

The amendment provides for loans to homeowners only after determining the borrower has a reasonable prospect of being able to resume making full mortgage payments, and we will consider their ability to repay in establishing loan terms, conditions, or rates.

In addition to the individual homeowner problem—someone who has lost their job or has some circumstance that prevents them from making their payments—in addition to the individual, we have full neighborhoods across the country that continue to suffer from housing price declines, lost property tax revenues, abandoned properties, and, of course, blight. This amendment would also direct \$1 billion of TARP funds to the Neighborhood Stabilization Program created by the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 to provide grants to State and local governments and eligible entities to purchase and redevelop foreclosed and abandoned properties with the goal of stabilizing communities. So this is a neighborhood problem in addition to being a problem with individual homeowners.

The language from this amendment was included in H.R. 4173, the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2009 which passed the House of Representatives late last year.

In conclusion, I wish to reemphasize the need for this type of an amendment because we still, unfortunately, have not tackled the foreclosure problem in America. In fact, it is a foreclosure crisis which will prevent us from having an economy that is in full recovery. We did the right thing by making sure the TARP dollars were able to sustain what happened in the strategy to help our financial companies around the United States of America, especially those that were in real trouble in 2008 and 2009. We did the right thing on the recovery bill. We did the right thing on the HIRE Act a couple of months ago. We have taken a lot of steps to rescue and stabilize our economy. We are growing now. We have some growth. We have some employment growth. But unless we tackle completely the foreclosure problem with a very direct, focused effort, we are not going to fully recover and we are not going to have the kind of economic growth we should.

So I would urge my colleagues to join Senator SCHUMER, Senator GILLIBRAND, me, and others in voting for and seeking the passage of this amendment, No. 3791, the homeowners relief and neighborhood stabilization amendment.

I yield the floor, and 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. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 4050

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on the Cardin-Lugar amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that after a period of morning business on Tuesday, May 18, the Senate resume consideration of S. 3217, and there be 30 minutes for debate with respect to the Gregg amendment No. 4051 prior to a vote, with the time equally divided and controlled between Senators DODD and GREGG or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote in relation to the amendment, with no amendment in order to the amendment prior to the vote; that the Gregg amendment be subject to an affirmative 60-vote threshold, and if the amendment achieves that threshold, then it be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that if it does not achieve that threshold, then it be withdrawn.

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

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment by Senator CORKER of Tennessee on preemption be in order, and that the side-by-side amendment offered by Senator CARPER be in order.

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

#### MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LIEUTENANT BRANDON AARON BARRETT

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of Marine LT Brandon Barrett from Marion, IN. Brandon was only 27 years old when he lost his life on May 5 while serving bravely in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Lieutenant Barrett was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Lejeune.

Today, I join family and friends in mourning his death who will forever remember him as a loving son, brother, and friend. He is survived by his mother, Cindy Barrett, his father, Brett Barrett, his sisters, Ashley and Taylor Barrett and his brother, Brock Barrett.

Brandon was a native of Marion. Prior to entering the Marine Corps in 2006, Brandon graduated from Marion High School and attended the U.S. Naval Academy. His family and friends

describe him as a bright student, a gifted football and baseball star, and a proud Hoosier who courageously refused to take freedom for granted.

Brandon was deployed on his second tour of duty in Afghanistan. During his service, Brandon earned an array of awards, including the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal and NATO International Security Assistance Force Medal.

While we struggle to express our sorrow over this loss, we take pride in the example of this American hero. We cherish the legacy of his service and his life.

As I search for words to honor this fallen Marine, I recall President Lincoln's words to the families of the fallen at Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here."

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Brandon Barrett in the RECORD of the U.S. Senate for his service to our country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy, and peace.

I pray that Brandon's family finds comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. JOSEPH BASCUAS

Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts. Mr. President, I would like to recognize Dr. Joseph W. Bascuas for serving as interim president of Becker College and for his dedication to high academic standards and expectations.

The Becker College board of trustees named Dr. Bascuas as interim president on September 26, 2008. Dr. Bascuas gave his leadership and support to the Becker College community in various ways during his tenure and succeeded in bringing a united vision to the college during a challenging time. Throughout his tenure as Becker College's interim president, Dr. Bascuas advocated strong steps to bolster transparency and the fiscal responsibility of the college, such as maintaining a budget surplus at a time of economic uncertainty. As president, Dr. Bascuas championed cost containment for working families by urging the trustees to freeze tuition and room and board for 2009–2010. He promoted high academic standards and expectations, thus increasing pride in the institution.

I have been proud to hear of the record of Becker College under his leadership. Becker College serves more than 1,700 students from 18 States and 12 countries and offers over 25 diverse,

top-quality bachelor degree programs in unique, high-demand career niches. Dr. Bascuas brought more than 25 years of experience in higher education to Becker College. In addition to his teaching and leading experiences, he has written and coauthored numerous papers on psychological topics and has presented at symposia and conferences. Dr. Bascuas utilized his great volume of experience and passion for quality higher education in his role as Becker College interim president.

I stand here today to congratulate Dr. Joseph W. Bascuas on the completion of his honorable work as Becker College's interim president. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Dr. Joseph W. Bascuas continued success.

#### VICTORIOUS SENATE PAGES

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, on May 16, 2010, the Senate Pages played the House Pages in an annual ultimate Frisbee game on the National Mall. This year the Senate Pages won the game commandingly 6-3.

Congratulations Senate Pages.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING WALTER J. HICKEL

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, on Saturday morning, May 8, Alaskans awakened to the sad news that our beloved former Governor, Walter J. Hickel, passed away at the age of 90.

