

Texas, but the hurricane was so big; it was over 600 miles wide. While it was not a category 4 or 5, it was a massive storm that really flooded parts of Mississippi, almost all of south Louisiana, and Texas.

I see my colleague, the chairman of the committee, coming to the floor. I will at this point yield for just a few moments, as I think they have come to some agreement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan is recognized.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
S. 3001

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, let me first thank our dear friend from Louisiana for allowing this interruption. It is a very important presentation.

In a moment, I am going to propound a unanimous consent request. Before doing that, there has been a lot of inquiry as to whether a managers' package is included in this. It is not. It has been unable to be cleared on the other side, so it is not included in this unanimous consent request, so that everybody understands it.

I now ask unanimous consent that at 6:30 p.m., morning business be closed; that after the bill is reported, all postcloture time be yielded back, the first and second-degree amendment be withdrawn, the bill then be read a third time, and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill; that upon passage, it then be in order for the Senate to consider, en bloc, the following calendar items: Nos. 733, 734, and 735; that all after the enacting clause of each bill be stricken and the following divisions of S. 3001, as passed by the Senate, be inserted as follows: Division A, S. 3002; Division B, S. 3003; Division C, S. 3004; that these bills be read a third time, passed, and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table, en bloc; further, that the considering of these items appear separately in the RECORD.

Further—and this is what I am going to call the second half of this unanimous consent request—the Senate then proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 758, H.R. 5658, the House companion, that all after the enacting clause be stricken and the text of S. 3001, as amended and passed by the Senate, be inserted in lieu thereof; the bill be read a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that the title amendment which is at the desk be considered and agreed to; that upon passage of H.R. 5658, as amended, the Senate insist on its amendments, request a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses, the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees without further intervening action or debate, and that no points of order be considered waived by virtue of this agreement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, reserving the right to object, and I shall

object, but before doing so, finally, I would like to say to my colleague and Senators on both sides of the aisle, under the leadership of yourself, Mr. Chairman, and to some extent my participation as the acting ranking member and certainly the members of our committee and staff—we have all worked very diligently to achieve a bill. The particular request my distinguished colleague has put to the Senate, to which I shall object, really refers to those items we were unable to reconcile procedurally in the course of some several days of deliberation beginning, perhaps, as early as last Thursday. We were here Friday. We were here Monday and Tuesday. We were unable to achieve the reconciliation. There were objections, I say absolutely candidly and frankly and factually, on both sides. So it is not as if one side has weighed down the other, in my judgment. It has been the inability to reconcile differences between the Senators. I have been here 30 years. I have seen it happen before. It will happen many years after I leave.

At this time, I point out that the cloud seems dark, but the silver lining is that a group of us, 61 in number, voted for cloture. That enabled us to be here at this moment, and there will be a bill at some point in time. There will be an armed services bill by the Senate. I hope it will be favorably acted upon by a majority.

At this time, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, let me first thank my dear friend from Virginia. He is accurate in his statements about differences not being able to be resolved in terms of a number of amendments which we had hoped to get to votes. My statement referred only to a managers' package on which we had cleared about 100 amendments. That is the one I made reference to before.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT
AGREEMENT—S. 3001

Mr. LEVIN. Given that objection to our going to conference, I now ask unanimous consent that at 6:30 p.m., morning business be closed; that after the bill is reported, all postcloture time be yielded back, the first- and second-degree amendment be withdrawn, the bill be then read a third time, and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill; that upon passage, it then be in order for the Senate to consider en bloc the following calendar items: Nos. 733, 734, and 735; that all after the enacting clause of each bill be stricken and the following divisions of S. 3001 as passed by the Senate be inserted as follows: Division A, S. 3002; Division B, S. 3003; and Division C, S. 3004; that these bills be read a third time, passed, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; further, that the consideration of these items appear separately in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I join in making that request. There is no objection on this side.

