

total darkness that loomed over New Orleans, allowing them to identify downed power lines, vertical obstructions, and citizens requiring assistance.

That is why I repeatedly urged the administration and the Congress, for the last 4 years, to increase the funding for this program immediately and why I successfully fought to include a report on the possibility of accelerating the Deepwater program from a 20-to-25-year program to a 10-year program in the Homeland Security bill.

The fact is, by reducing the duration of implementation for the program, the Coast Guard could receive these vital assets 10 to 15 years sooner, and not a moment too soon in my book. We cannot forget that ships are not constructed in weeks or months. They take years to design and fabricate.

Now, only one national security cutter is in fabrication. The offshore patrol cutter is not in production, and the fast response cutter remains in the design phase. So we must act now.

Moreover, the unequivocal findings of the report I required was acceleration of the Deepwater program is not only feasible, it would also save the American taxpayers a billion dollars in total acquisition costs.

So, I ask, what exactly is there not to get? By accelerating the Deepwater program, we would provide desperately-needed updated equipment to this premier security and search and rescue service, while saving taxpayer money, not to mention ultimately saving lives. Simply put, it defies the laws of common sense to not implement Deepwater as soon as possible.

That is why I have recently sent the appropriations committee a letter, urging them to increase the funding for Deepwater in this year's Homeland Security appropriations bill. Specifically, in the Senate version of the Coast Guard's authorization bill, we authorize \$1.1 billion to be appropriated for Deepwater. This level will keep the Coast Guard on the proper road to guide them toward a modern maritime fleet of cutters and aircraft, able to perform their vital missions in the 21st century.

It is critically important we not only provide the level of funding but we also ensure that we accelerate the Deepwater acquisition program to 10 to 15 years as absolutely vital and essential.

So I hope we would be able to also release from the Senate the Coast Guard authorization legislation that allows for the increased funding, that allows for this process to continue and, in addition, to get the higher amount of the appropriations and to get the acceleration of the Deepwater program.

That is what I ask, that we release the Coast Guard authorization bill that is bottled up in the Senate. We need to remove all of the excuses and allow this process to go forward for the service that has conducted itself so courageously and heroically during the course of Hurricane Katrina.

In visiting with the men and women of the various Coast Guard stations, in

New Orleans as well as the station in Gulfport, MS, I can tell you not one was complaining—not one. In fact, one admiral said, you know, we have just been telling you some of the obstacles we had to overcome to do our job, and we will do it no matter what, no matter the circumstance. We are asking you not to use it as a rationale to defer the needed repairs, maintenance, and the new equipment for the future because we don't know what is in the future when it comes to unforeseeable events. We cannot predict. We did not predict 9/11. We predicted Hurricane Katrina. Look what happened. It was the Coast Guard that performed that mission. But we have to make sure that the Coast Guard receives the funding it requires in the future in order to enable it to respond as it did during the course of Hurricane Katrina. We cannot build ships nor aircraft overnight. It takes several years to get these ships in the pipeline.

So unless we get the authorization bill out of the Senate and out of the entire Congress that we have been urging for months to get done, to have an accelerating program, to get the appropriations that are essential, that cannot happen. So I am pleading with the Senate, pleading with the Congress to do what is right for this magnificent agency that is, by the way, on the frontlines for protecting us and our homeland security, one of the greatest problems of which, as you know, is the transshipment of weapons of mass destruction.

The Coast Guard is also essential and a vital component in protecting our homeland.

They are a multimission agency. They are asked, as I said earlier, to do so much with so little. And even as they are performing down there in the gulf, they didn't ignore their other responsibilities—because of homeland security—for keeping the waterways open, which they have now done in the gulf, because it is important we continue the commerce, the interdiction of drugs; as a matter of fact, even over the weekend, providing the humanitarian assistance that is so vital, cleaning up the oil spills and the pollution that has occurred. As I showed you in a previous chart, as we have seen here in the active response that they have provided in so many areas, because of the spill of oil that is polluting the area and contaminating the water, that has complicated the task of the cleanup. You can't ask the Agency to do more in addition to the saving of 33,000 lives. When I talked to the rescue swimmers and the pilots, I asked them what was the greatest challenge and they said: You know, we were overwhelmed, we were overwhelmed because we had so many people to rescue, and we feel we are doing nothing in a day when we are rescuing 15 individuals—under, as you can imagine, some very difficult and dire circumstances.

I ask my colleagues, what more does the Coast Guard have to do to prove its

immense value to America? After the service's heroic and well planned efforts in responding to Hurricane Katrina, they have clearly and convincingly shown that all Americans are well served by the United States Coast Guard.

