

As an appropriator, and Chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, I have secured \$17 million in Federal funding for ecosystem restoration and water quality work in the San Francisco Bay in the last 3 years. I have also secured \$15 million since 2006 for the Fish and Wildlife Service to restore salt ponds to tidal wetlands in the Bay.

It is necessary to ensure that these funds continue to be appropriated and are spent on the most important projects for the ecosystem and public benefit.

To that end, this legislation will prioritize funding for projects that will protect and restore vital estuarine habitat for migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, and wildlife; improve and restore water quality and rearing habitat for fish; and ensure public benefits.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 3539

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “San Francisco Bay Restoration Act”.

SEC. 2. SAN FRANCISCO BAY RESTORATION GRANT PROGRAM.

Title I of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 123. SAN FRANCISCO BAY RESTORATION GRANT PROGRAM.

“(a) GRANT PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may provide grants to State and local agencies, and public or nonprofit agencies, institutions, and organizations, for ecosystem restoration projects and habitat improvement for fish, waterfowl, and wildlife, in accordance with the priorities described in the comprehensive management plan for the San Francisco estuary developed under section 320.

“(2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GRANTS; NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

“(A) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—A grant provided to any individual or entity under this section for a fiscal year shall not exceed an amount equal to 50 percent of the total cost of eligible activities that are to be carried out using funds from the grant.

“(B) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share of the total cost of any eligible activities that are carried out using funds from a grant provided under this section shall be—

“(i) not less than 50 percent; and

“(ii) provided from non-Federal sources.

“(b) FUNDING.—

“(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out this section such sums as are necessary for each of fiscal years 2011 through 2020.

“(2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the amount made available to carry out this section for a fiscal year, the Administrator shall use not more than 5 percent to pay administrative expenses incurred in carrying out this section.”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 566—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE SITUATION IN KYRGYZSTAN

Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. LUGAR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 566

Whereas on June 10, 2010, violence erupted between ethnic Kyrgyz and Uzbek communities in the southern city of Osh, Kyrgyzstan, and later spread to the city of Jalalabad, leaving at least several hundred dead and thousands injured;

Whereas the outbreak of violence forced as many as 400,000 people to flee their homes, including an estimated 100,000 women and children who face desperate conditions along the Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan border;

Whereas the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other United Nations agencies estimate that the violence could directly or indirectly affect more than 1,000,000 people;

Whereas the displacement of ethnic Uzbeks and continuing instability in the southern part of Kyrgyzstan could destabilize the Provisional Government of Kyrgyzstan and undermine the legitimacy of the referendum on constitutional reform scheduled for June 27, 2010;

Whereas the Provisional Government of Kyrgyzstan, which came to power in April 2010 following large-scale opposition protests against the regime of former president Kurmanbek Bakiyev, has yet to fully extend its authority in the south and build the capacity necessary to address underlying political, social, and economic tensions;

Whereas Kyrgyz and Uzbeks in Osh have retreated into largely self-segregated neighborhoods, creating the potential for a permanent division into ethnic enclaves that could impede the delivery of humanitarian assistance and jeopardize the long-term stability of the country;

Whereas rioting and violence in southern Kyrgyzstan could spread to other areas in the Ferghana Valley, which spans the countries of Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan, and further exacerbate inter-ethnic competition for resources in the region;

Whereas protracted instability in Kyrgyzstan and the wider region could provide a safe haven for extremists and criminal networks and obstruct efforts to combat the drug trade;

Whereas stability in Kyrgyzstan and the broader Central Asia region, which borders Afghanistan, Iran, China, and Russia, is important to the national security interests of the United States;

Whereas Central Asia plays a vital role in the United States strategy for Afghanistan, including the transit center at Manas International Airport in Kyrgyzstan that forms an integral part of the northern supply route for North Atlantic Treaty Organization and United States-led coalition operations in Afghanistan;

Whereas promoting stability, respect for human rights, and economic and political reform in Central Asia are important priorities for the United States;

Whereas economic growth and democratic political development in Central Asia would provide a foundation for improved cooperation with the United States in confronting an array of global challenges, from non-proliferation and counter-narcotics to energy security and climate change; and

Whereas the potential for escalating violence in Kyrgyzstan concerns not only the United States and the people of Kyrgyzstan, but also the countries in the region and the international community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate—

