

these cars is a major step in the right direction towards improving the safety of the system.

It is also worth noting that for the first time Metrorail cars will be built here in the United States at a rail car manufacturing facility in Lincoln, NE.

Still, funding shortfalls hinder Metro's ability to make lasting infrastructure repairs and replacements throughout the system. I have visited the Shady Grove Station and witnessed firsthand how they literally are using wood planks and iron rods to prop up crumbling station platforms. Metro is forced to make improvised accommodations to keep the system running in the safest way possible on a diminished budget.

Seeing these unaddressed safety issues firsthand, combined with each passing revelation of management missteps and safety lapses, has grown my frustration with how Metro handles safety issues, but has also hardened my resolve to improve Metro safety.

On this somber day of remembrance we as Federal policymakers and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority need to take inspiration from this tragedy and remember our responsibility to work to improve the safety of the transit system that serves Greater Washington area residents, tens of thousands of Federal workers, and members of the staff of nearly every Senator in this body every day.

Last year's Metro tragedy has caused many of us, including the President, to address the safety crisis that looms at transit authorities across the country. I am confident that we will find a way forward through: increased Federal regulatory authority and oversight, as called for by the Federal Transit Administration; and increased openness and transparency at WMATA.

While the FTA has an established national transit safety program and is responsible for setting minimum program safety requirements for the States, the FTA is prohibited by law from establishing enforceable national safety standards, requiring Federal inspections, or dictating operating practices. In response to this lapse in public safety policy, last Congress Senators DODD, MENENDEZ, MIKULSKI, and I introduced legislation requiring the Transportation Secretary to establish and implement a comprehensive transit public transportation safety program. Our legislation from last year would have given the FTA the ability to take decisive actions such as conducting inspections, investigations, audits, and examinations of federally funded public transportation systems.

It makes sense for public transit systems that receive Federal funding to meet Federal safety requirements set by the FTA. It makes even more sense to grant FTA a degree of Federal authority to establish safety guidance over WMATA given Metro's unique relationship to the Federal Government.

The Washington metrorail system is the second busiest subway system in

America, carrying as many as 1 million passengers a day. It carries the equivalent of the combined subway ridership of BART in San Francisco, MARTA in Atlanta, and SEPTA in Philadelphia each day.

Every workday, Metro provides tens of thousands of Federal employees rides to work. During peak ridership, more than 40 percent of riders on Metro are Federal employees and 10 percent of the overall ridership serves Congress and the Pentagon alone. Metrorail's alignment was designed to serve the Federal Government, with more than half of the system's stations located at or near Federal buildings. GSA has also established guidance that requires all new Federal facilities in the Greater Washington area be metrorail accessible.

Traffic congestion in the DC metropolitan area is tied with Chicago for the worst in the Nation. Some may wonder how, or even if, Washington could function without Metro. Sure enough, in the winter of 2010 we learned that the Federal Government, in fact, cannot function without Metro. The Office of Personnel Management based its decision to shut down the Federal Government on WMATA's inability to operate above ground rail lines during the February snowstorms. This not only points out the Federal Government's reliance on Metro, but also highlights Metro's lack of resources to operate under weather conditions that other city transit systems like Chicago, New York, or Boston manage to do so.

More than three decades after the first trains started running, the system is showing severe signs of its age. Sixty percent of the Metrorail system is more than 20 years old. The costs of operations, maintenance, and rehabilitation are tremendous.

It is not just the responsibility of the local jurisdictions that are served by Metro—Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC—but it is also a Federal responsibility.

Just like I believe that the Federal Government has a role in ensuring the safety of Metro for its riders and employees, I also believe the Federal Government has a responsibility to help fund the safe operation of the system since Metro provides the Federal Government and its employees vital transportation service.

I was proud to work alongside Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI and Senator JIM WEBB and former Senator John Warner to pass the Federal Rail Safety Improvement Act, which was signed into law in October 2008. This law authorizes \$1.5 billion over 10 years in Federal funds for Metro's governing Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority, matched dollar for dollar by the local jurisdictions, for capital improvements. This arrangement will finally provide Metro with the dedicated funding the system needs.

President Obama's fiscal year 2011 and 2012 budget requests to Congress

included \$150 million for Metro. This builds on the substantial down payment Senators MIKULSKI, WEBB, MARK WARNER, and I were able to secure for Metro in fiscal year 2010, and with the intrepid support of Chairmen MURRAY and INOUE we were able to secure this essential funding for Metro again in fiscal year 2011.

