

The agreement finally reached between the Finance and Commerce Committees respects this request and allows general aviation to be part of the modernization solution without creating a new bureaucracy or additional redtape. The agreement would allow AvGas to remain at its current rate, but would increase the Jet A fuel tax from 21.8 cents to 36 cents per gallon on general aviation flights.

Now, this raises an additional \$250 million dedicated to updating the air traffic control technology that will increase safety and decrease congestion—something that is in the headlines every day. At the same time, our commercial airlines and passengers are held harmless from tax increases, given the challenges they face today.

I am pleased this agreement recognizes the value of both the commercial aviation and general aviation to our Nation's transportation system. I realize there have been strong feelings on both sides of this debate.

My goals, as we drafted this bill, were very clear: One, ensure that our air traffic control system is updated and remains safe for all passengers and aircraft; and, two, protect the general aviation community and Kansas jobs, which would have been threatened by something called a user fee.

Today, I am pleased to say we have succeeded on both counts. This legislation represents the best of bipartisan compromise in a real effort to make our skies safer. I am proud to be part of this compromise, as are the 40,000 workers employed in Kansas in aviation manufacturing.

Kansas has a long history of being the world's leader in aviation achievements. This agreement guarantees that Kansas and our great general aviation industry will remain leaders in the sky. Kansas is—always has been—and remains the air capital of the world under this agreement. I thank my colleagues for helping us reach an agreement that will maintain our world standing.

Also included in this agreement is a fix to the projected funding deficit in the highway trust fund for 2009. This 1-year patch will keep necessary transportation construction projects on schedule and help our State transportation departments meet their financial obligations.

I am hopeful the Senate will continue to work in the spirit of bipartisanship on the bill so we can quickly move to a conference committee and eventually have a bill signed into law before the current program expires.

We must do this. American travelers and businesses and pilots deserve the predictability and stability that comes with passing this bill.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I believe Senator CASEY wishes to address the Senate. I yield to my colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Kansas.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 516, 519 through 524, 526 through 536, 542 through 564, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Foreign Service, Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Navy; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; that no further motions be in order; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate resume legislative session; that any statements relating to any of these nominations be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Rebecca A. Gregory, of Texas, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas for the term of four years.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Patricia M. Haslach, of Oregon, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, for the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service as United States Senior Coordinator for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum.

Joxel Garcia, of Connecticut, to be Representative of the United States on the Executive Board of the World Health Organization.

INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION, UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Samuel W. Speck, of Ohio, to be a Commissioner on the part of the United States on the International Joint Commission, United States and Canada.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Scot A. Marciel, of California, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Affairs.

Yousif Boutrous Ghafari, of Michigan, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Slovenia.

Kurt Douglas Volker, of Pennsylvania, a Career Foreign Service Officer of Class One, to be United States Permanent Representative on the Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

Robert J. Callahan, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Nicaragua.

Heather M. Hodges, of Ohio, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Ecuador.

Barbara J. Stephenson, of Florida, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Panama.

William Edward Todd, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Executive Service, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Brunei Darussalam.

Hugo Llorens, of Florida, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Honduras.

Nancy E. McEldowney, of Florida, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Bulgaria.

Stephen George McFarland, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Guatemala.

Peter E. Cianchette, of Maine, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Costa Rica.

Frank Charles Urbancic, Jr., of Indiana, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Cyprus.

Barbara McConnell Barrett, of Arizona, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Finland.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Robert G. McSwain, of Maryland, to be Director of the Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services, for the term of four years.

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Bruce A. Litchfield

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brigadier General C. D. Alston
Brigadier General Brooks L. Bash
Brigadier General Michael J. Basla
Brigadier General Paul F. Capasso
Brigadier General Floyd L. Carpenter
Brigadier General David J. Eichhorn
Brigadier General Gregory A. Feest
Brigadier General Burton M. Field
Brigadier General Randal D. Fullhart
Brigadier General Bradley A. Heithold
Brigadier General Ralph J. Jodice, II
Brigadier General Duane A. Jones
Brigadier General Frank J. Kisner
Brigadier General Jay H. Lindell
Brigadier General Darren W. McDew
Brigadier General Christopher D. Miller
Brigadier General Harold W. Moulton, II
Brigadier General Stephen P. Mueller
Brigadier General Ellen M. Pawlikowski
Brigadier General Paul G. Schafer
Brigadier General Stephen D. Schmidt
Brigadier General Michael A. Snodgrass
Brigadier General Mark S. Solo