While those in my State viewed him as an Alaska legend, students of American political history may recall Governor Hickel more vividly as President Nixon's first Secretary of the Interior. They may recall that Hickel left that position after criticizing President Nixon for his handling of the Vietnam war and the student protests that gripped the Nation over our involvement in Southeast Asia.

In 1970, following what has come to be known as the "Kent State Massacre," Secretary Hickel wrote a letter urging President Nixon to give more respect to the views of young people critical of the war. That letter included the passage, "I believe this administration finds itself today embracing a philosophy which appears to lack appropriate concern for the attitude of a great mass of Americans—our young people."

On November 25, 1970, Governor Hickel was fired over the letter. His firing came days after he told "60 Minutes" that he had no intention of quitting. He said he would only go away "with an arrow in my heart, not a bullet in my back." The Nixon administration was all too pleased to oblige.

If President Kennedy were still alive, he surely would have viewed this series of events as a "profile in courage." To this day, when Alaskans are asked for one word that describes Walter Hickel, the word "backbone" immediately comes to mind.

They may have fired Wally Hickel but they didn't silence him. Governor Hickel left the national political scene following this incident to focus on Alaska and the Arctic, and his independence, his judgment, and his backbone inspired leaders of Alaska for decades to come.

Governor Hickel appreciated that public policy is a team effort, not an individual sport. Two of Governor Hickel's enduring legacies to the State—Commonwealth North, Alaska's leading public affairs forum, and the Institute of the North, a public policy think-tank—continue to shape public discourse today. Governor Hickel would be proud that last week, even as Alaskans grieved his loss, the Institute of the North conducted its annual Emerging Leaders Dialogue in Sitka.

Governor Hickel's life was large, as large as all of Alaska. Alaska is one of the few corners of America in which legends can still be made. And Governor Hickel surely will go down in history as an Alaska legend.

Born August 18, 1919, in Kansas, Walter J. Hickel came to Alaska in 1940 with 37 cents in his pocket. As he sailed into Prince William Sound on the S.S. *Yukon*, overwhelmed by the breathtaking natural beauty, Hickel remarked, "You take care of me, and I'll take care of you."

The words were prophetic. After working as a bartender, a carpenter, and an aircraft inspector, Governor Hickel saved enough money to purchase a half-completed house. He finished building the house, sold it, and then built two more. Eventually, he built several hundred homes.

Long time Fairbanks newspaper columnist Dermot Cole recalls Governor Hickel's success in enlisting community support to build Fairbanks' first modern hotel in 1955. Fairbanks needed a hotel, and Governor Hickel needed financing. He asked the Fairbanks community to invest in its future by purchasing bonds to finance the project, and 583 bondholders invested in the project. The smallest investment was \$10, the largest \$25,000. The project was built in 7 months. The bondholders were paid back by 1960. And that hotel, The Travelers Inn, still greets visitors to Alaska's Golden Heart City. Today, it is known as the Westmark Fairbanks.

Governor Hickel went on to build Anchorage's Captain Cook Hotel, as a show of confidence in the economy of Southcentral Alaska following the 1964 earthquake. Today, the Captain Cook Hotel offers 547 rooms, in 3 towers, and is Alaska's member of the Preferred Hotel Group.

Alaska sure took care of Wally Hickel, and Governor Hickel more than fulfilled his promise to take care of Alaska, proving that economic development and environmental conservation are not mutually exclusive concepts. His life demonstrates that a developer can be a conservationist and a conservationist can be a developer. One

is left to wonder which title he preferred.

Governor Hickel believed that economies can be grown through big projects. He certainly was not one who shared the view prevalent in some circles of the Lower 48, that Alaska should be locked up as a museum to compensate for poor land use decisions made elsewhere in America. During a 1978 interview, he referred to Alaska as a "happy, young, vibrant country." Blunt and honest, he lamented those who argued, "Don't walk here. Don't walk there. Don't step on the dandelions. You can't use this." He referred to this kind of thinking as "What a bunch of bull."

Yet this is the same Walter Hickel who dispatched legions of Interior Department employees to commemorate the first observance of Earth Day in 1969; the same Walter Hickel who told the National Petroleum Council in 1970, "The right to produce [petroleum] is not the right to pollute. America must prove to itself as well as to others worldwide that it has the ability to clean up the garbage it has left in its wake."

He insisted that those who benefited from the development of Alaska's resources pay Alaskans their due. And during Governor Hickel's second stint as Governor during the 1990s, the major oil companies were persuaded to pay the State more than \$4 billion in disputed back taxes and royalties. Historian Stephen Haycox refers to this as "a very significant legacy . . . because he forced the oil companies to acknowledge that they had a debt they owed to Alaska." In the wake of the Exxon Valdez oil spill, Governor Hickel used settlement funds to purchase land for Kachemak Bay State Park and Afognak State Park.

I could go on all day about the life of Wally Hickel. A man who constantly struggled with dyslexia, he authored several books and monographs and many articles. A self-educated individual, he received numerous honorary degrees and befriended foreign heads of state.

A fighter for Alaska's statehood, Hickel attended the birth of the State of Alaska. And history will remember that very little of significance happened in Alaska in the ensuing 50 years that Walter J. Hickel was not involved in. It is no overstatement to suggest that Governor Hickel had a substantial hand in Alaska's start, its present, and its future.

During Alaska's 50th anniversary of statehood celebration last year, I marveled at the fact that so many of the people who made our history are still alive and available to inspire succeeding generations of Alaskans as we continue to grow our State. I would like to think that giants such as Wally Hickel could live forever.

On behalf of all of our Senate colleagues, I extend condolences to Governor Hickel's wife Ermalee, his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Thank you for sharing this