Therefore, I am proud to send this resolution to the desk for consideration in the Senate, which gives recognition to the valiant work of the Coast Guard. The resolution also notes the necessity of improving the Coast Guard's aging fleet of ships and aircraft. I hope all of my colleagues can support this resolution.

Now is the time for us in the Congress to fully recognize the importance of the Coast Guard and provide the service with the assets it needs to do the job now and into the future. The time has come, it is now our responsibility and our solemn duty to ensure it has the resources needed in order to serve the citizens of the United States for decades to come and I hope my colleagues will join me in that effort.

It is vital because they are on the frontlines. They responded magnificently, and they should be recognized and rewarded and applauded for the job they have done and the job they will continue to do in the future. I thank the Chair.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Will the Senator yield to me for a request.

Ms. SNOWE. Yes, I am happy to yield.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Will the Senator allow me to be a cosponsor of her resolution?

Ms. SNOWE. Yes, I will be happy to.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I compliment her for her forceful words on the Coast Guard, and I wish to align myself with them, as I fully believe in the remarks of the Senator.

Ms. SNOWE. I am delighted to add my colleague, the Senator from Maryland, as a cosponsor. She has been an ardent advocate and supporter of the Coast Guard. I thank the Senator.

I ask unanimous consent to add the Senator from Maryland as a cosponsor of this resolution.

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

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1770. Mr. CRAPO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1771. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1772. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1773. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, supra.

to the bill H.R. 2744, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1842. Mr. BROWNBACK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1843. Mr. BROWNBACK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1844. Mr. DAYTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, supra.

SA 1845. Mr. DAYTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1846. Mr. MARTINEZ (for himself and Mr. NELSON of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1847. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1848. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1790 submitted by Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. CORZINE) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 2744, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1849. Mr. KOHL (for Mr. DODD) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 1818 submitted by Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. REED, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. LIEBERMAN) to the bill H.R. 2744, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1770. Mr. CRAPO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 85, line 15, strike "\$128,072,000" and insert "\$127,072,000".

On page 173, line 18, strike "\$2,000,000" and insert "\$3,000,000".

On page 173, line 19, insert ", Idaho," after "Utah".

SA 1771. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 93, line 26, strike "\$652,231,000" and insert "\$545,500,000".

SA 1772. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 173, after line 24, insert the following:

SEC. 7. Each amount made available for discretionary programs under the heading "COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION SERVICE" under the heading

"AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS" in title I shall be reduced on a pro rata basis by 10 percent.

SA 1773. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 122, line 24, strike "\$653,102,000" and insert "\$610,754,560".

SA 1774. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 93, line 19, strike "\$160,645,000" and insert "\$64,800,000".

SA 1775. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . Any limitation, directive, or earmarking contained in either the House of Representatives or Senate report accompanying H.R. 2744 shall also be included in the conference report or joint statement accompanying H.R. 2744 in order to be considered as having been approved by both Houses of Congress.

SA 1776. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 134, line 17, strike "\$40,711,395,000" and insert "\$38,887,524,504".

SA 1777. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 173, after line 24, insert the following:

SEC. 7. No Federal funds may be appropriated under this Act to the Department of Agriculture until the date on which a risk assessment process is initiated in accordance with the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 (31 U.S.C. 3321 note; Public Law 107-300) for—

(1) the school lunch program established under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.);

(2) the school breakfast program established by section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773);

(3) the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children established by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786); and

(4) the marketing assistance loan and loan deficiency payment program under subtitle B of title I of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 7931 et seq.).

SA 1778. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 173, after line 24, insert the following:

SEC. 7. No Federal funds may be appropriated under this Act to the Department of Agriculture until the date on which a risk assessment process is initiated in accordance with the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 (31 U.S.C. 3321 note; Public Law 107-300) for—

(1) the rural rental assistance program established under section 521 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490a); and

(2) each program established or funded under the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 7901 et seq.).

SA 1779. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 173, after line 24, insert the following:

SEC. 7. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, each amount provided by this Act for a discretionary program is reduced by 5 percent pro rata.

SA 1780. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 173, after line 24, insert the following:

SEC. 7. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, each amount provided by this Act is reduced by 5 percent pro rata.

SA 1781. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 173, after line 24, insert the following:

SEC. 7. No Federal funds may be appropriated under this Act to the Department of Agriculture until the date on which a risk assessment process is initiated in accordance with the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 (31 U.S.C. 3321 note; Public Law 107-300) for—