

version of both that we can both support.

Mr. COBURN. I inquire of the Chair how much time is remaining.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oklahoma has 1 minute 17 seconds.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I hope the American people will look at these commonsense amendments and look at how their Senators vote. The one way to get things done is to put somebody in a bind. The fact is, this is the law. It is already the law, and we are saying we are going to put some teeth behind the law and make you do it.

I raise one final point. If my colleagues vote against this, what they are saying to every other agency is: There is no consequence to not reporting and doing what you are supposed to do under the Improper Payments Act of 2002. That is the signal we will be sending.

The American people want the signal the other way. With \$100 billion of their tax money paid out the door, that is improper, most of it overpayments, and we are saying we are letting one of the biggest agencies of the Federal Government off the hook.

If my colleagues want to vote for that, that is fine, but I hope we are held accountable for that vote in the next election cycle when we claim we want the Government to be efficient, we claim we want it smaller, we claim we want to get good value for the American taxpayer value. These votes surely will not show that, if my colleagues vote against these two amendments.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WHITEHOUSE). All time has expired.

Under the previous order, the question is on agreeing to amendment No. 294 offered by the Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I move to table amendment No. 294 offered by the Senator from Oklahoma, and I ask the vote be taken by the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) is necessarily absent.

Mr. LOTT. The following Senator was necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

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

The result was announced—yeas 60, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 70 Leg.]

YEAS—60

Akaka	Bond	Cardin
Baucus	Boxer	Carper
Bayh	Brown	Casey
Bennett	Bunning	Clinton
Biden	Byrd	Cochran
Bingaman	Cantwell	Coleman

Collins	Lautenberg	Rockefeller
Conrad	Levin	Salazar
Dodd	Lieberman	Sanders
Dorgan	Lincoln	Schumer
Durbin	Lott	Smith
Feingold	Menendez	Snowe
Feinstein	Mikulski	Specter
Harkin	Murkowski	Stabenow
Inouye	Murray	Stevens
Kennedy	Nelson (FL)	Tester
Kerry	Nelson (NE)	Voinovich
Klobuchar	Pryor	Webb
Kohl	Reed	Whitehouse
Landrieu	Reid	Wyden

NAYS—38

Alexander	Ensign	Martinez
Allard	Enzi	McCaskill
Brownback	Graham	McConnell
Burr	Grassley	Obama
Chambliss	Gregg	Roberts
Coburn	Hagel	Sessions
Corker	Hatch	Shelby
Cornyn	Hutchison	Sununu
Craig	Inhofe	Thomas
Crapo	Isakson	Thune
DeMint	Kyl	Vitter
Dole	Leahy	Warner
Domenici	Lugar	

NOT VOTING—2

Johnson	McCain
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The motion was agreed to.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote and to lay that motion on the table.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 325

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a 2-minute debate equally divided on the Coburn amendment No. 325.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, this is a real simple amendment. The improper payments law was passed in 2002. By 2004, all Government agencies were supposed to come under it. The Homeland Security Department has never filed, under the six major agencies, an improper payments report.

People will say: Well, this will cut off funding. No. 1, it would not cut off any funding for 18 months. No. 2, if you vote against this, you are sending a signal to every other agency that they do not have to comply with the improper payments law.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I intend to move to table this Coburn amendment, and, obviously, I look forward to working with the Senator in our committee.

Basically, the funding on this bill is subjected to the improper payments law. As a letter from the National Governors Association makes clear, the Coburn amendment would effectively, and I quote, “stop all State homeland security grant expenditures.”

That is unfair, unnecessary, and that is why I will move to table.

Mr. President, I yield back all remaining time on both sides, and I move to table the amendment offered by the Senator from Oklahoma and ask for the Senator from Oklahoma and ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) is necessarily absent.

Mr. LOTT. The following Senators were necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

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

The result was announced—yeas 66, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 71 Leg.]

