

their investigation and oversight efforts regarding the Federal Emergency Management Agency; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 27

Whereas, in House Concurrent Resolution No. 72 of the 2005 First Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the legislature expressed serious concerns regarding the \$3.7 billion that Louisiana was expected to pay to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as the state's share of hurricane recovery costs; and

Whereas, these concerns stemmed from initial reports of inefficiencies and accounting errors on the part of FEMA, which had resulted in an artificially high spending for disaster recovery; and

Whereas, in light of its concerns, the Legislature of Louisiana memorialized the United States Congress to task the Government Accountability Office (GAO) with a complete audit of FEMA's expenditures, and the appropriateness and reasonableness thereof, on Katrina and Rita recovery efforts in Louisiana; and

Whereas, to date the Forensic Audits and Special Investigations Unit of the GAO has delivered four reports to the United States Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs regarding its investigation of fraud, waste, and abuse in FEMA's response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; and

Whereas, the titles of these reports alone indicate that the Louisiana Legislature was right to be suspicious of and to request inquiry into the amount FEMA was claiming it spent on recovery: Expedited Assistance for Victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; FEMA's Control Weaknesses Exposed the Government to Significant Fraud and Abuse; Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Disaster Relief: Improper and Potentially Fraudulent Individual Assistance Payments Estimated to be Between \$600 Million and \$1.4 Billion, and Purchase Cards: Control Weaknesses Leave DHS Highly Vulnerable to Fraudulent, Improper, and Abusive Activity; and

Whereas, on December 6, 2006, the GAO delivered its most recent report to a meeting of the Senate Committee; and

Whereas, this last report, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Disaster Relief Continued Findings of Fraud, Waste, and Abuse, includes the following findings: nearly \$17 million in potentially improper or fraudulent rental assistance payments to individuals while they were living in trailers also paid for by FEMA; FEMA provided potentially improper or fraudulent rental assistance payments to individuals living in FEMA-paid apartments; nearly \$20 million in potentially improper or fraudulent payments went to individuals who registered for both Hurricanes Katrina and Rita assistance using the same property; and millions of dollars of improper and potentially fraudulent payments went to nonqualified aliens, including foreign students and temporary workers; and

Whereas, it is reasonable to expect at this time that additional inquiry by the GAO will continue to reveal further problems with the FEMA expenditures; and

Whereas, in her opening statement to the committee when this report was delivered, Committee Chairman Senator Susan M. Collins said: "No flaw has been more persistent and more damaging to effective relief for disaster victims and to public confidence in their government than the rampant fraud, waste, and abuse that have plagued federal relief and recovery programs"; and

Whereas, in his statement to the committee at that meeting, ranking minority member Senator Joe Lieberman said "GAO's investigations over the past year as well as

FEMA's own data on overpayments show that the agency squandered hundreds of millions of dollars in gross improper payments to individuals and households that the government may never recover"; and

Whereas, the United States Congress has already responded to some of the GAO findings by including a FEMA reform package as part of the 2007 Appropriations Act for the Department of Homeland Security; and

Whereas, though it has now been approximately fifteen months since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck Louisiana, the GAO investigations and FEMA's own admissions confirm suspicions of waste, the \$3.7 billion that FEMA originally billed to Louisiana is now expected to be closer to \$500 million, and Congress has taken actions to prevent some of the abuse from occurring in the future, the Legislature of Louisiana is hopeful that the United States Senate Committee and the Forensic Audits and Special Investigations Unit of the GAO will not forget about this issue; and

Whereas, Louisiana is prepared to pay its share of reasonable costs of recovery, but a definitive appraisal of reasonable costs has not yet been determined; and

Whereas, incoming United States Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has announced tentative committee assignments for the 110th Congress, which include Senator Joe Lieberman assuming the position of committee chairman and Senator Mary Landrieu being made a member of the committee; and

Whereas, with Senator Lieberman in a position to continue the important work of the committee and Senator Landrieu in a position to represent the interests of her state in this work, and with the excellent work of the GAO in evidence, the Legislature of Louisiana is hopeful that an accurate appraisal of the state's obligation in the area of recovery costs will be determined soon: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its gratitude to the United States Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and to the Forensic Audits and Special Investigations Unit of the GAO for the work they have already done in identifying fraud and waste in FEMA's hurricane recovery spending in Louisiana; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the committee and the GAO to continue their investigation and oversight efforts and to provide guidance to FEMA and to the state of Louisiana as to what the state's share of legitimate recovery expenses is; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Louisiana congressional delegation, Senator Susan Collins, Senator Joe Lieberman, the managing director of the Forensic Audits and Special Investigations Unit of the Government Accountability Office, the Louisiana commissioner of administration, and the Louisiana legislative auditor.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. LOTT, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. BURR, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr.