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

Mr. LEVIN. I will again thank my friend for all of his efforts on this bill. He has been, as always, a highly constructive force. We could not even be this far without his great support. I am indebted to him and the Senate is indebted to him, I hope, and the Nation again is indebted to Senator WARNER.

Again, I thank our good friend from Louisiana. We have interrupted her for a little longer than I promised.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, if I might just add, I thank my distinguished colleague and friend for the 30 years we have been together. I am certain this institution will carry on just as well without me—and perhaps even a little bit better. But I have enjoyed our working together these many years. I stop to think, you and I having been here the same number of years, we have served with 273 different Senators in that period of time. I have enjoyed it. I don't know of any relationship, either professional or even simply friendship, that I have enjoyed and profited from more than working with you, Senator. I wish you well as you carry on with this committee.

Madam President, I do want to thank the staff of the Senate Armed Services Committee. I have here with me Michael Kostiw, William Caniano, David Morriss, David Collins, Sandy Luff of my personal staff, Marie Dickinson, Paul Hutton, Gergory Kiley, Lucian Niemeyer, Christopher Paul, Lynn Rusten, Robert Soofer, Diana Tabler, and Richard Walsh.

I know my staff would want me to say—and I say it—we have enjoyed working with the majority staff.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana is recognized.

STORM DISASTERS

Ms. LANDRIEU. I see several other colleagues are here on the floor to speak, maybe on this subject or another, so I will say I will reserve for myself another 5 minutes and be finished with my remarks.

I was speaking about the hurricane damage throughout really the southern part of the United States. I do not have the figures from Florida or from Mississippi or Alabama, but we are turning in our figures from Louisiana. Again, I remind my colleagues and the Nation, Fay hit the gulf coast; it hit Florida but devastated parts of the gulf coast and many interior parts of the southeastern part of the United States, with heavy rains and flooding on August 18. Then we had Hurricane Gustav on September 1, which slammed into Louisiana and did a tremendous amount of wind damage to parishes such as Point Coupee and Rapides and Avoyelles Parish—parishes about which you don't hear very much because they are not coastal parishes, but the wind damage

was very substantial, all the way up to the northern parts of Louisiana. Much like Katrina, it affected the northern parts of Mississippi, although it was a great flooding event down South. These storms are getting very big and very powerful. Then, of course, Hurricane Ike hitting again the Texas coast, right into Galveston, right up the Houston Ship Channel, doing terrible devastation to our friends in Texas. But again the flooding was substantial along the coastal States.

Let me just put up this chart you have seen before. These are the pipelines that support America's energy coast. This is Louisiana's coast. This is Mississippi's coast. This is the Mobile Bay and, of course, the panhandle of Florida. This is the Texas coast. These two storms, Gustav and Ike, hit right here in this region, in the center part of America's energy coast, and wreaked havoc in terms of flooding and wind damage. Again, that has gone up through Louisiana and to other parts of the coastal States.

This is just another example from Lake Charles of the water damage in communities tucked well in from the coast. This is wind damage in that same area that can show you some of the wind damage our people are experiencing.

Because my time is short, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter from the Governor of Louisiana outlining some of our priorities.

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

STATE OF LOUISIANA,
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
Baton Rouge, September 13, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
House Minority Leader, U.S. Capitol,
Washington, DC.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Senate Majority Leader, U.S. Capitol,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Senate Minority Leader, U.S. Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI, LEADER REID, LEADER BOEHNER, AND LEADER MCCONNELL: For nearly two weeks, hundreds of thousands of Louisiana residents have been without power, clean water, and other necessities. Millions of Louisianians were forced to evacuate their homes before Hurricane Gustav struck, and many have still been unable to return. The stress placed on communities, from a lack of electricity hampering people's ability to work and provide for their family, to being split up from loved ones, to a variety of other difficulties, has been enormous.