While these are important investments, it is not nearly enough to fulfill all of Metrorail's obligations. Metro maintains a list of ready-to-go projects totaling about \$530 million and \$11 billion in capital funding needs over the next decade.

Federal Transit Administrator Peter Rogoff, in testimony before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, made special note of the fact that WMATA does not have a dedicated revenue stream, rather it relies heavily on congressional appropriations which can fluctuate from year to year.

Fortunately, Congress has taken an important step forward to remedy this situation. The Senate recently passed a new Metro Compact further advancing the final step in authorizing a 10-year \$1.5 billion authorization providing Metro with a dedicated funding stream to ensure the safe and efficient operation of the system.

For years, while Metro was a relatively new transit system, Metro was the epitome of safe, reliable, and modern public transit. After 35 years of operation, the results of placing disproportionate resources towards expanding the system rather than attending to growing repairs and maintenance needs of the existing infrastructure, Metro's age is beginning to take its toll on the safe operation and functionality of the system.

I am hopeful that with the opportunities we have to establish better and more consistent funding for Metro, improved and enforceable Federal safety requirements for transit systems across the country, and the establishment of firm, accountable, and transparent leadership at WMATA we will restore the public standing and reputation of "America's Subway System" as one of the safest and most reliable transit systems in the country.

I find it unacceptable that the transit system in our Nation's Capital does not have enough resources to improve safety and upgrade its aging infrastructure.

I would again like to extend my deepest sympathies to all those who were affected by this horrific accident, especially to the families and loved ones of those who have been killed on Metro. I hope my colleagues will join together with me in working to ensure that this body is doing everything it can to prevent similar tragedies in the future.

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JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE  
LIBRARY RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on May 22, 2011, the Joint Committee on

the Library organized, elected a chairman, a vice chairman, and adopted its rules for the 112th Congress. Members of the Joint Committee on the Library elected Senator CHARLES E. SCHUMER as chairman and Congressman GREGG HARPER as vice chairman. Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 2, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the committee rules be printed in the RECORD.

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

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS ON THE LIBRARY—112TH CONGRESS

TITLE I—MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

1. Regular meetings may be called by the chairman, with the concurrence of the vice-chairman, as may be deemed necessary or pursuant to the provision of paragraph 3 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

2. Meetings of the committee, including meetings to conduct hearings, shall be open to the public, except that a meeting or series of meetings by the committee on the same subject for a period of no more than 14 calendar days may be closed to the public on a motion made and seconded to go into closed session to discuss only whether the matters enumerated in subparagraphs (A) through (F) would require the meeting to be closed followed immediately by a recorded vote in open session by a majority of the members of the committee when it is determined that the matters to be discussed or the testimony to be taken at such meeting or meetings—

(A) will disclose matters necessary to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States;

(B) will relate solely to matters of the committee staff personnel or internal staff management or procedures;

(C) will tend to charge an individual with a crime or misconduct, to disgrace or injure the professional standing of an individual, or otherwise to expose an individual to public contempt or obloquy, or will represent a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy of an individual;

(D) will disclose the identity of any informer or law enforcement agent or will disclose any information relating to the investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense that is required to be kept secret in the interest of effective law enforcement;

(E) will disclose information relating to the trade secrets or financial or commercial information pertaining specifically to a given person if—

(1) an Act of Congress requires the information to be kept confidential by Government officers and employees; or

(2) the information has been obtained by the Government on a confidential basis, other than through an application by such person for a specific Government financial or other benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to prevent undue injury to the benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to prevent undue injury to the competitive position of such person; or

(F) may divulge matters required to be kept confidential under the provisions of law or Government regulation. (Paragraph 5(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate.)

3. Written notices of committee meetings will normally be sent by the committee's staff director to all members at least 3 days in advance. In addition, the committee staff will email or telephone reminders of com-

mittee meetings to all members of the committee or to the appropriate staff assistants in their offices.

4. A copy of the committee's intended agenda enumerating separate items of committee business will normally be sent to all members of the committee by the staff director at least 1 day in advance of all meetings. This does not preclude any member of the committee from raising appropriate non-agenda topics.

