Springboard Capstone Tournament Legislative Docket

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A Bill to Discourage the Use of Plastic

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Large corporations are required to reduce their plastic usage by 20% annually or face a fine of up to $500,000 at the end of the year.

SECTION 2. Large corporations shall be defined as companies with revenue of $1 million or more for any of the 3 tax years preceding the 2021 tax year. If less, the number of years the corporation has been in existence.

SECTION 3. The Environmental Protection Agency shall manage the oversight of this legislation by creating a task force to enforce these regulations.

SECTION 4. This bill shall go into effect upon passage.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
A Resolution to Support the End of Economic Sanctions on Venezuela

WHEREAS, Since 2017, the U.S. has sanctioned people, businesses, and oil entities associated with the Maduro regime, both inside and outside of Venezuela; and

WHEREAS, Venezuela is facing a severe humanitarian emergency, with millions unable to access basic healthcare and adequate nutrition; and

WHEREAS, There is significant evidence to support the notion that the United States economic sanctions on Venezuela have heightened the suffering of the nation’s most vulnerable citizens; and

WHEREAS, These current sanctions have had little success in altering the political situation in the country; and

WHEREAS, It is time for the United States to try a different approach to effect meaningful change in Venezuela; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Congress here assembled stands in favor of ending the economic sanctions on Venezuela.
A Bill to Enact Presumed Consent for Organ Donation

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Presumed consent shall be the policy for organ donation across the United States.

SECTION 2. Presumed consent shall be defined as giving permission unless declaring otherwise.

SECTION 3. This legislation will be overseen and enforced by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

A. At the time of filing federal forms or applying for or renewing an identification card, the applicant shall be deemed to have consented to anatomical donation of his or her organs and tissue upon the determination of the applicant’s legal death, unless the applicant expressly elects not to be an organ tissue donor.

B. Legal guardians of citizens under 18 can opt out for dependents.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2023.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
A Bill to Reform Nuclear Power

IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. This bill will reform the Nuclear Power system of the United States. This will be done through increased research of Nuclear Fusion, replacing uranium with thorium, and further grants for construction of nuclear power plants.

SECTION 2. Nuclear Power shall be defined as the use of nuclear reactions that release nuclear energy to generate heat, which most frequently is then used in steam turbines to produce electricity in a nuclear power plant. Nuclear fusion shall be defined as an atomic nuclei of low atomic number fuse to form a heavier nucleus with the release of energy. Thorium shall be defined as a weakly radioactive metallic chemical element with the symbol Th and atomic number 90.

SECTION 3. The Department of Energy, and the Department of the Interior will see to the implementation of this bill. A. Grants will be given towards research, creation, and implementation of fusion power in our nuclear power plants. B. All current and future nuclear power plants will be required to use thorium instead of uranium as the power source. Grants will be given to research and increase the mining of thorium. C. Grants will be given towards the construction of nuclear power plants that use thorium and nuclear fusion. The plan is to one day exclusively use nuclear power in the United States. D. All current funding going towards the research and implementation of other renewable energy sources shall be redirected towards funding this bill. It has an estimated $11 billion budget. Additionally, all current funding going towards the fossil fuel industry, which is estimated at $20 billion shall also go to this bill. Any further funding that is needed will be redirected from the Department of Defense as seen fit by the Department of Energy and has approval from congress.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2022. Nuclear Power plants will have until January 1, 2025 to switch to thorium.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
A Bill to Institute Indigenous Land Acknowledgments

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

SECTION 1. All formal meetings and events hosted by any agency or organization of the federal government at which ten or more people are present shall begin with an Indigenous Land Acknowledgment, to be carried out by whoever is in charge of the meeting or an agent delegated by said leadership.

SECTION 2. Indigenous land acknowledgments shall, at minimum, express gratitude to any indigenous tribes that used to inhabit and/or currently inhabit the area where the meeting or event is taking place, celebrate those tribes and peoples in their modern contexts, and express a rationale for the acknowledgment. Any historical events mentioned in the acknowledgment should be dealt with honestly and directly, and the person delivering the acknowledgment should pronounce all place names, tribal names, and other indigenous terminology correctly.

