

“(C) Any gain realized from the use of a commodity certificate issued by the Commodity Credit Corporation for 1 or more loan commodities, as determined by the Secretary, including the use of a certificate for the settlement of a marketing assistance loan made under that subtitle, with the gain reported annually to the Internal Revenue Service and to the taxpayer in the same manner as gains under subparagraphs (A) and (B).

“(2) OTHER COMMODITIES.—The total amount of the following gains and payments that a person may receive during any crop year may not exceed \$75,000:

“(A)(i) Any gain realized by a producer from repaying a marketing assistance loan for peanuts, wool, mohair, or honey under subtitle B or C of title I of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 at a lower level than the original loan rate established for the commodity under those subtitles.

“(ii) In the case of settlement of a marketing assistance loan for peanuts, wool, mohair, or honey under those subtitles by forfeiture, the amount by which the loan amount exceeds the repayment amount for the loan if the loan had been settled by repayment instead of forfeiture.

“(B) Any loan deficiency payments received for peanuts, wool, mohair, and honey under those subtitles.

“(C) Any gain realized from the use of a commodity certificate issued by the Commodity Credit Corporation for peanuts, wool, mohair, or honey, as determined by the Secretary, including the use of a certificate for the settlement of a marketing assistance loan made under those subtitles, with the gain reported annually to the Internal Revenue Service and to the taxpayer in the same manner as gains under subparagraphs (A) and (B).”.

(b) RESCISSIONS.—

(1) SECTION 32.—Of the unobligated balances under section 32 of the August of August 24, 1935 (7 U.S.C. 612c), \$37,601,000 is rescinded.

(2) CUSHION OF CREDIT PAYMENTS PROGRAM.—Of the funds derived from interest on the cushion of credit payments, as authorized by section 313 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 940c), \$74,000,000 shall not be obligated and \$74,000,000 is rescinded.

(c) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—For each of fiscal years 2008 through 2011, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer to the Commodity Credit Corporation from unobligated funds made available under section 32 of the August of August 24, 1935 (7 U.S.C. 612c), \$125,500,000, to be used to carry out the amendments made by section 5.

SEC. 8. REGULATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture may promulgate such regulations as are necessary to implement this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(b) PROCEDURE.—The promulgation of the regulations and administration of this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall be made without regard to—

(1) the notice and comment provisions of section 553 of title 5, United States Code;

(2) the Statement of Policy of the Secretary of Agriculture effective July 24, 1971 (36 Fed. Reg. 13804), relating to notices of proposed rulemaking and public participation in rulemaking; and

(3) chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the “Paperwork Reduction Act”).

(c) CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF AGENCY RULEMAKING.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall use the authority provided under section 808 of title 5, United States Code.

By Mr. CRAIG:

S. 542. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct feasibility studies to address certain water shortages within the Snake, Boise, and Payette River systems in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct feasibility studies to address certain water shortages within the Snake, Boise, and Payette River systems in the State of Idaho. My State has experienced unprecedented growth in recent years. That growth, coupled with years of drought, has created a serious need for additional water storage. Of course, the first step in developing additional storage is the feasibility process.

This bill provides the consent needed for the Secretary to conduct further studies of the projects that are currently underway in the State of Idaho that will help to alleviate water shortages in three of our river basins. This bill authorizes \$3,000,000 to be used for the continuation of these studies.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to quickly move this much-needed bill through the legislative process.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 542

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT FEASIBILITY STUDIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, may conduct feasibility studies on projects that address water shortages within the Snake, Boise, and Payette River systems in the State of Idaho, and are considered appropriate for further study by the Bureau of Reclamation Boise Payette water storage assessment report issued during 2006.

(b) BUREAU OF RECLAMATION.—A study conducted under this section shall comply with Bureau of Reclamation policy standards and guidelines for studies.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior to carry out this section \$3,000,000.