The economic impact has also been significant. With various bills to increase our domestic energy production under consideration, we strongly urge you to consider additional measures to ensure the resiliency of the nation's top producer of safe, secure domestic energy. Louisiana produces 22.2 percent of domestic crude oil and 10.5 percent of natural gas in the United States. As evidenced in recent spikes in fuel prices, our nation is vulnerable to disruption to Louisiana's energy production. In addition to en-

ergy production, an estimated 25 percent of North America's seafood is produced off of Louisiana's coasts. These industries along with other essential Louisiana economic drivers were critically impaired due to the destruction caused by Hurricane Gustav.

On September 1, 2008, Hurricane Gustav made landfall on Louisiana's coast with strong 110 mph winds following a northwest path into central Louisiana, causing widespread physical damage, power outages, and/or flooding across the vast majority of parishes in Louisiana. The storm caused a power outage that left two-thirds of the state's commercial and residential facilities without electricity. Estimates suggest Hurricane Gustav's economic losses total \$7-15 billion including \$4.5-10 billion in total property damage and \$2.5-5.0 billion in lost economic activity. Thousands of employees were displaced and roughly 97,000 employers in Louisiana (80 percent of total employers in the state) suffered business interruption economic losses. Many of these are small businesses still struggling to recover from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Louisiana, still recovering from the 2005 hurricanes and facing further damages from Hurricane Ike, requests assistance in upcoming stimulus legislation or other legislative vehicles in Congress.

1. DESIGNATE 100% FEDERAL COST SHARE ON ALL FEMA CATEGORIES OF ASSISTANCE

The state has requested a 100% federal cost share on Individual Assistance to include Other Needs Assistance (ONA) and all other individual assistance programs, and Public Assistance categories A through G, to include Direct Federal Assistance. As you may recall, Congress provided for this assistance for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Many communities impacted by these storms are still recovering and do not have a restored tax base, and thus need this relief. In addition, we would like to work with you to evaluate FEMA regulatory policies that improve evacuation and reentry assistance. The threat of Gustav forced the evacuation of nearly two million Louisiana residents. The State was forced to evacuate 30,000 critical transportation-need residents, including 10,400 medical evacuations, which is the largest medical evacuation in U.S. history. The state was also left with 1.5 million cubic yards of debris from Hurricane Gustav along federal and state highways.

2. INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIR AND COASTAL RESTORATION

Coastal Louisiana is home to 1.2 million people and helps provide nearly 30 percent of the energy consumed in the United States. Hurricane Gustav interrupted access to these energy resources and infrastructure. Additionally, these storms caused significant damage to the communities in this coastal region and miles of coastal lands and wetlands. The state is requesting funding to repair and improve protection to the 100-year standard in south Louisiana. This would include the resources necessary to complete federally-authorized work in the Greater New Orleans area, Lafourche, Terrebonne, and to expedite delayed protection improvements in St. Mary parish and studies for southwest Louisiana. In addition, we request funds for the construction of federally-authorized coastal restoration projects designed to restore coastal lands lost as a result of hurricanes. It is critical that we provide comprehensive flood and hurricane protection, including both coastal restoration and levee protection, for Louisiana's entire coast.

Preliminary cost estimates for the repair of FHWA-eligible roads and bridges sustained as a result of Hurricane Gustav total \$160 million. Federal-aid highway damage es-

timates exceed \$125 million. While funding to address these damages is authorized under current law, the backlog associated with these needs may prevent the restoration or threaten the integrity of this critical infrastructure. A Presidential waiver of the \$100 million limit on FHWA Emergency Relief funding is requested along with a special appropriation from the General Fund to the FHWA Emergency Relief program for Louisiana and other states facing disaster-related damages. Further, Congress should provide emergency funds to the Corps of Engineers for dredging the critical navigation channels that were impacted by the hurricane. The Mississippi River, Atchafalaya River, Calcasieu Ship Channel and other critical waterways are vital to the country's energy supply and maritime commerce affecting nearly every state.