SECTION 3. Congress shall create a committee to work in conjunction with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to oversee the implementation of this legislation. This committee shall provide support to agencies and organizations in crafting their land acknowledgments and shall also be responsible for monitoring agencies and organizations to ensure good-faith cooperation.

SECTION 4. This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2022.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
A Bill to Prevent the FBI from Interfering in Routine School Board Affairs

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

SECTION 1. Congress will not fund the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) to conduct any investigation into or prosecution of affairs related to routine school board meetings or other day-to-day business unless the FBI’s support has been officially requested by local law enforcement.

SECTION 2. Should the FBI be found to have violated the terms of this legislation, the expenses associated with the investigation and aftermath shall be deducted from the agency’s operating budget for the following year, and the agents accused of having ordered and managed the overreach shall be placed immediately on unpaid administrative leave while they are investigated. Appropriate consequences, up to and including termination and a lifetime ban from federal employment, may be determined and enforced.

SECTION 3. This legislation shall take effect immediately upon passage.

SECTION 4. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

SECTION 1. The following holidays shall be recognized federally: National Freedom Day (February 1), Women’s Day (March 8), St. Patrick’s Day (March 17), Easter (the first Sunday after the first full moon that follows the vernal equinox), Earth Day (April 22), Mother’s Day (second Sunday in May), Father’s Day (first Sunday in June, moved to be distanced from Juneteenth), Moon Landing Day (July 20), Friendship Day (first Sunday in August), National Park Day (August 25), Patriot Day (September 11), Halloween (October 31), Election Day (the Tuesday next after the first Monday in the month of November), and Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (December 7).

SECTION 2. Any holiday that falls on a Saturday or Sunday shall be observed on the Friday preceding or the Monday following, respectively.

SECTION 3. As with other federal holidays, on each of these days, all non-essential federal government offices shall be closed, stock market trading shall be suspended, and every federal government employee shall be paid for a normal day’s work. State and local governments and private businesses are strongly encouraged to observe these days in the same manner.

SECTION 4. This legislation shall take effect immediately upon passage.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
A Bill to Prioritize the Removal of Space Debris

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

SECTION 1. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) shall receive an additional $1 billion annually for the express purpose of funding research into the removal of space debris as well as actual efforts at removing space debris.

SECTION 2. Space debris shall be defined as the remnants of defunct satellites or other machinery placed in space by humans. U.S.-made space debris shall be prioritized for removal, but other debris may be removed using this funding as well.

SECTION 3. Funding for this bill shall be supported by a new 35% tax on the annual revenue of private spaceflight corporations, to be defined as any corporation currently engaged in efforts to transport human passengers into outer space.

SECTION 4. NASA shall oversee the implementation of this legislation, with the exception of Section 3, which shall be overseen by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

SECTION 5. This legislation shall take effect on January 1, 2023.

SECTION 6. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
A Bill to Ensure Compassionate Naming of American Schools

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

SECTION 1. No public school or other public educational facility shall be named after an individual who enslaved human beings, fought against the Union during the Civil War, or otherwise substantially supported the Confederacy unless this naming is indirect, as in the case of a school named after a municipality named for such a person.

SECTION 2. Districts shall be granted one year from the date of passage to make any necessary name changes. Any district housing a school or other facility in need of a name change that fails to come into compliance by that date shall lose federal funding until such time as compliance is reached.

SECTION 3. Compliance entails an official name change registered with all relevant agencies as well as the updating of all signage, uniforms, printed materials, and official websites and social media accounts.

SECTION 4. $5 million shall be transferred from the Department of Defense budget to the Department of Education and made available to districts in need of funding in order to come into compliance with this legislation.

