

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 3450

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

SECTION 1. RESCISSION OF CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2009 FUNDS FOR IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION.

(a) **BRIDGE FUNDS FOR ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND FOR IRAQ.**—The amount appropriated by subchapter B of chapter 4 of title I of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252) under the heading “ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND” and available for assistance for Iraq is hereby rescinded.

(b) **DEFENSE BRIDGE FUNDS FOR IRAQ SECURITY FORCES FUND.**—The amount appropriated by chapter 2 of title IX of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 under the heading “IRAQ SECURITY FORCES FUND” is hereby rescinded.

By Mr. FEINGOLD:

S. 3451. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to extend the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs, to increase the allocation of Federal agency grants for those programs, to add water, energy, transportation, and domestic security related research to the list of topics deserving special consideration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, we need to take strong steps to promote job creation, innovation and sustainable long term economic development and there is no better way to do this than by stimulating and supporting small business innovation, especially in areas of national priority. As part of this effort, today I am introducing the Strengthening Our Economy Through Small Business Innovation Act of 2008.

Job growth, innovation and economic development are driven by our small businesses. Small businesses also tend to be based in our cities and communities and so they are major contributors to our local economies. Half of our county's payroll jobs and most of our new job opportunities are provided by small businesses. Small businesses are proven innovators and drive commercialization of cutting edge technologies. They also are effective partners with universities to enhance product creation, develop university income and attract university graduates and faculty through increased innovative job opportunities.

Over the last 25 years, through the Small Business Innovation and Research program, SBIR, and, more recently, Small Business Technology Transfer program, STTR, up to 2.5 percent and 0.3 percent, respectively, of Federal R&D funds from 11 Federal agencies have been specifically allocated to our Nation's small businesses to fund innovation.

My bill does three things. First, it extends the SBIR and STTR programs

for a further 14 years so that small businesses, as well as universities and non-profit research organizations that collaborate with small businesses, can continue to leverage Federal research and development funding.

Second, it significantly increases the allocation of funds and the awards from large Federal research and development budgets to small businesses through the SBIR and STTR programs. It would increase the SBIR allocation from its current 2.5 percent to 10 percent and the STTR allocation from 0.3 percent to 1.0 percent over a 3 year period. It would increase SBIR phase I awards from \$100,000 to \$300,000 and phase II awards from \$750,000 to \$2.2 million. Third, it identifies specific funding priorities for energy innovation; safe and secure water; domestic security; and transportation.

Not only are small businesses our major source of employment, they employ about one third of our country's scientists and engineers and generate more patents on a per capita basis than large businesses and universities. This is simply a good investment in sustained job creation and innovation.

Studies by both the independent Government Accountability Office and The National Research Council have established that these programs are very effective in addressing their stated purposes. The NRC's comprehensive study, which was completed last year, found that the SBIR program “is sound in concept and effective in practice.” It also found that the program was “stimulating technological innovation”; “linking universities to the public and private markets”; “increasing private sector commercialization of innovations” at an “impressive” rate; and “providing widely distributed support for innovation activity.” The study concluded that:

[T]he program is proving effective in meeting Congressional objectives. It is increasing innovation, encouraging participation by small companies in R&D, providing support for small firms owned by minorities and women, and resolving research questions for mission agencies in a cost effective manner. Should the Congress wish to provide additional funds for the program in support of these objectives, those funds could be employed effectively by the nation's SBIR.

The NRC's study found that universities and other non-profit research institutions will benefit significantly from the increase in both the SBIR and the STTR programs. The STTR allocation increase will directly benefit universities and efforts to bring university-based research into the commercial marketplace, as a partnership with a non-profit research institution, such as a university, is a requirement of all STTR award recipients.

The NRC study also found that many of the small businesses that receive SBIR funding are rooted in the university infrastructure so there will be synergies as investigators and graduates from universities, will have opportunities to be part of commercial developments. More than ¾ of SBIR

companies report that at least one founder was previously an academic. About one-third of SBIR company founders were most recently employed as academics before founding the company. Over a third of SBIR projects cite direct university involvement with: 27 percent of projects having university faculty as contractors on the project; 17 percent using universities themselves as subcontractors; and 15 percent employing graduate students.

In its report accompanying reauthorization legislation, the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee recently concluded that:

Increases in the SBIR allocation will invest money in research, contracting, internships, and other collaborative activities done with universities, with the contracting and patenting activities with SBIR companies being a sizable source of revenue for universities as well. The university-industry partnerships that SBIR creates are crucial in that they provide an applied research and commercialization focus that otherwise likely would not be present in university research. More specifically, the partnerships are important in exposing faculty and the next generation of scientists and engineers to commercial research and development. SBIR businesses provide graduate and undergraduate students with hands-on experience and job opportunities that universities would be unable to provide alone.