While the majority of public infrastructure repairs will be covered by FEMA programs, it is known from experience with the 2005 storms that there will be certain costs of repair deemed ineligible for FEMA funding. The state requests \$100 million in Community Development Block Grants to develop a fund to cover the full repair of key infrastructure and public facilities.

3. AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Louisiana is one of the top domestic producers of sugarcane within the United States, and second in both rice production and international rice exports. Hurricane Gustav crippled all segments of agriculture throughout Louisiana. Many Louisiana producers sustained uninsured losses and will not be eligible for Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments as currently structured. The hurricane has also caused catastrophic flooding and widespread wind damage for the state's cattle industry, which is still recovering from losing over 20,000 cattle from the 2005 storms. In addition, Louisiana's seafood industry accounts for more than 25 percent of the catch in the nation. Funds are needed to help offset the loss of this product, increased production costs and damage to storage and fishing facilities.

4. ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Hurricane Gustav severely impacted our state's overall economy and many small businesses through widespread physical damage, power outages, and/or short-term population displacement across the vast majority of the state. Based on preliminary estimates, Hurricane Gustav's economic impact totals \$7-15 billion. Moreover, many small businesses wounded by Hurricane Gustav had not yet recovered from damage previously inflicted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005.

The state proposes implementing a comprehensive business recovery plan that addresses immediate and near-term working capital needs and accelerates economic development during the recovery period and beyond. Suggested recovery options include: business recovery bridge loans, an extension of existing GO Zone bonus depreciation deadlines, an additional allocation of Gulf Opportunity Zone bonds targeted at parishes impacted by Gustav, and technical assistance for impacted small businesses. Similar assistance was provided after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to help small businesses and their employees get back on their feet.

5. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND READINESS

Every critical disaster demonstrates gaps in the existing system of preparedness, and identifies areas of critical needs to improve the response to future storms. Local governments have prioritized (1) prisoner transportation and evacuation planning, (2) watercraft accessibility, (3) enhanced fixed

and mobile generator support, and (4) communications as critical elements to enhancing disaster preparedness. In addition, the state is requesting \$100 million for law enforcement equipment and infrastructure repairs that will support both preparedness and recovery functions. Similar assistance was provided after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

6. HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL SERVICES DISASTER ASSISTANCE

The Louisiana Hospital Association estimates that the total financial and operational impact of Hurricane Gustav on Louisiana's hospitals is as much as \$302 million. The hospitals, many of which were still struggling with post-Katrina and Rita losses, have sustained reported losses of net revenue, and have incurred costs for incremental salary and labor, sheltering and evacuation, facility damage and debris removal, and other non-ordinary costs attributable to the storm. An adjustment of the Medicare Wage Index to address the higher cost of providing services after 2005 and 2008 hurricanes would provide significant relief and allow these institutions to continue administering critical medical services.

Additionally, the hospitals are requesting funding for hazard mitigation and remediation for hardening of facilities and upgrading of generator capabilities. It became apparent during the event that many hospitals could not maintain optimally safe environments with the current capacity of their generator systems. We are also deeply concerned about the lack of generator capacity in our state's nursing homes. Finally, the State of Louisiana is requesting \$50 million in SSBG funding to provide for mental health treatment, primary care medical services, and repair of damaged foster homes.

These priorities are among the many challenges still facing our state as we recover from Hurricane Gustav and do not represent an exhaustive list of recovery needs, especially as we still assess damages caused by Hurricane Ike. It is with great hope for the future of the people of Louisiana that we request this assistance and also request that it be included in the upcoming stimulus legislation or any other legislative spending vehicle. Lieutenant Governor Mitch Landrieu and Commissioner of Agriculture Mike Strain will be in Washington to discuss these important recovery needs with you and your staff.

