

With over 3 million acres, Louisiana is home to 40% of the coastal wetlands in the United States and is experiencing over 80% of the nation's wetlands loss. Our state is losing 25-35 square miles of coastal wetlands per year. The United States loses one acre of productive coastal wetlands in Louisiana every 24 minutes. In the next ten years, Louisiana will lose wetlands equal to the size of San Diego.

These wetlands play a critical role in our national and local economy. As much as 28% of the nation's fisheries harvest comes from Louisiana's coast. These shrimp, crab, crawfish, oyster and finfish fisheries (over 1.1 billion pounds per year landed in Louisiana alone) are dependent on our coastal wetlands. Louisiana's fisheries alone are comparable to the annual catch on the entire Atlantic seaboard.

Louisiana's coast also provides wintering habitat for over 5 million waterfowl every year, nearly 20 percent of the entire winter population of ducks and geese in the United States. The extensive coastal oil and gas infrastructure that this nation relies so heavily on is also at risk as it becomes increasingly exposed to greater storm energies without the protection of the marsh.

The national economic benefits of Louisiana's coast include:

\$30 billion per year in petroleum products;  
\$7.4 billion per year in Natural Gas (21% of the nation's supply);

\$400 million tons per year of waterborne commerce;  
\$2.8 billion per year in commercial fishing;  
\$1.6 billion per year in recreational fishing;  
\$2.5 million per year in fur harvest (40% of the nation's total); and

\$40 million per year in alligator harvests.

In the years that we have been waging the political fight over the NOAA laboratory in Lafayette, my state has experienced a number of other devastating problems which have a major impact on these resources and desperately need to be fully studied. Last year we lost more than 30 square miles of salt marsh grass in an unprecedented phenomenon that could mean an advanced rate of loss for our coast in the years to come. These threats to our coastline and our fisheries are compounded by the horrific growth in the hypoxic zone, or Dead Zone, where extremely low levels of oxygen suffocate shellfish and drive out all other forms of marine life. Each summer, the Dead Zone increases in size and covers an area off of Louisiana's coast that is roughly the size of the State of New Jersey. I'd like to submit for the record to following Times-Picayune story which shows that this oxygen-deprived zone continues to grow.

While this issue has attracted attention and resources from the federal government, there remains a serious shortage of research in the Northern Gulf. The problems are astounding and solving them is critical to the economic and cultural future of the State of Louisiana and this nation. However, these problems are not fully understood and we will not be able to effectively solve them until we do.

That is why I rise today to respectfully request that \$1.5 million be added in the FY 2002 C, J, S appropriations bill for planning and design of a new research facility in Lafayette, Louisiana to be occupied by NOAA for the study of coastal and fisheries problems in the Northern Gulf of Mexico. Let me be clear, I would prefer for NOAA to occupy the current facility. I want to thank Senators HOLLINGS and GREGG again for helping me to try to do this, but time is running out. Louisiana and the nation can not wait yet another year.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, for the interest of all Senators, we are about to have final passage on this bill. I congratulate our two managers. This has been quite an ordeal. I congratulate them on their successful completion of the bill.

We have a number of nominees I want to be able to consider and, if necessary, have votes on the nominations. During this vote, we are going to be consulting with certain Senators about whatever requirements there may be on a couple of these nominations. If necessary, I would like to have these votes tonight if they are going to be required, but we will be able to make that announcement shortly after the vote, or perhaps during the vote, for those who are interested.

The other outstanding piece of business I would like to be able to complete before the end of the week is, of course, the supplemental appropriations bill. If the House acts, we will then be in a position to act on this side. I do not know yet the status of that particular piece of legislation. That may require a vote tomorrow morning.

As I said in our joint caucus this afternoon, my hope is that we can avoid having votes after the memorial service tomorrow afternoon. That is not only my hope, my expectation, with the caveat, of course, we have been able to resolve these matters successfully.