SECTION 5. The Department of Education shall oversee the implementation of this legislation as well as the reasonable disbursement of the funds outlined in Section 4. The Smithsonian Institution shall serve in an advisory capacity to resolve any uncertainty about which individuals do and do not demonstrably meet the criteria outlined in Section 1.

SECTION 6. This legislation shall take effect immediately upon passage.

SECTION 7. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
A Bill to Ban All Mail Delivery by the USPS on Sundays

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

SECTION 1. The United States Postal Service (USPS) is henceforth banned from engaging in any mail delivery whatsoever, for any reason, on Sundays.

SECTION 2. For privately-owned post offices found to be in violation of this legislation, the owner shall be fined $1000 for the first infraction with this amount doubling for each subsequent infraction. For publicly-owned post offices found to be in violation, this same penalty shall be levied on the general manager of the office. Proceeds from these fines shall be directed into the Federal Employees' Retirement System (FERS).

SECTION 3. The Department of Labor shall oversee the implementation of this legislation.

SECTION 4. This legislation shall take effect immediately on January 1, 2022.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
A Bill to Promote Immigration of Climate Refugees

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

SECTION 1. Any non-citizens designated by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) as refugees for reasons related to severe weather events and climate change shall be given preference and support as United States’ immigrants.

SECTION 2. The United States Department of Homeland Security shall receive an additional $500 million per year to be used to publicize this program, locate refugees who qualify, and provide them immigration and resettlement support. This funding shall be sourced from a carbon tax of $1 per metric ton of carbon dioxide emitted to be levied on all corporations, as determined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

SECTION 3. An additional $500 million per year shall be made available to states and municipalities that create programs to welcome and support these refugees, with preference given to communities that are less susceptible to the effects of climate change based on the determinations of the EPA. These funds shall also be sourced from the aforementioned carbon tax and will be administered by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).

SECTION 4. Any remaining funds from the aforementioned carbon tax shall be diverted into the Department of Energy to be used to fund research into and development of renewable energy sources.

SECTION 5. This legislation shall take effect immediately upon passage.

SECTION 6. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.
A Resolution to Balance State Population and Senate Representation

RESOLVED, By two-thirds of the Congress here assembled, that the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states within seven years from the date of its submission by the Congress:

ARTICLE --

SECTION 1. The population of the most populous state shall not exceed twenty-five times that of the least populous state.

SECTION 2. This determination shall be based on the most recent constitutionally-mandated decennial census. States found to have exceeded this limit shall be divided into two new states in a manner that strives to keep their populations equal while being cognizant of and respectful toward cultural and geographic considerations. Congress shall have one year from the completion of each decennial census to enact any legislation necessary to ensure all states comply. Should Congress fail to resolve this situation within the one-year period, the Department of the Interior shall be empowered to carry out the duty.

SECTION 3. Congress shall have one year from the ratification of this amendment to arrange for compliance among the current states, with the responsibility falling to the Department of the Interior if they fail to do so within that timeframe. Presuming ratification occurs prior to the completion of the 2030 Census, this will necessitate that Florida and New York be split into two new states each and that California and Texas be split into three new states each.

SECTION 4. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.
A Bill to Reset the Priorities of the United States Transportation System

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED:

SECTION 1. Over the next decade, federal highway funding will be reduced by 5% from its current level each year until it reaches 50% of its current budget. All of this funding will be redirected to and split evenly between the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). After a decade, funding for these two organizations shall continue to grow through an annual increase of the gasoline excise tax equal to 10 cents per gallon, to be continued for twenty years.

SECTION 2. Funding directed to Amtrak is to be used to improve current rail capabilities, extend public rail transportation to unreached communities, research high speed rail, convert heavily trafficked routes into high speed routes, and reduce the cost of fares. Funding directed to the FTA is to be used to improve public transportation within metropolitan areas and to reduce fares.

SECTION 3. The Department of Transportation and the Department of Energy shall jointly oversee the implementation of this legislation.

SECTION 4. This legislation shall take effect at the start of the next fiscal year.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.