Sincerely,

GOVERNOR BOBBY JINDAL,
State of Louisiana.
LT. GOVERNOR MITCH
LANDRIEU,
State of Louisiana.
COMMISSIONER OF
AGRICULTURE MIKE
STRAIN,
State of Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I have a number of the press accounts, and I will just read for the RECORD the headlines that are pouring into my office each day from newspapers around the State. This one:

Ike badly damages Rita-ruined region. Hurricane Ike's receding storm waters on Monday revealed a footprint of damage across coastal southwest Louisiana too similar and too soon after Hurricane Rita of 2005.

Storm report: Vermilion Parish sees tough road ahead.

Again, a Parish hard hit just 3 years ago.

Cameron Parish: "Still too much water."

These headlines are streaming into my office.

St. Mary Parish: Cypremort Point residents digging out of mud.

Barataria to pick up pieces.

St. John, St. Charles dig out, clean up.

16,000 people at Blackham Coliseum—waiting for help and assistance.

Gustav, Ike set record for power outages in Louisiana.

Finally, as my time draws near:

Storm update: Gustav's damage to Louisiana crops estimated at hundreds of millions of dollars.

I wish to say on behalf of my friend from Texas, we have some headlines we received in Louisiana about Galveston and about the billions in storm damage to our neighbors in Texas, because we have a situation that I hope our Congress will respond to before we leave here, some agricultural damage and storm damage for the Gulf Coast States, and also to reach back and pick up some of that damage we did not address in the Midwest floods.

I thank my colleagues for their understanding. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I know the Senator from Michigan is maybe doing so, but as I understand it, there was objection raised to the consideration of a managers' amendment regarding, I guess, 100 amendments. One of those amendments is a proposal of Senator SHELBY and I, along with a unanimous vote of our Banking Committee, after lengthy discussion. It was the Iran sanctions proposal, which took a lot of work and effort to put together.

This was a comprehensive package, widely endorsed across the country by organizations to give us the kind of leverage necessary for us to bring Iran to the negotiating table diplomatically to reduce the threat that their potential nuclear arsenal poses to us, our allies, the State of Israel and others.

I appreciate the fact that the managers of this bill had included this amendment in their managers' package. It would be a great travesty, in my view, for us to leave here having the other body having adopted similar language. This is the one opportunity for this body to embrace an economic sanctions proposal which would give us tremendous leverage in our efforts to bring Iran to that table.

To lose that opportunity would be a serious loss of opportunity for this country. So, again, my dear friend from Virginia was here. Therefore, on behalf of those of us on the committee, unanimously, the Dodd-Shelby Iran sanctions divestment nonproliferation amendment to the DOD authorization bill, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding any agreement with respect to S. 3001, it be in order for the Senate to consider amendment No. 5572 and that the amendment be considered and agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WARNER. Reserving the right to object, and I will object, I wish to advise the Senator that the vote to take place right now is on final passage. It has been agreed to by unanimous consent. Prior thereto, the distinguished chairman raised the question of the package to which you refer.

I, personally, approved of putting in the amendment. It had been my hope, I say it is now no longer my hope, my disappointment, that that could not be achieved along with about 100 other amendments from both sides of the aisle.

So at this time I have to object and ask the Chair for regular order for the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 3001, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3001) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Reid amendment No. 5290, to change the enactment date.

Reid amendment No. 5291 (to amendment No. 5290), of a perfecting nature.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today in support of the fiscal year 2009 Defense Authorization Act, a critical piece of legislation that honors the men and women who are so honorably serving in the Armed Forces and that provides our military with the tools it needs to keep our country safe.

I am most proud of the investments this legislation makes in our military's most important resource—the men and women who serve in uniform. Recognizing the strain multiple deployments and difficult economic times has placed on our troops and their families, this bill increases military pay by 3.9 percent.

This bill goes further to make sure that we keep our military strong at a time when two wars have overstretched and overstressed our troops. The bill allows us to grow our military. By increasing the end strength of the Army, Marine Corps, Air National Guard, and Army Reserve, we can reduce the stress on our troops caused by multiple and extended deployments. And we can be sure we have the troops we need to meet future challenges in an ever more uncertain world.