YEAS—66

Akaka	Domenici	Mikulski
Allard	Dorgan	Murray
Brownback	Baucus	Nelson (NE)
Burr	Feinstein	Obama
Chambliss	Hagel	Pryor
Coburn	Hatch	Reed
Corker	Shelby	
Cornyn	Sessions	
Craig	Thomas	
Crapo	Vitter	
DeMint	Warner	
Dole	Whitehouse	

NOT VOTING—31

Johnson	McCain	Murkowski
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The motion was agreed to.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. I move to reconsider the vote and to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, we had hoped at this point to offer another consent request to the Senate about several amendments we thought were cleared on both sides. Unfortunately, there is objection on that so we will have to wait.

Pursuant to the consent agreement we passed last week, we are going to final passage on this bill today. When we come back after the party lunches at 2:15, we will begin to dispose of the pending germane amendments in whatever way we can at that time. Then this afternoon we will go to final passage. There definitely will be additional votes this afternoon on this important legislation.

I ask that the Senate stand in recess under the previous order.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 12:30 having arrived, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, at 12:34 p.m., the Senate recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. CARPER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

IMPROVING AMERICA'S SECURITY ACT OF 2007—Continued

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I say to my colleagues, on the pending legislation, S. 4, the Senate has now used up all the time postclosure so that what stands—if I could put it in a more negative light than I should—before the Senate and the vote on final passage of this important legislation is disposition of the remaining germane amendments and any other matters that can be passed by consent.

We are working on a managers' amendment which would contain the matters about which there is unanimous consent. We are whittling down the number of germane amendments that will need to be voted on. I say to my colleagues we hope to be able soon to announce when the last few votes on amendments and final passage will occur. But they will definitely occur this afternoon.

I thank the Chair, and pending further developments, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I have spoken to the manager of the bill, and I am—with his permission and their permission—going to speak. But as soon as they are ready to reclaim the floor, to close this down, I am prepared to stop at that point, or before.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senator is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 383

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I know there is not a lot of time, but the amendment that is at the desk, No. 383, that I have—I ask it be called up and be considered.

This is all about rail safety. The Federal Government currently has no say on where 90-ton rail tankers, filled with chlorine or other hazardous chemicals, are shipped around the Nation. The Naval Research Laboratory, at my request, some months ago, issued a report. The context of my inquiry with them was: What would happen if one of these 90-ton chlorine gas tanker cars exploded—for example, where a terrorist put C-2 underneath there in a populated area and blew it up?

What made me think of it was, you may remember almost 2 years ago now, out in North Dakota, one of these tankers leaked, and the end result was a number of adjoining towns, small

towns, had to be evacuated because it was so deadly.

So I asked the question of the Naval Research Center. As you know, some of our best scientists in the world are there. I asked: What would happen? What would happen if a 90-ton tanker containing chlorine were to be blown up in a major metropolitan area?

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the report submitted to me be printed in the RECORD.

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

Advanced simulation technology gives us a practical breakthrough for analyzing and treating urban contaminant accidents, pollutant incidents, and in combating Chemical, Biological, and Radiological (CBR) terrorism. Today the nation is striving to develop plans and corresponding procedures to prepare for these contingencies. The ability to construct accurate, easy-to-understand analyses of dangerous contaminant release incidents is an absolutely crucial component of civil defense planning and execution. When decisions have to be made during an actual crisis, essentially infinite speed is required of the predictions and yet the analyses must be performed with high accuracy. When responding to a CBR crisis, waiting even one minute to perform simplified support computations can be far too long for timely situation assessment. State-of-the-art, engineering-quality three-dimensional predictions that one might be more inclined to believe can take hours or days. The answer to this dilemma is to do the most accurate computations possible well ahead of time and then to capture their salient results in a highly compressed database that can be recalled, manipulated, and displayed instantly during a crisis. Dispersion Nomograph™ technology was invented at NRL to provide this capability.

