

**Federal Railroad Safety Improvement Act of 2007:** The House passed H.R. 2095, to amend title 49, United States Code, to prevent railroad fatalities, injuries, and hazardous materials releases and to authorize the Federal Railroad Safety Administration, by a yea-and-nay vote of 377 yeas to 38 nays, Roll No. 980.

**Pages H11671–96**

Rejected the Sali motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with amendments, by a yea-and-nay vote of 198 yeas to 222 nays, Roll No. 979.

**Pages H11694–95**

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure now printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment.

**Pages H11677–87**

Accepted:

Oberstar amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 110–371) that requires the Federal Railroad Safety Administration to issue regulations requiring owners of track carried on one or more railroad bridges to adopt safety practices to prevent the deterioration of railroad bridges and reduce the risk of human casualties, environmental damage, and disruption to the Nation's transportation system that would result from a catastrophic bridge failure. The amendment also strikes Sections 301, 610, and 616 of the reported bill because these sections were enacted in Public Law 110–53, the "Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007." The amendment also requires the Secretary to consider additional criteria regarding communities when reviewing applications for a waiver or exemption from sounding locomotive horns at highway-rail grade crossings;

**Pages H11687–89**

Napolitano amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 110–371) that prohibits mechanical and brake inspections performed in Mexico of rail cars entering the United States from satisfying U.S. rail safety laws unless inspection standards, enforcement standards, and worker training are certified to meet those of the United States and prohibits hazardous material inspections performed in Mexico from satisfying applicable U.S. rail safety laws and regulations;

**Pages H11689–90**

Pallone amendment (No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 110–371) that allows state and local authorities to regulate solid waste management facilities and states that the Surface Transportation Board does not have exclusive authority to preempt state and local regulation of solid waste management facilities, as defined in the amendment;

**Pages H11690–92**

Rohrabacher amendment (No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 110–371) that authorizes funds to the Sec-

retary to design and develop a pilot electric cargo conveyor system for the transportation of containers from ports to depots outside of urban areas.

**Pages H11692–94**

Agreed that the Clerk be authorized to make technical and conforming changes to reflect the actions of the House.

**Page H11696**

H. Res. 724, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to by voice vote after agreeing to order the previous question by a yea-and-nay vote of 218 yeas to 194 nays, Roll No. 977.

**Pages H11667–70**

**Senate Message:** Message received from the Senate today appears on page H11656.

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Seven yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H11654, H11654–55, H11655, H11670, H11670–71, H11695, and H11695–96. There were no quorum calls.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 10:48 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

### STATUS OF DTV TRANSITION

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet held a hearing entitled "Status of the DTV Transition—Part 2." Testimony was heard from Kevin J. Martin, Chairman, FCC; John M.R. Kneuer, Assistant Secretary, Communications and Information, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Department of Commerce; Mark L. Goldstein, Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues, GAO; and public witnesses.

### U.S.-RUSSIA ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP

*Committee on Financial Services:* Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade and Technology held a hearing on U.S.-Russia Economic Relationship: Implications of the Yukos Affair. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### LATE HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS

*Committee on Financial Services:* Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity held a hearing on The Impacts of Late Housing Payments on Tenants and Owners in the Project-Based Rental Assistance Program. Testimony was heard from John W. Cox, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development; David Wood, Director, Financial Markets and Community Investment, GAO; and public witnesses.

**BURMA CRISIS**

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Subcommittee on Asia, Pacific and the Global Environment held a hearing on the Crisis in Burma: Can the U.S. Bring about a Peaceful Resolution? Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of State: Scot Marciel, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs; and Lisa Chiles, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Asia and the Near East, U.S. Agency for International Development; and public witnesses.

**ELECTRIC GRID CYBER THREATS**

*Committee on Homeland Security,* Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity and Science, and Technology held a hearing entitled "The Cyber Threat To Control Systems: Stronger Regulations Are Necessary To Secure the Electric Grid." Testimony was heard from Greg Wilshusen, Director, Information Security Issues, GAO; and Greg Garcia, Assistant Secretary Office of Cyber Security and Telecommunication, Department of Homeland Security.

**CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER**

*Committee on House Administration:* Held an oversight hearing on The Capitol Visitor Center: the Visitor Experience. Testimony was heard from Terrie S. Rouse, CEO for Visitor Services, Capital Visitor Center; Thomas L. Stevens, Director, Visitor Services, U.S. Capitol; and Chief Phillip D. Morse, Sr., Chief of Police, U.S. Capitol Police.

**SEX CRIMES AND THE INTERNET**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Held a hearing on Sex Crimes and the Internet. Testimony was heard from Representatives Pomeroy, Lampson, Musgrave, Carney, Wasserman Schultz, and Rodgers; the following officials of the Department of Justice: Michael A. Mason, Executive Assistant Director, Cyber Response Branch, FBI; Laurence E. Rothenberg, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Policy; and public witnesses.

