

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Revised Budget Resolution	2,564,237	2,466,678	1,875,401
<small>⁶ S. Con. Res. 70 assumed \$108,056 million in budget authority and \$28,901 million in outlays for overseas deployment and related activities. The Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (P.L. 110–252) designated funding for these activities as an emergency requirement, pursuant to section 204(a) of S. Con. Res. 21. Such emergency amounts are exempt from the enforcement of S. Con. Res. 70. Since current level totals exclude the emergency requirements enacted in P.L. 110–252 (see footnote 2), budget authority and outlay totals specified in S. Con. Res. 70 have been reduced for purposes of comparison.</small>			
<small>SOURCE: Congressional Budget Office.</small>			
<small>Note: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.</small>			

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CORPORAL SCOTT DIMOND

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Cpl Scott Dimond of Franklin, NH. On Monday, October 13, 2008, Corporal Dimond was tragically taken from us when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device and his patrol was engaged in small-arms attack in Kandahar, Afghanistan. My deepest sympathy, condolences, and prayers go out to Scott's family and loved ones who have suffered this grievous loss. At 39 nine years old, Scott will always be remembered as a dedicated citizen who consistently put others before himself.

Scott enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps during his senior year in high school but was medically discharged after a serious football injury. Still determined to serve his fellow citizens, Scott began a career in law enforcement. He served 18 years with the Franklin Police Department, retiring in 2006 as a sergeant. Upon his retirement, Scott's unwavering determination to serve others remained. He enlisted in the New Hampshire National Guard while working toward a degree as a registered nurse, enabling Scott to assist others in a new way—the health care profession. To any observer, Scott's professional pursuits will forever echo selflessness, sacrifice, and patriotism, and for that, we are eternally grateful.

As a member of an embedded tactical training team, there is no doubt that Scott's law enforcement background and his willingness to help others successfully contributed to the mentoring and strengthening of the Afghan army and police force, accelerating the eventual return of American military personnel from the battlefield. Consistent with the rest of his life, Scott routinely put his country and his fellow soldiers before himself. Because of his devotion and sense of duty, the safety and liberty of countless Americans is more secure. Unquestionably, Scott is a shining example of the highest caliber of person that New Hampshire, and this country, can produce. We are honored to speak of his contributions, spirit, and dedication. In the words of Daniel Webster—"what a man does for others, not what they do for him, gives him immortality." May God bless Cpl Scott Dimond, his family, and all those who are currently serving in uniform.

PROTECTIVE FORESTS AND WILDLIFE IN SUMATRA

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to call attention to the recent action of the Government of Indonesia to preserve the endangered rain forests an ecosystems of Sumatra.

On October 10, 2008, the Indonesian Government, in cooperation with the

World Wildlife Fund, WWF, announced an agreement between the 10 provincial governors of Sumatra to protect biodiversity on the world's sixth largest island. Although long overdue, this is an important first step towards conservation of a unique habitat at a critical time.

Sumatra is the only place on Earth where tigers, elephants, rhinos, and orangutans co-exist. It has also gained a reputation for having lost almost half of its natural forest cover since 1985. The rapid expansion of palm oil and pulpwood plantations, as well as rampant illegal logging, have been largely to blame. These activities have contributed to the precipitous decline in numbers of these endangered species, whose habitat has become a patchwork of disconnected small parcels of forest.

This action to protect the forests is important not only for Indonesia but for the rest of the world. Thirteen percent of Indonesia's remaining forests grow on peat soil, which emits large amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere when trees are felled. Further destruction of these forests will contribute to global warming at a time when we should be doing everything possible to reduce greenhouse gases.

This agreement represents a significant change of attitude and policy, for which President Yudhoyono and his government deserve credit. Implementing the agreement will be difficult, requiring additional resources for alternative economic opportunities for people living in these areas, and for enforcement, and I urge the U.S. Agency for International Development and other donors to support it.

MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as Chairman of the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee, I want to take a moment to speak about the budget of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, MCC.

The fiscal year 2009 State and Foreign Operations bill, reported by the Appropriations Committee on July 18, 2008, recommends \$254 million for the MCC. Since this is substantially less than the \$2 billion requested by the President, it was predictable that the Senate committee's action would cause concerns among the MCC and many of its supporters, as well as governments that seek MCC funding. Those concerns have been expressed and I want to address them briefly today. While differences are inevitable in the legislative process, it is important that such differences not be based on a misunderstanding or confusion about the facts.

