are there, it is the economy, the infrastructure of the economy we are protecting and supporting. Whether it is fisheries, transportation, navigation, 10,000 miles of pipeline, to keep the lights on and provide gas and electric, the rest of that infrastructure—that comes from here, as do petrochemicals that help to make many of the products that we manufacture in this country better and safer for human use. That happens along the southern great delta.

That is why we fought so hard for this bill. I want to end by saying I commend Senator BOXER, my colleague from California, for making this a priority. I thank our leader, HARRY REID. It has always been something that WRA has passed and Louisiana cannot wait another month, let alone another year.

There is a hurricane season literally right around the corner in June. This is the anniversary of May. People are still on pins and needles wondering whether the levees that we have reconstructed and fixed are going to hold for this next hurricane season. They are most certainly looking with great anticipation, and some anxieties, too, if this Congress will act.

I know there are some amendments that are going to be laid down complaining about some aspects of this bill, but I thank Senator BOXER, and I thank Senator INHOVEN for his attention to the needs of Louisiana, and I thank this Congress for responding so generously and so quickly. Senator VITTER and I do have several amendments we would like to discuss later tomorrow, which will impact some things from our perspective. But we most certainly understand and appreciate the great work that has gone into this underlying bill.

The bill needs to pass now. It lays a foundation for the long-term recovery and restoration of this great delta. Some expense will be borne by the Federal Government, which is absolutely appropriate since the benefits go all over the world through the river systems and the other infrastructure, economic infrastructure that exists. And some of the costs will be borne, as it should be, by the people who call Louisiana home and call Calcasieu Parish or Cameron or Vermillion or Iberia, Orleans, Plaquemines, Saint Bernard, Saint Tammany, et cetera, home.

We are happy to make our own contributions to this effort. We love our home. We love where we live. We have to make it safe, and we have to be able to restore these wetlands and build better levees that do not fail and do not break in the middle of these storms.

We cannot stop the storms, but we most certainly can mitigate against the damage and use better science, better engineering, and, frankly, better leadership in this Congress to make sure the tragedies that happen in Katrina and Rita do not repeat themselves.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that any cloture filed tomorrow on amendments 1097 and 1098 be considered as having been filed prior to the motion to proceed to S. 1348.

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

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate resumes consideration of H.R. 1495 on Tuesday, May 15, the time until 11:45 a.m. be for debate with respect to the Coburn amendment No. 1099, with the time equally divided and controlled between Senators BOXER and COBURN or their designees; that at 11:45 a.m., the Senate vote in relation to the amendment, with no intervening amendment in order prior to the vote.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NATIONAL MILITARY SPOUSES APPRECIATION DAY

Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, May 11, 2007, was National Military Spouses Day. Oftentimes, those who are, as the saying goes, "married to the military" are not recognized for the support they provide and sacrifice they endure during the time of their spouses' active duty service. Certainly when a member is deployed, but throughout a military member's career, the strength and support of a wife or husband can make the difference between success or failure for that individual and his family. Military spouses endure the hardship of separation from loved ones, frequently take on the role of a single parent, and move through a military member's career with integrity and common sense, reflecting the deep Idaho agriculture roots.

Claud found the time in his busy schedule to write a book about his family, and compile a scrapbook about the Clearwater County Extension and 4-H. We are proud of and have always known Claud as a consensus-builder who put the needs of his constituents first. He focused on results and was known to care little for the politics that cause party line divisions. He represented the Idaho State Legislature with integrity and common sense, reflecting his deep Idaho agriculture roots.

