

SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF COMMISSION AUCTION AUTHORITY.

Section 309(j)(11) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 309(j)(11)) is amended by striking "2011." and inserting "2012."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas is recognized.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, Senator ROCKEFELLER and I, as the chairman and the ranking member of the Commerce Committee, have worked on a bill that will delay for 3 months, basically until June 12, this transition. It is voluntary. That was very important. Because many broadcast companies have made the investment for digital transmission, and they will be able to go to that digital transmission. It also allows people, even if they have coupons that are expired, to reapply and get coupons.

But I do wish to serve notice that I will not support another delay in implementation. By now people have had the notice, and we have done everything to help mitigate the cost of this transition. I talked to Senator ROCKEFELLER about that, and I think we are in agreement that now is the time for people to get their coupons and get their boxes because June 12 this transition will be made.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I wish to not only recognize what the Senator from Texas has indicated, but also I wish to say that these last couple days, weeks—whatever it is—have been a study in bipartisan cooperation. We have been up, we have been down. It wasn't going to work, it could work, it might work. What we have concentrated on is going to the people who have concerns and answering every single question they might have. In a deliberative body such as the Senate, where we actually do that and people actually know we are trying to answer all their questions, and are answering all their questions, and when you have a chairman and a ranking member who are in tandem, working together on a very important matter, it counts.

I yield the floor.

KENTUCKY ICE STORM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this week people all across Kentucky are dealing with the effects of a massive snow and ice storm that ravaged the entire Commonwealth on Tuesday. This storm has caused the worst power outage in Kentucky history—more than 600,000 are without power.

This number is all the more devastating given that the previous record had been set only 4 months ago when the remnants of Hurricane Ike battered Kentucky last fall.

The power outages cover the entire Bluegrass State and have caused enormous problems, as you can imagine. Many schools and businesses are closed. Many roads are blocked from downed trees or power lines. Most dangerous of all, some people are unable to

heat their homes in this time of freezing temperatures.

Given the severity of the storm, the Governor of Kentucky, Steve Beshear, rightly reached out to President Obama to request a Federal declaration that a major emergency exists. I also contacted the President to ask that he respond quickly to the Governor's request.

I am pleased to say that the President did respond quickly and declared a Federal emergency in most of Kentucky. Doing that has triggered the release of urgently needed Federal authority and funds that will give the people of my State the help they desperately need.

I want to thank the Governor for his quick and decisive action, as well as President Obama for his speedy response. It is making a real difference in the lives of Kentuckians as we speak.

Governor Beshear and his team have been working day and night to ensure all parts of the State are getting the relief they need. Our offices have been in close contact since the storm, and I am proud of the leadership he is demonstrating.

Most of all, I want to thank the many men and women across Kentucky who are working to aid their communities during this disaster.

From the police and firefighters, to the first responders, the power company employees, the shelters taking in those without power, and the people knocking on doors to check on their neighbors, everyone is pitching in to make sure Kentucky makes it through this storm.

And I am sure that we will. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to keep the citizens of Kentucky in their prayers during this difficult time.

**COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,
RULES OF PROCEDURE**

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, pursuant to paragraph 2 of rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I ask that the rules of the Appropriations Committee for the 111th Congress be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. These rules were adopted by the full committee membership on January 27, 2009.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
RULES—111TH CONGRESS****I. MEETINGS**

The Committee will meet at the call of the Chairman.

II. QUORUMS

1. Reporting a bill. A majority of the members must be present for the reporting of a bill.

2. Other business. For the purpose of transacting business other than reporting a bill or taking testimony, one-third of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

3. Taking testimony. For the purpose of taking testimony, other than sworn testi-

mony, by the Committee or any subcommittee, one member of the Committee or subcommittee shall constitute a quorum. For the purpose of taking sworn testimony by the Committee, three members shall constitute a quorum, and for the taking of sworn testimony by any subcommittee, one member shall constitute a quorum.

III. PROXIES

Except for the reporting of a bill, votes may be cast by proxy when any member so requests.

**IV. ATTENDANCE OF STAFF MEMBERS AT
CLOSED SESSIONS**

Attendance of staff members at closed sessions of the Committee shall be limited to those members of the Committee staff who have a responsibility associated with the matter being considered at such meeting. This rule may be waived by unanimous consent.

**V. BROADCASTING AND PHOTOGRAPHING OF
COMMITTEE HEARINGS**

The Committee or any of its subcommittees may permit the photographing and broadcast of open hearings by television and/or radio. However, if any member of a subcommittee objects to the photographing or broadcasting of an open hearing, the question shall be referred to the full Committee for its decision.

VI. AVAILABILITY OF SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

To the extent possible, when the bill and report of any subcommittee are available, they shall be furnished to each member of the Committee thirty-six hours prior to the Committee's consideration of said bill and report.

VII. AMENDMENTS AND REPORT LANGUAGE

To the extent possible, amendments and report language intended to be proposed by Senators at full Committee markups shall be provided in writing to the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member and the appropriate Subcommittee Chairman and Ranking Minority Member twenty-four hours prior to such markups.

VIII. POINTS OF ORDER

Any member of the Committee who is floor manager of an appropriations bill, is hereby authorized to make points of order against any amendment offered in violation of the Senate Rules on the floor of the Senate to such appropriations bill.

IX. EX OFFICIO MEMBERSHIP

The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the full Committee are ex officio members of all subcommittees of which they are not regular members but shall have no vote in the subcommittee and shall not be counted for purposes of determining a quorum.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

**WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF
CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome this opportunity to support consumer advocates across the country in encouraging the new administration to restore the White House Office of Consumer Affairs. For the past 8 years, the safety and rights of consumers have taken a back seat to special interests. We are all aware of troubling reports about unsafe toys for our children, unsafe household products for our families, and even unsafe food.