

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent that my statement be printed in the RECORD prior to the previous vote.

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

(The remarks of Mrs. MURRAY and Mr. ISAKSON are printed in today's RECORD during the consideration of S.J. Res. 5.)

Mr. ISAKSON. I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WHITEHOUSE). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SANDERS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, over the course of the past several months, we have been working to complete negotiations on making our committee assignments so that all the new members will be able to attend committee meetings and be active participants. In some instances, I understand that chairmen have invited new Members to attend meetings and be involved in the process.

I am happy to report that earlier this week, the Republican leader and I agreed to what the committee ratios will be for the 111th Congress. This process of give and take is tedious, and the giver always feels that they have given more, while the taker believes that they deserve more. We had to increase the size of some of the committees during these deliberations. In any event we have reached agreement on ratios, and I ask unanimous consent that a copy of that agreement be printed in the RECORD.

Committee Ratio Agreement

Agriculture	12/9
Judiciary	11/8
Appropriations	17/13
Intel	8/7
Armed Services	15/11
Aging	12/9
Banking	12/9
Budget	13/10
Commerce	14/11
Indian Aff	9/6
Energy	13/10
JEC	6/4
EPW	11/8
Rules	11/8
Finance	13/10
Small Bus	11/8
For. Relations	11/8
Veterans	9/6
HELP	13/10
Homeland	10/7

(Ethics Committee remains at 3/3)

Mr. REID. With respect to the Democratic membership, we have had a meeting of our Democratic Steering Committee and they have ratified the proposed membership slate. Additionally, the Democratic Caucus has also

given its stamp of approval to the slate.

Therefore, Mr. President, the majority is ready to proceed ahead with Senate action on considering an organizational resolution which appoints committee membership. However, I understand from the Republican leader that they still need to complete their process. So, I fully expect that when we return after the inauguration, the Senate will act on an organizational resolution.

COMMITTEE FUNDING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President. We have included language for the 111th Congress which keeps Republican Committee budgets from going below the funding allocation for fiscal year 2008.

Upon enactment of a full year appropriation for the legislative branch, the Rules Committee has agreed to authorize \$100,000,000 annually for committee majority and minority staff salary baselines to be allocated at a 60 percent to 40 percent ratio, majority/minority respectively, during the 111th Congress.

Additionally, upon the enactment of a full year appropriation for the legislative branch, the authorization will provide for salary baselines to be adjusted by future cost-of-living adjustment, COLA, increases as approved by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Further, the majority leader and the chairman of the Rules Committee have agreed that 89 percent of special reserves is available to each chair/ranking member for administrative expenses, if requested, to be allocated at a 60 percent to 40 percent ratio, majority/minority respectively. Special reserves, which have been available to committees since 2001, shall not exceed historic levels.

While fiscal constraints have made this process very difficult, I appreciate the good faith effort made by the majority leader to fulfill the commitment we entered into at the beginning of the 110th Congress to keep minority staff salary baselines from going below funding levels allocated to the Republicans in the 109th Congress. The agreement we have reached provides the ability for minority committee budgets to be funded no less than the allocation in the 110th Congress.

Mr. REID. I concur with the remarks of the Republican leader. The baseline was not reduced for Democratic staff in the 108th Congress and this agreement allows for a similar accommodation for the Republicans in the 111th Congress.

I ask unanimous consent that a joint leadership letter be printed in the RECORD.

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

We mutually commit to the following for the 111th Congress:

Upon enactment of a full year appropriation for the legislative branch, the majority and minority staff salary baselines for the committees of the Senate, including Joint

and Special Committees, and all other subgroups, shall be apportioned at a 60 percent to 40 percent ratio, majority/minority respectively, based on an authorization of \$100,000,000 annually. Additionally, upon enactment of a full year appropriation for the legislative branch, the authorization will provide for salary baselines to be adjusted by future cost of living adjustment, COLA, increases as approved by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Further, the majority leader and the chairman of the Rules Committee have agreed that 89 percent of special reserves is available to each chair/ranking member for administrative expenses, if requested, to be allocated at a 60 percent to 40 percent ratio, majority/minority respectively.

