

December 9, 2010, Chairman LEAHY and I have determined that the one remaining action that we need to take legislatively this Congress is to extend the three important authorities that are now due to sunset on February 28, 2010. The Feinstein-Leahy bill will extend these sunsets to the same date as proposed in S. 1692, December 31, 2013. The Attorney General and the Director of National Intelligence have asked the Congress to extend these authorities.

Additionally, the authority established by the FISA Amendments Act of 2008, regarding collection of foreign intelligence against persons reasonably believed to be outside of the United States, is scheduled to sunset on December 31, 2012. The Feinstein-Leahy bill would extend that authority for one year, to December 31, 2013, so that all of the sunsets of authority under FISA occur on the same date. This will allow the Congress to consider all of the temporary authorities in conjunction.

By acting now on these approaching sunsets, Congress will ensure stability in the foreign intelligence collection system at a time of heightened threat levels and guarantee there are no inadvertent gaps in FISA collection at the beginning of next year.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation so we can achieve enactment this session.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 78—HONORING THE WORK AND MISSION OF THE DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY ON THE OCCASION OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FEDERAL-STATE PARTNERSHIP CREATED TO UPLIFT THE 8-STATE DELTA REGION

Mr. COCHRAN (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. CON. RES. 78

Whereas President Clinton, with the approval of Congress and the bipartisan support of congressional sponsors, representing the States of the Delta in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, launched the Delta Regional Authority on December 21, 2000, in an effort to alleviate the economic hardship facing the Delta region and to create a more level playing field for the counties and parishes of such States to compete for jobs and investment;

Whereas the Delta Regional Authority is a Federal-State partnership that serves 252 counties and parishes in parts of Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee;

Whereas the Delta region holds great promise for access and trade, as the region borders the world's greatest transportation arterial in the Mississippi River;

Whereas the Delta boasts a strong cultural heritage as the birthplace of the blues and jazz music and as home to world famous cuisine, which people throughout the United

States and the world identify with the region;

Whereas the counties and parishes served by the Delta Regional Authority constitute an economically-distressed area facing challenges such as undeveloped infrastructure systems, insufficient transportation options, struggling education systems, migration out of the region, substandard health care, and the needs to develop, recruit, and retain a qualified workforce and to build strong communities that attract new industries and employment opportunities;

Whereas the Delta Regional Authority has made significant progress toward addressing such challenges during its first 10 years of work;

Whereas the Delta Regional Authority operates a highly successful grant program in each of the 8 States it serves, allowing cities, counties, and parishes to leverage money from other Federal agencies and private investors;

Whereas the Delta Regional Authority has invested nearly \$86,200,000 into more than 600 projects during the first decade of existence, leveraging \$1,400,000,000 in private sector investment and producing an overall 22 to 1 return on taxpayer dollars;

Whereas the Delta Regional Authority is working with partners to create or retain approximately 19,000 jobs and is bringing the critical infrastructure to sustain new water and sewer services for more than 43,000 families;

Whereas an independent report from the Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service found that per capita income grew more rapidly in counties and parishes where the Delta Regional Authority had the greatest investment, showing that each additional dollar of Delta Regional Authority's per capita spending results in a \$15 increase in personal income;

Whereas the Delta Regional Authority has developed a culture of transparency, passing 9 independent audits showing tangible results;

Whereas during its first 10 years, the Delta Regional Authority has laid a strong foundation for working with State Governors, Federal partners, community leaders, and private sector investors to capitalize on the region's strong points and serve as an economic multiplier for the 8-State region, helping communities tackle challenges and cultivating a climate conducive to job creation;

Whereas the Delta Regional Authority has expanded its regional initiatives in the areas of health care, transportation, leadership training, and information technology, and is also increasing efforts in the areas of small business development, entrepreneurship, and alternative energy jobs; and

Whereas the Delta Regional Authority stands prepared to use the groundwork established during its first decade as a springboard to create new opportunities for Delta communities in the future: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) recognizes the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Delta Regional Authority; and

(2) honors and celebrates the Delta Regional Authority's first decade of work to improve the economy and well-being of the 8-State Delta region, and the promise of the Delta Regional Authority's continued work in the future.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4833. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to

Treaty Doc. 111-5, Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, signed in Prague on April 8, 2010, with Protocol; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4834. Mr. KERRY (for Mr. BAUCUS) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5901, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to authorize the tax court to appoint employees.

