

(A), the holder of the guarantee shall exhaust all reasonable possibilities of collection. Upon payment, in whole or in part, to the holder, the note or judgment evidencing the debt shall be assigned to the United States and the holder shall have no further claim against the borrower or the United States. The Secretary shall then take such action to collect as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

“(2) LIMITATIONS ON LIQUIDATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If a borrower defaults on a loan guaranteed under this section that involves a security interest in restricted Hawaiian Home Land property, the mortgagee or the Secretary shall only pursue liquidation after offering to transfer the account to another eligible Hawaiian family or to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

“(B) LIMITATION.—If, after action is taken under subparagraph (A), the mortgagee or the Secretary subsequently proceeds to liquidate the account, the mortgagee or the Secretary shall not sell, transfer, or otherwise dispose of or alienate the property described in subparagraph (A) except to another eligible Hawaiian family or to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

“(j) HAWAIIAN HOUSING LOAN GUARANTEE FUND.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States the Hawaiian Housing Loan Guarantee Fund for the purpose of providing loan guarantees under this section.

“(2) CREDITS.—The Guarantee Fund shall be credited with—

“(A) any amount, claims, notes, mortgages, contracts, and property acquired by the Secretary under this section, and any collections and proceeds therefrom;

“(B) any amounts appropriated pursuant to paragraph (7);

“(C) any guarantee fees collected under subsection (d); and

“(D) any interest or earnings on amounts invested under paragraph (4).

“(3) USE.—Amounts in the Guarantee Fund shall be available, to the extent provided in appropriations Acts, for—

“(A) fulfilling any obligations of the Secretary with respect to loans guaranteed under this section, including the costs (as that term is defined in section 502 of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661a)) of such loans;

“(B) paying taxes, insurance, prior liens, expenses necessary to make fiscal adjustment in connection with the application and transmittal of collections, and other expenses and advances to protect the Secretary for loans which are guaranteed under this section or held by the Secretary;

“(C) acquiring such security property at foreclosure sales or otherwise;

“(D) paying administrative expenses in connection with this section; and

“(E) reasonable and necessary costs of rehabilitation and repair to properties that the Secretary holds or owns pursuant to this section.

“(4) INVESTMENT.—Any amounts in the Guarantee Fund determined by the Secretary to be in excess of amounts currently required at the time of the determination to carry out this section may be invested in obligations of the United States.

“(5) LIMITATION ON COMMITMENTS TO GUARANTEE LOANS AND MORTGAGES.—

“(A) REQUIREMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS.—The authority of the Secretary to enter into commitments to guarantee loans under this section shall be effective for any fiscal year to the extent, or in such amounts as, are or have been provided in appropriations Acts, without regard to the fiscal year for which such amounts were appropriated.

“(B) LIMITATIONS ON COSTS OF GUARANTEES.—The authority of the Secretary to enter into commitments to guarantee loans under this section shall be effective for any fiscal year only to the extent that amounts in the Guarantee Fund are or have been made available in appropri-

ations Acts to cover the costs (as that term is defined in section 502 of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661a)) of such loan guarantees for such fiscal year. Any amounts appropriated pursuant to this subparagraph shall remain available until expended.

“(C) LIMITATION ON OUTSTANDING AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT.—Subject to the limitations in subparagraphs (A) and (B), the Secretary may enter into commitments to guarantee loans under this section for each of fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003 with an aggregate outstanding principal amount not exceeding \$100,000,000 for each such fiscal year.

“(6) LIABILITIES.—All liabilities and obligations of the assets credited to the Guarantee Fund under paragraph (2)(A) shall be liabilities and obligations of the Guarantee Fund.

“(7) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Guarantee Fund to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003.

“(k) REQUIREMENTS FOR STANDARD HOUSING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, by regulation, establish housing safety and quality standards to be applied for use under this section.

“(2) STANDARDS.—The standards referred to in paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) provide sufficient flexibility to permit the use of various designs and materials in housing acquired with loans guaranteed under this section; and

“(B) require each dwelling unit in any housing acquired in the manner described in subparagraph (A) to—

“(i) be decent, safe, sanitary, and modest in size and design;

“(ii) conform with applicable general construction standards for the region in which the housing is located;

“(iii) contain a plumbing system that—

“(I) uses a properly installed system of piping;

“(II) includes a kitchen sink and a partitioned bathroom with lavatory, toilet, and bath or shower; and

“(III) uses water supply, plumbing, and sewage disposal systems that conform to any minimum standards established by the applicable county or State;

“(iv) contain an electrical system using wiring and equipment properly installed to safely supply electrical energy for adequate lighting and for operation of appliances that conforms to any appropriate county, State, or national code;

“(v) be not less than the size provided under the applicable locally adopted standards for size of dwelling units, except that the Secretary, upon request of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands may waive the size requirements under this paragraph; and

“(vi) conform with the energy performance requirements for new construction established by the Secretary under section 526(a) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C.A. 1735f-4), unless the Secretary determines that the requirements are not applicable.

