

TABLE 2.—SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR THE SENATE CURRENT-LEVEL REPORT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005, AS OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2005—

Continued

[In millions of dollars]

|  | Budget authority | Outlays   | Revenues  |
|--|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Energy Policy Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-58) .....  | 0                | 0         | 40        |
| Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (P.L. 109-59) .....                               | 1,562            | 8         | 0         |
| TANF Emergency Response and Recovery Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-68) .....   | 5,067            | 0         | 0         |
| Appropriation Acts:  |                  |           |           |
| Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, 2005 (P.L. 109-13) <sup>2</sup> ..... | -1,058           | 4         | 41        |
| Interior Appropriations Act, 2006 (P.L. 106-54) .....  | 1,500            | 120       | 0         |
| Total, enacted this session: .....   | 7,193            | 177       | 81        |
| Total Current Level <sup>2,3</sup> .....   | 1,999,720        | 2,023,986 | 1,484,105 |
| Total Budget Resolution .....  | 2,078,456        | 2,056,006 | 1,483,658 |
| Adjustment to budget resolution for emergency requirements <sup>4</sup> .....  | -81,881          | -32,121   | n.a.      |
| Adjusted Budget Resolution .....   | 1,996,575        | 2,023,885 | 1,483,658 |
| Current Level Over Adjusted Budget Resolution .....  | 3,145            | 101       | 447       |
| Current Level Under Adjusted Budget Resolution .....   | n.a.             | n.a.      | n.a.      |

Notes: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

<sup>1</sup> The effects of an act to provide for the proper tax treatment of certain disaster mitigation payments (P.L. 109-7) and the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-8) are included in this section of the table, consistent with the budget resolution assumptions.

<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2006, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. As a result, the current level excludes \$83,140 million in budget authority and \$33,034 million in outlays from the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, 2005 (P.L. 109-13), \$10,500 million in budget authority and \$350 million in outlays from the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act to Meet Immediate Needs Arising From the Consequences of Hurricane Katrina, 2005 (P.L. 109-61), and \$51,800 in budget authority and \$25 million in outlays from the Second Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act to Meet Immediate Needs Arising From the Consequences of Hurricane Katrina, 2005 (P.L. 109-62).

<sup>3</sup> Excludes administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration, which are off-budget.

<sup>4</sup> H. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2006, assumed the enactment of emergency supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2005, in the amount of \$81,811 million in budget authority and \$32,121 million in outlays, which would be exempt from the enforcement of the budget resolution. Since current level excludes the emergency appropriations in P.L. 109-13 (see footnote 2), the amounts specified in the budget resolution have also been reduced for purposes of comparison.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

### FARM AID'S 20TH ANNUAL CONCERT

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, on Sunday, September 18, just outside of Chicago, Farm Aid staged its 20th annual concert, playing to a sell-out crowd of more than 28,000. Over the years, Farm Aid has raised more than \$27 million to fund national, State and local efforts of various kinds to support and strengthen family farm agriculture and rural communities.

The first Farm Aid concert, on September 22, 1985, was organized by a great American who is richly acquainted with the heart and soul of rural America, Willie Nelson. Originally conceived as a way to raise money to help struggling farm families, the first Farm Aid concert also served to highlight the crucial challenges facing family farms and rural communities.

I have vivid memories of that first Farm Aid concert 20 years ago. I remember getting on the train in Carroll, IA, west of Ames, and riding it all the way to Champaign, IL. That was a trainload of people with high hopes and good spirits. But more important, that train was packed with people who understood firsthand the severity of the farm crisis, and who had a deep, passionate commitment to doing something about it. We spent the train trip discussing ideas for turning the situation around, and by the time we arrived in Champaign, we were fired up to push for big changes.

The mid-1980s were a tumultuous time for rural America. In my own State of Iowa, the economic devastation experienced by family farms and small towns was the worst since the Great Depression. As in the 1930s, the human toll of the crisis was poignant and profound. There were many tens of thousands of people who had spent their lives working hard and playing by the rules, but who were losing their farms, their homes and their livelihoods. That affected me personally, as it did most Iowans and people all

across America. And like so many others, I was convinced that we needed new ideas and better policies to save America's family farm agriculture and to revitalize our rural economy.

The first Farm Aid concert drew a tremendous amount of national and even international attention to the crisis in rural America. Farm Aid opened people's eyes to the plight of family farms and small towns. It helped farm families directly and it led to policy changes that have made a positive difference.

Family farms and rural communities are still struggling, and so Farm Aid is as important as ever. And in that same spirit, this year's concert highlighted and helped support a special Farm Aid Family Farm Disaster Fund to provide aid to farm families and rural communities that have been devastated by hurricanes across the gulf region, drought in the Midwest or other natural disasters elsewhere. In the tremendous response to the hurricanes, we have seen the same outpouring of concern and compassion by the American people that has supported Farm Aid over the years.

I salute Willie Nelson, John Mellencamp, Neil Young, Dave Matthews and all the others who have devoted themselves to making Farm Aid a success in helping family farms and rural communities throughout the years—including David Senter, Carolyn Mugar and Corky Jones. I wish them and Farm Aid many more successful years supporting family farms and rural communities and raising awareness of their vital importance to us all.

### EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today the Commerce Committee was scheduled to conduct an afternoon hearing regarding emergency communications. I regret that the hearing was postponed, and I hope and expect that the session will be quickly rescheduled. The events of September 11, 2001, uncovered a fun-

damental weakness in our communications system. We learned the hard way that in a time of crisis—when communication is most important—our first responders could not communicate at a basic level. Now, some 4 years later, Katrina has showed we have not fixed the problem. One of the biggest problem facing police, fire and first responders in the gulf coast was that the communications system was knocked off line. It was remarkable to watch as the television news crews had better luck communicating than our first responders. As the disaster unfolded, emergency officials repeatedly cited communications failures as a major obstacle to the disaster response effort.

So despite the good work of the 9/11 Commission and the hard work of national and local officials, we find that the system is not hardened against terror or nature, and we remain dangerously vulnerable. Like all of my colleagues, I want a system that will work when we need it most. Frankly, there is not much good in an emergency communications system that doesn't work in emergencies. We must push ahead with the DTV transition so that new spectrum is made available and new technologies can come online. The Federal Government must commit the time, resources, training, technology, and leadership to create a national and truly interoperable communications system. It is a national job to ensure capability across regions, among rescue units, and up and down chain of command.

I also believe we should deploy a redundant emergency communications system that, with a flick of switch, will operate during times of crisis when the main system is disabled. I have introduced a bill to address this immediate need. S. 1703 requires experts at the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Communications Commission evaluate the feasibility and cost of deploying an emergency communications system. The agencies will evaluate all reasonable options, including