

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 74—HONORING THE PRIME MINISTER OF IRELAND, BERTIE AHERN, FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND AND TO THE WORLD AND WELCOMING THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. DODD, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 74

Whereas the Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives are saddened that the Prime Minister of Ireland, Bertie Ahern, has announced that he will resign on May 6, 2008;

Whereas Prime Minister Ahern has served the people of Ireland with distinction for many years and has been an extraordinary friend to the United States throughout his years in office;

Whereas, during his extensive period of public service, Prime Minister Ahern has made significant contributions to an unprecedented era of peace, prosperity, and progress in Ireland;

Whereas Prime Minister Ahern entered politics in 1977 and has been elected 10 times in the past 31 years by the people of Dublin Central;

Whereas Prime Minister Ahern was elected leader of Fianna Fáil in 1994 and became Prime Minister in 1997;

Whereas Prime Minister Ahern is the second-longest-serving Taoiseach, or Prime Minister, in the history of Ireland, and the second-longest-serving leader of Fianna Fáil;

Whereas Prime Minister Ahern is the first Taoiseach since 1944 to be elected on 3 successive occasions;

Whereas Prime Minister Ahern has been fully committed to strengthening the economy of Ireland and, under his leadership, Ireland became more prosperous than at any time in the history of the country and became world-renowned as the "Celtic Tiger";

Whereas the people of Ireland have benefited from a significantly improved quality of life during Prime Minister Ahern's service as Taoiseach;

Whereas Prime Minister Ahern promised years ago that one of his highest priorities was to end the decades-long cycle of hatred and violence in Northern Ireland;

Whereas Prime Minister Ahern kept that promise and worked assiduously to achieve the peace that Northern Ireland enjoys today;

Whereas the former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Tony Blair, described Prime Minister Ahern as a "remarkable leader" and stated that Prime Minister Ahern "will always be remembered for his crucial role in bringing about peace in Northern Ireland, [and] for transforming relations between Britain and the Irish Republic"; and

Whereas Prime Minister Ahern will address a joint session of Congress on April 30, 2008: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That—

(1) it is the sense of Congress that—

(A) the Prime Minister of Ireland, Bertie Ahern, has been a strong and effective leader for the people of Ireland and a good friend to the United States;

(B) the skillful leadership of Prime Minister Ahern was indispensable in finally achieving a successful resolution of the long-standing conflict in Northern Ireland; and

(C) the legacy of Prime Minister Ahern is clear and his contribution to peace is enormous;

(2) Congress thanks Prime Minister Ahern on behalf of the people of the United States, wishes him well, and hopes his unique talents will be of service in resolving conflicts elsewhere in the years ahead in our divided world; and

(3) the Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives look forward to paying fitting and fond tribute to Prime Minister Ahern when he addresses a joint session of Congress on April 30, 2008.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4494. Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. HARKIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4478 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. BROWN) to the amendment SA 4387 submitted by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation.

SA 4495. Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself and Mr. NELSON of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4425 submitted by Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself and Mr. NELSON of Florida) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4496. Mr. SPECTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4497. Mr. BUNNING submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4387 submitted by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4498. Mr. BUNNING submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4395 submitted by Mr. BUNNING and intended to be proposed to the amendment SA 4387 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4499. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4404 proposed by Ms. LANDRIEU to the amendment SA 4387 submitted by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4500. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4448 submitted by Ms. LANDRIEU and intended to be proposed to the amendment SA 4387 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4501. Mr. GREGG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4419 proposed by Mr. ENSIGN to the amendment SA 4387 submitted by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4502. Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Mr. KOHL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4467 submitted by Mr. ENSIGN and intended to be

proposed to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4503. Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Mr. KOHL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4419 proposed by Mr. ENSIGN to the amendment SA 4387 submitted by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4504. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4419 proposed by Mr. ENSIGN to the amendment SA 4387 submitted by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4505. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4506. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4507. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4478 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. BROWN) to the amendment SA 4387 submitted by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4508. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4404 proposed by Ms. LANDRIEU to the amendment SA 4387 submitted by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4509. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4429 submitted by Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. KYL) to the amendment SA 4419 proposed by Mr. ENSIGN to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4510. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4419 proposed by Mr. ENSIGN to the amendment SA 4387 submitted by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4511. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4423 proposed by Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself and Mr. COLEMAN) to the amendment SA 4387 submitted by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4512. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4433 submitted by Mrs. LINCOLN (for Ms. SNOWE) to the amendment SA 4387 submitted by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4513. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4404 proposed by Ms. LANDRIEU to the amendment SA 4387 submitted by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4514. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4384 proposed by Mr. SANDERS to the amendment SA 4387 submitted by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4515. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4478 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. BROWN) to the amendment SA 4387 submitted by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr.

SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4516. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4421 proposed by Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. ENSIGN) to the amendment SA 4387 submitted by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4517. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4401 submitted by Mr. SANDERS (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) to the amendment SA 4387 submitted by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4494. Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. HARKIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4478 submitted by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. BROWN) to the amendment SA 4387 submitted by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

SEC. ____.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount appropriated under section 301(a) of this Act shall be \$3,862,500,000 and the amount appropriated under section 401 of this Act shall be \$237,500,000: Provided, That, of amounts appropriated under such section 401 \$37,500,000 shall be used by the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation (referred to in this section as the "NRC") to (1) make grants to counseling intermediaries approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development or the NRC to hire attorneys trained and capable of assisting homeowners of owner-occupied homes with mortgages in default, in danger of default, or subject to or at risk of foreclosure who have legal issues that cannot be handled by counselors already employed by such intermediaries, and (2) support NRC partnerships with State and local legal organizations and organizations described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of that Code with demonstrated relevant legal experience in home foreclosure law, as such experience is determined by the Chief Executive Officer of NRC: Provided further, That for the purpose of the prior proviso the term "relevant experience" means experience representing homeowners in negotiations and or legal proceedings aimed at preventing or mitigating foreclosure or providing legal research and technical legal expertise to community based organizations whose goal is to reduce, prevent, or mitigate foreclosure: Provided further, That of the amounts provided for in the prior provisos the NRC shall give priority consideration to counseling intermediaries and legal organizations that (1) provide legal assistance in the 100 metro-

politan statistical areas (as defined by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget) with the highest home foreclosure rates, and (2) have the capacity to begin using the financial assistance within 90 days after receipt of the assistance.

SA 4495. Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself and Mr. NELSON of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4425 submitted by Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself and Mr. NELSON of Florida) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . NEW RESTAURANT PROPERTY ELIGIBLE FOR BONUS DEPRECIATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Clause (i) of section 168(k)(2)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to qualified property) is amended by striking "or" at the end of subclause (III), by inserting "or" at the end of subclause (IV), and by adding at the end the following new subclause:

"(V) which is new restaurant property."

(b) QUALIFIED NEW RESTAURANT PROPERTY.—Subsection (k) of section 168 of such Code, as amended by this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(6) QUALIFIED NEW RESTAURANT PROPERTY.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'qualified new restaurant property' means any section 1250 property which is a building if more than 50 percent of the building's square footage is devoted to preparation of, and seating for on-premises consumption of, prepared meals."

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 4496. Mr. SPECTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . EXTENSION OF MOVING TO WORK DEMONSTRATION AGREEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (in this section referred to as the "Secretary") shall extend the effective period of the Moving to Work Demonstration Agreement entered into between the Philadelphia Housing Au-

thority and the Department of Housing and Urban Development on or about February 28, 2002, pursuant to section 204 of the Omnibus Consolidated Rescissions and Appropriations Act of 1996, under the heading "Public Housing/Moving to Work Demonstration" (Public Law 104-134, 110 Stat. 1321-281) for the 45-day period beginning on April 1, 2008.

(b) COMPLIANCE REVIEW.—If the Philadelphia Housing Authority submits certifications by an independent expert verifying that at least 5 percent of its public housing units are in compliance with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and such certifications are satisfactory to the Secretary, the Secretary shall further extend the Moving to Work Demonstration Agreement for an additional 1 year period.

(c) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Any extension of the Moving to Work Demonstration Agreement under this section shall be under the same terms and conditions as were applicable to the original agreement.

(d) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS OF THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary may not terminate or take any adverse action with respect to an agreement described in subsection (a) or any extension thereto—

(1) unless there has been an express finding, on the record, after opportunity for a hearing, of a failure by the Housing Authority to comply with the terms of the agreement or otherwise applicable provisions of law; and

(2) before the expiration of the 30-day period beginning on the date on which the Secretary has filed with the appropriate committees of Congress a full written report of the circumstances and the grounds for such action.

SA 4497. Mr. BUNNING submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4387 submitted by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike titles III and IV and insert the following:

TITLE III—TIMING OF THE HOME MORTGAGE DEDUCTION

SEC. 301. DEDUCTION FOR POINTS ON HOME MORTGAGE REFINANCING ALLOWED IN YEAR PAID.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 461(g) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to prepaid interest) is amended—

(1) by striking "This subsection" and inserting the following:

"(A) IN GENERAL.—This subsection", and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(B) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN REFINANCINGS.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—This subsection shall not apply to points paid—

"(I) in respect of indebtedness secured by such residence resulting from the refinancing of indebtedness meeting the requirements of the subparagraph (A), and

"(II) before January 1, 2011.