

Volunteers are already at work sandbagging, getting ready to fortify the levees. I went to the Moorehead facility building this weekend to bag sandbags. We do that inside. They cannot freeze; the sandbags cannot freeze. It would be like stacking frozen turkeys. They have to be unfrozen when we stack them.

The sense of community solidarity in tackling this challenge is incredible. I was struck by how much the community has unified once again around preparing for these floods, and it was fun. So I would urge folks in the area to go down to the Moorehead facility building in the next few days and weeks and sandbag.

What I took away from being there this weekend and from talking to local and community leaders is that they are doing all that they can to prepare for these floods with the resources they have. But they need our help. I am determined to make sure we are doing all we can on a Federal level to help these communities through the next few months.

Right now, Congress needs to appropriate supplemental funding for FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund. FEMA has said they are reserving their remaining disaster relief funds for immediate needs until we appropriate the supplemental funding. Yet the longer we wait, the longer communities in the Red River Valley have to wait on important flood mitigation efforts such as removing the remaining homes in the floodplain.

I have contacted the FEMA Administrator urging him to exhaust all available options while Congress approves the President's request of \$5.1 billion in supplemental funding for the Disaster Relief Fund.

I stand ready to support Chairman INOUE in any of his efforts on this or any other bill on the Senate floor to approve this \$5.1 billion in supplemental funding.

Once again, I commend the communities in Minnesota's Red River Valley for their flood mitigation preparation for this year.

As the ice melts and the water rises, I will continue to fight to get Federal funding out to these communities to make sure we are doing all we can to support them in their flood preparations and in their recovery over the coming months.

I yield the floor.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

#### TAX EXTENDERS ACT OF 2009

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 4213, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4213), to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Baucus amendment No. 3336, in the nature of a substitute.

Reid (for Murray/Kerry) further modified amendment No. 3356 (to amendment No. 3336), to extend the TANF Emergency Fund through fiscal year 2011 and to provide funding for summer employment for youth.

Coburn amendment No. 3358 (to amendment No. 3336), to require the Senate to be transparent with taxpayers about spending.

Baucus (for Webb/Boxer) amendment No. 3342 (to amendment No. 3336), to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose an excise tax on excessive 2009 bonuses received from certain major recipients of Federal emergency economic assistance, to limit the deduction allowable for such bonuses.

Feingold/Coburn amendment No. 3368 (to amendment No. 3336), to provide for the rescission of unused transportation earmarks and to establish a general reporting requirement for any unused earmarks.

Reid amendment No. 3417 (to amendment No. 3336), to temporarily modify the allocation of geothermal receipts.

McCain/Graham amendment No. 3427 (to amendment No. 3336), to prohibit the use of reconciliation to consider changes in Medicare.

Lincoln amendment No. 3401 (to amendment No. 3336), to improve a provision relating to emergency disaster assistance.

Baucus (for Isakson/Cardin) amendment No. 3430 (to amendment No. 3336), to modify the pension funding provisions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, we are now on our sixth day of consideration of this important legislation to create jobs and extend vital safety net and tax provisions.

This legislation would prevent millions of Americans from falling through the safety net. It would put cash into the hands of Americans who would spend it quickly, boosting the economy. And it would extend critical programs and tax incentives that help create jobs.

Now, we had a productive week on the bill last week. By my count, the Senate has considered 29 amendments on this bill. We have conducted 10 rollcall votes.

As I count it, there are nine amendments pending. Those amendments are:

The underlying substitute amendment, the Murray-Kerry amendment on the TANF emergency fund and summer employment for youth, the Coburn amendment on transparency, the Webb amendment on executive bonuses, the Feingold-Coburn amendment rescinding unused transportation earmarks, the amendment by Senator REID of Nevada on geothermal receipts, the McCain amendment on the use of reconciliation to change Medicare, the Lincoln amendment on disaster assistance, and the Isakson amendment on pension funding.

On Friday, we reached a unanimous consent agreement that, after the Senate resumes consideration of the bill tomorrow, we will conduct up to four rollcall votes in relation to the following amendments: the side-by-side

amendment to the Coburn amendment on transparency, the Coburn amendment, the Murray amendment on youth jobs, and the side-by-side amendment to the Murray amendment.

And so Senators should be aware that we will have up to four rollcall votes at about 10:15 tomorrow morning.

We further agreed that at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow, the Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the substitute amendment. And we hope that we might conclude action on the bill thereafter.

Today, we will continue to process cleared amendments throughout the day.

I thank all Senators for their cooperation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRANKEN.) The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for up to 6 minutes.

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

#### VIRGINIA JOB FAIR

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today, and while I am speaking as in morning business, it is actually speaking in support of the legislation the chairman of the Finance Committee talked about, just taking it in a slightly different direction.

We spend a lot of time talking in this body about the necessity for us to focus on jobs and how Americans feel about that search for jobs. We read about unemployment numbers at 9.7 percent. While we say, with some relief, the numbers did not pop up during February, those numbers are still way too high.

I had a personal experience—I was not planning on speaking on the Senate floor, but I wanted to share with my colleagues and others an event that happened—actually is still happening—about 45 minutes south of this Chamber.

My office had decided to sponsor a jobs fair, where we would bring together more than 30 Federal agencies. We located this jobs fair down 45 minutes, as I mentioned, south of here at the University of Mary Washington at their Stafford campus.

For those who do not follow all of the ins and outs of Northern Virginia, we are blessed in Northern Virginia and Virginia overall with actually a rather low unemployment rate. Statewide our unemployment is about 7 percent, and in Northern Virginia our numbers are even much lower.

As I mentioned, we put together this jobs fair, not unlike what the Chair has done or other Senators have done. We were well represented with over 30 Federal agencies—from TSA to the Peace Corps to the Fish and Wildlife Service. We put out the word, not knowing exactly what kind of response we would get. This is the first jobs fair I have hosted as a U.S. Senator.

At first we were a little worried. Last week, last Wednesday we only had about 75 RSVPs for this jobs fair on a