

and the allocation provided to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the following revisions to S. Con. Res. 70.

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

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009—S. CON. RES. 70; FURTHER REVISIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 223 DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR INVESTMENTS IN AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE

[In billions of dollars]

Section 101	
(1)(A) Federal Revenues:	
FY 2008	1,875,401
FY 2009	2,029,667
FY 2010	2,204,701
FY 2011	2,413,291
FY 2012	2,506,069
FY 2013	2,626,577
(1)(B) Change in Federal Revenues:	
FY 2008	-3,999
FY 2009	-67,732
FY 2010	21,303
FY 2011	-14,779
FY 2012	-151,526
FY 2013	-123,642
(2) New Budget Authority:	
FY 2008	2,564,237
FY 2009	2,538,268
FY 2010	2,566,829
FY 2011	2,692,492
FY 2012	2,734,106
FY 2013	2,858,848
(3) Budget Outlays:	
FY 2008	2,466,678
FY 2009	2,573,280
FY 2010	2,625,754
FY 2011	2,711,453
FY 2012	2,719,533
FY 2013	2,851,944

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[In millions of dollars]

Current Allocation to Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee:	
FY 2008 Budget Authority 13,964	
FY 2008 Outlays	9,363
FY 2009 Budget Authority	14,435
FY 2009 Outlays	10,253
FY 2009–2013 Budget Authority	75,947
FY 2009–2013 Outlays	49,989
Adjustments:	
FY 2008 Budget Authority	0
FY 2008 Outlays	0
FY 2009 Budget Authority	0
FY 2009 Outlays	0
FY 2009–2013 Budget Authority	-8
FY 2009–2013 Outlays	-8
Revised Allocation to Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee:	
FY 2008 Budget Authority	13,964
FY 2008 Outlays	9,363
FY 2009 Budget Authority	14,435
FY 2009 Outlays	10,253
FY 2009–2013 Budget Authority	75,939
FY 2009–2013 Outlays	49,981

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY CAUCUS

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about a subject that is near and dear to my heart, the Senate Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus.

Would the distinguished gentlemen from North Dakota and Idaho engage in a colloquy with me on this topic?

Mr. DORGAN. I would be pleased to engage in such a colloquy.

Mr. CRAPO. I would also like to join my colleagues in a colloquy on this matter.

Mr. ALLARD. I thank my colleagues. The need for a strong renewable energy policy has never been more timely. This is something I have worked on for many years. As a member of the House of Representatives I was a member of the House Renewable Energy Caucus, and when I was elected to the Senate, discovered that no such similar caucus existed here. So I, along with Senators JEFF BINGAMAN, TIM JOHNSON, JIM JEFFORDS, and BOB KERRY, founded the Senate Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus.

The caucus is still going strong today with leadership from Senator BYRON DORGAN, Senator JOE LIEBERMAN, and myself. It is a nonpartisan group that strives to increase awareness of the various forms of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies in the United States.

I have been honored to serve as the Republican cochair since the inception of the Senate caucus, during this time we have seen the caucus membership grow and today more than a third of the Senate is a member. The caucus has hosted numerous events and briefings and helped hundreds of renewable energy groups display their ideas and technologies. It has also been a forum for sharing thousands of news articles relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency.

As many of you know, I am retiring from the Senate at the end of this term and will no longer serve as cochair of the caucus. I am proud of the work that the caucus has done, and I am confident it will continue to do great work in the future.

I know it will do great work in the future because it will have strong leadership. I greatly appreciate the work of the other cochairs, Senators DORGAN and LIEBERMAN. They have a remarkable dedication to renewable energy. With the addition of the new Republican cochair, I have no doubt that the caucus will be as strong as ever.

The man replacing me on the caucus is an ardent advocate for renewable energy, Senator MIKE CRAPO. As a member of the Senate Finance Committee, Senator CRAPO has helped craft successful legislation to provide tax credits for production and investment in renewable energy such as wind, solar, and geothermal, and as a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, he supported expanded usage of renewable biofuels.

Senator CRAPO also represents a State that is passionate about renewable energy and energy efficiency. The State of Idaho has received awards for its dedication to renewable energy and cutting edge research is taking place every day at the fine colleges and universities in Idaho.