This will allow individual minority committee funding levels to remain unchanged, if special reserves are requested. Therefore, no committee budget shall be allocated to reduce the minority committee budget below that of fiscal year 2008.

Funds for committee expenses shall be available to each chairman consistent with the Senate rules and practices of the 110th Congress.

The chairman and ranking member of any committee, may, by mutual agreement, modify the apportionment of committee funding, and/or space.

The division of committee office space shall be commensurate with the 60 percent to 40 percent ratio.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

OMNIBUS PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2009

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the Senate for its passage of the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Amendments Act, which was included as part of S. 22, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. First, I would like to thank Senators LIEBERMAN, KERRY, and KENNEDY, who joined me in introducing a stand-alone version of this bill last week and have worked with me for many years to preserve this beautiful part of New England. I would also like to thank the chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senator BINGAMAN, for his tireless work to pass all of the critically important public lands bills included in S. 22. Because of his efforts, hundreds of thousands of acres of pristine wilderness will be added to the National Wilderness Preservation System, and many new ecologically unique and culturally significant sites will receive Federal protection under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, the National Trails System, and the National Heritage Area program.

I have long felt that as Senators, one of our most important obligations is to ensure that our Nation's vast array of

natural treasures is managed in an environmentally responsible and sustainable way. With the passage of S. 22, and in particular, with the extension of Congress's authorization of the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor, I believe that we have taken an important step toward achieving that goal.

The Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor, QSHC, was established in 1994 as the fifth National Heritage Corridor. National Heritage Areas are designated by Congress to preserve distinctive landscapes of historic, cultural, natural, and recreational resources. The QSHC is commonly known as "The Last Green Valley," a rare and beautiful rural landscape in the populous Northeast. In fact, the Valley stands out in night images from space for its absence of lights. It contains aboriginal and colonial archaeological sites, mills and mill villages that preserve the history of the early industrial revolution, and traditional farming communities. The QSHC nonprofit management entity has restored architecturally and historically important buildings, developed conservation and open space plans, and fostered cooperation among businesses in the region that rely on the natural resources and beauty of the land. It has consistently leveraged an average of \$19 for every \$1 of appropriated Federal money.

The QSHC has developed a plan to become a self-sustaining entity by 2015, as laid out in "The Trail to 2015: A Sustainability Plan for the Last Green Valley." The plan calls for replacing Federal funds with fees for services, private and corporate support, and income from a permanent fund. In the interim, Federal funds are necessary for capacity-building, awareness programs, and ongoing education of land-use decision-makers.

The Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor has created a collaboration of 35 municipalities dedicated to preserving a unique slice of our American heritage. With the extension of its authorization, this preserve will be able to exist in perpetuity. Again, I would like to thank my Senate colleagues for their support of the QSHC and the numerous other sites of great natural and cultural significance that will be protected as a result of the passage of this important legislation.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to briefly explain my vote against final passage of S. 22, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. I would like to be clear that I do not oppose every aspect of this bill, nor do I oppose the notion that our Nation's most unique and precious natural features should be protected for the use and enjoyment of future generations. As with many large omnibus

bills, there are a number of provisions that enjoy strong support in the Senate. However, taken as a whole, this bill represents an enormous commitment of federal resources in perpetuity that we simply cannot afford at this time. For years, our existing national parks, wildlife refuges, and other public lands have been faced with a backlog of much-needed maintenance projects because we have not had the resources to do everything that needs to be done along with competing budget priorities. Now, in the midst of an economic downturn and on the eve of considering an historically large economic stimulus package, the strain on Federal budgets has rarely been greater. In light of this fact, it is intellectually dishonest to promise to the American people that the Federal Government will protect and maintain additional Federal lands when we know that we are not even able to fully keep our current commitments. For that reason, I felt it necessary to vote no on this bill at this time.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 2, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I submit for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the revised rules of the Committee on Finance for the 111th Congress, adopted by the committee on January 15, 2009. I ask unanimous consent that the rules be printed in the RECORD.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE I. RULES OF PROCEDURE

(Adopted January 15, 2009)

Rule 1. *Regular Meeting Days.*—The regular meeting day of the committee shall be the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, except that if there be no business before the committee the regular meeting shall be omitted.

