

SENATE RESOLUTION 344—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF GEORGIA'S SOUTH OSSETIAN PEACE PLAN AND THE SUCCESSFUL AND PEACEFUL REINTEGRATION OF THE REGION INTO GEORGIA

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. BROWNBACK, and Mr. REID) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 344

Whereas during December 1991, Georgia was internationally recognized as an independent and sovereign country following the formal dissolution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;

Whereas the United States supports the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and ongoing democratic reform process in Georgia;

Whereas the United States reaffirms its support for the peaceful resolution of the conflict in Adjara and the restoration of democracy and political stability in that region of Georgia;

Whereas as a result of a conflict from 1991 to 1992, a separatist regime has enforced its rule in the Georgia territory of South Ossetia, impoverishing the people living in South Ossetia, militarizing the area, allowing organized crime to flourish, and posing a threat to the peace and security in the region;

Whereas the Government of Georgia has announced a peace plan to reach a full political settlement to the South Ossetian conflict;

Whereas the Government of Georgia has acknowledged that mistakes were made in its past efforts in dealing with the region of South Ossetia;

Whereas at the 59th meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili outlined specific components of a peace initiative that includes demilitarization, confidence building measures, and economic, social, cultural, and political steps to protect the South Ossetian people and their rights while reintegrating the region, with significant autonomy, into Georgia;

Whereas President Saakashvili reaffirmed the main principles of the peace agreement at the Parliamentary Assembly Council of Europe in January, 2005, held in Strasbourg, France;

Whereas a formal comprehensive peace proposal based on the Strasbourg principles was formally proposed on October 27, 2005, at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe; and

Whereas on December 6, 2005, at their 13th Ministerial Council Meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe endorsed the Government of Georgia's peace plan, stating, "We welcome the steps taken by the Georgian side to address the peaceful resolution of the conflict and believe that the recent proposals, in particular the Peace Plan built upon the initiatives of the President of Georgia presented at the 59th United Nations General Assembly and supported by the sides, will serve as a basis for the peaceful settlement of the conflict": Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Government of Georgia for its vision and determination in its efforts to resolve peacefully the conflict in South Ossetia;

(2) supports the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of the democratic Government of Georgia;

(3) urges all Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe participating States to respect fully the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity of Georgia, refraining from any acts constituting a threat of or use of force, direct or indirect, and abiding by the principle of the inviolability of frontiers;

(4) expresses its support for the Government of Georgia's plan to control peacefully and reestablish authority in the region of South Ossetia, viewing it as an opportunity to restore the territorial integrity of the country and to protect the individual rights and democratic liberties of those living in South Ossetia;

(5) urges the United States to increase its efforts in support of the peaceful reincorporation of South Ossetia to Georgia, including efforts to support the greater involvement of the international community, including the Russian Federation, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union, and international organizations in the peaceful settlement of the South Ossetian conflict; and

(6) supports the ongoing democratic transformation in Georgia and will continue to monitor closely the peace process in South Ossetia, including the implementation by all sides of their obligations under the peace plan if it is accepted.

SENATE RESOLUTION 345—RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FENTON ART GLASS, A BELOVED INSTITUTION IN WEST VIRGINIA, THAT CONTINUES TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE STATE THROUGH ITS PRODUCTION OF WORLD RENOWNED, HAND-BLOWN GLASS

Mr. BYRD (for himself and Mr. ROCKEFELLER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 345

Whereas Fenton Art Glass rose from its humble beginnings as a glass decorating company in 1905, and came to settle in Williamstown, West Virginia, by opening a factory to create their own glass when they were unable to obtain the glass that they needed;

Whereas, with the vision of brothers Frank and John Fenton, Fenton Art Glass began to create innovative new colors and established the company in the forefront of the hand-blown glass industry;

Whereas in 1907, Fenton introduced its highly colorful Iridescent, or "Carnival" Glass, which became instantly successful throughout the country and is now highly prized by collectors around the world;

Whereas during the 1930s and 1940s, Fenton addressed the shortages felt by families in the United States by producing mixing bowls and tableware that were often unavailable during the World War II and Depression shortages;

Whereas Fenton Art Glass is not only a family tradition, with the third generation of the Fenton family now carrying on the legacy, but also a West Virginia institution, employing generations of workers; and

Whereas Fenton Glass, known for its beauty and precision in craftsmanship, is a symbol of the dedication and care of the Fenton family, as well as the pride in craftsmanship so characteristic of the West Virginia people: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate congratulates Fenton Art Glass on its centennial mile-

stone, for creating beautiful, hand-blown glass in West Virginia for 100 years, a for 100 years.

