

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), CODEL REID FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2011—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
China	Yuan		0.00						
Dr. Brian Monahan:									
Hong Kong	Dollar		941.00						941.00
China	Yuan		1,409.00						1,409.00
Michael Castellano:									
Hong Kong	Dollar		1,040.00						1,040.00
China	Yuan		1,507.00						1,507.00
Jon Summers:									
Hong Kong	Dollar		1,040.00						1,040.00
China	Yuan		1,507.00						1,507.00
Stephen Krupin:									
Hong Kong	Dollar		1,040.00						1,040.00
China	Yuan		1,507.00						1,507.00
Terrell Henry:									
Hong Kong	Dollar		1,040.00						1,040.00
China	Yuan		1,507.00						1,507.00
Julia Reed:									
Hong Kong	Dollar		940.00						940.00
China	Yuan		1,438.48						1,438.48
*Delegation Expenses:									
Hong Kong							10,931.08		10,931.08
China							20,070.19		20,070.19
Total			35,599.39				31,001.27		66,600.66

SENATOR HARRY REID,
Majority Leader, July 22, 2011.

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State, and the Department of Defense under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

THANKING SENATE STAFF

Mr. REID. Mr. President, first of all, I appreciate your patience presiding over the Senate at this late hour. I extend my appreciation to this staff, everybody here, for all this work. About the last month has been very difficult. I appreciate very much the professionalism that is shown here in the Senate and the efforts they go to to make all of us look good. Sometimes that takes a lot of effort. But I do appreciate their working so hard together here at the desk. If there is ever anything that is bipartisan, it is right here, Republicans and Democrats, and there is no partisanship on the Senate floor. Step back a little bit and there is when we are away from the professional staff, but I appreciate very much their hard work.

EXTENSION OF THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have tried for days now to change what the Republicans in the House have tried to do to the American people. In fact, it appears they are going to be able to do it. We have the extension of the Federal Aviation Administration legislation that is being held up. We wanted a temporary extension for the next few weeks. We have already extended it more than 20 times. We thought we should do it again. We have done that. That has been routine until we get some of the big issues worked out. But Republicans wanted to increase the ante a little bit this time with essential air service. In Pennsylvania, some of the rural areas—the Presiding Officer is from Pennsylvania; of course, Nevada has a lot of rural areas, and other States. Even the heavily populated State of New York has essential air service. Essential air service was

set up a long time ago to allow underpopulated areas to be able to be in touch with the rest of the States.

The Republicans have tried to eliminate essential air service. That is the ransom we are asking now for an extension of the FAA bill. I am not going to ask consent today; we have asked it many times. But I want the RECORD to be spread with how unreasonable it is, what the Republicans have done. As a result of their activities, the House Republicans, we have 80,000 people who will not be working now—80,000 people, more than 70,000 construction workers and thousands of people who are employees of the Federal Aviation Administration.

For example, in Nevada we have an air traffic control tower, a new one that needs to be built. It is going to be big, expensive, and necessary. The work has stopped. They worked there for less than a month. The work has stopped. The construction work has stopped.

I talked to the Senator from California, Senator BOXER, today. In Palm Springs they have one that is essential, is badly needed. Work has stopped on that.

Construction projects all over America are held up at our airports. It is so very unreasonable what they have done. I appreciate KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, the Republican Senator from Texas, who has worked with the chairman of the committee, JAY ROCKEFELLER, to try to work past this. She agrees with Senator ROCKEFELLER it is unreasonable that they have done this.

What I want to do is read a column out of the New York Times of July 29. The writer introduces his column by saying:

The facts of the crisis over the debt ceiling aren't complicated. Republicans have, in effect, taken America hostage, threatening to

undermine the economy and disrupt the essential business of government unless they get policy concessions they would never have been able to enact through legislation.

That is where we are with the FAA problem. He goes on to say:

As I said, it's not complicated. Yet many people in the news media apparently can't bring themselves to acknowledge this simple reality. News reports portray the parties as equally intransigent; pundits fantasize about some kind of "centrist" uprising, as if the problem was too much partisanship on both sides. Some of us have long complained about the cult of "balance," the insistence on portraying both parties as equally wrong and equally at fault on any issue, never mind the facts. I joked long ago that if one party declared that the earth was flat, the headlines would read "Views Differ on Shape of Planet." But would that cult still rule in a situation as stark as the one we now face, in which one party is clearly engaged in blackmail?

He went on to say more and then he said:

The answer, it turns out, is yes. And this is no laughing matter: The cult of balance has played an important role in bringing us to the edge of disaster. For when reporting on political disputes always implies that both sides are to blame, there is no penalty for extremism. Voters won't punish you for outrageous behavior if all they ever hear is that both sides are at fault.

Mr. President, I wish the press would report this outrageous conduct on the part of the House Republicans, in effect closing down work for 80,000 people in America because of their trying to eliminate essential air service.

The issue is certainly more than that. We know it is a labor issue. We have one airline that is terribly anti-union and they are the ones behind all this. They are using the essential air service as a guise to get what they want.

I am not going to ask consent, but I want the American people to know why essential air service is being attacked