Our country faces some major challenges in which targeted research and development will be critical. Congress, with non-partisan expert guidance, has a role to play in guiding our national research and development priorities and, in this case, stimulating small business innovation in specific areas of critical national need. The National Academies of Science and other independent government research organizations provide us with carefully researched and considered recommendations on how we can address these priorities, so my bill draws on their recommendations to develop innovative energy technologies; enhance water quality and security; strengthen domestic security; and address transportation priorities. I urge my colleagues to support my legislation.

NOTICE OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources will hold a business meeting on Thursday, September 11, 2008, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

For further information, please contact Sam Fowler at (202) 224-7571 or Amanda Kelly at (202) 224-6836.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that an energy summit has been scheduled under the auspices of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The summit will be held on Friday, September 12, beginning at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-G50 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

The purpose of the summit is to consider how to achieve a more secure, reliable, sustainable, and affordable energy future for the American people.

All Senators are invited to attend and present their views and recommendations. A limited number of experts will also be invited to participate and make oral statements. In addition, anyone wishing to submit written statements for the record may send them to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by e-mail to rosemarie_calabro@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Deborah Estes at (202) 224-5360, Tara Billingsley at (202) 224-4756, or Rosemarie Calabro at (202) 224-5039.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. President, I would like to announce for the Information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 16, 2008, at 10 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the current state of vehicles powered by the electric grid

and the prospects for wider deployment in the near future.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to rachel_pasternack@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Mike Carr at (202) 224-8164 or Rachel Pasternack at (202) 224-0883.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Suzanne McGuire, a fellow in the office of Senator PRYOR, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the second session of the 110th Congress.

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following named staff members of the Committee on Armed Services be granted privileges of the floor at all times during the Senate's consideration of and votes relating to S. 3001, the national defense authorization bill:

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

HOLDS PERMANENT FLOOR PRIVILEGES

Borawski, June M.; Brewer, Leah C.; Bryan, Joseph M.; Caniano, William M.;

Clark, Jonathan D.; Cohen, Ilona R.; Collins, David G.; Cowart, Christine E.; Creedon, Madelyn R.; Cronin, Kevin A.

DeBoges*, Richard D.; Dickinson, Marie Fabrizio; Eisen, Gabriella; Fieldhouse, Richard W.; Forbes, Diana Tabler; Greene, Creighton; Howard, Gary J.; Hutton, Paul C.; Jacobson, Mark R.; Kiley, Gregory T.

Kingston, Jessica L.; Kostiw*, Michael V.; Kuiken, Michael J.; Kyle, Mary J.; Lang, Christine G.; Leeling, Gerald J.; Levine*, Peter K.; McConnell, Thomas K.; McCord, Michael J.; Monahan, William G.P.; Morriss*, David M.

Niemeyer, Lucian L.; Noblet, Michael J.; Pasha, Ali Z.; Paul, Christopher J.; Pearson, Cindy; Quirk V, John H.; Rusten, Lynn F.; Sebold, Brian F.; Seraphin, Arun A.; Smith, Travis E.; Soofer, Robert M.; Stackley, Sean G.; Sutey, William K.; Wagner, Mary Louise; Walsh, Richard F.; Wells, Breon N.; White, Dana W.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that U.S. Army MAJ Alison Martin, a military legislative fellow in Senator DODD's office, be granted the privilege of the floor during the debate on S. 3001.

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

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Robert Bruce, a Marine Corps fellow, be granted the privileges of the floor during consideration of S. 3001.

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

FOREIGN TRAVEL FINANCIAL REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriation provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following reports for standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel:

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Barbara Mikulski:									
Canada	Dollar		876.00						876.00
United States	Dollar				1,993.25				1,993.25
Gabrielle Batkin:									
Canada	Dollar		876.00						876.00
United States	Dollar				1,993.25				1,993.25
Senator Patrick J. Leahy:									
Ireland	Euro		759.00						759.00
Czech Republic	Koruna		372.00						372.00
Turkey	Lira		328.00						328.00
Ed Pagano:									
Ireland	Euro		759.00						759.00
Czech Republic	Koruna		372.00						372.00
Turkey	Lira		328.00						328.00
Kevin McDonald:									
Ireland	Euro		759.00						759.00
Czech Republic	Koruna		372.00						372.00
Turkey	Lira		328.00						328.00
Katherine A. Eltrich:									
Ireland	Euro		759.00						759.00
Czech Republic	Koruna		372.00						372.00
Turkey	Lira		328.00						328.00
Dr. John Eisol:									
Ireland	Euro		759.00						759.00
Czech Republic	Koruna		372.00						372.00
Turkey	Lira		328.00						328.00
Senator Thad Cochran:									
Ireland	Euro		759.00						759.00
Czech Republic	Koruna		372.00						372.00
Turkey	Lira		328.00						328.00
Kay Webber:									
Ireland	Euro		759.00						759.00
Czech Republic	Koruna		372.00						372.00
Turkey	Lira		328.00						328.00
Michele Wymer:									
Ireland	Euro		759.00						759.00
Czech Republic	Koruna		372.00						372.00