(d) TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.—The authority provided by this section terminates on the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 76—CALLING ON THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO PROMPTLY DEVELOP, FUND, AND IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL STRATEGY IN AFRICA TO PROTECT CIVILIANS, FACILITATE HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS, CONTAIN AND REDUCE VIOLENCE, AND CONTRIBUTE TO CONDITIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE IN EASTERN CHAD, AND CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, AND DARFUR, SUDAN

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. SUNUNU, and Mr. LEVIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

S. RES. 76

Whereas armed groups have been moving freely between Sudan, Chad, and the Central African Republic, committing murder and engaging in banditry, forced recruitment of soldiers, and gender-based violence;

Whereas these and other crimes are contributing to insecurity and instability throughout the region, exacerbating the humanitarian crises in these countries and obstructing efforts to end violence in the Darfur region of Sudan and adjacent areas;

Whereas on January 5, 2007, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that cross-border attacks by alleged Arab militias from Sudan and related intercommunal ethnic hostilities in eastern Chad had resulted in the displacement of an estimated 20,000 people from Chad during the previous 2 weeks and posed a direct threat to camps housing refugees from Sudan;

Whereas these new internally displaced Chadians have strained the resources of 12 UNHCR-run camps in eastern Chad that are already serving more than 100,000 internally displaced Chadians and 230,000 refugees from Darfur and providing humanitarian support and protection to more than 46,000 refugees from the Central African Republic in southern Chad;

Whereas Chadian gendarmes responsible for providing security in and around the 12 UNHCR-run camps in eastern Chad are too few in number, too poorly equipped, and too besieged by Chadian rebel actions to carry out critical protection efforts sufficiently;

Whereas on January 16, 2007, the United Nations' Humanitarian Coordinator for the Central African Republic reported that waves of violence across the north have left more than 1,000,000 people in need of humanitarian assistance, including 150,000 who are internally displaced, while some 80,000 have fled to neighboring Chad or Cameroon;

Whereas in a Presidential Statement issued on January 16, 2007 (S/PRST/2007/2), the United Nations Security Council reiterated its “concern about the continuing instability along the borders between the Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic and about the threat which this poses to the safety of the civilian population and the conduct of humanitarian operations” and requested “that the Secretary-General deploy as soon as possible an advance mission to Chad and the Central African Republic, in consultation with their Governments”;

Whereas the Presidential Statement acknowledged “the position taken by the Central African and Chadian authorities in favor in principle of such a presence and looks forward to their continued engagement in preparing for it”;

Whereas a December 22, 2006, report of the United Nations Secretary-General (S/2006/1019) expressed a need to address the rapidly deteriorating security situation of Sudan, Chad, and the Central African Republic and to protect civilians in the border areas of Sudan, Chad, and the Central African Republic and recommended a robust mission that “would, among other tasks: facilitate the political process; protect civilians; monitor the human rights situation; and strengthen the local judicial, police and correctional system”;

Whereas the December 22, 2006, report went on to recommend that the force also be mandated and equipped to deter attacks by armed groups and react preemptively to protect civilians, including refugees and internally displaced persons, with rapid reaction capabilities;

Whereas on August 30, 2006, the United Nations Security Council passed Security Council Resolution 1706 (2006), authorizing a multidimensional presence consisting of political, humanitarian, military and civilian police liaison officers in key locations in Chad, including in the internally displaced persons and refugee camps and, if necessary, in the Central African Republic;

Whereas continuing hostilities will undermine efforts to bring security to the Darfur region of Sudan, dangerously destabilize volatile political and humanitarian situations in Chad and the Central African Republic, and potentially disrupt progress towards peace in southern Sudan;

Whereas a December 2006 United Nations assessment mission report outlined possibilities for a mission in Chad, including a force large enough to monitor the border, deter attacks, and provide civilian protection;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council has requested proposals for a United Nations force in Chad and the Central African Republic to help protect and provide humanitarian assistance to tens of thousands of civilians affected by the conflict that began in Darfur; and