I urge colleagues not to leave after this vote until we are absolutely certain that no rollcall votes are going to be required on the nominees that I would like to consider yet tonight. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the engrossment of the amendments and third reading of the bill.

The amendments were ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

Mr. HOLLINGS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass? The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 97, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 279 Leg.]

YEAS—97

Akaka	Durbin	McCain
Allard	Edwards	McConnell
Allen	Ensign	Miller
Baucus	Enzi	Murkowski
Bayh	Feingold	Murray
Bennett	Feinstein	Nelson (FL)
Biden	Fitzgerald	Nelson (NE)
Bingaman	Frist	Nickles
Bond	Graham	Reed
Boxer	Gramm	Reid
Breaux	Grassley	Roberts
Brownback	Gregg	Rockefeller
Bunning	Hagel	Santorum
Burns	Harkin	Sarbanes
Byrd	Hatch	Schumer
Campbell	Helms	Sessions
Cantwell	Hollings	Shelby
Carnahan	Hutchinson	Smith (NH)
Carper	Hutchison	Smith (OR)
Chafee	Inhofe	Snowe
Cleland	Inouye	Specter
Clinton	Jeffords	Stabenow
Cochran	Johnson	Stevens
Collins	Kerry	Thomas
Conrad	Kohl	Thompson
Corzine	Kyl	Turmond
Craig	Landrieu	Torricelli
Crapo	Leahy	Voinovich
Daschle	Levin	Warner
Dayton	Lieberman	Wellstone
DeWine	Lincoln	Wyden
Domenici	Lott	
Dorgan	Lugar	

NOT VOTING—3

Dodd	Kennedy	Mikulski
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The bill (H.R. 2500), as amended, was passed.

(The bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. GREGG. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate insists on its amendments and requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses and appoints the following conferees on the part of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAYTON) appointed Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. INOUYE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. KOHL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mr. BYRD, Mr. GREGG, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. McCONNELL, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. CAMPBELL, and Mr. COCHRAN conferees on the part of the Senate.

AMENDMENT NO. 1563

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order, after passage of H.R. 2500, for the Senate to consider a Collins amendment, which is at the desk; that the amendment be considered agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG), for Ms. COLLINS, proposes an amendment numbered 1563.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 1563) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To provide funding for the Rapid Response Program in Washington and Hancock Counties, Maine)

On page 34, line 5, after "Act" insert "of which \$250,000 shall be for a grant to the Rapid Response Program in Washington and Hancock Counties, Maine".

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I thank the chairman of the committee for the tremendous effort he has done on this bill and for his very courteous approach to the Republican membership as we brought this bill forward.

I thank his staff, led by Lila Helms, who did a superb job. I especially thank my staff who worked hours, nights and days in many instances, led by Jim Morhard, who has done an extraordinary job to bring this bill to its present status. It is an excellent bill.

I appreciate the support of the Senate. I thank the Members who supported this bill.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, let me thank the distinguished Senator from New Hampshire. We could not have passed this bill without his leadership and without his cooperation, and particularly without his vision with respect to terrorism. The Senator from New Hampshire was our chairman back in May. He held 3 days of hearings that got this comprehensive provision in the particular State-Justice-Commerce appropriations measure.

Let me also thank his staff: Jim Morhard, Kevin Linskey, Katherine Hennessey, and Nancy Perkins; and, of course, my own staff: Lila Helms, Jill Shapiro Long, Derek Orr, and Luke Nachbar.

I thank particularly the staff that really gets it done: Lula Davis, Marty Paione, Peter Arapis, Gary Myrick, and Tim Mitchell; the distinguished majority leader; and, most of all, the distinguished assistant majority leader who has been working around the clock. He is still working. I want him to hear my words of praise because HARRY REID of Nevada really got us moving and got these things accomplished. I couldn't feel more personally indebted to him for his leadership.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia is recognized.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I was at the White House today with the President discussing all aspects of this present crisis. In the course of the conversations, he specifically referred to the fact that America must be understanding of those of Arab dissent, espe-

cially those who are American citizens, and indeed others who are here for various reasons. This terrible crisis should not reflect across the board on that culture. For it, I think, will eventually be seen as a very small fraction. I commend the President for our meeting today.