SA 4835. Mr. KERRY (for Mr. BAUCUS) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5901, *supra*.

SA 4836. Mr. KERRY (for Mr. JOHANNES) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1481, to amend section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act to improve the program under such section for supportive housing for persons with disabilities.

SA 4837. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4827 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 2965, to amend the Small Business Act with respect to the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4838. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4827 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 2965, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4839. Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. LEMIEUX) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to Treaty Doc. 111-5, Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, signed in Prague on April 8, 2010, with Protocol; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4840. Mr. ENSIGN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to Treaty Doc. 111-5, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4841. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to Treaty Doc. 111-5, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4842. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to Treaty Doc. 111-5, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4843. Mr. BINGAMAN (for Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. COONS, and Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5116, to invest in innovation through research and development, to improve the competitiveness of the United States, and for other purposes.

SA 4844. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5281, to amend title 28, United States Code, to clarify and improve certain provisions relating to the removal of litigation against Federal officers or agencies to Federal courts, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4845. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 303, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4846. Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to

Treaty Doc. 111-5, Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, signed in Prague on April 8, 2010, with Protocol; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4847. Mr. LEMIEUX (for himself and Mr. CHAMBLISS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to Treaty Doc. 111-5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4833. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to Treaty Doc. 111-5, Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, signed in Prague on April 8, 2010, with Protocol; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In paragraph 2 of section VI of Part V of the Protocol to the New START Treaty, strike “a total of no more than ten Type One inspections” and insert “a total of no more than thirty Type One inspections”.

In paragraph 2 of section VII of Part V of the Protocol to the New START Treaty, strike “a total of no more than eight Type Two inspections” and insert “a total of no more than twenty-four Type Two inspections”.

SA 4834. Mr. KERRY (for Mr. BAUCUS) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5901, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to authorize the tax court to appoint employees; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY OF TAX COURT TO APPOINT EMPLOYEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 7471 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to employees) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION.—

“(1) CLERK.—The Tax Court may appoint a clerk without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service. The clerk shall serve at the pleasure of the Tax Court.

“(2) JUDGE-APPOINTED EMPLOYEES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The judges and special trial judges of the Tax Court may appoint employees, in such numbers as the Tax Court may approve, without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service. Any such employee shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing judge.

“(B) EXEMPTION FROM FEDERAL LEAVE PROVISIONS.—A law clerk appointed under this subsection shall be exempt from the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 63 of title 5, United States Code. Any unused sick leave or annual leave standing to the law clerk's credit as of the effective date of this subsection shall remain credited to the law clerk and shall be available to the law clerk upon separation from the Federal Government.

“(3) OTHER EMPLOYEES.—The Tax Court may appoint necessary employees without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service. Such employees shall be subject to removal by the Tax Court.

“(4) PAY.—The Tax Court may fix and adjust the compensation for the clerk and

other employees of the Tax Court without regard to the provisions of chapter 51, subchapter III of chapter 53, or section 5373 of title 5, United States Code. To the maximum extent feasible, the Tax Court shall compensate employees at rates consistent with those for employees holding comparable positions in courts established under Article III of the Constitution of the United States.

“(5) PROGRAMS.—The Tax Court may establish programs for employee evaluations, incentive awards, flexible work schedules, premium pay, and resolution of employee grievances.

“(6) DISCRIMINATION PROHIBITED.—The Tax Court shall—

“(A) prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, political affiliation, marital status, or handicapping condition; and

“(B) promulgate procedures for resolving complaints of discrimination by employees and applicants for employment.

