

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], proposes an amendment numbered 4501 to amendment No. 4500.

Mr. REID. I ask that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the end of the amendment, insert the following:

The provisions of this Act shall become effective 10 days after enactment.

AMENDMENT NO. 4502

Mr. REID. I have an amendment at the desk to the language proposed to be stricken.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment, No. 4502, to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 4499.

Mr. REID. I ask that the reading of the amendment be waived.

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the end of the language proposed to be stricken, insert the following:

This section shall become effective 5 days after enactment.

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 4503 TO AMENDMENT NO. 4502

Mr. REID. I now have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 4503 to amendment No. 4502.

Mr. REID. I ask that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike "5" and insert "4".

CLOTURE MOTIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have three cloture motions at the desk. I ask that they be stated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motions having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motions.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the LeMieux-Landrieu et al. amendment No. 4500 to the Reid-Baucus substitute amendment No. 4499 to H.R. 5297, the Small Business Lending Fund Act of 2010.

Harry Reid, Mary L. Landrieu, Sheldon Whitehouse, Byron L. Dorgan, Roland

W. Burris, Richard J. Durbin, John D. Rockefeller, IV, Robert Menendez, Carl Levin, Daniel K. Akaka, Debbie Stabenow, Patty Murray, Jack Reed, Maria Cantwell, Dianne Feinstein, Daniel K. Inouye, Bernard Sanders.

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the Reid-Baucus substitute amendment No. 4499 to H.R. 5297, the Small Business Lending Fund Act of 2010.

Harry Reid, Max Baucus, Mary L. Landrieu, Tom Harkin, Christopher J. Dodd, Patrick J. Leahy, Bill Nelson, Richard J. Durbin, Charles E. Schumer, Al Franken, Patty Murray, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jack Reed, Roland W. Burris, Dianne Feinstein, Mark Begich, Amy Klobuchar, Byron L. Dorgan.

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on H.R. 5297, the Small Business Lending Fund Act of 2010.

Harry Reid, Max Baucus, Mary L. Landrieu, Tom Harkin, Christopher J. Dodd, Patrick J. Leahy, Bill Nelson, Richard J. Durbin, Charles E. Schumer, Al Franken, Patty Murray, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jack Reed, Roland W. Burris, Dianne Feinstein, Mark Begich, Amy Klobuchar, Byron L. Dorgan.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there have been three cloture motions stated. I ask consent that the mandatory quorums be waived with respect to these motions.

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

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH AMENDMENT NO. 4504

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a motion to commit with instructions at the desk. I ask that it be stated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] moves to commit the bill to the Finance Committee with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment numbered 4504.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, insert the following:

The Finance Committee is requested to study the impact of changes to the system whereby small business entities are provided with opportunities for access to capital.

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 4505

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have an amendment to the instructions at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 4505 to the instructions of the motion to commit.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end insert the following:

"and the economic impact on local communities served by small businesses,".

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 4506 TO AMENDMENT NO. 4505

Mr. REID. I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 4506 to amendment No. 4505.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, insert the following:

"and its impact on state and local governments."

Mr. REID. I wish to express my appreciation for everyone's patience to get to the point where we are. Especially, I wish to express my appreciation to Senator LANDRIEU, who has worked tirelessly since Friday coming up with this. I support what she is doing. I am grateful for all her hard work.

I hope tomorrow we can work our way through these issues. I will tell everyone here that we are going to finish this small business jobs bill, with a little luck, in the next few days. We could do it tomorrow if we were able to advance the time.

We also have the supplemental appropriations bill, which is very important. We got that bill from the House. It has a lot of things on it, every one of which I support. But in my conversations with the Republican leader, he believes his caucus will not support most of the stuff that is on there.

So we are going to have a cloture vote on that at the earliest possible date. That is a message from the House. We could dispose of this also in the next 24 to 48 hours. So it is up to us how we work these out. I think we have heard enough of what we need to do in the next little bit. But we only have 2 or 3 weeks left after Friday. So we have a lot to do.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we proceed to a period of morning business.

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

KISSES FOR OUR TROOPS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am honored to share a Vermont community's tribute to the stout hearts and brave souls of the service men and women serving overseas.

This year, in recognition of Vermont's largest military deployment since World War II, the townspeople of

Clarendon, VT, sought a way to show their support for Americans stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan. At the town's elementary school, 39 children of the ages of 7 to 10 recorded a song called "Box of Kisses" for our troops in the National Guard. With the help of two local musicians, James Mee and Michael Mugrage, the students of Clarendon Elementary School devoted their lunch and recess time to this project. Students also spent their free time handcrafting more than 500 paper boxes filled with brief personal messages and pieces of candy as tokens of their thanks for the sacrifices being made by these Vermonters serving abroad.

Although Box of Kisses is being sent to hundreds of soldiers, this community's project is a highly personal act for many families in Clarendon. Within this school community of only 198 students, 12 people have family members serving in Afghanistan. Marcelle and I are so proud of and grateful for our Nation's servicemembers and their families. So are Vermonters in every community throughout our State, who are showing support for our soldiers' families in ways small and large every day—by mowing lawns, babysitting, shoveling sidewalks, and through many other small kindnesses. Clarendon's story is another example of why I am proud to be a Vermonter.

I ask unanimous consent that there be printed in the RECORD an article, published in the Rutland Herald, in which reporter Cristina Kumka tells this heartening story from Clarendon.

