

Furthermore, despite her long hours of work for the agency, Regan co-founded a nonprofit that focuses on improving the lives of children affected by HIV-AIDS and poverty in Africa. She visits Zambia annually and has raised thousands of dollars to benefit the schools there.

Outstanding government employees such as Dr. Regan Murray are making a difference each and every day. So many of them also serve as volunteers in their communities and around the world.

I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking Dr. Regan Murray and all those working at the Environmental Protection Agency for their hard work and dedicated service on behalf of the American people. They are all truly great Federal employees.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant editor of the Daily Digest proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

TURKEY

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, this past weekend, 12 Turkish soldiers were killed by PKK terrorists. Yesterday, another four Turkish soldiers were killed, as well as the innocent daughter of an officer, and according to the Turkish government, the PKK is responsible for this massacre as well.

Our condolences go out to these families and all the people of Turkey. Terrorist assaults are unacceptable wherever they occur in the world, and we all have to fight together against them.

We are reminded of our common bond with Turkey, and our common fight against terrorists and terror wherever we see it. Turkey has been an important ally, a democracy in a troubled region and a force for stability.

We must keep in mind that Turkey has been a member of NATO since 1952. They established a strategic and military alliance with Israel in the 1990s, and now have boots on the ground in Afghanistan helping us there.

For many years, the bond between the United States and Turkey has been strong and unchallengeable. Despite this progress, Turkey's current prime minister is jeopardizing and risking much of what his country and the Turkish people have accomplished over recent decades. Moving Turkey away from the middle and toward a dangerous extremist path cannot possibly be a good course of action for that country.

Prime Minister Erdogan used his vote on the U.N. Security Council to oppose sanctions on Iran. He calls Iranian President Ahmadinejad a friend, while turning away from those in Iran who would promote peace. He has nor-

malized relations with Syria, despite its support for the terrorist groups Hezbollah and Hamas.

In fact, I was on a visit recently—last year—to Turkey with two other Senators. We joined the prime minister in his conference room. Upon sitting down, he forcefully declared that “Hamas is not a terrorist organization.” That is a deeply troubling statement from a member of NATO.

Hamas has refused to accept the existence of Israel, a country of more than 7 million people, while declaring threats to destroy the country. It has unleashed more than 10,000 rockets on Israeli neighborhoods and threatens to send thousands more.

This group has sent suicide bombers into Israel, who have killed not only Israelis, but Americans also, including people from my State of New Jersey.

What puzzles me most of all is how Prime Minister Erdogan refuses to condemn Hamas for a terrorist organization for engaging in the same murderous activity as the PKK. It doesn't add up. It challenges Turkey's standing across the world.

The PKK is so dangerous to the Turkish people, their economy, and their national well-being for the very same reasons that Hamas is dangerous to Israel.

The prime minister's alignment with the most radical forces in the Middle East is a serious concern for all of us. But the situation is not irreversible.

I hope that Prime Minister Erdogan changes course, rejects his drift toward extremism, and embraces the moderate forces within Turkey and across the Middle East. If Turkey wants the standing and respect that a balanced democratic nation earns, it has to treat all peaceful nations the same and terrorists with disdain.

I was in Turkey some years ago when the PKK—primarily of Kurdish population—was thought to be a concern, but not particularly active in the terrorism that I saw, anyway, in my visit there. But we saw them then putting people in prison because they differed in opinion with the government. I thought that was a sign of censorship that didn't fit the picture, but they knew that in the Kurdish community, there was a lot of resistance to what the Turkish Government was doing.

Now we see that Turkey has 30,000 troops chasing the PKK on the border near Iraq. So it is hard to understand how a nation that has the power that Turkey could have in the Middle East—and in the world generally—is falling prey to identifying one group as friendly and another group—or one group as terrorists in one place and a good-meaning organization in another. Hamas is a terrorist organization, and everybody knows it. They have overtaken the Gaza, and they control all the flow of everything there—arms, et cetera—and maintain an arsenal with which to attack Israel.

We have to let Turkey know this is not a good way for us to continue an

alliance. We have an interest in balance and respect for the countries in the Middle East. So I hope we can continue a long-time, close relationship with this great country and long-time friend.

I close with a wish that in Turkey they will take a second look at the policies they are currently condoning and join with us in the fight against terrorism.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

ASIAN CARP FOUND IN LAKE CALUMET

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today with a very urgent and critical situation from my home State and the home State of the Presiding Officer and for our Great Lakes in general.

We are just finding out today that a commercial fisherman, contracted by the government to do routine sampling of areas leading into the Great Lakes and Lake Michigan, caught a 34-inch, 20-pound Asian carp in Lake Calumet, approximately 6 miles downstream from Lake Michigan, past the barriers, and on its way to Lake Michigan. This is the first Asian carp found past the electric barriers. It represents a very serious risk to the Great Lakes' ecosystem and, frankly, to our way of life in the Great Lakes region. These fish are huge, and they are able to invade the Great Lakes. They could easily destroy our \$7 billion fishing industry and our \$16 billion recreational boating industry. Invasive species in the Great Lakes have already contributed to significant declines in fish populations. The Asian carp could completely unwind the food chain, with devastating effects for our existing fish populations. We heard in testimony before my Subcommittee on Water and Power that these fish, which can get up to 90 or 100 pounds, effectively have no stomach. They eat all the time. They eat up everything in the food chain, leaving other fish to die throughout the Great Lakes. It is extremely serious.