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Dana T. Atkins

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Scott G. West

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Lt. Gen. Walter L. Sharp

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Gen. David D. McKiernan

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Robert L. Caslen, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Mitchell H. Stevenson

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Frank G. Helmick

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brigadier General Randolph D. Alles
Brigadier General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr.
Brigadier General Anthony L. Jackson
Brigadier General Paul E. Lefebvre
Brigadier General Richard P. Mills
Brigadier General Robert E. Milstead, Jr.
Brigadier General Martin Post
Brigadier General Michael R. Regner

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Darrell L. Moore

The following named officer for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general in the United States Marine Corps while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Keith J. Stalder

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. James M. Lariviere

Col. Kenneth J. Lee

The following named officer for appointment in the grade of lieutenant general in the United States Marine Corps while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Brig. Gen. Joseph F. Dunford, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general in the United States Marine Corps while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. John M. Paxton, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general in the United States Marine Corps while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Dennis J. Hejlik

The following named officer for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general in the United States Marine Corps while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Richard F. Natonski

The following named officer for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general in the United States Marine Corps while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Duane D. Thiessen

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. John M. Bird

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Victor C. See, Jr.

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Captain Douglass T. Biesel
Captain Barry L. Bruner
Captain Jerry K. Burroughs
Captain James D. Cloyd
Captain Thomas A. Cropper
Captain Dennis E. Fitzpatrick
Captain Michael T. Franken
Captain Bradley R. Gehrke
Captain Robert P. Girrier
Captain Paul A. Grosklags
Captain Sinclair M. Harris
Captain Margaret D. Klein
Captain Patrick J. Lorge
Captain Brian L. Losey
Captain Michael E. McLaughlin
Captain William F. Moran
Captain Samuel Perez, Jr.
Captain James J. Shannon
Captain Clifford S. Sharpe
Captain Troy M. Shoemaker
Captain Dixon R. Smith
Captain Robert L. Thomas, Jr.
Captain Douglas J. Venlet

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 5133 and 5138:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Carol I. Turner

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1382 AIR FORCE nominations (2230) beginning DAVID M. ABEL, and ending MICHAEL M. ZWALVE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 26, 2008.

PN1466 AIR FORCE nominations (19) beginning SUSAN S. BAKER, and ending JON C. WELCH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 11, 2008.

PN1467 AIR FORCE nominations (65) beginning DAVID A. BARGATZE, and ending AARON E. WOODWARD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 11, 2008.

PN1469 AIR FORCE nominations (34) beginning MARK E. ALLEN, and ending CHARLES E. WIEDIE JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 11, 2008.

PN1470 AIR FORCE nominations (18) beginning KERRY M. ABBOTT, and ending WILLIAM F. ZIEGLER III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 11, 2008.

PN1471 AIR FORCE nominations (23) beginning RICHARD T. BROYER, and ending BRIAN K. WYRICK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 11, 2008.

PN1472 AIR FORCE nominations (1019) beginning JOHN T. AALBORG JR., and ending MICHAEL A. ZROSTLIK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 11, 2008.

PN1526 AIR FORCE nominations (118) beginning DAVID L. BABCOCK, and ending WAYNE A. ZIMMET, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 31, 2008.

PN1551 AIR FORCE nomination of Howard P. Blount III, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 7, 2008.

PN1552 AIR FORCE nomination of Errill C. Avecilla, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 7, 2008.

PN1553 AIR FORCE nomination of Mark Y. Liu, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 7, 2008.

PN1554 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning BRYCE G. WHISLER, and ending TIMOTHY M. FRENCH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 7, 2008.

PN1555 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning PHLET T. BUT, and ending MICHAEL J. MORRIS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 7, 2008.

IN THE ARMY

PN1473 ARMY nominations (174) beginning MARIO AGUIRRE III, and ending SCOTT B. ZIMA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 11, 2008.

PN1474 ARMY nominations (187) beginning BARRY L. ADAMS, and ending TIMOTHY M. ZEGERS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 11, 2008.

PN1475 ARMY nominations (45) beginning KEVIN S. ANDERSON, and ending RUFUS WOODS III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 11, 2008.

PN1476 ARMY nominations (61) beginning ROBERT B. ALLMAN III, and ending RICHARD F. WINCHESTER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 11, 2008.

PN1527 ARMY nomination of Barry L. Shoop, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 31, 2008.

PN1528 ARMY nomination of Brian J. Chapuran, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 31, 2008.