My wife and I join other Idahoans in mourning this great loss to our State, and we offer our most sincere condolences to Elvita and the family.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niand, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2082. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2206. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations and additional supplemental appropriations for agricultural
and other emergency assistance for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2206. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations and additional supplemental appropriations for agricultural and rural development programs, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2082. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for intelligence and related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2206. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations and additional supplemental appropriations for agricultural and rural development programs, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-43. A joint resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the Province of Michigan expressing opposition to the proposed sale of its rail lines from Ypsilanti to Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids to Kalamazoo. The Ypsilanti to Kalamazoo line caries the state’s busiest high-speed Amtrak train, the Wolverine, which travels from Detroit to Chicago. The Wolverine travels on the Norfolk Southern Railroad’s rail corridor from Ypsilanti to Kalamazoo until it connects with Amtrak’s own line. Ridership on this line increased six percent in 2006 to 142,185 passengers; and

Resolved, That the residents of the State of Michigan recognize the outstanding work being done locally and nationally by the Community Development Block Grant program by supporting increased funding for the program in fiscal year 2008; and it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable George W. Miller, Senator from the United States, to the President of the Senate of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States, and to each member of the Michigan Congressional Delegation.

POM-85. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan urging Congress to restore funding for the Weatherization Assistance Program in fiscal year 2008 and to consider increasing future funding for this important federal program to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 36

Whereas, the Federal Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), created in 1976 during the nation’s oil crisis and administered by the United States Department of Energy (DOE), provides funding to states to operate programs that pay for weatherization improvements for low-income households; weatherization refers to a wide variety of measures and technologies, such as weather stripping, caulking, insulation, and energy-efficient appliances that reduce the building’s energy consumption. The WAP is the country’s longest running and perhaps most successful energy-efficiency program. During the last 30 years, the WAP has provided weatherization services to more than 5.5 million low-income families; and

Whereas, the WAP is a proven and effective program that helps not only low-income households, but the nation as a whole. The WAP empowers low-income families by enabling them to reduce energy costs and take responsibility for their energy bills. Weatherization reduces heating bills by an average of 31 percent. Low-income families receiving WAP services commonly pay from $200 to $300 each year in energy costs. In addition to the direct benefits that low-income families receive, a recent study by Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) documents a multitude of indirect benefits to local economies, the nation’s energy security, and the environment. These benefits include job creation, increased property values, reduced national energy consumption, and a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by an average of one ton per weatherized house. The ORNL study concludes that for each $1 of investment in the WAP program, the nation receives $3.71 worth of benefits. Surely, no other program receives such bang for its buck; and

Whereas, the effectiveness of the WAP program is threatened by recent DOE funding decisions. The DOE reduced the Fiscal Year 2007 budget for the WAP by about 16 percent or about $38 million less than it was a year ago. Local communities and state weatherization directors throughout the nation were dismayed by this decision; and

Whereas, under the Fiscal Year 2007 budget, Michigan is receiving almost $2 million less than it did a year ago, and it could not have come at a worse time. The state is suffering through disturbingly high unemployment rates and a weakened economy and is in the midst of its most devastating and prolonged economic downturn since the Great Depression. Losing support in WAP funds and the associated job stimulus that WAP generally provides is a hard pill for the state to swallow; and

Whereas, as the Fiscal Year 2008 federal budget is hammered out, the WAP program should be recognized for its immense effectiveness rather than having its budget slashed. Clearly, it is fiscally wise to invest in the energy-saving WAP program; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we express opposition to Norfolk Southern Corporation’s proposed sale of its rail lines from Ypsilanti to Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids to Kalamazoo. The Ypsilanti to Kalamazoo line caries the state’s busiest high-speed Amtrak train, the Wolverine, which travels from Detroit to Chicago. The Wolverine travels on the Norfolk Southern Railroad’s rail corridor from Ypsilanti to Kalamazoo until it connects with Amtrak’s own line. Ridership on this line increased six percent in 2006 to 142,185 passengers; and

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Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate; the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; members of the Michigan congressional delegation; the United States Department of Transportation; Surface Transportation Board; the Michigan Department of Transportation; the Norfolk Southern Corporation; and the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Resolved, That we express opposition to Norfolk Southern Corporation’s proposed sale of its rail lines from Ypsilanti to Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids to Kalamazoo and continuing to the Indiana border; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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