negative effects”; and

Pages H2191–92

Waxman amendment (No. 8 printed in H. Rept. 113–373) that seeks to provide that the bill takes effect when the Administrator of the EIA certifies that another Federal program, other than one under section 111 of the Clean Air Act, will reduce carbon pollution in at least equivalent quantities, with similar timing and from the same sources as the reductions required under the rules and guidelines nullified by section 4.

Pages H2194–95

H. Res. 497, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 3826) and (H.R. 4118), was agreed to by a recorded vote of 228 ayes to 182 noes, Roll No. 94, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 221 yeas to 184 nays, Roll No. 93.

Pages H2160–67

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, March 6th.

Page H2195

Quorum Calls—Votes: Five yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2166, H2166–67, H2167–68, H2176, H2176–77, and H2177–78. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Committee Meetings

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FY 2015 BUDGET

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Department of Agriculture FY 2015 Budget. Testimony was heard from Phyllis Fong, Inspector General, Department of Agriculture; Karen Ellis, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, Department of Agriculture; Gil Harden, Assistant Inspector General for Audit, Department of Agriculture.

APPROPRIATIONS—LIBRARY OF CONGRESS FY 2015 BUDGET

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch held a hearing on Library of Congress FY 2015 Budget. Testimony was heard from James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress; and Robert Dizard, Deputy Librarian of Congress.

APPROPRIATIONS—GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE FY 2015 BUDGET

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch held a hearing on Government Accountability Office FY 2015 Budget. Testimony was heard from Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General, Government Accountability Office.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUESTS FROM THE U.S. PACIFIC COMMAND, U.S. CENTRAL COMMAND, AND U.S. AFRICA COMMAND FY 2015 BUDGET

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Fiscal Year 2015 National Defense Authorization Budget Requests from the U.S. Pacific Command, U.S. Central Command, and U.S. Africa Command”. Testimony was heard from General Lloyd J. Austin III, USA, Commander, U.S. Central Command; and General David M. Rodriguez, USA, Commander, U.S. Africa Command.

PRESIDENT’S FISCAL YEAR 2015 BUDGET

Committee on the Budget: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The President’s Fiscal Year 2015 Budget”. Testimony was heard from Sylvia M. Burwell, Director, Office of Management and Budget.

CULTURE OF UNION FAVORITISM: THE RETURN OF THE NLRB’S AMBUSH ELECTION RULE

Committee on Education and The Workforce: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Culture of Union Favoritism: The Return of the NLRB’s Ambush Election Rule”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

DATA SECURITY: EXAMINING EFFORTS TO PROTECT AMERICANS’ FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit held a hearing entitled “Data Security: Examining Efforts to Protect Americans’ Financial Information”. Testimony was heard from William Noonan, Deputy Special Agent in Charge, Criminal Investigation Division, Cyber Operations, United States Secret Service;

Larry Zelvin, Director, National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center, Department of Homeland Security; and public witnesses.

GROWTH OF FINANCIAL REGULATION AND ITS IMPACT ON INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “The Growth of Financial Regulation and its Impact on International Competitiveness”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THREATS TO ISRAEL: TERRORIST FUNDING AND TRADE BOYCOTTS

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade held a hearing entitled “Threats to Israel: Terrorist Funding and Trade Boycotts”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a markup on the following legislation: H.R. 3732, the “Immigration Compliance Enforcement Act”; H.R. 3973, the “Faithful Execution of the Law Act of 2014”; and H.R. 4138, the “Executive Needs to Faithfully Observe and Respect Congressional Enactments Act”. The bill H.R. 3732 was ordered reported, as amended. The following bills were ordered reported, without amendment: H.R. 3973 and H.R. 4138.

NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY SYSTEM: STRATEGIC HATCHERY AND WORKFORCE PLANNING REPORT

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs held a hearing entitled “National Fish Hatchery System: Strategic Hatchery and Workforce Planning Report”. Testimony was heard from the following Representatives: Roe (TN); Crawford; and Collins (GA); David Hoskins, Assistant Director, Fish and Aquatic Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service; Diane Parks, Acting Deputy Chief of Operations and Regulations, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and a public witness.