SCHUMER, Mr. PRYOR, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 294. A bill to reauthorize Amtrak, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 295. A bill to establish a servitude and emancipation archival research clearinghouse in the National Archives; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BOND (for himself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 296. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the availability of the cash method of accounting for small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SALAZAR:

S. 297. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide 15-year straight-line cost recovery for certain improvements to retail space and for qualified new restaurant improvements and to expand the eligibility for the work opportunity tax credit to all disabled veterans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. STEVENS):

S. 298. A bill to provide incentives for renewable energy production, to increase fuel economy standards for automobiles, and to provide tax incentives for renewable energy production; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COLEMAN:

S. 299. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing for small businesses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KYL (for himself, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. REID, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 300. A bill to authorize appropriations for the Bureau of Reclamation to carry out the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program in the States of Arizona, California, and Nevada, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 301. A bill to provide higher education assistance for nontraditional students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 302. A bill to establish a procedure to safeguard the Social Security Trust Funds; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 303. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 324 Main Street in Grambling, Louisiana, shall be known and designated as the "Coach Eddie Robinson Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. VOINOVICH:

S. 304. A bill to establish a commission to develop legislation designed to reform tax policy and entitlement benefit programs and to ensure a sound fiscal future for the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 305. A bill to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to make it unlawful for a packer to own, feed, or control livestock intended for slaughter; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 306. A bill to provide certain requirements for hydroelectric projects on the Mohawk River in the State of New York, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 307. A bill to establish a minimum rate of release for water from the Yellowtail Dam, Montana; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DODD:

S. 308. A bill to prohibit an escalation in United States military forces in Iraq without prior authorization by Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. REED, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 309. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BIDEN (for himself and Mr. LUGAR):

S. Res. 30. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the need for the United States to address global climate change through the negotiation of fair and effective international commitments; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 6

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 6, a bill to enhance the security of the United States by reducing the dependence of the United States on foreign and unsustainable energy sources and the risks of global warming, and for other purposes.

S. 55

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 55, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the individual alternative minimum tax.

S. 65

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 65, a bill to modify the age-60 standard for certain pilots and for other purposes.

S. 183

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 183, a bill to require the establishment of a corporate average fuel economy standard for passenger automobiles of 40 miles per gallon by 2017, and for other purposes.

S. 193

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 193, a bill to increase cooperation on energy issues between the United States Government and foreign governments and entities in order to

secure the strategic and economic interests of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 200

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 200, a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation and the United States Geological Survey, to conduct a study on groundwater resources in the State of Alaska, and for other purposes.

S. 223

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 223, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 250

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 250, a bill to reduce the costs of prescription drugs for Medicare beneficiaries and to guarantee access to comprehensive prescription drug coverage under part D of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 261

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 261, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen prohibitions against animal fighting, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 22

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 22, a resolution reaffirming the constitutional and statutory protections accorded sealed domestic mail, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 29

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 29, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and the many lessons still to be learned from Dr. King's example of nonviolence, courage, compassion, dignity, and public service.

AMENDMENT NO. 17

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 17 proposed to S. 1, a bill to provide greater transparency in the legislative process.

AMENDMENT NO. 20

At the request of Mr. BENNETT, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 20 proposed to S. 1, a bill to provide greater transparency in the legislative process.

AMENDMENT NO. 44

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, his name was added as a cosponsor of

amendment No. 44 proposed to S. 1, a bill to provide greater transparency in the legislative process.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. LOTT, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. BURR, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. PRYOR, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 294. A bill to reauthorize Amtrak, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, together with my good friend—the new Minority Whip—Senator TRENT LOTT I rise to introduce S. 294, the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2007.

After several gloomy years, the future of America's passenger railroad is bright. This legislation will provide the necessary resources to bring Amtrak up to speed as a real alternative to taking a plane or driving a car.

As we did in the past, we have joined forces to strengthen Amtrak and intercity passenger rail services for all Americans. But today, we introduce an updated version of last Congress's Amtrak reauthorization and passenger rail expansion bill. S. 1516, the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement (PRIIA) Act of 2005.

I co-authored this legislation with Senator LOTT, then Chairman of the Commerce Committee's Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Subcommittee, so that we could finally provide Amtrak with the funding and support it needs to thrive. The Commerce Committee favorably reported this bill, and Senator LOTT and I added it to last Congress's Budget Reconciliation package, where it was adopted by an overwhelming vote of 93 to 6. Despite the bipartisan support, the House failed to act, so Amtrak was left without a necessary reauthorization.

Now, in the new Congress, I am the chair of the Commerce Committee's Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Subcommittee. Working with Senator LOTT, and our bipartisan group of cosponsors, we are going to get our Amtrak bill through the Senate. This time, I believe the House will be ready, willing, and able to match our efforts, so that we can send a bill to the President for his signature.

Every year, Amtrak is forced to fight for Federal funding—funding that has been insufficient at best. But as air and highway congestion continue to worsen, and concerns over our dependence on foreign oil remain, we must expand the capacity and improve the quality of our passenger rail system.

One needs only to look to Europe and Asia to see the benefits that a modern