

clear penalties and stronger mechanisms to enforce Federal laws prohibiting airport revenues from leaving the airport. "It is fundamental that we reverse the disturbing trend of illegal diversion of airport revenues to ensure that airport revenues are used only for airport purposes," said McCain.

"We must do our part to reassure the traveling public that we have the world's safest air transportation system," concluded McCain. "This comprehensive legislation will go a long way in reassuring the public that the system is safe, and ensure the FAA will have a stable, predictable, and sufficient funding stream to be the long term."

Each of these elements of H.R. 3538 is essential to fulfill Congress' responsibility to improving our country's air transportation system.

Clearly, Congress, the White House, DOT, the FAA, and others throughout the aviation industry have been under close scrutiny regarding the state of the U.S. air transportation system.

The traveling public has told us they are worried about the safety and security of U.S. airports and airlines, and the ability of the Government to alleviate these concerns. Recent tragic events suggest that this apprehension is justified, and we have been strongly encouraged to correct the problems in our air transportation system. The FAA bill will go a long way toward making the system safer and better in every way.

The American people demand we get this done, and they deserve no less.

It really alarms me that we have cut it this close. It looks like there may be objection. In fact, the recent tragic aircraft accidents and the continuing reports of power outages and equipment failures in our air traffic control centers have raised all kinds of questions that we are trying to address with this bill.

So I think we need to move it forward. There are so many good parts of this bill. It is so essential. It does have so many safety ramifications that I hope that we could move it forward in a unanimous way.

Mr. FEINGOLD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Reserving the right to object for a moment, let me just say that I am intrigued by the conversation and am concerned about the airline safety issues, the funding. I am very concerned about those issues. I want this bill to pass too.

So why in the world, yesterday, just yesterday, under the guise of a technical correction to the Railway Labor Act, was an unacceptable and very controversial special interest provision added to this bill? It was not because of airline safety. It was not because of funding for the airports. And it was not a technical correction.

The provision makes a significant change in Federal law to give Federal Express an edge in its current attempt

to stop some of its employees from joining a union. That is what is so all-fired important here and had to be put in yesterday in a bill that we are being told has to pass because of airline safety. That is the issue. Let us just get this out of there. That is what that provision is about. It has nothing to do with airline safety.

Mr. President, because of what really has happened here, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is noted.

PRESIDIO PROPERTIES ADMINISTRATION ACT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I also want to comment, if I could, on the objections that we heard earlier today to the omnibus parks bill, commonly referred to as the Presidio bill. I might say to the Senator from Kentucky, this is not a unanimous-6Ysent request. I just want to make a brief statement.

Mr. FORD. That is fine.

Mr. LOTT. I would be glad to yield further.

Mr. FORD. Go ahead.

Mr. LOTT. On the Presidio bill there has been objection now from our Democratic colleagues to turning to that omnibus bill. We had tried to dispense with the reading and recommit the conference report back to the conference in order to take care of a provision in there that had raised concern, the tax provision. And I thought at one point, I guess 24 hours ago now, that we were going to be able to get agreement on both sides of the aisle to recommit that conference report and take care of the problem and then move this very important parks bill forward that affects 41 States, contains 126 separate provisions relating to parks and public lands.

This is the most important parks bill we have had in probably 4 years. It does have a lot of very important areas involved that need to be preserved, from battlefield sites to the Sterling Forest site that affects the New Jersey and New York area, the tall grass project out in Kansas, as well as the Presidio, and some very important projects in the State of Alaska. I know the distinguished Presiding Officer certainly cares an awful lot about that and the chairman of the committee.

So I do not understand what is going on here. I understand from the administration that they have a list of their preferred projects, that they say, "Oh, well, we'll take these and no more." Well, probably those projects that they say they cannot be included, they are good projects, most of them, they are projects from Democrats and Republicans.

There has been a continuing effort to work out something on this. I am astounded we are going to leave and not get this done. But we are not going to be able to put this whole bill in the continuing resolution. If we do not move it separately as an omnibus bill, then we will have no parks bill this year.

