

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008—S. CON. RES. 21; FURTHER REVISIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 309 DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR COUNTY PAYMENTS LEGISLATION

(in billions of dollars)

Current Allocation to Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee:	
FY 2007 Budget Authority	5,016
FY 2007 Outlays	5,484
FY 2008 Budget Authority	5,636
FY 2008 Outlays	5,322
FY 2008–2012 Budget Authority	29,583
FY 2008–2012 Outlays	28,475
Adjustments:	
FY 2007 Budget Authority	0
FY 2007 Outlays	0
FY 2008 Budget Authority	–565
FY 2008 Outlays	–565
FY 2008–2012 Budget Authority	–3,745
FY 2008–2012 Outlays	–3,745
Revised Allocation to Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee:	
FY 2007 Budget Authority	5,016
FY 2007 Outlays	5,484
FY 2008 Budget Authority	5,071
FY 2008 Outlays	4,757
FY 2008–2012 Budget Authority	25,838
FY 2008–2012 Outlays	24,730

REMEMBERING SENATOR CRAIG THOMAS

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, all of us in the Senate will miss Craig Thomas. I got to know Craig when we both served on the Senate Ethics Committee. During that time, I came to admire him as a wonderful human being, a man of character and integrity, and someone who spoke plainly on how he felt about things.

I also admired Craig for speaking up in policy lunch and at the steering committee on so many occasions. He always got to the nub of the problem and never failed to tell it just as he saw it. On many occasions, I sensed he had a great frustration with the system, but he stayed in there and was an encouragement to many.

When he got sick, Janet and I put him on our prayer list. I also looked at some health care alternatives for him in Cleveland, but he felt he had great care at the Bethesda Naval Hospital. The last time I saw him, he looked like the old Craig, full of vim and vigor. We were shocked when we heard of his passing. It is said that it is not the number of years one lives that counts but what one does with those years that matters. We will all miss Craig but know that he is in heaven with our father eternally happy.

POSITIVE ENERGY DIRECTION

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, last week this body passed energy legislation that finally sets the U.S. energy policy in a new, positive direction. In 2005, I opposed the Energy bill because it did not establish a sound and fiscally responsible energy policy. The Renewable Fuels, Consumer Protection, and Energy Efficiency Act of 2007 will help wean the United States of oil dependence, encourage the development of renewable energy, and promote energy efficiency, and I was pleased to support it.

The bill includes many important provisions. A renewable fuel standard of 36 billion gallons of renewable fuel by 2022 will help spur the development of advanced fuels such as cellulosic ethanol, which holds a lot of promise for my home State of Wisconsin. The bill also includes anti-price gouging language, based on Senator CANTWELL's bill that I cosponsored, to protect consumers from price gouging by sellers and distributors of oil, gasoline, or petroleum distillates during natural disasters and abnormal market disruptions.

The bill also includes a proposal of mine that supports local renewable energy—an issue I am committed to advancing and hear a lot about during the listening sessions I annually hold in every county of Wisconsin. My amendment, cosponsored by Senators SANDERS and MENENDEZ, guarantees that a new energy and environmental block grant program would provide resources to cities and counties nationwide to reduce fossil fuel emissions, reduce energy use, and improve energy efficiency while ensuring these improvements do not harm the environment and retain the benefits of activities within the local community, such as encouraging local or cooperative ownership of bioenergy efforts.

Our Nation's addiction to oil poses a significant threat to our economy, our security, and our environment. The Federal Government should allow and encourage State and local governments to improve their energy policies while creating opportunities for rural Americans to produce and benefit from renewable energy. My amendment is based on my larger effort to increase opportunities for rural America outlined in my Rural Opportunities Act. Introduced in February 2007, the Rural Opportunities Act helps sustain and strengthen rural economies for the future and create more opportunities in rural communities. A crucial component of the bill is ensuring that the potential benefits from domestic renewable energy are gained in an environmentally responsible manner that benefits local communities.