Mr. ALLARD. Senator DORGAN, you have helped me cochair the caucus for several years, and your efforts have been invaluable. Do you share my esti-

mation that Senator CRAPO will make a strong co-chair?

Mr. DORGAN. Yes.

Mr. ALLARD. Senator CRAPO you have been a strong advocate for renewable energy for years, and I am sure are looking forward to cochairing the caucus. Do you have any comments?

Mr. CRAPO. Yes. I have long admired the work of Senator ALLARD in forming and developing the caucus over the years. I am honored to be chosen as the next cochair of the caucus and am eager to build on the work he has accomplished thus far.

As you mentioned, my home State of Idaho is one of the Nation's leaders in renewable energy. Idaho has significant and developed hydropower, wind, and geothermal energy resources, which has led us to have one of the five lowest per capita and total emissions profiles of any State. The research being done on these technologies, as well as energy efficiency, biofuels, and alternative energy resources such as nuclear power at the Idaho National Laboratory, University of Idaho, Boise State and Idaho State Universities, is remarkable and nationally recognized.

Energy issues have arrived at center stage in the public eye and energy supply, prices, and environmental effects are at the forefront of concern. All of us here, regardless of political affiliation, can agree that developing a sound domestic energy plan that provides an adequate supply of clean and affordable energy is a benefit to our Nation. I look forward, along with Senators DORGAN and LIEBERMAN, to educating members and promoting renewable energy and efficiency measures in the upcoming Congress to achieve that goal.

SBIR/STTR REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, in July, the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship passed S. 3362, the SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act of 2008, by a unanimous 19-0 vote. Since then, Senator SNOWE, myself, and others have worked diligently to address concerns that have been expressed to us by our colleagues and the administration, and we reached an agreement with the administration on the terms of the bill. Unfortunately, at the last minute, a colleague had objections and we cannot pass the bill.

As the title suggests, the purpose of S. 3362 was to reauthorize the Small Business Administration's Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs, otherwise known as SBIR and STTR. The bill makes improvements to these programs that will allow them to work better for small businesses, while contributing to our economy, fulfilling the priority research needs of the nation, and expanding and diversifying our military's supply base.

Small businesses continue to receive only about 4 percent of Federal research and development dollars despite

the fact that they employ nearly 40 percent of America's scientists and engineers, produce more than 14 times more patents than large businesses and universities, and produce patents that are of higher quality and are more than twice as likely to be cited. Unlike large businesses, which tend to focus more on improving existing product lines, and university research, which leans toward education and publications, America's small businesses and entrepreneurs are the ones willing to take on the high-risk, high-reward research that truly drives innovation.

The SBIR and STTR programs are two of the very few Federal programs that tap into the scientific and technical community found in America's small businesses. These programs foster government-industry partnerships by making competitive awards to firms with the best scientific proposals in response to the research needs of our agencies and by helping to move technologies from the lab to the marketplace or from the lab to insertion in a government program or system.

Since the inception of the SBIR program in 1982, recipients of SBIR and STTR awards have gone on to produce more than 84,000 patents and to generate millions of well-paying jobs across all 50 States. Both programs have garnered high praise from well-respected sources, including from the National Academy of Sciences, which completed its comprehensive assessment of SBIR last year. Governments around the world are increasingly adopting SBIR-type programs to encourage innovation in their countries.

Among the technologies pioneered by SBIR-funded small businesses are a machine that uses lasers and computer cameras to sort and inspect bullets at a much finer level than the human eye can manage, the technology that creates the "invisible" condensation trail of the B-2 bomber, a therapeutic drug to treat chronic inflammatory disease, and a nerve gas protection system. With regard to the bullet sorting technology, developed by CyberNet Systems, a small, women-owned business located in Ann Arbor, MI, and currently in use in Iraq and Afghanistan, that SBIR technology is estimated to have saved taxpayers more than \$300 million. Those are real cost savings and tangible technological improvements and we could have more such technologies if we increased the SBIR and STTR allocations, as the legislation that passed Committee proposed to do.

S. 3362 is the result of much deliberation and compromise and reflects a truly bipartisan effort to strengthen and improve the SBIR and STTR programs. I am proud that Senator SNOWE, Senator BOND, myself, and others were able to come together to reach agreement on a number of very difficult issues, including on the involvement of firms majority-owned and controlled by multiple venture capital companies in the SBIR program, and that we

unanimously passed this legislation out of committee. And as I said at the start of my remarks, I am also proud that we were able to resolve our differences with the administration to craft a bill that would keep these programs going strong.