There was an effort maybe just to include one or two projects. I understand that has been objected to from the administration. I do not know where we go from here on this very important legislation but time is certainly running out.

I think it is once again going to be a tragedy, like the FAA reauthorization. In an effort to force an effect, a unionization of a company, they are going to bring down the whole FAA infrastructure. I do not understand that. And now in order to block two or three minor projects, we are going to have the whole parks bill go down?

Here is another thing about that. It is the continuing process of how when we meet objections the goalposts move. We were told on the illegal immigration, the Gallegly section is the problem. "We'll veto it over that." Well, we took it out. They said, "Wait a minute. We have some other problems." Same thing on this bill. We were told there were certain projects, three or four that were major problems. The chairman took them out. Then they said, "Oh, well. No. We have 50 other projects that we have problems with."

Mr. President, we have to have, in these final hours of the session, good faith, and we have to be prepared to stick with what we say we have to have when that is done, and not keep saying then you have to have something else. It is a very disappointing way to wind up this session.

I yield to the Senator from Alaska.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Relative to reviewing the list of 126, it affects Senators from Oregon, Utah, Virginia, California, Alaska, Louisiana, Mississippi, Maine, Vermont, Idaho, Washington, Missouri, to name a few, and in some cases, parks in every State. These are States affected by the administration's announcement last night they wanted 46 more out. These are the States that are affected. This is after an extended hearing process. We reported these out, and we have withdrawn those the administration initially listed as objections that they would veto.

I have personally met with my conferees by telephone relative to trying to clear this, and as the leader has pointed out, a technical correction in the House has been taken care of. We can pass this. We can move it right now if there is no objection. Otherwise, we will have to wait for another session, the 105th Congress, to start this process that we spent over 2 years on, which benefits virtually every State in the Union with very meaningful projects, including the Presidio and cleaning up the San Francisco Bay area.

I urge the leader to continue to work in every manner, because time is running out on the biggest and most important parks public land package in two decades. We are ready to move forward and pass this legislation. If we cannot proceed, it would truly be a shame, because on both sides, Democrats and Republicans will not see—

Mr. LOTT. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I am happy to yield to the Senator.

Mr. LOTT. I thought there was going to be a meeting last night between key players on both sides of the aisle to meet with the administration and see if some compromise could be worked out. I am told that meeting never occurred.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. The majority leader is correct. We were ready to have the meeting, and we were advised by the White House representative that they had no authority and were not familiar with the specifics of the bill and they wanted us to submit a bill, items which we would agree to take out.

As chairman of that committee I feel a responsibility, bipartisan, both Democrats and Republicans, to try to represent them in a conference mode as opposed to arbitrarily taking out their sections to accommodate the administration.

We have, for Senator HEFLIN, who is retiring, Selma to Montgomery Historic Trail designation, the historic black college funding; for Senator SIMON and Senator MOSELEY-BRAUN, the Illinois and Michigan canal, Calumet Ecological Park study; for Senator JOHNSTON and Senator BREAU, Civil War Center, Louisiana University, the Laura Hudson Visitor Center; Senators KENNEDY and KERREY, and retiring Congressman STUDDS, Boston Harbor Islands park establishment, Blackstone heritage area, New Bedford establishment.

I cannot understand why, after all this work, there is still objection. I encourage the majority leader to continue to work on, and I stand ready to try to meet the objections of my colleagues. I understand there is a hold now from the administration, and I think it is fair to say we have an obligation, certainly, relative to a process here, and as an authorizer, if the White House is going to line-item veto everything, we might as well go out of business.

I encourage the majority leader to continue the effort because we are not very far away, and I stand ready to be here all night if necessary, come in and meet with any group, to try to address this.

I thank my colleague.

Mr. LOTT. I yield to the Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. NICKLES. One, on the parks bill, I want to commend Chairman MURKOWSKI and other members on the Energy Committee who worked hard to make this happen. This is a large bill, and unfortunately now it has a lot of items throughout the year that many of us have been working on for a long, long time.

The Senator from Alaska has been generous enough to withdraw one of the bills he felt very strongly about, that was important to his State, so we could get it signed. I asked him to do that. I appreciate his willingness to do it.