“(l) APPLICABILITY OF CIVIL RIGHTS STATUTES.—To the extent that the requirements of title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) or of title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.) apply to a guarantee provided under this subsection, nothing in the requirements concerning discrimination on the basis of race shall be construed to prevent the provision of the guarantee to an eligible entity on the basis that the entity serves Native Hawaiian families or is a Native Hawaiian family.”

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee substitute be agreed to, the bill be considered read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements re-

lating to the bill appear at this point in the RECORD.

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

The committee substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 109), as amended, was considered read the third time and passed.

IDEA FUNDING

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President I would like to make a few brief comments about the IDEa program within this bill, a program that I think is imperative to our nation's biomedical research capability. I would also like to engage in a brief dialog with the Minority Leader, Senator DASCHLE, on this important issue.

The National Institutes of Health Institutional Development Award program—known as the IDEa program—builds additional research capacity and is an important part of our effort to better treat, cure and prevent disease by addressing the undue geographic concentration of research funds. IDEa works to increase our nation's biomedical research capability by broadening our country's research base. IDEa funds biomedical research in states that have not participated substantially in NIH research programs.

Mr. President, many scientists are concerned about the extreme geographic concentration of NIH research funds. In Fiscal Year 1995, for example, the NIH made \$9.3 billion in extramural awards. Mr. President, the 24 states that participate in the IDEa program received just 5.2 percent of those funds. Let me repeat: in FY95, the last year for which we have complete figures, the NIH awarded funds across this nation totaling \$9.3 billion. But all the researchers in the 24 IDEa states combined received only \$487 million of that. On the other hand, one state alone received nearly three times the total amount of those 24 states combined. The top 5 states received nearly one-half the NIH funds.

Let me be clear, Mr. President, that the concern here is not one of a parochial nature. Nobody is saying that the NIH ought to distribute funding evenly by states. But at a time when we are seeing substantial increases in the NIH research budget, we need to increase the capacity of every region of the country—not just of a handful of states.

IDEa has potential to be an important part of our efforts to build our biomedical research capacity, but it has not received the level of funding it needs to truly be effective. The FY99 NIH budget request was \$14.76 billion. Of that amount—well over \$14 billion—the NIH requested just \$5.2 million for the IDEa program. The bill before us includes \$10 million for IDEa, which is a start—but in my view not enough to accomplish the goal for which the program was intended. I thank the Chairman of the Subcommittee, Senator

SPECTER, for the support he has given IDeA thus far, but I believe we can and should do more next year.

Mr. President, I would ask the Minority Leader, Senator DASCHLE, if he would like to add anything to what I have said.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I thank the Majority Leader for his comments, and I share the Senator's concern about the concentration of NIH funds. I, too, ask if next year we can't find more than \$10 million for this program—\$10 million that will be split among researchers in 24 states.

I would also like to explain briefly why I believe IDeA ought to be funded at a much higher level. Mr. President, IDeA funds only merit-based, peer reviewed research that meets NIH research objectives. Let me state that another way: IDeA funds only good science, and it is in no way an earmarked program specific to a specific disease or disease-related issue. Researchers from the 24 IDeA states can submit proposals to any one of a number of existing NIH funding mechanisms, and those proposals are then peer-reviewed and funding decisions are made based on merit.

Mr. President, I think the statistics the Majority Leader mentioned regarding the extreme geographic concentration of NIH research funds are eye-opening. I think many members of the Senate would be surprised to learn that nearly one-half of NIH extramural funds go to just five states, and that 24 IDeA states combined received just over 5% of NIH extramural funding in FY95. In fact, the Majority leader and I were joined by 24 of our colleagues in the Senate in sending a letter to the Subcommittee Chairman, Senator SPECTER, supporting \$100 million for IDeA in FY99.

To put that request in perspective, Mr. President, the final FY99 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education appropriation before us increases NIH funding by \$2 billion. In other words, a \$100 million IDeA program would have designated five percent of one year's increase for this program which funds competitive, peer-reviewed research in 24 states. The conferees did include \$10 million for IDeA—an increase from the FY98 funding level of \$5 million—and I thank Senator SPECTER for his support. Because this program is so important, I will continue to encourage the Chairman to increase IDeA funding next year and in the years that follow.

