

creating jobs, then our focus, our effort, our work should be for the millions of small businesses out there that with just a little bit of tweaking, a little bit of help from an export initiative here, some regulation reform here, loan pools here, changing current law, could help them do what they want to do, which is expand and grow jobs.

I see my colleagues are here to speak, so I am just going to take 1 minute to conclude.

I wish my colleagues to know that while this package is five major bills, there is an initiative that is not in bill form yet, but we are very serious about bringing it forward. It is going to include a provision for there to be a pool of capital available. It may be the way Senator CARDIN has envisioned it, which is direct loans from the SBA. It may be the way Senator LEVIN and Senator WARNER have been talking about, which is an idea to provide guaranteed loan pools to leverage private capital in the country. It may be something Bill Clinton spoke with us about yesterday, which is creating a dynamic new opportunity to retrofit public buildings in America and put people to work and use the savings in energy efficiency to pay back the loans so there is no new taxpayer money spent. It is leveraging the private sector to do two great things: provide jobs immediately and make more efficient every public building in America.

There is more we can do. So as the chairman, let me be very clear. I am very proud of this package. It is five bills. It has passed our committee almost unanimously. As we move this package to the floor, I hope we will get the same cooperation from Republican Members on this floor as we did from the Republican Members who serve on our committee. We have been very open, very sincere in our efforts to pull this package together, and we will continue to work in that good spirit. I hope we are met with that same feeling.

Two more things, briefly. I am probably not going to push to put in this bill a reform piece on credit cards to small businesses because it is not the jurisdiction of our committee; it is primarily the jurisdiction of the Banking Committee. However, I want this Senate to know I am on record today. Senator CARDIN says—and he is correct—how in the world are small businesses in America going to stay in business if they have to pay 15 and 20 percent interest rates? Could anybody tell me this? Is there any small business in America that thinks they can make money, hire people, and pay 20 percent interest rates? It is a shame. It is wrong. We are going to do something about small business credit card rates. I will tell my colleagues why. Because in the old days, not too long ago when the housing market was strong, which it is not today, Americans—who believe in the American dream because we tell them about it when they are 4 years old and they actually believe it

when they grow up—their house had \$200,000 or \$300,000 or \$400,000 or \$50,000 in equity. So when they wanted to start a business, they went to their banker and their banker said: How much equity do you have in your house? They said: \$50,000. They wrote them a check that day for \$20,000. They took that amount of money and they bought a stove and they started a business, maybe cooking a little scrambled eggs and ham.

Those days are over with. There is no equity in their homes anymore. When they go to their bank, they don't see a sign that says welcome—and I am not talking about community banks, I am talking about big banks that got all the money from us—they see a sign that says come back next year when things are better. So they have to then dig in their pocket and pull out their credit card. We have done them a great favor. We allow the companies to charge them not 3 percent, not 6 percent, not 10 percent but 20 percent.

I can't put that bill in this package, but I promise my colleagues it is coming. We cannot ask small business to pay 20 percent on their loans. Yes, we have to give them tax relief. But do my colleagues know what they need right now? They need borrowing relief.

So I am going to conclude with that. It is going to be a good package, and we are going to be very smart about how we put it forward. I know we have to take the tough things maybe separately so as to not detain this. But I am on record, and we are going to fight for it until we get it done.

I yield the floor. I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate as in morning business.

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

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, before I get into the main topic, I obviously appreciate the passion of the Senator from Louisiana. It is unfortunate that she and the majority on the other side refuse to vote for the most important thing we could have done immediately for small business; that is, give them payroll tax relief and take the money out of the stimulus package, so much of which is being wasted on issues such as Davis-Bacon and environmental impact statements. We ought to give small businesses payroll tax relief immediately.

#### DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN RUSSIA

Mr. MCCAIN. Now I wish to take this opportunity to speak about the ongoing cause of human rights and democracy in Russia. These are not issues we hear much about from the current Russian Government, unfortunately, unless it is to denounce those Russian citizens who aspire to these universal values.