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

[From the Rutland Herald, July 14, 2010]

LOVE IN A BOX: VERMONT RESIDENTS SEND KISSES TO AFGHANISTAN
(By Cristina Kumka)

All it took was one small Vermont community and one song to connect troops overseas with home.

Shortly after Vermont's largest military deployment since World War II occurred this January, residents of Clarendon and students from the town's elementary school wanted to do something for 10 families in their community with loved ones sent off to battle in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Children in grades 2-6, some of whom with mothers or fathers serving overseas, recorded a song by Rutland musician James Mee and fellow artist Michael Mugrage called "Box of Kisses" and made 200 CDs.

Then they crafted boxes using simple white paper and crayons and filled each one with a note and red, white and blue candy donated by the Vermont Country Store.

The children wrote what they knew—a simple "thank you," "I love you" or other thought—to remind 500 troops individually what their purpose there was and how much their sacrifice meant to the children.

Most of the project was documented—the song posted on Internet and aired on public access television and student fundraisers for materials and support filmed on DVDs.

The CDs and the boxes are in the process of being airlifted or parachuted in to troops in populated or desolate areas of the Middle East until each gift is gone.

What began as simple gestures intended to remind troops of home has caught the attention of Americans across the country.

Mee said that in all in his 30 years in the music industry no other tune or project has drawn so much attention.

On Tuesday, Mee said he's been contacted by a major candy company looking to invest in the children's idea, a top music industry professional from New York and a Texas-based radio station serving a million military personnel and other listeners in more than 177 countries.

"I feel like I'm in a Disney movie," Mee said.

The song he originally created 10 years ago as a love ballad with the lyrics, "When you're far from home, Feeling like you're all alone, Don't be afraid . . . cause you're always with us, When you open up your box of kisses," has never been so popular.

But the exposure is mere icing on a larger cake, Mee said.

"The kids are singing their hearts out, many who skipped recess and lunch, and there's something about that," Mee said. "No matter how skeptical and cynical you may be, kids singing like that just melts your heart."

Clarendon's Maria Stephan is hand-delivering one of the boxes and a copy of the song to First Sgt. Francisco Herrera, for his three children. Two of his children, Abigail and D.J., attend Clarendon Elementary School and were key members of the volunteer project.

The project was a way for them to keep their dad close to home even when he's away.

Stephan, a strategic planner with the Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization who directly reports to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, said the troops need reminders of home and America needs a reminder of them.

"People (some troops) have a sense when they come back that it's a forgotten war," Stephan said.

"With the whole McChrystal (former Gen. Stanley McChrystal) thing . . . sometimes the dangerous stuff gets forgotten," she said. "It's nice to know people do care."

STRONG FAMILY 50TH REUNION

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the accomplishment of a truly remarkable American family. This summer, the Strong family celebrates their 50th family reunion here in Washington, DC, the site of their first annual reunion. Although the rich history of the Strong family has been centered in the Mid-Atlantic States, I am proud that one of their daughters, Cindy Strong Woolfolk, has been a dedicated member of my staff, and served the people of New Hampshire for more than 11 years. In recognition of Cindy and her extraordinary family, Kathy and I offer our congratulations on this momentous occasion.

In the summer of 1960, Addie Cora Strong Dixon had a vision to honor and remember the life and legacy of her family by convening the first of many annual reunions. That first year's motto, "Strong bond of love and support", which so aptly describes Addie's love for her family, would also characterize the subsequent reunions held throughout the country and attended widely by members of her family. This year's motto for the Golden Anniversary Reunion, "Celebrating Generations of a STRONG Legacy," serves as

reminder to the next generations of Strong children to continue this important tradition and carry on the legacy of their family.

Throughout the years, the Strong annual reunion has become a major event not only for family members, but also for various notables who helped to shape our country's history including Federal, State and local politicians. One such notable, Rosa Parks, attended the 1993 family reunion in Detroit. I am also told that Addie's famous pineapple upside down cakes and the family's North Carolina-style BBQ are some of the best in the country.

On behalf of Kathy and myself, we extend our congratulations to Cindy Strong Woolfolk and her family. For those in the U.S. Senate family who have had the pleasure of getting to know Cindy and experience her laughter and warm personality, you have gained a sense of how special the Strong family is through her.

We applaud the Strong family for reaching this significant milestone and wish them strength and longevity for many more years to come.

KIMBERLEY PROCESS

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I wish to express my concern about the future of the Kimberley Process, the global voluntary initiative to stem the flow of conflict diamonds. Last week, key members of the Kimberley Process, including governments, industry representatives, and civil society groups, met in St. Petersburg to break the deadlock over whether Zimbabwe should be certified to export its diamonds. A year ago, a review mission of the Kimberley Process traveled to Zimbabwe and documented extensive smuggling of diamonds and abuses against civilians by police and army forces at diamond sites. This rightly led to Zimbabwe's suspension from the process. However, Zimbabwe has threatened to continue with its exports regardless, and there has been a push by some Kimberley Process members to reinstate its certification.

Last week's meeting resulted in an agreement allowing Zimbabwe to export a limited number of diamonds on the condition that a new Kimberley Process Review Mission is permitted to return to the country and monitor conditions. This may be a workable agreement on paper, but it can only succeed with the good faith efforts of all parties, not least the Government of Zimbabwe. I am disappointed that members of the Kimberley Process did not take a stronger stand against certifying Zimbabwe's diamonds for export. Without proof that the government in question has changed the conditions that resulted in suspension, granting certification may be undermining the core components of the process. The onus should be on a government to prove such change has occurred before it is reinstated, not after. Now if this agreement is not implemented, I worry