(1) to call upon all parties in Kyrgyzstan to refrain from violence and attend to the civilians who have been displaced or injured as a result of the violence, paying particular attention to the ethnic Uzbek population along the Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan border;

(2) that the Provisional Government of Kyrgyzstan should—

(A) take immediate steps to restore order, the rule of law, and the democratic process;

(B) address the underlying political, social, and economic tensions that divide Kyrgyz society for all citizens of Kyrgyzstan, regardless of ethnic background; and

(C) bring to justice those responsible for the recent violence;

(3) to support calls for a full and fair investigation into the causes of the violence in southern Kyrgyzstan;

(4) to welcome the commitment of more than \$32,000,000 of the United States Government to Kyrgyzstan for programs supporting humanitarian relief, reconstruction, and community stabilization;

(5) to commend the Government of Uzbekistan for cooperating with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Committee of the Red Cross, UNICEF, and other international non-governmental organizations in meeting the urgent needs of Uzbek refugees;

(6) that the Government of Uzbekistan should maintain an open border in order to ensure that the displaced and vulnerable populations seeking refuge in Uzbekistan may avail themselves of emergency humanitarian assistance and protection services;

(7) to call upon the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to help restore calm and order through—

(A) strengthening the democratic institutions of Kyrgyzstan;

(B) encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(C) establishing a framework for dialogue among the ethnic communities; and

(D) promoting confidence building measures between the Provisional Government of Kyrgyzstan and ethnic communities; and

(8) to commend the efforts of relief organizations and all persons responding to the immediate humanitarian needs of those displaced by the recent outbreak of violence in Kyrgyzstan.

PERMANENT RADIO FREE ASIA AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 439, S. 3104.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title. The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3104) to permanently authorize Radio Free Asia, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Radio Free Asia (referred to in this Act as "RFA")—

(A) was authorized under section 309 of the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6208);

(B) was incorporated as a private, non-profit corporation in March 1996 in the hope that its operations would soon be obviated by the global advancement of democracy; and

(C) is headquartered in Washington, DC, with additional offices in Bangkok, Hong Kong, Phnom Penh, Seoul, Ankara, and Taipei.

(2) RFA broadcasts serve as substitutes for indigenous free media in regions lacking free media outlets.

(3) The mission of RFA is "to provide accurate and timely news and information to Asian countries whose governments prohibit access to a free press" in order to enable informed decision-making by the people within Asia.

(4) RFA provides daily broadcasts of news, commentary, analysis, and cultural programming to Asian countries in several languages, including—

(A) 12 hours per day in Mandarin;

(B) 8 hours per day in 3 Tibetan dialects, Uke, Kham, and Amdo;

(C) 4 hours per day in Korean and Burmese;

(D) 2 hours per day in Cantonese, Vietnamese, Laotian, Khmer (Cambodian), and Uyghur; and

(E) 1½ hours per week in Wu (local Shanghai dialect).

(5) The governments of the countries targeted for these broadcasts have consistently denied and blocked attempts at Medium Wave and FM transmissions into their countries, forcing RFA to rely on Shortwave broadcasts and the Internet.

(6) RFA has provided continuous online news to its Asian audiences since 2004, although some countries—

(A) routinely and aggressively block RFA's website;

(B) monitor access to RFA's website; and

(C) discourage online users by making it illegal to access RFA's website.

(7) Despite these attempts, RFA has successfully managed to reach its online audiences through proxies, cutting-edge software, and active republication and repostings by its audience.

(8) RFA also provides forums for local opinions and experiences through message boards, podcasts, web logs (blogs), cell phone-distributed newscasts, and new media, including Facebook, Flickr, Twitter, and YouTube.

(9) Freedom House has documented that freedom of the press is in decline in nearly every region of the world, particularly in Asia, where none of the countries served by RFA have increased their freedom of the press during the past 5 years.

(10) In fiscal year 2010, RFA is operating on a \$37,000,000 budget, less than \$400,000 of which is available to fund Internet censorship circumvention.

(11) Congress currently provides grant funding for RFA's operations on a fiscal year basis.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF THE SENATE.