I had an opportunity the other week to meet with one of these brave Rus-

sian champions of human rights, human dignity, and freedom—a man by the name of Boris Nemtsov. I know several other people and other Members of Congress had a similar opportunity to speak with him. Mr. Nemtsov is but one of the many Russians who believe their country deserves a government that enhances and enshrines the human rights of its people in an inviolable rule of law, that allows citizens to hold their leaders accountable through a real Democratic process. This Saturday, March 20, many Russian human rights activists are planning public demonstrations all across their great country—I might add at great risk, since there is very little doubt that the Russian Government may even forcibly repress some of these public demonstrations, which will be peaceful. I asked Mr. Nemtsov what we in Washington could do to support the cause of human rights in Russia, and he simply said: "Speak up for it. Speak up for us."

It is my pleasure to do that today.

The Russian Government will surely take whatever I say here and similar things said by others and try to paint Russia's champions of human rights and democracy as puppets and proxies of the United States. Of course, they would say and do the exact same thing even if no Americans spoke up for the human rights of Russia's citizens. So we should refrain from internalizing the Kremlin's talking points, especially when Russians themselves are requesting our moral support for their cause. Because the fact is, this isn't about particular individuals or particular demonstrations held this week or any week in Russia. This is about universal values—values that we in the United States embody but do not own, values that should shape the conduct of every government, be it ours or Russia's or any other country's. When we see citizens of conviction seeking to hold their governments to the higher standard of human rights, we should speak up for them.

This is all the more necessary when we realize the obstacles those citizens face, especially in Russia. I wish to read a passage from the 2009 Country Report on Human Rights Practices, which was recently released by our State Department. Here is how they described the human rights situation in Russia:

Direct and indirect government interference in local and regional elections restricted the ability of citizens to change their government through free and fair elections. During the year, there were a number of high-profile killings of human rights activists by unknown persons, apparently for reasons related to their professional activities. There were numerous credible reports that law enforcement personnel engaged in physical abuse of subjects. Prison conditions were harsh and could be life threatening. Eight journalists, many of whom reported critically on the government, were killed during the year. With one exception the government failed to identify, arrest, or prosecute any suspects. Beating and intimidation of journalists remained a problem. The government limited freedom of assembly, and

police sometimes used violence to prevent groups from engaging in peaceful protest.

It will be very interesting to see how the police and the government treat these demonstrations that will take place across Russia on March 20. These conditions would be intolerable in any country, and this conduct would be unacceptable for any government. Clearly, Russia today is not the Soviet Union, neither in its treatment of Russia's people nor in its foreign policy. But I fear that may be damning with faint praise, and Russians themselves are right to hold their country and their government up to higher standards.

Russia is a great nation, and like all Americans of good will, I want Russia to be strong and successful. I want Russia's economy to be a vibrant source of wealth and opportunity for all Russians. I want Russia to play a proud and responsible role in world affairs. I will continue to affirm in public and in private that the best way for Russians to secure what they say they care about most—reduced corruption, a strengthened and equitable rule of law, economic modernization—is by nurturing a pluralistic and free civil society, by building independent and sustainable institutions of democracy, and by respecting the human rights of all.

I was happy to see that Russian political parties not aligned with the Kremlin actually won more seats in regional parliamentary elections this week. Perhaps this signals a growing recognition among Russians that the authoritarian tendencies of the Kremlin need to be rolled back through popular opposition. Perhaps the Russian Government could allow future elections at all levels to be freer and fairer. Perhaps. But there is still a long way to go for the cause of democracy in Russia, and I hope these small electoral gains only embolden democracy's defenders.

