COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 5, 2009, at 2:30 p.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Employment Non-Discrimination Act: Ensuring Opportunity for All Americans'' on November 5, 2009. The hearing will commence at 10 a.m. in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 5, 2009, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled ''Business Formation and Financial Crime: Finding a Legislative Solution.''

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 5, 2009, at 10 a.m., in SD–226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 5, 2009 at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing on VA and Indian Health Service Cooperation. The Committee will meet in room 418 of the Russell Senate Office Building beginning at 10 a.m.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 5, 2009, at 3 p.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME AND DRUGS

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime and Drugs, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 5, 2009, at 2 p.m., in room SD–226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''The First Line of Defense: Reducing Recidivism at the Local Level.''

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Water and Power be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate to conduct a hearing on November 5, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent, on behalf of Senator DURBIN, that Richard Burkard, a detailee from the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee, be granted the privilege of the floor during the consideration of the Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Act and any votes thereon.

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

FEDERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 164, S. 806.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 806) to provide for the establishment and administration and funding of Federal Executive Boards, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Federal Executive Board Authorization Act of 2009''.

SEC. 2. FEDERAL EXECUTIVE BOARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 11 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 1106. Federal Executive Boards

''(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are to—

''(1) strengthen the coordination of Government activities;

''(2) facilitate interagency collaboration to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Federal programs;

''(3) facilitate communication and collaboration on Federal activities outside the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area; and

''(4) provide stable funding for Federal Executive Boards.

''(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) AGENCY.—The term 'agency'—

''(A) means an Executive agency as defined under section 105; and

''(B) shall not include the Government Accountability Office.

''(2) DIRECTOR.—The term 'Director' means the Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

''(3) FEDERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD.—The term 'Federal Executive Board' means an interagency entity established by the Director, in consultation with the headquarters of appropriate agencies, in a geographic area with a high concentration of Federal employees outside the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area to strengthen the management and administration of agency activities and coordination among local Federal officers to implement national initiatives in that geographic area.

''(c) ESTABLISHMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish Federal Executive Boards in geographic areas outside the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Before establishing Federal Executive Boards that are not in existence on the date of enactment of this section, the Director shall consult with the headquarters of appropriate agencies to determine the number and location of the Federal Executive Boards.

''(2) MEMBERSHIP.—Each Federal Executive Board for a geographic area shall consist of an appropriate senior officer for each agency in that geographic area. The appropriate senior officer may designate, by title of office, an alternate representative who shall attend meetings and otherwise represent the agency on the Federal Executive Board in the absence of the appropriate senior officer. An alternate representative shall be a senior officer in the agency.

''(3) LOCATION OF FEDERAL EXECUTIVE BOARDS.—In determining the location for the establishment of Federal Executive Boards, the Director shall consider—

''(A) whether a Federal Executive Board exists in a geographic area on the date of enactment of this section;

''(B) whether a geographic area has a strong, viable, and active Federal Executive Association;

''(C) whether the Federal Executive Association of a geographic area petitions the Director to become a Federal Executive Board; and

''(D) such other factors as the Director and the headquarters of appropriate agencies consider relevant.

''(d) ADMINISTRATION AND OVERSIGHT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall provide for the administration and oversight of Federal Executive Boards, including—

''(A) establishing staffing policies in consultation with the headquarters of agencies participating in Federal Executive Boards;

''(B) designating an agency to staff each Federal Executive Board based on recommendations from that Federal Executive Board;

''(C) establishing communications policies for the dissemination of information to agencies;

''(D) in consultation with the headquarters of appropriate agencies, establishing performance standards for the Federal Executive Board staff;

''(E) developing accountability initiatives to ensure Federal Executive Boards are meeting performance standards; and

''(F) administering Federal Executive Board funding through the fund established in subsection (f).

''(2) STAFFING.—In making designations under paragraph (1)(B), the Director shall give preference to agencies staffing Federal Executive Boards.

''(e) GOVERNANCE AND ACTIVITIES.—Each Federal Executive Board shall—

''(1) subject to the approval of the Director, adopt by-laws or other rules for the internal governance of the Federal Executive Board;

''(2) elect a Chairperson from among the members of the Federal Executive Board, who shall serve for a set term;

''(3) serve as an instrument of outreach for the national headquarters of agencies relating to agency activities in the geographic area;

''(4) provide a forum for the exchange of information relating to programs and management methods and problems—

''(A) between the national headquarters of agencies and the field; and

''(B) among field elements in the geographic area;

''(5) develop local coordinated approaches to the development and operation of programs that have common characteristics;