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) public access to timely, uncensored, and accurate information is imperative for promoting government accountability and the protection of human rights;

(2) Radio Free Asia provides a vital voice to people in Asia;

(3) some of the governments in Asia spend millions of dollars each year to jam RFA's shortwave, block its Internet sites;

(4) Congress should provide additional funding to RFA and the other entities overseen by the Broadcasting Board of Governors for—

(A) Internet censorship circumvention; and

(B) enhancement of their cyber security efforts; and

(5) permanently authorizing funding for Radio Free Asia would—

(A) reflect the concern that media censorship and press restrictions in the countries served by RFA have increased since RFA was established; and

(B) send a powerful signal of our Nation's support for free press in Asia and throughout the world.

SEC. 3. PERMANENT AUTHORIZATION FOR RADIO FREE ASIA.

Section 309 of the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6208) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(2), by striking "and shall further specify that funds to carry out the activities of Radio Free Asia may not be available after September 30, 2010";

(2) by striking subsection (f);

(3) by redesignating subsections (g) and (h) as subsection (f) and (g), respectively; and

(4) in subsection (f), as redesignated—

(A) by striking "The Board" and inserting the following:

"(1) NOTIFICATION.—The Board";

(B) by striking "before entering" and inserting the following: "before—

"(A) entering";

(C) by striking "Radio Free Asia." and inserting the following: "Radio Free Asia; or

"(B) entering into any agreements in regard to the utilization of Radio Free Asia transmitters, equipment, or other resources that will significantly reduce the broadcasting activities of Radio Free Asia.";

(D) by striking "The Chairman" and inserting the following:

"(2) CONSULTATION.—The Chairman"; and

(E) by inserting "or Radio Free Asia broadcasting activities" before the period at the end.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to this bill be printed in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

REGARDING KYRGYZSTAN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 566.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 566) expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the situation in Kyrgyzstan.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 566) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 566

Whereas on June 10, 2010, violence erupted between ethnic Kyrgyz and Uzbek communities in the southern city of Osh, Kyrgyzstan, and later spread to the city of Jalalabad, leaving at least several hundred dead and thousands injured;

Whereas the outbreak of violence forced as many as 400,000 people to flee their homes, including an estimated 100,000 women and children who face desperate conditions along the Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan border;

Whereas the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other United Nations agencies estimate that the violence could directly or indirectly affect more than 1,000,000 people;

Whereas the displacement of ethnic Uzbeks and continuing instability in the southern part of Kyrgyzstan could destabilize the Provisional Government of Kyrgyzstan and undermine the legitimacy of the referendum on constitutional reform scheduled for June 27, 2010;

Whereas the Provisional Government of Kyrgyzstan, which came to power in April 2010 following large-scale opposition protests against the regime of former president Kurmanbek Bakiyev, has yet to fully extend its authority in the south and build the capacity necessary to address underlying political, social, and economic tensions;

Whereas Kyrgyz and Uzbeks in Osh have retreated into largely self-segregated neighborhoods, creating the potential for a permanent division into ethnic enclaves that could impede the delivery of humanitarian assistance and jeopardize the long-term stability of the country;

Whereas rioting and violence in southern Kyrgyzstan could spread to other areas in the Ferghana Valley, which spans the countries of Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan, and further exacerbate inter-ethnic competition for resources in the region;

Whereas protracted instability in Kyrgyzstan and the wider region could provide a safe haven for extremists and criminal networks and obstruct efforts to combat the drug trade;

Whereas stability in Kyrgyzstan and the broader Central Asia region, which borders Afghanistan, Iran, China, and Russia, is important to the national security interests of the United States;

Whereas Central Asia plays a vital role in the United States strategy for Afghanistan, including the transit center at Manas International Airport in Kyrgyzstan that forms an integral part of the northern supply route for North Atlantic Treaty Organization and United States-led coalition operations in Afghanistan;

Whereas promoting stability, respect for human rights, and economic and political reform in Central Asia are important priorities for the United States;

Whereas economic growth and democratic political development in Central Asia would provide a foundation for improved cooperation with the United States in confronting an array of global challenges, from non-proliferation and counter-narcotics to energy security and climate change; and

Whereas the potential for escalating violence in Kyrgyzstan concerns not only the United States and the people of Kyrgyzstan, but also the countries in the region and the international community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate—