

(2) AVAILABILITY.—The amount appropriated under paragraph (1) shall be available for the purpose described in such paragraph until September 30, 2010.

(3) EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) are designated as an emergency requirement and necessary to meet emergency needs pursuant to section 204(a) of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress) and section 301(b)(2) of S. Con. Res. 70 (110th Congress), the concurrent resolutions on the budget for fiscal years 2008 and 2009.

AMENDMENT NO. 125

(Purpose: To limit compensation to officers and directors of entities receiving emergency economic assistance from the Government)

On page 428, between lines 11 and 12, insert the following:

Subtitle D—Limits on Executive Compensation

SEC. 1551. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Cap Executive Officer Pay Act of 2009”.

SEC. 1552. LIMIT ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law or agreement to the contrary, no person who is an officer, director, executive, or other employee of a financial institution or other entity that receives or has received funds under the Troubled Asset Relief Program (or “TARP”), established under section 101 of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, may receive annual compensation in excess of the amount of compensation paid to the President of the United States.

(b) DURATION.—The limitation in subsection (a) shall be a condition of the receipt of assistance under the TARP, and of any modification to such assistance that was received on or before the date of enactment of this Act, and shall remain in effect with respect to each financial institution or other entity that receives such assistance or modification for the duration of the assistance or obligation provided under the TARP.

SEC. 1553. RULEMAKING AUTHORITY.

The Secretary shall expeditiously issue such rules as are necessary to carry out this subtitle, including with respect to reimbursement of compensation amounts, as appropriate.

SEC. 1554. COMPENSATION.

As used in this subtitle, the term “compensation” includes wages, salary, deferred compensation, retirement contributions, options, bonuses, property, and any other form of compensation or bonus that the Secretary of the Treasury determines is appropriate.

AMENDMENT NO. 236, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To establish funding levels for various offices of inspectors general and to set a date until which such funds shall remain available)

On page 3, line 22, strike “2010” and insert “2011”.

On page 3, line 23, insert before the period “and an additional \$17,500,000 for such purposes, to remain available until September 30, 2011”.

On page 41, line 4, strike “2010.” and insert “2011, and an additional \$4,000,000 for such purposes, to remain available until September 30, 2011.”.

On page 41, line 21, strike “2010” and insert “2011”.

On page 47, line 8, strike “2010” and insert “2011”.

On page 47, line 26, strike “2010” and insert “2011”.

On page 60, line 4, strike “2010.” and insert “2011, and an additional \$3,000,000 for such purposes, to remain available until September 30, 2011.”.

On page 77, line 19, strike “expended.” and insert “September 30, 2012, and an additional \$10,000,000 for such purposes, to remain available until September 30, 2012.”.

On page 95, line 12, insert before the period “and an additional \$18,000,000 for such purposes, to remain available until September 30, 2011”.

On page 105, line 24, strike “2010” and insert “2011”.

On page 116, line 21, strike “2010.” and insert “2011, and an additional \$7,400,000 for such purposes, to remain available until September 30, 2011.”.

On page 127, line 14, strike “2010” and insert “2011”.

On page 137, line 8, strike “2011.” and insert “2012, and an additional \$15,000,000 for such purposes, to remain available until September 30, 2011.”.

On page 146, line 12, insert before the period “and an additional \$10,000,000 for such purposes, to remain available until September 30, 2012”.

On page 149, between lines 5 and 6, insert the following:

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

For an additional amount for the Office of the Inspector General, \$1,000,000, which shall remain available until September 30, 2011.

On page 214, line 19, strike “2010” and insert “2011”.

On page 225, line 6, strike “2010” and insert “2011”.

On page 226, line 23, strike “2010” and insert “2011”.

On page 243, line 6 insert “, and an additional \$12,250,000 for such purposes, to remain available until September 30, 2011” before the colon.

On page 263, line 7, insert “, and an additional \$12,250,000 for such purposes, to remain available until September 30, 2011” before the colon.

On page 733, line 2, strike “expended” and insert “September 30, 2012.”.

Mr. BAUCUS. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 363 TO AMENDMENT NO. 98

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am just waiting to take the Senate out tonight. But I did want to say there was a little bit of a surprise that happened tonight when one of my colleagues offered an amendment to essentially repeal environmental laws as they relate to this bill. All activities of this bill, if this Barrasso amendment were to pass, all the activities would no longer be covered by the National Environmental Policy Act.