During debate on this important bill, I also supported several efforts to improve it. I was pleased to cosponsor several successful amendments including one offered by the senior Senator from Wisconsin, Mr. KOHL, to make oil-producing and exporting cartels illegal, and make colluding oil-producing nations liable in U.S. court for violations of antitrust law. I also cosponsored the amendment from the Senator from Colorado, Mr. SALAZAR, that states the sense of Congress that America's agricultural, forestry, and working lands should provide 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the United States from renewable sources by the year 2025 while continuing to produce safe, abundant, and affordable food, feed, and fiber.

I supported an amendment offered by the Senator from Indiana, Mr. BAYH,

that sets aggressive targets for reducing oil consumption by 10,000 billion barrels a day by 2030. The language is simple—it sets our goal, and we have to figure out how to get there. We are a country of innovators. Whether it is wind, solar, biodiesel, or a technology we still have not dreamed of yet, we can—and we must—break our addiction to oil. This bold, aggressive amendment can help ensure that we meet our goal of real energy independence and security.

Any plan to move away from our dependence on oil needs to address fuel efficiency standards for our vehicles. In the last few years, I have joined a majority of my Senate colleagues in supporting legislation requiring the administration to increase fuel efficiency, but we have so far been unsuccessful in getting this requirement enacted. I supported a proposal from several of my colleagues, including Senators PRYOR and LEVIN, that was crafted to increase fuel efficiency standards substantially without jeopardizing the jobs of many hard-working Wisconsinites. It is unfortunate this amendment was never offered. I will be following the House and Senate conference closely to ensure that the final bill strikes the right balance on this issue.

I am also disappointed that the Senate was unable to muster the necessary votes to overcome Republican objections to a tax package reported by the Finance Committee that would boost energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. The cost of these new or extended tax incentives was fully offset. It is also unfortunate that the Senate could not once again pass a renewable portfolio standard to ensure that all States' utilities are producing a minimum percentage of renewable energy. My home State of Wisconsin is one of about 20 States that currently have such a standard, but a Federal standard would help level the playing field.

It is encouraging, however, that the Senate soundly rejected proposals to mandate the use of and direct Federal money to develop coal-to-liquid facilities. Private investors have not been willing to invest in this technology in the United States because of significant capital costs and risks, not to mention the unproven technology to capture and store greenhouse gas emissions.

Energy security is an important issue for America and one which my Wisconsin constituents take very seriously. I am pleased this bill rejects the efforts of some of my colleagues to insist on drilling for oil and gas in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge would sacrifice one of America's greatest natural treasures for a supply of oil that would not significantly enhance our energy security. The supply of oil in the Arctic Refuge may not last more than a year, would not be available for many years to come, and would decrease gas prices by only a penny when the Refuge is at its highest

rate of production. Drilling in the Arctic Refuge does nothing to address the immediate need of the Federal Government to respond to fluctuations in gas prices and help expand refining capacity. Those who offer the Refuge as the solution to our need for energy independence are pointing us in the wrong direction.

This year's Energy bill finally moves past this misguided debate and other fiscally and environmentally irresponsible proposals. The United States is at an important juncture. By supporting the Energy bill, I am supporting a new direction for our Nation's energy policy: one that encourages renewable energy, conservation of the resources we have, and American innovation.

GREAT LAKES SHORT SEA SHIPPING ACT

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I speak in support of the Great Lakes Short Sea Shipping Act of 2007. This legislation will exempt from the harbor maintenance tax certain commercial cargo loaded or unloaded at U.S. ports in the Great Lakes Saint Lawrence System.

In recent years, transportation planners have been struggling to identify ways to move people and goods more efficiently. Congested highways, particularly at the Detroit, Michigan/Windsor, Ontario border crossing, the busiest border crossing in North America, acts as a huge constraint to economic growth.

