EMERGENCY AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT GRANTS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 1786, introduced earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1786) to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to make emergency airport improvement grants-in-aid under title 49, United States Code, for repairs and costs related to damage from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

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

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 1786) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 1786

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

SECTION 1. EMERGENCY USE OF GRANTS-IN-AY


(a) In General.—The Secretary of Transportation may make grants pursuant to subsection (d) of section 47102 of title 49, United States Code, for: (1) from apportioned funds under section 47114 of that title or to a State in which such airport is located; or (2) from funds available for discretionary grants to such an airport under section 47115 of such title.

(b) Eligible Airports and Uses.—The Secretary may make grants under subsection (a) for—

(1) emergency capital costs incurred by a public use airport in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, or Texas that was damaged as a result of Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita; and

(2) emergency operating costs incurred by an airport described in paragraph (1) as a result of Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita.

(c) Priorities.—In making grants authorized by subsection (a), the Secretary shall give priority to—

(1) airport development within the meaning of section 47102 of title 49, United States Code; (2) terminal development within the meaning of section 47106 of that title; (3) repair or replacement of other public use airport facilities; and

(4) emergency operating costs incurred at public use airports in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Texas.

(d) Modification of Certain Otherwise Applicable Requirements.—For purposes of any grant authorized by subsection (a)—

(1) the Secretary may waive any otherwise applicable limitation on, or requirement for, grants under section 47102, 47108(a)(17), 47110, or 47119 of title 49, United States Code, if the Secretary determines that the waiver is necessary to respond, in as timely and efficient a manner as possible, to the urgent needs of the region damaged by Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita;

(2) the United States Government's share of allowable project costs shall be 100 percent, notwithstanding the provisions of section 47109 of that title; and

(3) any project funded by such a grant shall be deemed to be an airport development project (within the meaning of section 47102 of that title), except for the purpose of establishing priorities under subsection (b) of this section among projects to be funded by such grants; and

(4) no project funded by such a grant may be considered, for the purpose of any other law, to be an airport development project (within the meaning of section 47102 of that title) or to be subject to any other requirement that would result in operational inefficiencies or significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1783

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that S. 1783 be placed directly on the calendar.

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

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2005

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 29. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved, and the time of the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate proceed to executive session and continue consideration of Calendar No. 317, John Roberts to be Chief Justice of the United States; provided further that the time until 10:30 be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, we will resume the Roberts nomination tomorrow for a short period of debate. The debate from 10:30 to 11:30 has previously been allocated to the two managers and the two leaders. At 11:30 tomorrow, the Senate will vote on the nomination of Judge Roberts to be Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. I remind all Senators that the majority leader has asked all Senators to be in the Chamber by 11:20 and seated at their desks for this historic vote.

Following that vote, the Senate is expected to begin consideration of the Defense appropriations bill. Additional votes will occur on Thursday and Friday this week.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GRASSLEY. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order, following the time controlled by the minority.