The Senator from Minnesota dropped an item. Again, we heard it being in there meant it would be vetoed, so we dropped two or three of the most contentious items. We dropped a project in Utah that, again, other people talked about would bring a certain veto.

Now, all of a sudden—we thought we had really taken away the veto objective so we could pass this bill. I committed to the Senator from California that I would try to help pass the Presidio bill this year. I want to maintain that commitment. I would like to pass this bill.

I urge my colleagues to work together. This bill has been put together in a bipartisan fashion. I have not counted up the number of Democrat and the number of Republican bills, but there are a lot on both sides of the aisle that impact parks all across the country and most of the States across the country. It would really be a shame to have that much work and that much time invested in that bill not to see it passed this year.

I compliment my colleague from Alaska and also the majority leader. I hope we will find a way to be able to work out the differences and pass this bill and get it signed into law before we adjourn the 104th Congress.

Let me make an announcement on behalf of the majority leader. I announce there will be no further rollcall votes tonight. The Senate obviously will be working tonight, in various conferences, trying to work out differences both on the continuing resolution and on the immigration and the parks bill. There will be work done tonight but there will be no further rollcall votes tonight.

I announce on behalf of the majority leader the Senate will reconvene at 10 a.m. tomorrow morning and we will try to give as much advance notice to all Senators prior to any recorded rollcall votes. As of now, there has not been one ordered, but Senators should stand on notice there may well be a recorded rollcall vote in the event we are able to come to an agreement on the continuing resolution, the parks bill or the immigration bill.

I thank my colleague from Kentucky.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I wonder if I may be recognized for 1 minute relative to advising my colleagues of the status of the parks omnibus package.

It is my understanding that the appropriations subcommittee chairman has indicated it will not include specific items taken from the park omnibus bill and put on the appropriation CR. Now, that is a matter outside the control of the Senator from Alaska as chairman of the Energy and Natural Resource Committee. I think that has been clearly stated, and it has been reinforced by the Speaker of the House.

What I am encouraging, obviously, is that we proceed with this package. I agree, if it is in the interests of my colleagues to put the package on the appropriations as an entire package, I have no objection to that. Otherwise,

the alternative is to proceed as we have, try to address the objections from the other side, and get on with it.

For those who think we will cherry pick it out and put specific portions on the appropriations CR and pass it there, that is not going to be an available alternative. We will simply lose for this year and have to start again. I hope that will not happen.

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, we are getting into a position where everybody seems to think we have to get out. Our salary still goes on. We still get paid whether we are here or not. I think we might as well stay here and earn our keep. We do not have to get out tomorrow. We do not have to get out Monday. We do not have to get out next Friday. We can go ahead and pass a continuing resolution and we could stay here and pass some bills or we can give a short-term continuing resolution for 3 or 4 days and we can work things out.

But we appear to be pushed up against a wall: you have to get out, got to do this, or it is dead. There is no such thing, unless the majority leader wants to take us out, and then things are dead.

I feel like we are being pushed awfully hard here just because tomorrow night we want to get out or Monday we want to get out. I understand everybody wants to go home and campaign. Let them go home and campaign, and the rest of us can stay here and work. That suits me fine.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I want to make one comment about the express carrier we got the objection on to the FAA. I have been advised by legal counsel—not representing either side in this controversy—that every fact of law has sustained the express portion of the ICC bill. It was to be in there because nothing should be narrower or wider. Nobody should get anything when they pass the ICC legislation.

So I understand where we are coming from, and I understand whose fight it is in. I hate to be in the catch-22. We can stay a while if that's what they want to do, offer a cloture petition, and we will have 30 hours, and we can drive right on. I don't mind staying here. I don't want to any more than anybody else. But if that's the way the game is going to be played, I understand how to play it. If we get 60 votes, then we will have to vote on it. If we have to vote on it and we pass it, then it goes to the President. That is the end of it.

If you want to stay around a while, keep objecting to this one, file a cloture petition, we will get cloture and get our 30 hours and do our thing around here, Mr. President.

THE BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA WILDERNESS

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on behalf of the people