It is truly a shame that one Republican in this Chamber has blocked this bill from passing, and that all of the effort and all of the compromises that went into getting the legislation to this point will be lost. I ask my colleagues to be aware that the SBIR program is temporarily authorized through March 20, 2009, that the STTR program expires on September 30, 2009, and that we should act fast in the new year to extend or comprehensively authorize these programs to help keep our country ahead in technology.

INTEREST ON LAWYERS' TRUST ACCOUNT PROGRAM

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last week, I joined Senator CARDIN and Senators SPECTER, and others in sending a letter to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, FDIC, in an effort to preserve the viability of the Interest on Lawyers' Trust Account program, IOLTA. We have asked the FDIC to ensure that the Transaction Account Guarantee Program, TGLP, through which the FDIC guarantees funds in bank accounts, will also cover lawyer trust accounts. The IOLTA program, which distributes interest on client funds held in lawyer trust accounts to legal aid programs, has been an enormous success in securing legal representation for lower-income Americans. All 50 States have IOLTA programs, and many States mandate participation by practicing attorneys. This program provides funding to important legal aid programs and helps ensure that no person goes without legal representation because of a lack of resources.

Our concern stems from the fact that the TGLP Interim Rule concerning account insurance issued on October 23 would not extend unlimited FDIC insurance to interest bearing lawyer trust accounts, ultimately hurting the public benefit generated by these accounts. According to the FDIC's proposed rules for the TGLP, noninterest-bearing accounts would be insured to protect an unlimited amount of funds. But the insurance for interest-bearing accounts would be limited to \$250,000. The lack of an exception for lawyer trust accounts threatens the IOLTA program because it poses a potential conflict for attorneys. Many lawyer trust accounts contain pooled client funds, often in excess of \$250,000. As a result of the FDIC's proposed rules, there is legitimate concern that attorneys would move client funds in excess of \$250,000 to noninterest-bearing accounts in order to gain the insurance protection, and in an effort to manage client funds as responsibly as possible. This potential ethical dilemma could

be prevented by a modification of the proposed rules.

Senator CARDIN, Senator SPECTER, and I have suggested to the FDIC that it modify its proposed rules to make an exception for lawyer trust accounts and provide unlimited insurance on interest bearing accounts containing client funds. This would be an important step towards preserving the success of the IOLTA program, and would remove any potential ethical dilemma for attorneys. Such a modification would ensure that the interest generated by IOLTA accounts continues to be distributed through local nonprofit organizations in each State to fund invaluable legal aid services for low-income families.

I am hopeful that the FDIC will recognize the national importance and success of this program, and will create the exception we have proposed. I would like to particularly thank the Vermont Bar Association for its advocacy in this regard, as well as the American Bar Association for its attention to this issue. Legal representation for everyone is an imperative for a fair and effective judicial system. The IOLTA program has been successful in helping to ensure legal representation for more Americans, and where these goals can be accomplished without the use of tax dollars, such a program should be preserved.

REMEMBERING COLONEL JOHN W. RIPLEY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I regret to have to inform the Senate of the passing of a truly great American: John W. Ripley, a retired Marine Corps colonel and hero of the Vietnam war.

Colonel Ripley will be best known for his achievements and self-sacrifice during the Vietnam war—particularly on April 2, 1972, when he singlehandedly blew up the Dong Ha bridge. That bridge over the Cua Viet River was a major thoroughfare for an invasion force from North Vietnam. Colonel Ripley, serving with a marine unit from South Vietnam, moved around the bridge like it was a trapeze and hung charges that would blow it up and prevent the enemy's advance.

That story is the subject of innumerable books and articles. It is an absolutely incredible feat, showing us how an act of individual bravery can have a large strategic impact that affects an entire force. Indeed, the removal of that bridge created a bottleneck that allowed allied forces to apply overwhelming air power and blunt that invasion.

After Vietnam, Colonel Ripley had a distinguished career that included going through some of the most challenging training programs among the world's militaries, including U.S. Army Ranger School. In his willingness to undergo the arduous of combat and training, he emerged a marine's marine, a steely and strong individual always ready to put his country and his fellow marines before himself.