5. Any witness who is to appear before the committee in any hearing shall file with the clerk of the committee at least 3 business days before the date of his or her appearance, a written statement of his or her proposed testimony and an executive summary thereof, in such form as the chairman may direct, unless the chairman waived such a requirement for good cause.

TITLE II—QUORUMS

1. Pursuant to paragraph 7(a)(1) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules, 4 members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

2. Pursuant to paragraph 7(a)(2) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules, 2 members of the committee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of taking testimony; provided, however, once a quorum is established, any one member can continue to take such testimony.

3. Under no circumstance may proxies be considered for the establishment of a quorum.

TITLE III—VOTING

1. Voting in the committee on any issue will normally be by voice vote.

2. If a third of the members present so demand, a recorded vote will be taken on any question by rollcall.

3. The results of the rollcall votes taken in any meeting upon a measure, or any amendment thereto, shall be stated in the committee report on that measure unless previously announced by the committee, and such report or announcement shall include a tabulation of the votes cast in favor and the votes cast in opposition to each measure and amendment by each member of the committee. (Paragraph 7(b) and (c) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules.)

4. Proxy voting shall be allowed on all measures and matters before the committee. However, the vote of the committee to report a measure or matters shall require the concurrence of a majority of the members of the committee who are physically present at the time of the vote. Proxies will be allowed in such cases solely for the purpose of recording a member's position on the question and then only in those instances when the absentee committee member has been informed of the question and has affirmatively requested that he be recorded. (Paragraph 7(a)(3) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules.)

TITLE IV—DELEGATION AND AUTHORITY TO THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

1. The chairman and vice chairman are authorized to sign all necessary vouchers and routine papers for which the committee's approval is required and to decide in the committee's behalf on all routine business.

2. The chairman is authorized to engage commercial reporters for the preparation of transcripts of committee meetings and hearings.

3. The chairman is authorized to issue, on behalf of the committee, regulations normally promulgated by the committee at the beginning of each session.

CONGRATULATING SLOVENIA ON ITS TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I have come to the floor today to speak on S.

Res. 212, congratulating the people and Government of Slovenia on the 20th anniversary of their nation's independence. I am pleased that the Senate passed this resolution yesterday by unanimous consent and I am grateful to my colleagues Senators SHAHEEN, KLOBUCHAR, BARRASSO, BROWN of Ohio and PORTMAN for joining with me in submitting this resolution.

As many of my colleagues know, the Republic of Slovenia holds a very special place in my heart. Ninety years ago, my mother came to America from the village of Suha in what is now Slovenia.

The modern Republic of Slovenia is only 20 years old. But more than 1,000 years ago, in what is now the Slovenian state of Carinthia, there was a duke who later served as one of Thomas Jefferson's inspirations for American democracy. What inspired President Jefferson? It was the tradition that the dukes of Carinthia could take office only after being questioned by a simple peasant to test their worthiness. If the peasant was satisfied with the answers, then he gently slapped the duke as a symbol of accountability to the people. Imagine that: people slapping around politicians in a democracy!

I have been tremendously impressed by the great strides Slovenia has made since breaking away from Yugoslavia two decades ago. In this short period of time, Slovenia has become one of the world's most successful democracies, which I witnessed firsthand during a visit 5 years ago.

Slovenia is what you might call an "overachiever" among new nations. In a short period of time, it has gained entry into NATO and the European Union. Indeed, it has already held the rotating Presidency of the EU. Slovenia has built the most successful economy in Central and Eastern Europe and has been a force for stability and democratic reform in the Balkans.

On a personal note, I am especially grateful for the Republic of Slovenia's outstanding leadership in the campaign to rid the world of landmines and to assist the victims, especially children. This is a humanitarian mission of profound importance—a mission that I have worked on, with many of my colleagues, including Senator KLOBUCHAR and former Senator Voinovich, to secure support from the U.S. Congress.

The world looks at Slovenia's success, and wonders: How could a nation of just 2 million people accomplish so much in such a short period of time? As an American, I know the answer.

Bear in mind that, when Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, America was also a nation of just 2 million people. Like Americans in 1776, Slovenians in 1991 dared to break away from a much larger and more powerful mother country. Like Americans, Slovenians paid in blood for their freedom. Like Americans, Slovenians demanded a democratic course for their new country.