“(7) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The Tax Court may procure the services of experts and consultants under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code.

“(8) RIGHTS TO CERTAIN APPEALS RESERVED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an individual who is an employee of the Tax Court on the day before the effective date of this subsection and who, as of that day, was entitled to—

“(A) appeal a reduction in grade or removal to the Merit Systems Protection Board under chapter 43 of title 5, United States Code,

“(B) appeal an adverse action to the Merit Systems Protection Board under chapter 75 of title 5, United States Code,

“(C) appeal a prohibited personnel practice described under section 2302(b) of title 5, United States Code, to the Merit Systems Protection Board under chapter 77 of that title.

“(D) make an allegation of a prohibited personnel practice described under section 2302(b) of title 5, United States Code, with the Office of Special Counsel under chapter 12 of that title for action in accordance with that chapter, or

“(E) file an appeal with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under part 1614 of title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations,

shall continue to be entitled to file such appeal or make such an allegation so long as the individual remains an employee of the Tax Court.

“(9) COMPETITIVE STATUS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any employee of the Tax Court who has completed at least 1 year of continuous service under a non-temporary appointment with the Tax Court acquires a competitive status for appointment to any position in the competitive service for which the employee possesses the required qualifications.

“(10) MERIT SYSTEM PRINCIPLES, PROHIBITED PERSONNEL PRACTICES, AND PREFERENCE ELIGIBLES.—Any personnel management system of the Tax Court shall—

“(A) include the principles set forth in section 2301(b) of title 5, United States Code;

“(B) prohibit personnel practices prohibited under section 2302(b) of title 5, United States Code; and

“(C) in the case of any individual who would be a preference eligible in the executive branch, provide preference for that individual in a manner and to an extent consistent with preference accorded to preference eligibles in the executive branch.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date the United States Tax Court adopts a personnel management system after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 4835. Mr. KERRY (for Mr. BAUCUS) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5901, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to authorize the tax court to appoint employees; as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: “An Act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to authorize the tax court to appoint employees.”

SA 4836. Mr. KERRY (for Mr. JOHANNES) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1481, to amend section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act to improve the program under such section for supportive housing for persons with disabilities; as follows:

On page 19, line 9, strike “811(k)(1) is amended by adding the following” and insert the following: “811(k) is amended—

“(1) in paragraph (1), by adding the following”

On page 19, line 16, strike the second period and insert the following: “; and”.

On page 19, between lines 16 and 17, insert the following:

(2) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by striking “prescribe, subject to the limitation under subsection (h)(6) of this section” and inserting “prescribe”; and

(B) by adding the following after the first sentence: “Not later than the date that the Secretary prescribes a limit exceeding the 24 person limit in the previous sentence, the Secretary shall notify the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives of the limit or the intention to prescribe a limit in excess of 24 persons, together with a detailed explanation of the reason for the new limit.”.

On page 20, strike line 4 and all that follows through page 25, line 14, and insert the following:

SEC. 4. PROJECT RENTAL ASSISTANCE.

Section 811(b) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “is authorized—” and inserting “is authorized to take the following actions:”;

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “(1) to provide tenant-based” and inserting “(1) TENANT-BASED ASSISTANCE.—To provide tenant-based”; and

(B) by striking “; and” and inserting a period;

(3) in paragraph (2), by striking “(2) to provide assistance” and inserting “(2) CAPITAL ADVANCES.—To provide assistance”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) PROJECT RENTAL ASSISTANCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—To offer additional methods of financing supportive housing for non-elderly adults with disabilities, the Secretary shall make funds available for project rental assistance pursuant to subparagraph (B) for eligible projects under subparagraph (C). The Secretary shall provide for State housing finance agencies and other appropriate entities to apply to the Secretary for such project rental assistance funds, which shall be made available by such agencies and entities for dwelling units in eligible projects based upon criteria established by the Secretary. The Secretary may not require any State housing finance agency or other entity applying for such project rental assistance funds to identify in such application the eligible projects for which such