IRS: TARGETING AMERICANS FOR THEIR POLITICAL BELIEFS

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Full Committee continued a hearing from May 22, 2013, entitled “The IRS: Targeting Americans for Their Political Beliefs”. Lois Lerner, Former Director, IRS Exempt Organizations, was sworn in as a witness, but did not testify.

**RESPONSIBLY AND PROFESSIONALLY
INVIGORATING DEVELOPMENT ACT OF
2013; AND PREVENTING GOVERNMENT
WASTE AND PROTECTING COAL MINING
JOBS IN AMERICA**

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 2641, the “Responsibly and Professionally Invigorating Development Act of 2013”; and H.R. 2824, the “Preventing Government Waste and Protecting Coal Mining Jobs in America”. The Committee granted, by record vote of 7–4, a structured rule for H.R. 2824. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule makes in order as original text for the purpose of amendment an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113–41, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the Rules Committee report, and provides that it shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute. The rule makes in order only those further amendments to H.R. 2824 printed in part B of the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in part B of the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. In section 2, the rule provides a structured rule for H.R. 2641. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule makes in order as original text for the purpose of amendment an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113–39 and provides that it shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute. The rule makes in order only those further amendments to H.R. 2641 printed in part C of the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent

and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in part C of the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. In section 3, the rule provides that it shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of March 6, 2014, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules relating to a measure addressing loan guarantees to Ukraine. Testimony was heard from Chairman Hastings (WA), and Representatives Cartwright, Yarmuth, Marino, and Johnson (GA).

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a markup on the following legislation: H.R. 4093, the “Greater Opportunities for Small Business Act of 2014”; H.R. 4094, the “Contracting Data and Bundling Accountability Act of 2014”; H.R. 2751, the “Commonsense Construction Contracting Act of 2013”; H.R. 2882, the “Improving Opportunities for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses Act of 2013”; H.R. 776, the “Security in Bonding Act of 2013”; H.R. 2452, the “Women’s Procurement Program Equalization Act of 2013”; and H.R. 4121, the “Small Business Development Centers Improvements Act of 2014”. The following bills ordered reported as amended: H.R. 4094; H.R. 2882; and H.R. 4121. The following bills were ordered reported without amendment: H.R. 4093; H.R. 2751 and H.R. 2452. H.R. 776, as amended, was agreed to, but not reported.

**OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE
PARTNERSHIPS FOR HIGHWAY AND
TRANSIT PROJECTS**

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Panel on Public-Private Partnership, hearing entitled “Overview of Public-Private Partnerships for Highway and Transit Projects”. Testimony was heard from Joseph Kile, Assistant Director for Microeconomic Studies, Congressional Budget Office; James M. Bass, Interim Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer, Texas Department of Transportation; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

LEGISLATIVE PRESENTATION

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Senate committee concluded a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of Veterans of Foreign Wars, after receiving testimony from William A. Thien, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Georgetown, Indiana.

WESTERN BALKANS

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission concluded a hearing to examine developments in the Western Balkans and policy responses, focusing on policy approaches of the United States toward the countries of the Western Balkans, including H. Con. Res. 61, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the execution-style murders of United States citizens Ylli, Agron, and Mehmet Bytyqi in the Republic of Serbia in July 1999, after receiving testimony from Hoyt Yee, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs; Tanja Fajon, Member, European Parliament, Ljubljana, Slovenia; and Kurt Volker, McCain Institute for International Leadership, Washington, D.C.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY,
MARCH 6, 2014**

