

The Senator from Hawaii is recognized.

Mr. AKAKA. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. AKAKA pertaining to the introduction of S. 3527 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT
AGREEMENT—H.R. 6049

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, September 23, following a period of morning business, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 767, H.R. 6049, the energy extenders, that the bill be considered under the following limitations: there be 60 minutes of general debate on the bill, equally divided and controlled between the leaders or their designees, that the only first-degree amendments in order be the following, with no other amendments in order, and that they be subject to an affirmative 60-vote threshold, and if the amendment achieves that threshold, then it be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid on table; if the amendment does not achieve that threshold, then it be withdrawn; that each amendment be subject to a debate limitation of 60 minutes, equally divided and controlled in the usual form: Baucus-Grassley substitute amendment regarding energy tax extenders with offset; Reid or designee perfecting amendment regarding AMT with offset; Baucus-Grassley perfecting amendment regarding tax extenders amendment without full offset; that it be in order for Senator CONRAD to raise a budget point of order against the amendment, and that once debate time has been used or yielded back, a motion to waive the applicable point of order be considered to have been made; further, that if the motion to waive is successful, then the amendment be agreed to and a motion to reconsider be laid on the table; if the motion to waive is not successful, the amendment be withdrawn; and that Senator CONRAD control up to 10 minutes of time during debate on this amendment; provided further that regardless of the outcome of the vote with respect to the Baucus-Grassley substitute amendment, the Senate would vote in relation to the remaining two amendments covered in this agreement, that the votes in relation to the above-listed amendments occur in the order listed after the use or yielding back of time; upon disposition of all amendments, the bill be read a third time and the Senate then proceed to vote on passage of the bill as amended, if amended, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

I ask unanimous consent that the cloture motions on the motions to proceed to Calendar No. 895 and Calendar No. 767 be vitiated.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are keyed up now to start the energy debate on Tuesday. It has been a long, hard 24 hours. Everyone has been working hard. You have to be patient in this business. I especially extend my appreciation to Senators BAUCUS and GRASSLEY, and it has been difficult.

We have had a terrible natural disaster that has hit. Louisiana—not to denigrate Katrina—they still got hurt, but Texas was devastated. That is the reason this was held up. I understand Senator HUTCHISON and Senator CORNYN being concerned. I would say to them, if this does not take care of all of the problems, we will have to take another look at it because pictures are worth 1,000 words. We have had a lot of pictures about what took place with this terrible wind storm.

So, again, I wish we could have moved this more quickly. But certain things do not happen as you would want. Next week we have to complete this legislation. We just arrived at a way to move forward on it. We have to do what remains with energy after that. We have to do a CR and maybe a stimulus.

We still have the Coburn package floating around. So we have a lot to do. We will do our best to try to complete our work by a week from tomorrow. I also appreciate the efforts of my colleague, Senator MCCONNELL. It has been difficult for him because the problems have been on his side. But he has been a gentleman about this and has been probably more patient than I have.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, my good friend, the majority leader, should feel good about this. We are on the cusp of a very significant piece of legislation worked out on a bipartisan basis. I, too, feel grateful to Chairman BAUCUS and Ranking Member GRASSLEY for their endless number of hours in crafting this truly bipartisan compromise.

So I think it is something the Senate can be proud of achieving. We are set up to reach that achievement on Tuesday.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana is recognized.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I am very grateful to Senators for working to put this together for several reasons: One, this is going to help to create jobs in America. It is going to help to very much help American families. Third, it is going to help us move more quickly toward energy independence, something we all need.

On a procedural basis, I very much appreciate that this was worked out on a bipartisan basis. I worked with my good friend from Iowa, Senator GRASSLEY, also with the staffs of the majority leader and minority leader, and other key Senators who worked together to put this together.

I am very grateful, frankly, that we see a glide path now. We are going to get this legislation enacted, hopefully, on Tuesday. Again, my thanks to everyone involved.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SANDERS.) The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 17 minutes as in morning business.

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

REGARDING ENERGY AND
NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about one of the top issues facing our Nation: the high cost of energy and how it relates to our national security.

There has been much controversy on Capitol Hill regarding the reason why prices have climbed. My colleagues have introduced various pieces of legislation that attempt to address our energy security.

I am hearing loud and clear from thousands of Ohioans how this crisis is directly affecting them and their loved ones. Ohioans are demanding that the Senate have a lengthy and open debate on the issue of high energy costs. They are expecting that we work together in a bipartisan fashion to craft legislation that will address our Nation's long-term energy requirements and set us down a path towards energy independence.

Their urgency is underscored by the fact that this is no longer just a question about the price of oil but also about national security.

Americans are hurting from our addiction to oil, but I am not sure they fully realize the extent our national security; and indeed our very way of life, is threatened by our reliance on foreign oil.

Every year we send hundreds of billions of dollars overseas for oil to pad the coffers of many nations that do not have our best interests at heart, and to some like Venezuela, whose leader has threatened to cut off oil.

In fact, in 2007, we spent more than \$327 billion to import oil, and 60 percent of that, or nearly \$200 billion, went to the oil-exporting OPEC nations. In 2008, the amount we will spend to import oil is expected to double to more than \$600 billion, \$360 billion of which will come from OPEC. Let's take a moment to put those import figures into context. When compared to our Fiscal Year 2008 budget for our Nation's defense, which was more than \$693 billion, the \$600 billion we will spend to import oil in 2008 is nearly equal to our entire defense budget.