Rule 2. *Committee Meetings.*—(a) Except as provided by paragraph 3 of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate (relating to special meetings called by a majority of the committee) and subsection (b) of this rule, committee meetings, for the conduct of business, for the purpose of holding hearings, or for any other purpose, shall be called by the chairman after consultation with the ranking minority member. Members will be notified of committee meetings at least 48 hours in advance, unless the chairman determines that an emergency situation requires a meeting on shorter notice. The notification will include a written agenda together with materials prepared by the staff relating to that agenda. After the agenda for a committee meeting is published and distributed, no nongermane items may be brought up during that meeting unless at least two-thirds of the members present agree to consider those items.

(b) In the absence of the chairman, meetings of the committee may be called by the ranking majority member of the committee who is present, provided authority to call meetings has been delegated to such member by the chairman.

Rule 3. *Presiding Officer.*—(a) The chairman shall preside at all meetings and hearings of the committee except that in his absence the ranking majority member who is present at the meeting shall preside.

(b) Notwithstanding the rule prescribed by subsection (a) any member of the committee may preside over the conduct of a hearing.

Rule 4. *Quorums.*—(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) one-third of the membership of the committee, including not less than one member of the majority party and one member of the minority party, shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business.

(b) Notwithstanding the rule prescribed by subsection (a), one member shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

Rule 5. *Reporting of Measures or Recommendations.*—No measure or recommendation shall be reported from the committee unless a majority of the committee is actually present and a majority of those present concur.

Rule 6. *Proxy Voting; Polling.*—(a) Except as provided by paragraph 7(a)(3) of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate (relating to limitation on use of proxy voting to report a measure or matter), members who are unable to be present may have their vote recorded by proxy.

(b) At the discretion of the committee, members who are unable to be present and whose vote has not been cast by proxy may be polled for the purpose of recording their vote on any rollcall taken by the committee.

Rule 7. *Order of Motions.*—When several motions are before the committee dealing with related or overlapping matters, the chairman may specify the order in which the motions shall be voted upon.

Rule 8. *Bringing a Matter to a Vote.*—If the chairman determines that a motion or amendment has been adequately debated, he may call for a vote on such motion or amendment, and the vote shall then be taken, unless the committee votes to continue debate on such motion or amendment, as the case may be. The vote on a motion to continue debate on any motion or amendment shall be taken without debate.

Rule 9. *Public Announcement of Committee Votes.*—Pursuant to paragraph 7(b) of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate (relating to public announcement of votes), the results of rollcall votes taken by the committee on any measure (or amendment thereto) or matter shall be announced publicly not later than the day on which such measure or matter is ordered reported from the committee.

Rule 10. *Subpoenas.*—Witnesses and memoranda, documents, and records may be subpoenaed by the chairman of the committee with the agreement of the ranking minority member or by a majority vote of the committee. Subpoenas for attendance of witnesses and the production of memoranda, documents, and records shall be issued by the chairman, or by any other member of the committee designated by him.

Rule 11. *Nominations.*—In considering a nomination, the Committee may conduct an investigation or review of the nominee's experience, qualifications, and suitability, to serve in the position to which he or she has been nominated. To aid in such investigation or review, each nominee may be required to submit a sworn detailed statement including biographical, financial, policy, and other information which the Committee may request. The Committee may specify which items in such statement are to be received on a confidential basis. Witnesses called to testify on the nomination may be required to testify under oath.

Rule 12. *Open Committee Hearings.*—To the extent required by paragraph 5 of Rule XXVI