During the past several months, I have heard that some of those who

have complained about the Senate committee's action have suggested that it was motivated by an antipathy towards the MCC and a desire to close it down or dramatically curtail its functions. That is incorrect.

To begin with, we have commended the MCC for what it has accomplished since its inception 4 years ago. Several compacts are beginning to show tangible results, including the implementation of agriculture, infrastructure and other projects. Ambassador John Danilovich, the MCC's CEO, has been a strong leader at a critical time, and I commend him as well as deputy CEO Rodney Bent. They have both done a fine job of representing the MCC, both here and abroad.

Earlier this year, when the subcommittee was dividing up funds allocated to State and Foreign Operations, we faced many difficult choices. Our fiscal year 2009 allocation was \$2 billion below the President's budget request, and the President underfunded or failed to fund many critical programs of interest to both Democrats and Republicans. For example, he cut funding for family planning/reproductive health by over \$100 million below the fiscal year 2008 level. He cut the U.S. contribution to the global fund to fight AIDS, TB and malaria by \$350 million. He short-changed humanitarian relief programs, peacekeeping, democracy programs, environment and energy programs. There are many other examples.

We also considered the fact that Congress had appropriated \$7.5 billion for the MCC, and by July 18 only \$235 million had been disbursed of which a significant portion was for administrative expenses. While we made clear that we were not advocating faster disbursements, we do not support additional compacts until more of the funds we have already appropriated produce sustainable results.

Many compacts were slow getting off of the ground, in some cases because the MCC rightly insisted that governments make further refinements, or because the contracting process took longer than expected. These kinds of delays are predictable and do not reflect poorly on the MCC. Unfortunately, I have heard that some MCC personnel in country are being urged to disburse funds more quickly. As we have said before, this is not our intent, particularly if it risks short-cutting procurement guidelines or other safeguards, or otherwise negatively affects the quality of implementation of compacts.

I do not know what the optimal rate of disbursement is for the MCC. It may be disbursing funds at the right rate.

By pointing out the rate of disbursement the committee has simply sought to explain why, in part, we are unable to support hundreds of millions of dollars for new compacts when compacts that are several years old have only disbursed a fraction of their funds. More time is required to review the effectiveness of the 18 compacts that already exist. I am told that the MCC's board of directors will meet in December to discuss which additional countries will be eligible to apply for compact funding in fiscal year 2009. Since we will not have a final fiscal year 2009 funding level for the MCC until late January at the earliest, I urge board members to act judiciously and to keep in mind that eligibility does not assure that a compact will be funded.

The many competing demands placed on the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill will only increase over the next few years, given the global financial crisis, which will have direct and indirect consequences for the world's poorest countries. We also expect to be asked to increase funding for international HIV/AIDS programs due to the recent PEPFAR reauthorization.

The MCC is a new and innovative form of assistance, and we want it to succeed. I was involved in drafting the authorizing legislation that established the MCC, and I have said many times that I strongly support the concept of providing governments with incentives to combat corruption, improve governance, and address the basic needs of their people. If the MCC shows that it can achieve the results we all want, it could become a model for other forms of foreign assistance.

But we cannot ignore other pressing short-term and long-term needs. Some have claimed that not providing another billion dollars for the MCC in fiscal year 2009 will delay progress toward long-term development goals. I would argue that funding to address the acute personnel shortages at the Department of State and USAID, which the President's budget largely ignores, is a priority for effective U.S. diplomacy and development assistance programs now and in the future.

It is also notable that a number of governments that were awarded compacts are not performing as expected. According to the 2009 Country Scorecard Index, 5 of the 8 MCC lower middle income countries that have compacts have failed 8 of 17 indicators. Similarly, with the reports of systemic voter fraud in the recent Nicaraguan elections, I am concerned that President Ortega's government may have jeopardized the MCC compact in that country.

The future of the MCC is now up to the Obama administration, and I expect President-elect Obama will explore all options for how the MCC should be managed and implemented, as he will for other Federal programs. However, before major adjustments, if any, take place, Congress has to finish the remaining fiscal year 2009 spending bills.

Senator GREGG and I will be working with our colleagues in the House. There are several areas in the State and Foreign Operations bill where the Senate and House positions differ, and the MCC is one obvious example. Until then, I would encourage those who care about the MCC, as many of us do, to focus on ensuring that funds already appropriated are used effectively.

TRIBUTE TO BOB MILLER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the great achievements of a wonderful Vermont businessman, Bob Miller, president of R.E.M. Development Company in Williston.