SENATE RESOLUTION 346—COMMENDING THE APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2005 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I-AA FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP.

Mr. BURR (for himself and Mrs. DOLE) submitted the following resolution; which was submitted and read:

S. RES. 346

Whereas on December 16, 2005, the Appalachian State Mountaineers defeated the Northern Iowa Panthers in the Championship game of the National Collegiate Athletic Association ("NCAA") Division I-AA Football Tournament in Chattanooga, Tennessee;

Whereas the Mountaineers are the first team from Appalachian State to win a NCAA Championship in school history;

Whereas Appalachian State is the first university in the State of North Carolina to win a NCAA football championship;

Whereas head coach Jerry Moore, the all-time winningest coach in Southern Conference history, won his first NCAA title in his seventeenth year as head coach of the Mountaineers, improving to 140-67 his record as head coach at Appalachian State;

Whereas defensive ends Marques Murrell and Jason Hunter, as well as safety Corey Lynch, were named to the I-AA All America team;

Whereas junior defensive end Marques Murrell, who finished the game with 9 tackles and forced a fumble with 9 minutes, 14 seconds remaining in the game, and senior Jason Hunter, who finished the game with ten tackles, returned it for the winning touchdown;

Whereas injured senior quarterback and Southern Conference Offensive Player of the Year Richie Williams courageously led the Mountaineers in the second half while playing with an injured ankle tendon;

Whereas the Mountaineer defense held the Panthers scoreless in the second half;

Whereas backup quarterback Trey Elder led Appalachian State to a 29-23 victory over Furman University to earn a spot in the final contest;

Whereas the Mountaineers defeated Lehigh University and Southern Illinois to advance to the I-AA "Final Four";

Whereas the Mountaineer team members are excellent representatives of a fine university that is a leader in higher education, producing many fine student-athletes and other leaders;

Whereas each player, coach, trainer, manager, and staff member dedicated this season and their efforts to ensure the Appalachian State University Mountaineers reached the summit of college football;

Whereas the Mountaineers showed tremendous dedication to each other, appreciation to their fans, sportsmanship to their opponents, and respect for the game of football throughout the 2005 season; and

Whereas residents of the Old North State and Appalachian fans worldwide are to be commended for their long-standing support, perseverance, and pride in the team: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commends the champion Appalachian State University Mountaineers for their historic win in the 2005 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I-AA Football Championship;

(2) recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, students, alumni, and support staff who were instrumental in helping Appalachian State University win the championship; and

(3) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to Appalachian State University Chancellor Kenneth Peacock and head coach Jerry Moore for appropriate display.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 347—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT LENDERS HOLDING MORTGAGES ON HOMES IN COMMUNITIES OF THE GULF COAST DEVASTATED BY HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA SHOULD EXTEND CURRENT VOLUNTARY MORTGAGE PAYMENT FORBEARANCE PERIODS AND NOT FORECLOSE ON PROPERTIES IN THOSE COMMUNITIES**

Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mr. VITTER) submitted the following resolution; which was submitted and read:

S. RES. 347

Whereas the Gulf Coast of the United States has experienced 1 of the worst hurricane seasons on record;

Whereas Hurricane Katrina and multiple levee breaks destroyed an estimated 275,000 homes in the Gulf Coast;

Whereas 20,664 businesses in the Gulf Coast sustained catastrophic damage from Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita;

Whereas, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis at the Department of Commerce, personal income has fallen more than 25 percent in Louisiana in the third quarter of 2005;

Whereas, in the time since Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma, the Small Business Administration has only approved 20 percent of disaster loan applications for homeowners in the Gulf Coast and has a backlog of more than 176,000 applications for this assistance as of December 21, 2005;

Whereas, of the 20,741 homeowner disaster loan applications that have been approved in the Gulf Coast by the Small Business Administration, only 1,444 have been fully disbursed;

Whereas, in response to these circumstances, commercial banks, mortgage banks, credit unions, and other mortgage lenders voluntarily instituted 90-day loan forbearance periods after Hurricane Katrina and did not require home owners in the Gulf Coast to make mortgage payments until on or about December 1, 2005;

Whereas, after the termination of the 90-day forbearance period, many home and business owners have received notice from their lenders that they face foreclosure unless they make a lump sum balloon payment in the amount of the mortgage payments previously subject to forbearance; and

Whereas foreclosure on homes and businesses in the Gulf Coast will have a detrimental impact on the economy of the area, will deprive property owners of their equity at a time when they can least afford it, and will have a negative impact on lenders who will be holding properties that may not be readily marketable on the open market: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) Congress should act early in the second session of the 109th Congress to consider legislation to provide relief to homeowners in the Gulf Coast; and

(2) commercial banks, mortgage banks, credit unions, and other mortgage lenders should extend mortgage payment forbearance to March 31, 2006, in order to allow Congress the time to consider such legislation.