As we speak up for the rights of Russia's dissidents, we must do the same for the rights of Russia's neighbors as well—neighbors such as the country of Georgia. I visited Georgia in January, and I had a chance to travel to the so-called "administrative boundary line" with the breakaway region of Abkhazia. On the other side of that boundary line is sovereign Georgian territory occupied by Russian troops, as it has been since the 2008 invasion. When I was in Munich last month for an annual security conference, I heard several Russian officials speaking from the same script, alleging acts of aggression by Georgian forces against Russian peacekeepers—the same kind of rhetoric we heard before the 2008 invasion. This should give us all pause. I know Washington has a lot of foreign policy challenges at the moment, but we cannot forget Georgia and the support it deserves amid a continuing threat from its neighbor to the north.

A Russian government that better protects the human dignity of its people would be more inclined to deal with its neighbors in peace and mutual re-

spect. That is why we should all say a silent prayer and a public word of support for Russia's courageous human rights activists, as they make their voices heard this Saturday. These brave men and women want the best for their country. They want a government that is not only strong but just, peaceful, inclusive, and democratic. I urge Russia's leaders to recognize that peaceful champions of universal values are not a threat to Russia, and that groups such as this should not face the kinds of violence, repression, and intimidation that Russian authorities have used against similar demonstrators in the past. The eyes of the world will be watching.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### AMENDMENT NO. 3467, AS MODIFIED

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the adoption of amendment No. 3467, that it be modified with the changes at the desk.

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

The amendment (No. 3467), as modified, is as follows:

On page 130, after line 24, insert the following:

#### SEC. 434. AUTHORIZATION OF USE OF CERTAIN LANDS IN THE LAS VEGAS MCCARRAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ENVIRONS OVERLAY DISTRICT FOR TRANSIENT LODGING AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law and except as provided in subsection (b), Clark County, Nevada, is authorized to permit transient lodging, including hotels, and associated facilities, including enclosed auditoriums, concert halls, sports arenas, and places of public assembly, on lands in the Las Vegas McCarran International Airport Environs Overlay District that fall below the forecasted 2017 65 dB day-night annual average noise level (DNL), as identified in the Noise Exposure Map Notice published by the Federal Aviation Administration in the Federal Register on July 24, 2007 (72 Fed. Reg. 40357), and adopted into the Clark County Development Code in June 2008.

(b) LIMITATION.—No structure may be permitted under subsection (a) that would constitute a hazard to air navigation, result in an increase to minimum flight altitudes, or otherwise pose a significant adverse impact on airport or aircraft operations.

#### SIGNING AUTHORIZATION

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the majority leader be authorized to sign any duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions today, Wednesday, March 17, and Thursday, March 18.

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

#### RECESS

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 2 p.m.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:27 p.m., recessed until 2 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Acting President pro tempore.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. INOUE). A quorum is present.

The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Thank you, Mr. President.

#### EXHIBITION OF ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT AGAINST G. THOMAS PORTEOUS, JR., JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Secretary inform the House of Representatives that the Senate is ready to receive the managers appointed by the House for the purpose of exhibiting Articles of Impeachment against G. Thomas Porteous, Jr., Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, agreeably to the notice communicated to the Senate, and at the hour of 2 p.m., today, Wednesday, March 17, 2010, the Senate will receive the honorable managers on the part of the House of Representatives in order that they may present and exhibit the said Articles of Impeachment against the said G. Thomas Porteous, Jr., Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following counsel and staff of the House of Representatives be permitted the privileges of the floor during the proceedings with respect to the trial of the impeachment of Judge Porteous. They are as follows: Danielle Brown, Allison Halataei, Alan Baron, Harry Damelin, Mark Dubester, Kirsten Konar, Jessica Klein, Branden Ritchie, Michael Len, Phil Tahtakran, Ryan Clough, and Elisabeth Stein.

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

The Senate will be in order.

I will now call upon the Secretary for the majority.

The Secretary to the majority, Lula J. Davis, announced the presence of the House managers, as follows:

Mr. President, I announce the presence of the managers on the part of the House of Representatives to conduct proceedings on behalf of the House concerning the impeachment of G. Thomas