Bobby started R.E.M. Development in 1984, and over the last quarter century, the company has grown to become one of Vermont's largest commercial real estate developers. While it is hard to travel around Vermont without running into one of Bobby's projects, his lifelong commitment to bettering his community is both admirable and commendable.

Bobby recently received two special awards for his outstanding business practices and devotion to the community. Citing "their determination, success, and philanthropy," the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce honored R.E.M. Development as its 2008 Large Business of the Year. In addition, saying that Bobby "typifies the true spirit of service and self-sacrifice in representing the finest ideals of Vermont citizenship," the Vermont Chamber of Commerce presented him with its 2008 Citizen of the Year Award. I congratulate Bobby and R.E.M. Development for both of these well-deserved achievements.

I ask unanimous consent to have a November 17, 2008, Burlington Free Press article about Bobby Miller's successful career printed in the RECORD so all Senators can read about a prosperous Vermont businessman who continually gives back to his community.

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

[From the Burlington Free Press, Monday, Nov. 17, 2008]

MILLER IS A BUILDER AND A GIVER

(By Adam Silverman)

WILLISTON.—Just about anybody can create and run a thriving business when times are good. When the economic outlook is gloomier, though, success requires more careful planning and management.

That's both a piece of advice from and a guiding philosophy for Bob Miller, president of Williston-based R.E.M. Development Co., a 24-year-old company that builds and leases commercial real estate. Even with recession fears spreading, Miller said business is flourishing.

"There is always demand," he said last week while sitting behind his granite-topped desk at an industrial park he owns on Avenue D. "I don't think there's a good time or a bad time to go into business. Either you have a business plan that's going to work, or it's not. Anyone can make it in good times."

Outside, cars, trucks, big rigs and package-delivery vans frequented the businesses that rent space in his buildings. The park represents just a fraction of the 2 million square feet of real estate R.E.M. rents, a total that makes the company "the region's largest commercial industrial developer of manufacturing, distribution, warehouse, and flex space," it boasts on its Web site.

Miller, 73, of Burlington, whose initials compose his company's acronym, incorporates another component into his philosophy: the need for philanthropy, for businesses to give back to their communities. He has donated money and construction services to hospitals, exposition centers and youth recreational facilities, among many others. Miller and his wife, Holly, give what they call the "three Ts"—time, talent and treasure.

"It's kind of fun to take on one of these projects and stand back and say, 'We really helped this neighborhood,'" Miller said. "It's a great way to get your name out. There are rewards for philanthropy. People know you're out in the community giving back and not just taking, taking, taking. That's not why we do it—we do it because we want to—but there is that relationship in getting involved."

Those components of Miller's work, the successful company and the devotion to philanthropy, led to two awards he received last week.

The Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce honored R.E.M. Development on Tuesday as its large business of the year, citing Miller and the company for "their determination, success, and philanthropy." Three days later, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce presented Miller its Citizen of the Year Award, also championing his business acumen and his good works.

Miller "typifies the true spirit of service and self-sacrifice in representing the finest ideals of Vermont citizenship," the Vermont Chamber says on its Web site. "His commitment to the prosperity of the people and businesses in Vermont reaches statewide."

Among Miller's projects is Burlington's Gosse Court Armory, an old National Guard facility the military donated to the city in 2005 for transformation into a community center.

The city approached Miller about a potential contribution after budget estimates exceeded available resources. Miller looked at the plans, said he could do the work for \$500,000 less than the \$1.3 million estimate, and agreed to serve as general contractor. Later he wrote a check for \$100,000.

"It's really extraordinary to have a developer with his skills and expertise step forward to do this for his community," the city's chief administrative officer, Jonathan Leopold, said earlier this year.

Sitting in his office last week, Miller fielded a phone call from a construction worker at the armory. Without referring to any plans or drawings, Miller helped solve an engineering challenge from memory, delivering precise instructions. Then he drew a sketch on a blank sheet of paper to help an observer understand the issue: the alignment of basketball hoops and the configuration of lines on the gymnasium floor.

Miller's talent for drawing and engineering came naturally, he said. A Rutland native, Miller thought during high school he wanted to be a mechanic, but after graduation he turned toward engineering. His first job was as a draftsman.

He moved to Burlington in 1959 and helped draft electrical plans for the University of Vermont's library and Burlington High School; because the money wasn't great, Miller also tended bar, he said. In 1972 he started New England Air Systems, which he ran for