**GLOBAL WARMING'S POLAR BEAR PERMAFROST IMPACTS**

*Committee on Science and Technology:* Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight held a hearing on Disappearing Polar Bears and Permafrost: Is a Global Warming Tipping Point Embedded in the Ice? Testimony was heard from Sue Haseltine, Associate Director, Biology, U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

**WOMEN IN ACADEMIC SCIENCE/ENGINEERING**

*Committee on Science and Technology:* Subcommittee on Research and Science Education held a hearing on Women in Academic Science and Engineering. Testimony was heard from Donna E. Shalala, former Secretary of Health and Human Services; and public witnesses.

**SMALL BUSINESS ENERGY PRIORITIES**

*Committee on Small Business:* Held a hearing entitled "Small Business Energy Priorities." Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**AVIATION NEXTGEN PROGRAM REDUCING FLIGHT DELAYS**

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Subcommittee on Aviation held a hearing on NextGen: The FAA's Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (AD-B) Contract. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Transportation: Vincent Capezzuto, Manager, Surveillance and Broadcast Services Program Office, FAA; and Calvin L. Scovel III, Inspector General; and public witnesses.

**MARINER EDUCATION AND WORK FORCE**

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation held a hearing on Mariner Education and Work Force. Testimony was heard from RADM Joel Whitehead, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security; Sean Connaughton, Administrator, MARAD, Department of Transportation; and public witnesses.

**CURRENT CONFLICTS AND LONG-TERM COSTS**

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Held a hearing on the Long-Term Costs of the Current Conflicts. Testimony was heard from Matthew S. Goldberg, Deputy Assistant Director, National Security, CBO; the following officials of the Department of Veterans Affairs: Michael J. Kussman, M.D., Under Secretary for Health; and Daniel L. Cooper, VADM (Ret.), Under Secretary, Benefits; and Amy Belasco, Specialist in U.S. Defense Policy and Budget, CRS, Library of Congress.

**SERVICE MEMBER TAX RELIEF**

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures and the Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support held a joint hearing on the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2007. Testimony was heard from Representatives Davis of California, Lampson and Jones of North Carolina; David A. Rust, Acting Deputy

Commissioner, Disability and Income Security Programs, SSA; Michelle D. LaRock, Deputy Director, Program Development, Division of Veterans' Affairs, State of New York; and public witnesses.

## BRIEFING—HOT SPOTS

*Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:* Met in executive session to receive a briefing on Hot Spots. The Committee was briefed by departmental witnesses.

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## COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2007

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

### Senate

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Transportation, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Subcommittee on Science, Technology, and Innovation, to hold hearings to examine science parks, focusing on bolstering United States competitiveness, 2:30 p.m., SR-253.

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* to hold hearings to examine lead and children's health, 10:30 a.m., SD-406.

*Committee on Finance:* to hold hearings to examine international trade, focusing on import health and safety for today and the future, 10 a.m., SD-215.

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, to hold hearings to examine politics in government, focusing on the scope and enforcement of the Hatch Act, 10 a.m., SD-342.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Ellen C. Williams, of Kentucky, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service, 3 p.m., SD-342.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* to continue hearings to examine the nomination of Michael B. Mukasey, of New York, to be Attorney General, 10 a.m., SH-216.

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* closed business meeting to mark up pending intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

### House

*Committee on Agriculture,* hearing to review structural changes that are taking place in the agricultural economy and their impacts, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

*Committee on Armed Services,* Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on measuring and increasing the effectiveness of Provincial Reconstruction Teams, 10 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

*Committee on the Budget,* hearing on the Tax Code and Health Insurance Coverage, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

*Committee on Education and Labor,* to mark up the following bills: H.R., 3796, Early Warning and Health

Care for Workers Affected by Globalization Act; and H.R. 3685, Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 2007, 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

*Committee on Foreign Affairs,* hearing on International Trafficking in Persons: Taking Action to Eliminate Modern Day Slavery, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights, and Oversight and the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, joint hearing on Rendition To Torture: The Case of Maher Arar, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

*Committee on the Judiciary,* Task Force on Antitrust and Competition Policy, hearing on the Impact of our Antitrust Laws on Community Pharmacies and Their Patients, 9:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property, hearing on International Piracy: The Challenges of Protecting Intellectual Property in the 21st Century, 10 a.m., 2237 Rayburn.

*Committee on Natural Resources,* to mark up H.R. 2262, Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2007, 11 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, hearing on H.R. 1975, Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act, 2 p.m., 1334 Longworth.

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,* hearing on Black Carbon and the Arctic, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Government Management, Organization and Procurement, hearing on Technology for Secure Identity Documents, 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

*Committee on Small Business,* to mark up the following: The Small Business Programs Act of 2007; and the Small Business Contracting Program Improvements Act, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure,* hearing on the 35th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act: Successes and Future Challenges, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs,* Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing on Updating the Montgomery G.I. Bill, 2 p.m., 334 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Health, hearing on Health Care Professionals—Recruitment and Retention, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

*Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming,* hearing entitled "Energy and Global Warming Solutions for Vulnerable Communities," 11 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

*Select Committee To Investigate the Voting Irregularities of August 2, 2007,* briefing on Voting in the House of Representatives—The Rostrum and the Electronic Voting System: A Walkthrough by the Clerk of the House, 8 a.m., House Floor.

### Joint Meetings

*Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe:* to hold hearings to examine a parliamentary perspective of challenges facing today's Europe, 9:30 a.m., B-318 RHOB.