locates on the Continental Shelf, adopted on October 14, 2005, and signed on behalf of the United States of America on February 17, 2006 (the ‘‘2005 Fixed Platforms Protocol’’), subject to the reservation of section 2, the understandings of section 3, and the declaration of section 4.

Section 2. Reservation. The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following reservation, which shall be included in the instrument of ratification:

Concluded on May 14, 1994, the United States of America declares that it does not consider itself bound by Article 16(1) of the Convention and incorporated by Article 2 of the 2005 Fixed Platforms Protocol, with respect to disputes concerning the interpretation or application of the Protocol of 2005 to the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf.

Section 3. Understandings. The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following understandings, which shall be included in the instrument of ratification:

(1) The United States of America understands that the term ‘‘armed conflict’’ as used in paragraph 2 of Article 2bis of the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, 2005, and incorporated by Article 2 of the 2005 Fixed Platforms Protocol, has the same substantive meaning as the ‘‘law of war.’’

(2) The United States of America understands the term ‘‘international humanitarian law’’ as used in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 2bis of the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, 2005, and incorporated by Article 2 of the 2005 Fixed Platforms Protocol, does not include internal disturbances and tensions, such as riots, isolated and sporadic acts of violence, and other acts of a similar nature.


Section 4. Declaration. The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declaration:

With respect to the provisions of this Convention that obligate the United States to criminalize certain offenses, make those offenses punishable by appropriate penalties, and authorize the assertion of jurisdiction over such offenses, the 2005 Fixed Platforms Protocol is self-executing. Included among the self-executing offenses are those offenses establishing the United States to treat certain offenses as extraditable offenses for purposes of bilateral extradition treaties. None of the provisions of the 2005 Fixed Platforms Protocol, including those incorporating by reference Articles 7 and 10 of the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, 2005, confer on private rights enforceable in United States courts.

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. STEVENS (for himself, Mr. BROWNE, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 3491. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to improve the effectiveness of rural health care support under section 305 of that Act; to amend the Arms Control and Disarmament Act; to amend the Act to Implement the Convention on Maritime Law; to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act; to amend the Act to Implement the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict; to amend the Act to Conform Laws Relating to Fire Retardant Material Construction Requirements to the Uniform Fire Code; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. LANDRUM, Mr. BAYH, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 3492. A bill to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to ensure States follow best policies and practices for supporting and retaining foster parents and to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to States to improve the empowerment, leave those who have been in foster care, kinship care, and adoptive parents, to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. PENICK (for herself and Mr. BOXER):

S. 3493. A bill to require rail carriers to develop positive rail control system plans for improving railroad safety and to increase the civil penalties for railroad safety violations; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. WITTKOOGH):

S. 3495. A bill to protect pregnant women and children from dangerous lead exposures; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 3496. A bill to address the health and economic development impact of nonattainment areas in the San Joaquin Valley, California, by designating air quality zones; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. CLINTON:

S. 3497. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to improve the effectiveness of the SNAP Ineligibility of Certain Adults due to Unemployment program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. VOINOVICH (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. ENZIE, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. VITTER, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. BAYH, and Mr. LUGAR):

S. 3498. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to extend the exemption from the fire-retardant materials construction requirement for vessels operating within the Boundary Line; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BINGAMAN:

S. 3500. An original bill to protect innocent Americans from violent crime in national and border zones; to the Committee on Natural Resources; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. BURR):

S. 3490. To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and the Safe Drinking

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