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 74—CORRECTING THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 2863**

Ms. CANTWELL submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 74

*Resolved in the Senate (the House of Representatives Concurring), That*, in the enrollment of the bill (H.R. 2863) making appropriations for the Departments of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall make the following corrections:

Strike Division C, the American Energy Independence and Security Act of 2005 and Division D, the Distribution of Revenues and Disaster Assistance.

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 75—ENCOURAGING ALL AMERICANS TO INCREASE THEIR CHARITABLE GIVING, WITH THE GOAL OF INCREASING THE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF CHARITABLE GIVING IN THE UNITED STATES BY 1 PERCENT**

Mr. SANTORUM (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was submitted and read:

S. CON. RES. 75

Whereas individual charitable giving rates among Americans have stagnated at 1.5 to 2.2 percent of aggregate individual income for the past 50 years; .

Whereas a 1 percent increase (from 2 percent to 3 percent) in charitable giving will generate over \$90,000,000,000 to charity; Whereas charitable giving is a significant source of funding for health, education, and welfare programs; and

Whereas a 1 percent increase in charitable giving would provide some of the funds that will allow the nation to meet our health, education and welfare goals. Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring)*, That Congress encourages all Americans to increase their charitable giving, with the goal of increasing the annual amount of charitable giving in the United States by 1 percent.

**AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED**

SA 2691. Mr. CONRAD proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1932, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 202(a) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006 (H. Con. Res. 95).

SA 2692. Mr. FRIST (for Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. BROWNBACK)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 119, to provide for the protection of unaccompanied alien children, and for other purposes.

SA 2693. Mr. FRIST (for Mr. LUGAR) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1315, to require a report on progress toward the Millen-

nium Development Goals, and for other purposes.

SA 2694. Mr. FRIST (for Mr. CRAIG (for himself and Mr. AKAKA)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1182, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve health care for veterans, and for other purposes.

SA 2695. Mr. FRIST (for Mr. STEVENS) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1400, to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide penalties for aiming laser pointers at airplanes, and for other purposes.

**TEXT OF AMENDMENTS**

**SA 2691.** Mr. CONRAD proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1932, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 202(a) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006 (H. Con. Res. 95); as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the House amendment, insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Deficit Reduction Act of 2005”.

**SEC. 2. TABLE OF TITLES.**

The table of titles is as follows:

TITLE I—AGRICULTURE PROVISIONS

TITLE II—HOUSING AND DEPOSIT INSURANCE PROVISIONS

TITLE III—DIGITAL TELEVISION TRANSITION AND PUBLIC SAFETY

TITLE IV—TRANSPORTATION PROVISIONS

TITLE V—MEDICARE

TITLE VI—MEDICAID AND SCHIP

TITLE VII—HUMAN RESOURCES AND OTHER PROVISIONS

TITLE VIII—EDUCATION AND PENSION BENEFIT PROVISIONS

TITLE IX—LIHEAP PROVISIONS

TITLE X—JUDICIARY RELATED PROVISIONS

**TITLE I—AGRICULTURE PROVISIONS**

**SECTION 1001. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “Agricultural Reconciliation Act of 2005”.

**Subtitle A—Commodity Programs**

**SEC. 1101. NATIONAL DAIRY MARKET LOSS PAYMENTS.**

(a) AMOUNT.—Section 1502(c) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 7982(c)) is amended by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following new paragraph:

“(3)(A) during the period beginning on the first day of the month the producers on a dairy farm enter into a contract under this section and ending on September 30, 2005, 45 percent;

“(B) during the period beginning on October 1, 2005, and ending on August 31, 2007, 34 percent; and

“(C) during the period beginning on September 1, 2007, 0 percent.”.

(b) DURATION.—Section 1502 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 7982) is amended by striking “2005” each place it appears in subsections (f) and (g)(1) and inserting “2007”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1502 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 7982) is amended—