That is a very disturbing amendment and I was very surprised by it as chair of the Environment and Public Works Committee here. Thanks to the diligent staff—and I do appreciate them letting me know—I was able to craft another amendment that I hope will precede the amendment of Senator BARRASSO and allow the Senate to express itself, saying that we do not intend to waive environmental laws that

will protect the public health of our communities and, if there are projects that are such a harm to our community, they should be replaced by the many shovel-ready projects that our mayors are telling us are out there, that our Governors are telling us are out there.

We will have that debate tomorrow but I wanted to mention why I was still here at 10 after 10, here protecting our communities across America.

I have sent an amendment to the desk. I hope that amendment will be queued up as per the suggested list of Senator BAUCUS.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The amendment is now pending among the amendments that have been set up.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To ensure that any action taken under this act or any funds made available under this act that are subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) protect the public health of communities across the country)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

FINDINGS

The Senate finds that:

According to leading national and state organizations, there are many more NEPA compliant, ready-to-go activities, than are funded in this bill, and

If there is an action or funds made available for an action that triggers NEPA, and that activity could cause harm to public health, and that harm has not been evaluated under NEPA, the project would not meet the requirements of NEPA and should not be funded.

SECTION 1

Any action or funds made available for an action that triggers NEPA, that have not complied with NEPA, and therefore pose a potential danger to our communities across the country, must either come into compliance with NEPA or be replaced by other eligible activities.

AMENDMENT NO. 102 TO AMENDMENT NO. 98

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair notes for the record that amendment No. 102, sponsored by Senator LANDRIEU, is considered offered and adopted.

The amendment (No. 102) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To ensure that assistance for the redevelopment of foreclosed and abandoned homes to States or units of local government impacted by catastrophic natural disasters may be used to support the redevelopment of homes damaged or destroyed as a result of the 2005 hurricanes, the severe flooding in the Midwest in 2008, and other natural disasters)

On page 251, lines 13 and 14, strike “housing.” and insert the following: “housing: Provided further, That funding used for section 2301(c)(3)(E) of the Act shall also be available to redevelop demolished, blighted, or vacant properties, including those damaged or destroyed in areas subject to a disaster declaration by the President under title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)”.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering well over 1,200, are heartbreaking and touching. While energy prices have dropped in recent weeks, the concerns expressed remain very relevant. To respect the efforts of those who took the opportunity to share their thoughts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an address set up specifically for this purpose to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent to have today's letters printed in the RECORD.

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

We consider ourselves very fortunate that we can still do the things we want. However, we certainly feel the bite at the pump. We are retired (but still working) and were hoping to travel, but the cost is going to get in the way of that. We have cut out unnecessary trips, have a small, efficient car that we use now more often than our pickups and look for ways to conserve. We live in a rural area and no matter how we try to stay close to home, we still have to travel some distance to get supplies and groceries. We still need to drive our pickups and cannot always take the car. Our tractors and other machinery need fuel. Rural Americans are going to feel this more than others. We have longer distances to drive, we have more need for fuel and we do not have public transportation, etc. There is only so much cutting back we can do and still earn a living or make ends meet.

High gas prices cannot help but have a negative effect on other businesses. In an area that used to have a thriving economy based on natural resources (timber), we were told to become dependent on tourism to replace that. This is what happens when tourism is the basis of your economy—people stay home, businesses go belly up, the local economy suffers.

The solution is to begin stepping up the pace to develop our own energy and accompanying infrastructure so that we do not need to be so dependent on countries who certainly do not have our best interests at heart. We cannot afford to place our natural resources off limits and expect the world to meet our needs. It is morally wrong to exploit other countries' resources while our own are locked away.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

WAYNE and JULIE BURKHARDT,
Indian Valley.

I most likely will never meet anyone of you. I believe that you must be great, because you were voted to your place where you are seated today, by others just like me, barely keeping my head above water. I believe in this great nation, I believe that your jobs are to be the voice of the great people of this nation. We believed that you could that why we voted for you. So fight for us, our voices are lifted and we are screaming for help. There is no reason we should be here; as a young set of thirteen colonies we broke away for taxes and tyranny. Please tell me why we are at the mercy of tyranny again, and paying those very high taxes.

If we can create a nuclear bomb that kills people, we can spend a trillion dollars a year on a war that kills people and brings this country to its knees. By god we can do something other than this dependence on oil.

Let us be leaders again. Let us be a great people again.

ANNA REED, Idaho Falls.

First of all I thank God that I live in Idaho and for the most part my representatives represent me. Secondly, I feel that the rest of the U.S. Congress is absolutely out of touch with average American citizens. I feel that MY beautiful state of Idaho where I live with like-minded people will not be able to make its voice heard in the U.S. Congress. I could tell you how my family is being hit hard by sky-high gasoline, and energy prices, and how I have cut back on driving. I could tell that if gas prices and the cost of energy continues to rise I will be forced to take drastic measures just to keep food on the table and get to work. However, I am truly worried that the elitists in the U.S. Congress will just rub their hands together and say, our plan is working we are saving the globe from warming. Somewhere along the way the majority of our representatives in Congress have forgotten they are just that—representatives. They have taken it upon themselves to be gods thinking they have the moral high ground and who cares how the everyday average American is effected by their decisions. Yes, the United States is too dependent on petroleum for our energy and we are far too dependent on foreign sources of that petroleum. But are we willing to let the economy continue to be crushed because our Congress has bought into the fallacy of Climate Alarmism? Yes! We should be passing legislation to fully utilize proven American oil and natural gas reserves in a way that preserves the environment for future generations. That is why I strongly support policies that will take further and full advantage of nuclear energy technologies, wind and solar power, and effective renewable and alternative fuels. The Congress must take serious action that will result in reduced energy dependence of fossil fuels or provide financial relief for those hit by the recently-skyrocketing prices. If the moral elitists in Congress don't act quickly there will not be any tax payers left to save the world. The oil companies make four cents a gallon; the government collects 18 cents a gallon—I think we should be investigating Congress.

TOBY ANDERSON.

My family has very much felt the painful effects of high oil prices as I have seven children (four of them teenagers). Even with planning our trips into town we spend an average of \$570 just on fuel, not mention the increased burden of escalated costs of all other commodities that we purchase! I am a believer in taking care of our environment and being responsible caretakers of the earth, but our government and our economy being held hostage by "save the planet" extreme leftist special interest groups has got to end!!! We need to wean off of oil as a major

source of energy but that will take time as I understand it. Therefore, as a temporary measure we need to tap into our resources. That will buy us enough time to establish new technologies such as hydrogen (which I believe is a great method of powering vehicles). The best and one of the safest methods of producing electricity is nuclear, utilizing the ability to reuse the fuel. Drilling for oil, harvesting coal, nuclear, and production of hydrogen can all be done in an environmentally sound way, freeing us from bonds of other countries that would like to kill us and the environmental wackos that believe that the world would be a perfect place without humans and they would like to see us revert back to the 1700s or go away completely! To me, energy is a national security issue that must be dealt with immediately. Please help us out of this mess that we have allowed ourselves to get in through bad government policies.

Thanks for letting me vent.

PAUL PETERSEN.

Sen Crapo, let us see, I can't drive my diesel truck and I do not use my boat, I go to work and back. I think you need to take the oil off the stock market and start drilling. What the hell is wrong with everyone in D.C.? You are making so much money off of oil you cannot take care of this.

Thanks.

DON.

In response to the story we saw on KTVB 10 p.m. last night, and again this morning, I would like to submit the following:

It is amazing how God knows what is coming and has a way of preparing us for it.

Seven years ago, before gas prices started their initial climb, I stumbled upon a deal on a '79 Honda CB650. I had not ridden a motorcycle for eleven years (same length of time it had been sitting in a warehouse). Initially, I did not think I should spend the \$800. But a few weeks later decided I could not pass up the deal. Right after I bought it, gas prices started inching upward.

Last year, my wife, who has never even expressed interest in motorcycles and even asked me what I needed one for when I bought the CB650, began asking questions about riding. And about a month later (May), she decided to go ahead and do it. We got her a little 150 scooter and signed her up for Idaho STARS, but the first opening was not until Sept 7th. So we did a lot of practice in parking lots before the course began.

My elder daughter (31 at the time) had been asking me to teach her to ride for a couple years. But I had to tell her I did not have a bike that was suitable for beginners. It was a high-revving machine that was easy to stall, besides being a rather heavy machine for her to pick up if she dropped it. So when she heard about her mom and found out they provide the bikes for the STARS course, she signed up for the same class, and so did her husband. All three were trained the same weekend.

In short, our solution for high gas prices (at least until Congress acts to provide more permanent relief) is to ride two wheels as much as the weather will allow. We prefer not to ride in the rain, and fortunately for us, summertime is very dry here in the Treasure Valley. However, we do have to face the fact that such tactics will not do us much good when fall and winter come along.

For the moment, we marvel how God prepared us well in advance, and now gas prices are \$1.00/gallon higher than last year.

Here is a sample of our present savings. Nancy's present, freeway-capable 400 scooter gets 52 mpg. She can go 135 miles on 2.6 gallons. We are presently paying \$4.289/gal for premium at Shell. Those 135 miles cost us \$11.15, or little over 8 cents a mile.