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Timothy G. Massad, of Connecticut, to be Chairman, Sharon Y. Bowen, of New York, and J. Christopher Giancarlo, of New Jersey, all to be a Commissioner, all of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 10 a.m., SR-328A.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine United States Central Command and United States Africa Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: business meeting to consider revised subcommittee organization for the 113th Congress; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) reauthorization, focusing on the Federal role and current challenges to public transportation, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security, to hold hearings to examine enhancing our rail safety, focusing on current challenges for passenger and freight rail, 11 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine preventing potential chemical threats and improving safety, focusing on oversight of the President's executive order on improving chemical facility safety and security, 10 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine Syria spillover, focusing on the growing threat of terrorism and sectarianism in the Middle East and Ukraine update, 11 a.m., SD-419.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Deborah L. Birx, of Maryland, to be Ambassador at Large and Coordinator of United States Gov-

ernment Activities to Combat HIV/AIDS Globally, Suzan G. LeVine, of Washington, to be Ambassador to the Swiss Confederation, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Principality of Liechtenstein, Maureen Elizabeth Cormack, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Peter A. Selfridge, of Minnesota, to be Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service, all of the Department of State, 2:15 p.m., SD-419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight, to hold an oversight hearing to examine contractor performance information, 9:30 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 1675, to reduce recidivism and increase public safety, and the nominations of Robin S. Rosenbaum, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, Bruce Howe Hendricks, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina, Mark G. Mastroianni, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, and Leslie Ragon Caldwell, of New York, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD-226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH-219.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, hearing on House Officers FY 2015 Budget, 9:30 a.m., HT-2, Capitol.

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies, hearing on Commodity Futures Trading Commission FY 2015 Budget, 10 a.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled "The Fiscal Year 2015 National Defense Authorization Budget Request from the Department of Defense", 9:30 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, hearing entitled "Benefits of and Challenges to Energy Access in the 21st Century: Fuel Supply and Infrastructure", 9 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled "U.S. Foreign Policy Toward Ukraine"; and H. Res. 499, Condemning the violation of Ukrainian sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity by military forces of the Russian Federation, 9 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation, hearing on the following legislation: H.R. 414, to provide for the continued lease or eventual conveyance of certain Federal land within the boundaries of Fort Wainwright Military Reservation in Fairbanks, Alaska; H.R. 1839, the "Heramosa Creek Watershed Protection Act of 2013"; H.R. 2430, the "Hinchliffe Stadium Heritage Act of 2013"; and H.R. 3606, the "Emigrant Wilderness Historical Use Preservation Act of 2013", 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Oversight and Subcommittee on Research and Technology, joint hearing entitled “Can Technology Protect Americans from International Cybercriminals?”, 9:30 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce, hearing entitled “ObamaCare and the Self-Employed: What About Us?”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, hearing on President Obama’s budget proposals for fiscal year 2015, 9:30 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Full Committee, hearing on access to transcripts; member ac-

cess request; and ongoing intelligence activities, 9 a.m., 304–HVC. This is a closed hearing.

Joint Meetings

Joint Hearing: Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Veterans (AMVETS), Blinded Veterans Association, Jewish War Veterans, Military Officers Association of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart, National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, National Guard Association of the United States, The Retired Enlisted Association, Vietnam Veterans of America, 9:30 a.m., 345 Cannon Building.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Thursday, March 6

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 10:30 a.m.), Senate will consider the nominations of Rose Eilene Gottemoeller, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, Suzanne Eleanor Spaulding, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, and John Roth, of Michigan, to be Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security, with votes on confirmation of the nominations at 11:20 a.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of John Roth, of Michigan, to be Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security, Senate will begin consideration of S.

1752, to reform procedures for determinations to proceed to trial by court-martial for certain offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and S. 1917, to provide for additional enhancements of the sexual assault prevention and response activities of the Armed Forces, with up to four roll call votes on or in relation to the bills, at approximately 2 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Thursday, March 6

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Complete consideration of H.R. 3826—Electricity Security and Affordability Act. Consideration of H.R. 2641—Responsibly and Professionally Invigorating Development Act (Subject to a Rule).

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