The purpose of the Harbor Maintenance Tax, HMT, is to generate revenue from port users for port maintenance conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps maintains Federal shipping channels by conducting periodic dredging, which is necessary to remove sand and silt that occur naturally in shipping channels. HMT receipts are placed in the harbor maintenance trust fund, which serves as a source of revenue for the Corps' dredging budget. The HMT is assessed on cargo transported between U.S. ports and cargo imported to U.S. ports from other countries. Exports are not assessed a tax. More specifically, the tax is not paid by the vessel owner, nor the port, but by the owner of the cargo in each ship. The bill would provide a narrow exemption to the HMT for the movement of nonbulk only commercial cargo by water in the Great Lakes region, which includes the movement of freight and people between the U.S. ports on the Great Lakes and between Canadian and U.S. ports on the Great Lakes.

This very narrow exemption would remove the current disincentive to moving freight by water and allow the region's transportation planners to develop new shipping services to not only relieve highway congestion, but to improve air quality as well. Moreover, the legislation could open up new shipping services to be offered on the Great Lakes, thus creating jobs in the mari-

time sector. One of the other benefits is that this exemption will offer options for trucks that may choose to use the bridges, tunnels, or now ferry service. Because the Detroit/Windsor border crossing is the busiest border crossing in North America, any alternative mode of transportation that allows for commerce to flow more smoothly, quickly, and efficiently is beneficial not only to the Great Lakes region, but to the country. Also, in this time of us working to be more responsible and have a cleaner environment for our children, allowing trucks off of the congested highways and onto ferries where they can cut off engines and not idle, will reduce air emissions, improve air quality, and cut down on gasoline usage.

Moreover, since trucks currently use roads rather than ferries to move around the Great Lakes region, the Federal Government does not HMT on their cargo. Under this proposed legislative exemption, if a truck boarded a ferry, the Federal Government would still not collect a tax.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT ROY P. LEWSADER, JR.

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude, I honor the life of a brave soldier from Clinton. Roy P. Lewsader, Jr., 36 years old, was killed on June 16 while deployed in Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan, when a rocket-propelled grenade detonated near his vehicle. With a promising future ahead of him, Roy risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Roy was killed while serving his country in Operation Enduring Freedom, his second tour of duty in the ongoing war against terrorism. He was assigned to the 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, stationed in Fort Riley, KS.

Today, I join Roy's family and friends in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Roy, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Roy was known for his dedication to his family and his love of country. Today and always, Roy will be remembered by family members, friends and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero, and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Roy's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled

here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Roy's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Roy P. Lewsader, Jr. in the official record of the United States Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy, and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Roy's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Roy.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT E. STURM

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, at the end of this week Robert E. Sturm will retire following a long and distinguished career of exemplary service to the U.S. Senate, most recently as chief clerk of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry. We could not have had a more capable, conscientious and dedicated chief clerk for these many years. More important, though, we will miss Bob's friendly helpfulness to each member of our committee, to all of the staff who work on and with our committee and to the many members of the public who follow the work of our committee.

Bob Sturm began his service to the Senate 33 years ago in 1974, shortly after graduating from college, as a mail room clerk for Senator Birch Bayh of Bob's home State of Indiana. He served as mailroom clerk and mailroom manager for Senators Dick Clark of Iowa, Donald Stewart of Alabama, and Russell B. Long of Louisiana. For 2 years he was an office systems consultant for the Senate Computer Center where he assisted 14 Senate offices and helped lay the groundwork for today's Senate-wide computer network.

Bob served as Senator PATRICK LEAHY's office manager before he became the financial clerk and systems administrator for the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry in 1987, when Senator LEAHY became chairman. Bob was promoted to chief clerk for the committee under Chairman DICK LUGAR in 1995 and has held the position under several succeeding chairmen. Of course, I was pleased have Bob continue as chief clerk when I became chairman in 2001. He then continued in that position when Senator COCHRAN and Senator CHAMBLISS chaired the committee and when I once again became chairman earlier this year. It is a tremendous testament to