This presentation is based on a portable software tool called CT-Analyst™ that uses dispersion nomographs to combine information from sensors and eyewitness reports to find contaminant sources in an urban maze of buildings, to track airborne contaminant plumes accurately across the city, and to plan evacuation routes. In a crisis, real time users don't have to wait for any of these results because personnel defense plans and strategies can be adapted to current situation assessments with no delay for computing. This presentation uses CT-Analyst to show the evolution of a large contaminant plume caused by the rupture of a railroad tank car adjacent to the Blathersburg Mall.

Detailed, three-dimensional FAST3D-CT simulations (such as shown at left) are compressed by more than a factor of 10,000 to produce compact data structures called Dispersion Nomographs™. These "nomographs" allow CT-Analyst™ to make accurate, instantaneous predictions including the effects of buildings (as shown at right). This example shows the situation twenty minutes after a contaminant release occurred at the location marked by the blue star with the wind from 295 degrees at 3 m/s. This CT-Analyst display shows the instantaneous plume at 20 minutes (light red) superimposed on the footprint of the likely contamination region (light gray). The footprint can eventually become contaminated beyond tolerable limits sometime during the scenario. The plume region displayed surrounds the instantaneous plume—with a safety buffer zone. CT-Analyst is in use at a number of locations (see figure), was extended for Operation Iraqi Freedom, and is being modified as a CBR Emergency Assessment System for installation in Navy bases over seas.

Also overlaid on the CT-Analyst display are the results of the backtrack function (sensor readings and observations determining a probable source location as shown in blue and purple). CT-Analyst performs multi-sensor fusion operations based on the very limited information about the contaminant density. A number of sensors are active and operating in automatic (triangles) and manual (circles) modes to register the presence or absence of the agent plume at their location. Red indicates a "hot" sensor (something considered dangerous) and blue indicates a "cold" reading where the contaminant agent density is below the threshold for detection. Please note that the "Escape" function has also been activated in this composite display, projecting optimal evacuation routes. These recommended evacuation routes suggest walking paths for rapid egress from the path of the advancing plume and continue out to the edges of the contamination footprint. This entire assessment takes about 50 milliseconds on a typical windows laptop computer.

The figure above shows the contaminant concentration just three minutes after a railroad tank car accident has occurred along the indicated section of track where the right-of-way turns toward the east as shown by the yellow arrow. A large quantity of contaminant has been released in a couple of minutes. The time is late evening and the brisk breeze, from the southeast in this scenario, blows the cloud up toward a quarter of a million people celebrating Fourth of July on the Mall near the Blathersburg Monument.

The large gray area is the contamination footprint predicted by CT-Analyst™; this area can become highly contaminated in the first half an hour. It is a good idea to get to outside the footprint and stay outside of it until an "all clear" is given. The bands of color downwind of the source, originating at the bright blue stars along the track, indicate the contaminant concentration in the cloud moving with the wind toward the upper left. The table tells how to interpret the colors in easily understood terms. The actual numbers, of course, can only be made specific and quantitative when the absolute size of the source is known. Each color marks approximately a factor of two range of concentration values. People breathing yellow green and "hotter" colors are in a very deadly situation. Not all colors appear on each figure because the contaminant concentration drops as the plume (cloud) spreads.

The diagonal purple lines in this and the following figures mark general suggested evacuation routes. The gaps in these lines show a kind of "no man's land" where the plume will go first and in highest concentration. People should walk briskly away from the center of the advancing plume along the general direction of these evacuation paths skirting around buildings and keeping to reasonable walking routes as required. Don't run and don't get in or stay in a car.

These two figures show the advancing plume at five minutes (left) and ten minutes (right) after the release occurred. Three adjacent blue stars are used to mark the extended region over which this release has occurred from a moving railroad tank car. The yellow arrow indicates the direction of motion along the track and the pink arrow is the prevailing wind direction in each figure. The brisk breeze here is a worst case because slower winds allow much easier evacuation from the affected area and much faster winds dissipate the cloud so quickly that fewer people at any one spot receive critical doses.

Almost everywhere in the plume after five minutes has elapsed (colored region)