

APPOINTMENT AUTHORIZATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

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

VESSEL HULL DESIGN PROTECTION AMENDMENTS OF 2007

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 404, S. 1640.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1640) to amend chapter 13 of title 17, United States Code (relating to the vessel hull design protection), to clarify the definition of a hull and a deck.

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

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today the Senate will pass S. 1640, the Vessel Hull Design Protection Act Amendments of 2007, after the Judiciary Committee voted unanimously to send it to the floor. This is a small but important piece of legislation, and I thank my co-sponsors, Senator CORNYN, Senator KOHL, and Senator WHITEHOUSE, for all their hard work. Last year, this bill was passed by the Judiciary Committee and by the full Senate, but unfortunately the House held it hostage to an unrelated bill at the end of the session. I don't want that to happen again this year.

In 1998, Congress passed the Vessel Hull Design Protection Act to recognize the significant time, effort, and innovation that figure into ship design. Recent courtroom experience has made it clear that in order to be effective, this law needs to be clarified and refined. Our bill does exactly this, and no more, by clarifying the definition of "hull" and "deck." This ensures that the intellectual property rights of vessel hull designers will be protected.

I look forward to this bill becoming law.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time, and passed; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 1640) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1640

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. VESSEL HULL DESIGN PROTECTION.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the "Vessel Hull Design Protection Amendments of 2007".

(b) DESIGNS PROTECTED.—Section 1301(a) of title 17, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

"(2) VESSEL FEATURES.—The design of a vessel hull, deck, or combination of a hull and deck, including a plug or mold, is subject to protection under this chapter, notwithstanding section 1302(4)."

(c) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1301(b) of title 17, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking "vessel hull, including a plug or mold," and inserting "vessel hull or deck, including a plug or mold,";

(2) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

"(4) A 'hull' is the exterior frame or body of a vessel, exclusive of the deck, superstructure, masts, sails, yards, rigging, hardware, fixtures, and other attachments."; and (3) by adding at the end the following:

"(7) A 'deck' is the horizontal surface of a vessel that covers the hull, including exterior cabin and cockpit surfaces, and exclusive of masts, sails, yards, rigging, hardware, fixtures, and other attachments.".

COMMENDING THE GOVERNMENT OF GERMANY FOR PREVENTING A LARGE-SCALE TERRORIST ATTACK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 344, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 344) commending the government of Germany for preventing a large-scale terrorist attack in September 2007, and supporting future cooperation to prevent terrorism.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 344) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 344

Whereas, on September 4, 2007, police in Germany arrested 3 individuals for planning large-scale terrorist attacks against locations in Germany, including sites frequented by United States citizens;

Whereas possible targets included Ramstein Air Base, which serves as headquarters for United States Air Forces in Europe and is also a North Atlantic Treaty Organization installation, and Frankfurt Airport, one of the largest airports in Europe;

Whereas, according to German authorities, the 3 suspects belonged to a German cell of Islamic Jihad Union, a radical Sunni group based in Central Asia with links to Al Qaeda;

Whereas 300 police and other law enforcement officials were involved in the investigation and 41 homes across Germany were raided in a highly successful operation;

Whereas United States intelligence agencies reportedly provided critical information that alerted their counterparts in Germany as to the travels of the suspects between Germany and Pakistan and the suspects' affiliation with the Islamic Jihad Union;

Whereas German authorities acted swiftly and decisively to prevent an attack that could have come within days of the arrests;

Whereas the successful collaborative action by United States and German authorities prevented the possible deaths of many innocent people;

Whereas Germany and the United States have been close allies in the fight against terrorism;

Whereas the law enforcement, intelligence, diplomatic, and military organizations in Germany and the United States continue to work together to combat the terrorist threat and prevent future attacks; and

Whereas victory in the fight against terrorism is critical to preserve the liberty and ensure the safety of all people: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the efforts of law enforcement authorities in Germany in preventing a large-scale terrorist attack on numerous targets in Germany, including sites frequented by United States citizens;

(2) recognizes the role of United States intelligence agencies in providing critical information to German authorities in their investigation and apprehension of the suspected terrorists and notes the continuing importance of such United States intelligence cooperation with Germany;

(3) commends the intelligence community of Germany for its outstanding work in identifying the individuals suspected of seeking to carry out this terrorist plot;

(4) condemns those individuals who would use acts of violence against innocent civilians to spread a message of hate and intolerance;

(5) urges the allies of the United States to remain steadfast in their efforts to defeat international terrorism; and

(6) expresses its readiness to provide necessary assistance to the Government of Germany in its counterterrorism effort to bring to justice those individuals involved in this terrorist plot.

AGREEMENT FOR MANAGING MIGRATORY AND TRANSBOUNDARY FISH STOCKS

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ROAD CRASH VICTIMS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed, en bloc, to the consideration of Calendar No. 407, S.J. Res. 17; and Calendar No. 408, S. Con. Res. 39.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 17) directing the United States to initiate international discussions and take necessary steps with other nations to negotiate an agreement for managing migratory and transboundary fish stocks in the Arctic Ocean.

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 39) supporting the goals and ideals of a world day of remembrance for road crash victims.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.