

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 80, nays 17, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 322 Leg.]

YEAS—80

Akaka	Feingold	Nelson (NE)
Alexander	Feinstein	Nelson (FL)
Barrasso	Franken	Pryor
Baucus	Gillibrand	Reed
Begich	Gregg	Reid
Bennet	Hagan	Risch
Bennett	Harkin	Roberts
Bingaman	Inouye	Rockefeller
Bond	Johnson	Sanders
Boxer	Kaufman	Schumer
Brown	Kirk	Shaheen
Brownback	Klobuchar	Shelby
Burr	Kohl	Snowe
Byrd	Kyl	Specter
Cantwell	Lautenberg	Stabenow
Cardin	LeMieux	Tester
Carper	Leahy	Thune
Casey	Levin	Udall (CO)
Collins	Lieberman	Udall (NM)
Conrad	Lincoln	Vitter
Corker	Lugar	Voinovich
Cornyn	McConnell	Warner
Crapo	Menendez	Webb
Dodd	Merkley	Whitehouse
Dorgan	Mikulski	Wicker
Durbin	Murkowski	Wyden
Enzi	Murray	

NAYS—17

Bayh	Ensign	Isakson
Bunning	Graham	Johanns
Burr	Grassley	McCain
Chambliss	Hatch	McCaskill
Coburn	Hutchison	Sessions
DeMint	Inhofe	

NOT VOTING—3

Cochran	Kerry	Landrieu
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The conference report was agreed to. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

Mr. BURRIS. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote and move to lay that motion on the table.

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

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for the vote on the conference report to accompany Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010, H.R. 3183. If I were able to attend today's session, I would have voted yes on the conference report.●

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today the Senate voted 80 to 17 in favor of the Energy and Water appropriations bill, H.R. 3182. I praise Chairman BYRON L.

DORGAN and Senator ROBERT F. BENNETT, the Republican ranking member, and the other members of the Energy and Water subcommittee for putting together what I consider to be a good bill and certainly a big improvement over the energy budget sent to us by the President.

Knowing that the funding measure would pass, I chose to vote against this bill, which funds the Department of Energy, as a signal to the Obama administration and the DOE that American taxpayers want and need a serious pro-energy plan, not the anti-energy strategy being pushed on us by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which this administration has adopted.

When the Secretary of Energy testifies before Congress that he believes it is his job to cut carbon-dioxide emissions by 80 percent in the next 40 years, then we know our Nation does not have an energy policy; rather, we have an anti-energy policy. Cutting our Nation's emissions by 80 percent would provide two certain outcomes: First, reducing CO₂ at that reckless pace would certainly devastate our economy and ruin our Nation's global competitiveness. Secondly, according to the U.N.'s own calculations for CO₂'s warming ability, it would result in no perceptible reduction in global temperatures. At best, it would reduce temperatures by about 0.1 degrees Centigrade after 40 years of economic torture.

Maybe the media have fallen for this dangerous distraction to a real energy policy, but the polls show that the taxpayers have not.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BURRIS. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

Mr. BURRIS. Mr. President, I would like to speak in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. BURRIS. Mr. President, earlier this week I came to the Senate floor to discuss some of the misinformation we have seen about the issue of health care reform. Just this morning, I joined my freshmen colleagues to knock down some of the persistent myths about reform and particularly about the need for a public option.

As we prepare to consider a health bill before the full Senate, I would like to discuss the way forward from here. I believe our path is very clear. The only way to achieve meaningful health care reform and bring costs down is through a public option that will bring real competition into the system. That is why I will not vote for any health care

bill that does not include the public option.

Insurance companies should have to compete for your business just like any other company. This principle has always been at the heart of America's economy, and it does not make sense for insurance companies to get a free pass. As competition shrinks, profits soar. A public option is the only way to restore choice to the marketplace. It is the key to freedom, accountability, and fair play. That is why I will not compromise on this point.

On Tuesday, our colleagues in the Finance Committee reached a new milestone on the long road to reform. They became the last of five committees in both the House and the Senate to take up this legislation. When they passed their version of the bill, it was the furthest any health reform measure has ever come. Now let us make it a reality.

I congratulate my distinguished colleagues on their significant achievement. I applaud their leadership on this difficult issue. But it was disappointing this legislation did not include a public option. As we move forward and merge the Finance Committee bill with the HELP Committee's version, I will work with my friends to make sure the combined measure does include a public option. In a very short time, every Member will have the opportunity to shape this important legislation. When this bill comes before the Chamber, we will have the chance to make good on the promise Teddy Roosevelt made almost 100 years ago when he first called for sweeping health care reform.

This pivotal debate is nearly at an end. The time for action is upon us. That means it is time to separate fact from fiction. It is time to discuss the facts and drown out the noise. The public option will restore choice and competition to an insurance market currently dominated by only a few companies. The public option will spur fresh accountability and a return to fair practices. Premiums will come down. Relative health outcomes will go up. For the first time in years, insurance corporations will need to compete for business. They will need to be accountable to customers and not only to shareholders. That is what reform with a public option will mean to the American health care system.

When opponents of reform talk about death panels, a government takeover, and socialism, they are trying to distract us from the issue at hand. When they claim the Finance Committee bill will make premiums go up instead of down, it is the same sleight of hand we have seen from the big corporations many times before.

They know they cannot win the argument on the merits so they are trying to change the subject. Instead of talking about American families and rising costs, real health outcomes, they need to rely on scare tactics to maintain their monopoly over the insurance