

that we are not duplicating other programs. That is important. We don't want to be duplicative. We want to be sure that what we are doing is not being done elsewhere.

We walk in and we do something, frankly, that people need now: We create jobs and we leverage. That word "leverage" has become the first thing out of my mouth when I talk about things I support now. That is why we support the highway bill that we hope is going to come here in a bipartisan way. We leverage dollars. Anytime you can leverage dollars—you put \$1 down for something good, and people come to the table from local government, the nonprofit sector, the profit sector, State, all the different agencies, all the different parties come together and say: This is a great idea. If we all kick in just a little, we are going to do something big. That is the idea behind the EDA.

I visited projects in my own State, shopping malls and other things that were done in these very fine communities where it is tough to get capital, where the banks just turn their backs, where perhaps the venture capitalists are saying: This isn't our cup of tea. That is why this is a successful program.

Again, I hope we will have debate today on the Tester-Corker amendment. It is a very controversial one. It is not happy because it is one of these things where, if you do one thing, 50 percent of the people think you are right, and if you do the other, 50 percent think you are wrong, although Senator DURBIN says the polls show that people support these lower fees in this case. But I respect the fact that the amendment was offered on this bill. It is an amendment that is directly related to our economy. But I hope we vote tomorrow, as early as possible, and I hope we do not have a lot of amendments dragging us down because, guess what, people are looking at us and they are thinking: Why aren't they doing more to create jobs? This will send a signal that we are making EDA a priority.

This is not a big spending measure. This is an authorization, and the number at which we are authorizing has been frozen so we are not adding to it. But we are sending a signal to the appropriators and to the Commerce Department that we think this is a good and important program.

Madam President, I thank you very much. I have said my piece for the moment. I note the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following morning business on Wednesday, June 8, the

Senate resume consideration of S. 782, the EDA Revitalization Act, with the time until 2 p.m. equally divided between the proponents and opponents of the Tester amendment No. 392 regarding swipe fees; that at 2 p.m. the Durbin amendment No. 393 be withdrawn and the Senate proceed to vote in relation to the Tester amendment No. 392, with no amendments, motions, or points of order in order prior to the vote other than budget points of order and the applicable motions to waive; the Tester amendment be subject to a 60-vote threshold; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid on the table.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I want to express my appreciation to Senators DURBIN and TESTER for their warm relationship and to every Senator here on this most difficult issue, for allowing us to get this done tomorrow expeditiously. It is something that had to be done and it is the right thing to do and we will move forward upon completing this to try to do other things on this very important piece of legislation.

MORNING BUSINESS

NATIONAL HUNGER AWARENESS DAY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of National Hunger Awareness Day. On this day, we focus on the more than 50 million people in the United States without enough to eat and reassert our commitment to assist those in need.

Millions of families live each day not knowing if they will have enough to eat. Rather than thinking about what the next meal will be, these parents worry if there will be a next meal. Rather than concentrate on homework, these children are trying not to think about their hunger pangs. In a nation as resourceful and agriculturally abundant as ours, this is inexcusable. If children—or adults—are hungry in America, that is a problem for all of us.

The level of hunger in our Nation is at the highest level since the government began tracking food insecurity in 1995. The number of Americans experiencing hunger increased from 35.5 million in 2006 to 50 million in 2011. In Illinois, over 11 percent of households are food insecure. These are working families who just aren't able to make ends meet and are forced to skip meals to make sure food will last through the week.

At a time when millions of middle class Americans are struggling to keep up with higher gas prices and grocery bills, more families are looking to Federal programs for assistance. Throughout the country, Federal hunger assistance programs have responded to this growing need by providing essential support to hungry families. Over the

past 2 years, Illinois food banks have seen a 50-percent increase in requests for food assistance.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, applications for food stamps are on the rise at the same time recipients are making more frequent use of food pantries to fill gaps in their grocery needs. Over 44 million people nationwide rely on the Federal food stamp program. Currently, 1,802,252 people in Illinois receive food stamps, an increase of 14 percent from last year and the highest level ever in Illinois. But for the millions of people who don't have assistance, everything is different.

We know hunger is a reality in our communities. We see long lines at our food pantries. We have heard from seniors forced to choose between groceries and medication. And children are in our schools who have not had a decent meal since the previous day's school lunch. We see families showing up a day earlier than normal at the food pantry because the monthly pay is not stretching as far as it once did. Parents are giving up their own meal to make sure their child has something to eat at night.

Last week, I visited a Summer Food Service Program at the Boys & Girls Club in Decatur, IL. This summer program provides 2 free meals a day to up to 150 children. For the over 500,000 Illinois children in food insecure households, the summertime means months without the free and reduced breakfasts and lunches available in school. Thanks to the Summer Food Service Program, food banks, and food pantries, families who are having a difficult time keeping up in our tough economy are able to put meals on the table. One woman with three kids in the Summer Food Service Program in Decatur said the meals provided in the program help her save money so she can afford to put gas in her car to get to work.

In the Nation that prides itself as the land of plenty, we cannot hide the fact that we need to protect these vital antihunger programs and that we need to do better at making sure everybody has at least enough to eat. As Congress works to rein in our Nation's debt, I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure we make responsible decisions that protect vital antihunger programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Emergency Food Assistance Program.

If there is one hungry person in our Nation, hunger will be a problem for all of us. I hope we will continue to work together to fulfill our duty to end hunger in our Nation and the world.

TAIWAN AIR DEFENSES

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, on February 23, 2011, the RAND Corporation released a report funded by and prepared for the U.S. Air Force entitled, "Shaking the Heavens and Splitting the Earth." This report provides a