PN1529 ARMY nomination of Gregory T. Reppas, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 31, 2008.

PN1530 ARMY nomination of Vanessa M. Meyer, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 31, 2008.

PN1531 ARMY nominations (2) beginning THOMAS E. DURHAM, and ending DANIEL P. MASSEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 31, 2008.

PN1532 ARMY nominations (3) beginning CHARLES L. GARBARINI, and ending JUAN GARRASTEGUI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 31, 2008.

PN1533 ARMY nominations (2) beginning MILTON M. ONG, and ending MATTHEW S. MOWER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 31, 2008.

PN1534 ARMY nomination of Craig A. Myatt, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 31, 2008.

PN1556 ARMY nomination of John C. Kolb, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 7, 2008.

PN1568 ARMY nomination of Kenneth D. Smith, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 15, 2008.

PN1569 ARMY nomination of John M. Hoppmann, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 15, 2008.

PN1570 ARMY nominations (38) beginning AMY M. BAJUS, and ending ROBERT P. VASQUEZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 15, 2008.

IN THE COAST GUARD

PN1561 COAST GUARD nomination of Trevor M. Hare, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 15, 2008.

PN1562 COAST GUARD nomination of Susan M. Maitre, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 15, 2008.

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

PN1452 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (138) beginning Andrew Townsend Wiener, and ending Troy A. Lindquist, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 5, 2008.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1571 MARINE CORPS nominations (3) beginning DAVID G. MCCULLOH, and ending PAUL W. VOSS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 15, 2008.

IN THE NAVY

PN1251 NAVY nomination of Thomas M. Cashman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2008.

PN1302 NAVY nomination of Kelly R. Middleton, which was received by the Senate and

appeared in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2008.

PN1477 NAVY nomination of Theresa A. Fraser, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 11, 2008.

PN1478-1 NAVY nominations (23) beginning LEE R. RAS, and ending ELIZABETH M. SOLZE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 11, 2008.

PN1535 NAVY nomination of Aaron J. Beattie IV, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 31, 2008.

PN1536 NAVY nominations (3) beginning KRISTIAN E. LEWIS, and ending LUTHER P. MARTIN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 31, 2008.

PN1587 NAVY nominations (3) beginning SAMUEL G. ESPIRITU, and ending PAUL G. SCANLAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 15, 2008.

PN1588 NAVY nominations (31) beginning TERRY L. BUCKMAN, and ending THOMAS M. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 15, 2008.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

EXTENDING THE PROGRAMS UNDER THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2929, introduced earlier today by Senator KENNEDY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2929) to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed; the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; and any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2929) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2929

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

(a) EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS.—Section 2(a) of the Higher Education Extension Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–81; 20 U.S.C. 1001 note) is amended by striking “April 30, 2008” and inserting “May 31, 2008”.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section, or in the Higher Education Extension Act of 2005 as amended by this Act, shall be construed to limit or otherwise alter

the authorizations of appropriations for, or the durations of, programs contained in the amendments made by the Higher Education Reconciliation Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–171) or by the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (Public Law 110–84) to the provisions of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the Taxpayer-Teacher Protection Act of 2004.

RECESS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now stand in recess until 2:15 p.m.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:24 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. CARPER).

FAA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the pending business. The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A motion to proceed to the bill (H.R. 2881) to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2008 through 2011, to improve aviation safety and capacity, to provide stable funding for the national aviation system, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who seeks recognition?

The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GASOLINE PRICES

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, today I rise to speak about the price of gasoline and the price of diesel fuel, which is affecting every driver in America. My principal message is that Washington policies should not drive up the prices at the pump. At an absolute minimum, Federal practices should not be making prices any worse.

According to the American Automobile Association, the average retail price for regular unleaded gasoline is \$3.60 a gallon. The average price of diesel fuel is \$4.24 a gallon. This is before this summer's driving season has even started.

Consumers all across America are hurt by the inflationary pressures at the pump. My constituents in Wyoming know firsthand the huge impact that \$110 or \$120 per barrel of oil has on their wallets. I visit with them every weekend. The price at the pump in Casper, WY, just 3 weeks ago was \$2.91. This past weekend, it was \$3.31. Wyoming ranks at the top of all States in terms of vehicle miles traveled on a per capita basis. Because of my State's sparse population and great distances, that means it is not uncommon to commute 20, 50, or even 100 miles round trip to work, to school, or just to buy groceries.

Today's current oil prices are primarily due to supply and demand fundamentals. At close examination, there