Mr. LOTT. I thank the Minority Leader for his remarks, and I look forward continuing to work with him to significantly increase IDeA funding next year.

THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION REFORM ACT

Mr. STEVENS. I would like to ask the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Environment and Public Works a question regarding S.

2364, the Economic Development Administration Reform Act, which passed the Senate on Monday. As they are aware, the State of Alaska, while rich in resources, also has communities that suffer serious economic distress. EDA assistance can make a difference to many of these communities. Thus I am pleased to support the efforts of my friends to reauthorize this important agency; and indeed, I am a cosponsor of this bill.

Let me ask specifically about an issue that is very important to Alaskans, especially those in Southeast Alaska. Under this bill, EDA programs are available to aid distressed communities with both public works and economic adjustment assistance. In Southeast Alaska, many communities have faced economic adjustment problems, such as high unemployment, as a result of Federal regulatory changes with regard to timber harvests. If these communities meet the definition of "distressed" as outlined in the bill, would a situation such as theirs qualify as eligible for EDA assistance?

Mr. CHAFEE. Yes, we expect it would. The situation the Senator describes is exactly the type of situation that we would expect could be addressed by EDA. In fact, I would direct the senator's attention to the bill's new Section 2(a)(1), which specifically references areas that are affected by Federal actions. The language notes as possible distressed areas those that suffer dislocation as a result of "certain Federal actions (including environmental requirements that result in the removal of economic activities from a locality)."

Mr. BAUCUS. I agree. In fact, many areas of the country, including Montana, face similar situations. We included that phrase intentionally to ensure that such distress may be addressed by EDA programs. It is our view, and it is a view shared by EDA officials, that such communities should be eligible to apply for EDA aid.

Mr. STEVENS. With regard to the criteria used to determine eligibility, Section 301(a)(3) refers to communities that experience special needs arising from severe unemployment or economic adjustment problems resulting from changes in economic conditions. Could my colleagues tell me whether EDA has flexibility in applying this criterion to areas—such as these timber-affected Alaskan communities—that are requesting EDA assistance?

Mr. CHAFEE. Section 301(a) sets the basic eligibility requirements for economically distressed areas. These criteria are intended to ensure that EDA assistance is targeted to truly distressed communities. The third criterion, which you mention, is intended to allow the necessary flexibility to address other situations of serious distress that, for a number of reasons, may not fulfill the first two criteria but that clearly would be considered by the Secretary and Congress as deserving of assistance. Thus, the bill before

us provides the Secretary with sufficient flexibility in this regard.

Mr. BAUCUS. Again, I agree. We recognized that flexibility is required to ensure that EDA may address the varied causes and types of economic distress nationwide. Therefore, in his efforts to ensure that EDA assistance go to the communities of greatest distress, the Secretary is allowed some flexibility in making determinations for awards of assistance under this Act.

Mr. STEVENS. I thank my colleagues for making these important clarifications.

LINDA MORGAN AND THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, in the closing days of the 105th Congress, it appears that S. 1802, a bill to reauthorize the Surface Transportation Board, may not be enacted into law. I hope that the STB is not penalized in any way for the failure of Congress to enact S. 1802. In fact, I want my colleagues to know that Linda Morgan, the current chairman of the STB, is well respected within the Senate on both sides of the aisle. She was a valued member of the staff of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation for several years. The work ethic, honesty and balance that she demonstrated as a member of the Committee's professional staff have been evidenced also at the STB.

Linda Morgan and her staff have handled a significant number of complex matters in a timely, thorough manner despite very limited resources. Just one example of the Board's evenhanded approach is the exhaustive review of the acquisition of Conrail by CSX and Norfolk Southern. This transaction will yield significant competitive and environmental benefits, not only in Kentucky but throughout the Eastern United States. The Board's evenhanded, professional approach in reviewing this major transaction and assessing the public benefits is indicative of the excellent work that Chairman Morgan and the Board have done since its creation.

As a result, I support S. 1802 and hope that the bill could still become law before the conclusion of the 105th Congress. Also, I urge the Administration to renominate Ms. Morgan for an additional term as Chairman of the STB. She is a proven, well-qualified public servant, and she has earned the opportunity to complete the work that she has started.

PROVIDING INFORMATION ABOUT THE SENATE

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, today, an enhanced Virtual Tour of the United States was published on the U.S. Senate web server. This enhanced tour uses state-of-the-art technology to combine high quality graphics with still pictures to provide information about historical events, rooms, and works of art in the Senate.