We have been working on this issue for a number of years with electric fencing and most recently poisoning a part of the waters in the Chicago channels to determine whether there are any of these Asian carp that have come up the Mississippi River and into the Illinois River. At the time, they didn't find anything. Unfortunately, today they did, and it was well past the electric barriers and fences for the first time.

Let me share with you one story from a few years ago that reflects what

happens if these huge fish get into our precious Great Lakes. In 2003, a woman named Mary Poppett, from Peoria, IL, decided to enjoy some warm October weather with a little jet skiing on the Illinois River. As she cruised the waves, the sound of her ski's motor excited a 30-pound Asian carp swimming under the water, which then leapt up and crashed into her. Imagine being hit in the face by a bowling ball. That is how she referred to it. She was knocked unconscious. She broke her nose, fractured a vertebrae, and she would have drowned if other boaters in the area had not gotten to her in time. Imagine that. Imagine that happening over and over again in Lake Michigan, in Lake Superior, and around our Great Lakes. I can't imagine it. I don't want to imagine it.

Mary is not alone. Since Asian carp were introduced to control algae in catfish ponds down South in the 1970s, the carp have spread at a very rapid pace, causing injuries, destroying ecosystems, and threatening entire industries. Now that an Asian carp has been found so close to Lake Michigan, it better be a huge wake-up call that we have to act swiftly to contain this threat.

Despite everyone's best efforts, this situation we find ourselves in is calling for very decisive action. I have introduced legislation to close the locks until we have a permanent solution. This has also been introduced in the House by my colleague, Congressman CAMP, and others, and I today urge in the strongest possible terms that the Army Corps close the locks between the rivers and Lake Michigan now—now, today—while they continue to determine the best way to permanently separate the Chicago area waterway system from the Great Lakes.

We know we need additional monitoring and sampling of resources applied to the area. I appreciate that last December, when there was fish DNA found above the locks, the administration worked with us very quickly to redirect resources to the Army Corps to take some immediate actions at that time. But now it is not just DNA from a dead fish. Now it is a live fish, and it is beyond the electric barrier. It is on its way in open waters into our Great Lakes, and we have to act decisively and immediately to protect our waters while a long-term solution is found.

Again, I urge the Army Corps of Engineers and the other agencies involved to take this finding very seriously and to act with the same tremendous urgency that all of us who represent Great Lakes States feel to prevent further encroachment by these Asian carp into our Great Lakes. This isn't just the economy, it is not just boating, and it is not just fishing; it really is our way of life in the Great Lakes. Despite efforts that have gone on for years to stop the fish, that hasn't happened, and now we have to take very decisive action to close the locks immediately so we can determine how best, in the long term, to solve this problem.

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

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

CONGRATULATING THE SUMRALL BASEBALL TEAM

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I rise today to inform the Senate of the accomplishments of Mississippi's Sumrall High School varsity baseball team. Earlier this year, the Bobcats set a Mississippi record by winning 67 consecutive games and winning their third straight State championship, an impressive achievement worthy of recognition.

The team fell just eight wins shy of breaking the national record for consecutive wins and secured their spot as the team with the Nation's fourth longest winning streak. Some teams might have been discouraged after a loss ended such an impressive streak, but the Bobcats regrouped and went on to win their final 11 games and their third consecutive Class 3-A State Championship. The Bobcats' state title and 36-1 record earned them the top spot in USA Today's national high school baseball rankings.

Sumrall High's baseball staff consists of Head Coach Larry Knight and Assistant Coaches Steve Cooley, Andy Davis, Richard Broom, and Matt Thomas. The team members and coaching staff have demonstrated outstanding teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship. I congratulate the Sumrall High School baseball team and wish them continued success both on and off the field.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are still working on this extenders bill. We thought we had it all worked out. There was one of the Senators who wanted some more changes. Each time we do that, we have to rescind the bill. It takes time. We are in the process of doing that right now. So I apologize to everyone for not having these votes.

I ask unanimous consent now that the Senate be in a period of morning business until 6 o'clock tonight, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each; that during this time we

are involved in morning business it would be for debate only.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. REID. I ask for the regular order.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

AMERICAN JOBS AND CLOSING TAX LOOPHOLES ACT OF 2010

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the pending business. The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment with an amendment to H.R. 4213, an act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Baucus motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with Baucus amendment No. 4369 (to the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill), in the nature of a substitute.

Coburn amendment No. 4331 (to amendment No. 4369), to pay for the cost of this act by reducing wasteful, inefficient, excessive, and duplicative government spending.

Casey/Brown (OH) amendment No. 4371 (to amendment No. 4369), to provide for the extension of premium assistance for COBRA benefits.

LeMieux amendment No. 4300 (to amendment No. 4369), to establish an expedited procedure for consideration of a bill returning spending levels to 2007 levels.

DeMint motion to refer the House message to accompany H.R. 4213, to the Committee on Finance with instructions.

MOTION TO REFER

Mr. REID. Is the pending matter the DeMint motion?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNER). It is the motion to refer.

Mr. REID. I move to table that motion and ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to table.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?