I have for over 40 years had the privilege and the opportunity to be in the Oval Office. I started with President Eisenhower as a young person in the White House. I have been in that office with every successive President on a variety of matters. Our President, in the brief meeting of about 20 minutes or so with the two Senators from New York, my colleague, GEORGE ALLEN, myself, Condoleezza Rice, and Andrew Card, his chief, was absolutely calm. He was comfortable. He was knowledgeable. You got the feeling that he is a President who knew precisely what was going on and what has to be done. He was resolute and spoke with clarity about how he will take certain steps to right the criminal wrongs that have been done against our country in due course. He is going to do it on his own timetable—nobody will pressure him—when he has the facts in hand to hold those accountable for these crimes against our country.

I am very proud of our President. Indeed, he said that this is going to take time. It might not be one; it might be two; who knows how many actions we will have to take. But let there be no doubt that this country is resolute in its determination, and that our citizens will be proud of the manner in which men and women of the Armed Forces and all other portions of our Government will respond to this crisis and do whatever we can to see that it doesn't happen again.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.

#### A DAY OF EMOTIONS

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, as we wind up this extraordinary day, it has been a day of tremendous emotional swings. Earlier this morning, I came to this floor grief stricken having just talked to a family from Florida who had lost one of their members. Later on in the day, I talked to a police officer, now a widower of the flight attendant on the airliner that crashed in Pennsylvania who called her husband telling him that it had been hijacked and that she wanted to tell him that she loved him and she wanted their boys to know that she loved them. That is the flight that we have heard so many reports was targeted coming into Washington. It had made a 180-degree turn, having left Newark, westbound, and was headed to Washington. In fact, we have heard so many stories of other cellular telephone calls from the airplane that would indicate that the passengers, who were the real heroes, had indicated they knew that the hijackers were intent on harm to the Nation, and they were going to overcome the hijackers. In fact, they

did—at their own peril, at their own demise, but being tremendous heroes to this country.

So it has been that kind of day. We have gone from the swings of the emotion of the lows, with those kinds of grief-stricken experiences, to the highs of where we have never seen this place so unified. We have never seen both sides of the aisle come together as they have in recent American political history. We have never seen the unity of the legislative branch of Government and the executive branch.

So it has been an extraordinary day. It has been an extraordinary 3 days. I am just grateful to be one participant, along with my colleague from Minnesota, who is the Presiding Officer.

I will defer to the great leader we have from the State of Nevada, a man who is the glue that pulls us all together, who gives the support that is the right hand to our great majority leader. It is my privilege to relinquish the floor so he might speak.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I express my appreciation to my friend from Florida for those flattering words.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak therein for a period not to exceed 5 minutes each.

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

#### THE HAPPY HOOLIGANS

Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, when the Pentagon was attacked and F-16s were scrambled from Langley Air Force Base, those fighter planes were the 119th Fighter Wing of the North Dakota National Guard. I didn't know that myself when I saw those planes flying. I can tell you, they made an awful lot of us feel much more secure when we saw F-16 fighter planes in the air protecting Washington, DC. So imagine my surprise and my pride when I learned that those were North Dakota National Guard fighter planes.

This is the group we affectionately call in North Dakota the Happy Hooligans. The Happy Hooligans are America's best. The Happy Hooligans have been called the best fighter unit on the planet Earth. They have been called that because the Happy Hooligans have been recognized in competition after competition as America's best. Not only have they won the competitions—the William Tell award, for example—as the best active fighting unit in the United States, but they have not only been in competition with other National Guard units but the regular Air Force. The Happy Hooligans come out No. 1.

So not only are we incredibly proud in North Dakota that a key part of this