Whereas a technical assessment mission was dispatched in January 2007 toward that end; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses concern for the more than 1,000,000 citizens of Sudan, Chad, and the Central African Republic who have been adversely affected by this interrelated violence and instability;

(2) calls upon the Governments of Chad and Sudan—

(A) to reaffirm their commitment to the Tripoli Declaration of February 8, 2006, and the N'Djamena Agreement of July 26, 2006;

(B) to refrain from any actions that violate these agreements; and

(C) to cease all logistical, financial, and military support to each others' insurgent groups;

(3) urges the Government of Chad to improve accountability and transparency as well as the provision of basic services to redeem the legitimacy of the Government in the eyes of its citizens;

(4) urges the Government of Chad to take action to increase political participation and to strengthen democratic institutions to ensure that all segments of society in Chad can participate in and benefit from a transparent, open, and capable government;

(5) urges the Government of Chad, the Government of Sudan, and other key regional and international stakeholders to commit to another round of inclusive political negotia-

tions that can bring lasting peace and stability to the region;

(6) calls upon the President to advocate for the appointment of a senior United Nations official to direct and coordinate all international humanitarian activities on both sides of Sudan's western border and expand the response to emergency needs related to the political and humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic;

(7) urges the President to utilize the resources and leverage at the President's disposal to press for the immediate deployment of an advance mission to eastern Chad to lay the groundwork for a robust multilateral and multidimensional presence;

(8) urges the United Nations Security Council to authorize a multilateral and multidimensional peacekeeping force to eastern Chad with the mandate and means—

(A) to ensure effective protection of civilians, particularly refugees and internally displaced persons, including by preempting, preventing, and deterring attacks on civilians;

(B) to organize regular patrols along the western border of Sudan and implement practical protection measures for asylum seekers;

(C) to maintain the civilian and humanitarian nature of the internally displaced persons and refugee camps in Chad and facilitate the efforts of aid workers;

(D) to deter, monitor, investigate, and report attacks on humanitarian personnel and assets;

(E) to provide around the clock physical security in the camps and surrounding areas, including organized patrols to guarantee freedom of movement to all civilians and humanitarian workers;

(F) to coordinate and share information with humanitarian organizations, actively preserve unhindered humanitarian access to all displaced persons, and ensure the safety of all humanitarian workers in accordance with international humanitarian law;

(G) to collect and report evidence of human rights violations and perpetrators to the United Nations on a timely and regular basis; and

(H) to support domestic and multilateral initiatives to strengthen local judicial, police, and correctional systems in Chad; and

(9) urges the President and the international community to coordinate efforts to make available sufficient resources in support of this multilateral and multidimensional mission, as well as adequate assistance to meet the continuing humanitarian and security needs of the individuals and areas most affected by this conflict.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 237. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 20, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes.

SA 238. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 237 proposed by Mr. REID to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 20, supra.

SA 239. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 20, supra.

SA 240. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 239 proposed by Mr. REID to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 20, supra.

SA 241. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 240 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 239 proposed by Mr. REID to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 20, supra.

SA 242. Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURR, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COBURN, Mr.

CORNIN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. KYL, Mr. LOTT, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 20, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 243. Mr. ALEXANDER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 20, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 244. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 20, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 245. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 20, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 246. Mr. MARTINEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 20, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 247. Mr. MARTINEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 20, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 248. Mr. MARTINEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 20, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 249. Mr. MARTINEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 20, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 237. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 20, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end of the resolution add the following:

This division shall take effect 2 days after date of enactment.

SA 238. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 237 proposed by Mr. REID to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 20, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment strike 2 and insert 1.

SA 239. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 20, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end of the resolution add the following:

This division shall take effect 5 days after date of enactment.

SA 240. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 239 proposed by Mr. REID to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 20, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment strike 5 and insert 4.

SA 241. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 240 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 239 proposed by Mr. REID to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 20, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes; as follows: