

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Mr. DEMINT. Madam President, I know the Senate has been dealing with a difficult issue, and I wish to make some comments relative to the Senator from Kentucky, Mr. BUNNING, who I think has taken a lot of unfair criticism for asking our Democratic colleagues to abide by their own rules.

Much has been made in the Senate and in the Congress and at the White House over the last year about the unsustainable level of spending and borrowing and debt we have as a nation. Yet it seems that almost every week we create some new government program or expand spending in some area. I think it is time we expose the hypocrisy that is going on because we know the level of debt we have is going to eventually, sooner or later, bring our country down. Yet we don't seem to have the willpower to stop any spending.

Last week, we created a new government program, a new travel promotion agency. Now we are going to extend unemployment and COBRA benefits, which are good things. Certainly, in a down economy, we need to consider those around the country who are suffering and make sure we do everything we can that is fair to take care of them, but when we borrow the money to do it, we threaten the futures of our children and grandchildren, diminish their quality of life, and likely cause their unemployment in the future. We can hardly pat ourselves on the back for our compassion and generosity when we are not making any sacrifices or even any hard decisions in the Senate to pay for those things we say are a priority.

Instead of paying for this extension of unemployment benefits and COBRA, the Democrats want to pass it without any debate, without any vote. They don't want to pay for it. We are not even considering ways we can pay for this extension. Instead, we classify it as emergency spending at the last minute and try to force Congress into spending money we don't have. We brought it up at the very last minute at the end of last week and said, if we don't pass it now by unanimous consent, people will go without their unemployment and their COBRA.

This is not emergency spending. It was entirely predictable that these funds would run out, when existing funds would run out. Instead of acting prudently to extend these benefits in ways we could pay for them, the way my Democratic colleagues have promised we would with this pay-go rule, they are declaring an emergency at the last minute to ram it through without any debate and without a vote.

Moreover, they want to do this anonymously, through the process we call unanimous consent. That means they don't want a rollcall vote. Why don't they want a rollcall vote? Because it shows who means what they say. It shows who believes in this idea of pay as we go that we call pay-go, and it

will certainly damage prospects for November elections.

Senator BUNNING from Kentucky has taken a courageous stand to hold the Democrats—in fact, all of us—accountable to the things we say we believe. I believe, as does Senator BUNNING, that if we are going to renew these benefits, we should pay for them. We should look at areas of our government that we don't have to do and reduce them or eliminate them so we can pay for the things we feel we have to do. I think the names of the Senators who want to borrow the money to do this, who want to add to our debt to do this, should be recorded for the public to see.

This bill will cost \$10 billion. We could find the money to pay for this bill. We could repeal a very small part of the stimulus plan. We could repeal the TARP or the bailout money. We could cut some earmarks—some local parochial projects—or we could cut other government programs that have been deemed unnecessary or wasteful.

The Congressional Budget Office says the government would save \$12 billion if we allowed health insurance companies to compete in an interstate commerce fashion. We have talked about it a lot as part of the health care debate. If all we did—no taxpayer funds at all—is allowed interstate competition for health insurance, the government could save \$12 billion and more than pay for this bill we are talking about today. We could help people get insured, lower the cost of health insurance, help small businesses create jobs, and pay for the bill that extends unemployment benefits. But we are not even willing to talk about a responsible way to pay for a bill. Senator BUNNING says: Wait a minute. We have been talking about paying for these bills as we go, and the first two bills we brought up since we passed pay-go have not been paid for. He said we should at least bring it to the floor and have some debate and a vote. I think that is pretty reasonable.

Senator BUNNING was right to address this problem, and I commend him for it. I hope our colleagues will stop the hypocrisy, stop trying to create a crisis of our debt while we make that crisis worse every day, adding to the debt almost every week.

Now we have Members of this body looking at new ways to raise taxes or create new taxes on Americans. This is not the way to help our country, and it is not the way to lead. It is certainly hypocrisy. I thank Senator BUNNING for his stand. I ask all my colleagues to join us in looking at what this Federal Government has to do and to do those things well, to fund them properly, but to take those things that don't have to be done at the Federal level and move them to the States or back to the people, as the tenth amendment says. We clearly cannot move forward as a Nation with the Federal Government doing more than it is doing today.

If we are going to survive and thrive as a Nation, the Federal Government

will have to do less. That needs to begin here. It needs to start today. We can't keep expanding government, borrowing money every week, and complaining about the debt. Only in politics would that happen. We have to stop it here, this week. Again, I thank Senator BUNNING for his courage and clarity.

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.

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

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

Mr. BAUCUS. I just heard the Senator say, in defense of Senator BUNNING, that our side will not allow Senator BUNNING to have a vote. I want to clear up the record. That is not the case at all. As far as I am concerned, Senator BUNNING can have his vote. He can have his vote on his pay-for. The point is, does Senator BUNNING want an assurance that he has enough votes from the Democratic side so that his vote passes? Well, of course not. We vote here; that is what the Senate is for. Those in favor vote aye; those not in favor vote no. That is the democratic process. That is the process most Americans understand.

So if he wants his vote, he can ask for it and he can have that vote. I will not prejudice whether he will win or lose. As far as this Senator is concerned, he can have that vote. My expectation would be after that vote is concluded one way or another we can vote on the underlying 30-day amendment so we can finally get people their unemployment checks that are due, their COBRA benefits, and their health premium subsidies that are due. Finally, we can enable doctors to be paid so they can see Medicare patients.

This is a very simple solution. We can just vote. If Senator BUNNING wants to vote, I say: Fine, let's vote.

If he complains: Oh, no, I want to make sure I win, I don't think that is entirely proper. I think it is proper to have the votes, and Senators can vote their wishes and their views. We can have that vote. When that is concluded, we can go on to the 30-day resolution so that people can get the benefits they are due. That is the only responsible and reasonable way to deal with this. I hope we do that. We are waiting for the Senator from Kentucky to indicate whether he would like to vote. It is pretty simple.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I came here in the hope that, as we begin work on this very important bill that is going to help reinvigorate our economy, we are making progress on getting Senator BUNNING to step down from his objection to a short-term extension of the number of programs that

are essential to the well-being of our Nation.

Senator BUNNING says he is objecting to an extension of unemployment benefits and health subsidies for the jobless and, by the way, highway and transit programs and other programs because he wants to offset that extension with cuts in funding from the Economic Recovery Act.

I want to make the point that at a time when jobless rates are soaring, certain of these actions that we take are emergency actions. They are actions we take because the long-term unemployed are in big trouble. If we pay for this by slashing economic recovery funds that are already obligated or are about to go out, and they are about to start hiring people, then it seems to me we are taking one step forward and two steps back. I am willing to vote on this matter, and I hope Senator BUNNING will lift his objection if we get to vote. It is not a problem. Let's vote on it.

I have written to Senator BUNNING on a couple of occasions on behalf of the 201,000 Californians who have already seen their unemployment insurance benefits expire if we don't renew this. This is a very dangerous precedent to set. I noted to him that not only is he hurting people who are doing everything in their power to get work, but he is also shutting down transportation projects in California and in 16 other States because he will not agree to reauthorize the highway trust fund for just 30 days. This is an impossible situation.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a list of the States already impacted by Senator BUNNING's objection to a 30-day extension for the highway trust fund.

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

FEDERAL LANDS CONSTRUCTION HALTED BY FURLOUGH
OF DOT INSPECTORS DUE TO BUNNING OBJECTION

State	Project	Cost
Alaska	Tongass National Forest road clean up.	\$1,100,000
Alaska	Coffman Cove Dock construction.	885,000
Arizona	Coronado National Monument Main Park entrance.	1,500,000
Arkansas	East Fly Gap and Gunner Pool Roads landslides restoration.	923,000
California	Sequoia National Park main entrance.	15,000,000
California	South Fork Smith River	13,800,000
California	Golden Gate National Recreation Area road construction.	8,700,000
District of Columbia	9th Street Bridge replacement	50,000,000
Georgia	Chickamauga & Chattahoochee National Military Park construction.	634,000
Idaho	Salmon River Road Nez Perce National Forest construction.	20,133,000
Idaho	Little Salmon River Bridge Nez Perce National Forest intersection.	3,800,000
Idaho	Ferran Lakes Idaho Panhandle National Forest.	14,600,000
Illinois	McRaven Road reconstruction ..	1,100,000
Maryland	Great Falls Park entrance road construction.	3,100,000
Maryland	Piscataway National Park erosion and slope damage repair.	89,000
Mississippi	Natchez Trace Parkway resurfacing.	8,100,000
Mississippi	Natchez Trace Parkway trail construction (Ridgeland County).	5,600,000

FEDERAL LANDS CONSTRUCTION HALTED BY FURLOUGH
OF DOT INSPECTORS DUE TO BUNNING OBJECTION—
Continued

State	Project	Cost
Mississippi	Vicksburg National Military Park road rehabilitation and resurfacing.	5,000,000
Mississippi	Natchez Trace Parkway trail construction (Madison County).	4,700,000
New Mexico	Carlsbad Caverns National Monument roadway rehabilitation.	9,000,000
North Carolina	Newfound Gap road rehabilitation.	9,900,000
North Carolina	Blue Ridge Parkway reconstruction and resurfacing.	6,000,000
North Carolina	Goshen Creek Bridge replacement.	3,000,000
Ohio	Fitzwater Road bridges replacement.	4,400,000
Oregon	Beaver Creek Road Ochoco National Forest.	6,200,000
South Carolina	Ft. Sumter Historic Site entrance road and parking area rehabilitation.	262,000
Tennessee	Cades Cove Loop Road rehabilitation.	6,700,000
Tennessee	Shiloh National Park tour roads and parking area rehabilitation.	3,000,000
Tennessee	Catossa Wildlife Management Area bridge replacement.	1,000,000
Utah	Bear River Access Road	13,800,000
Virginia/DC	George Washington Parkway Humpback Bridge replacement.	36,000,000
Virginia	Blue Ridge Parkway reconstruction and resurfacing.	12,000,000
Virginia	Petersburg Park tour road relocation.	1,500,000
Puerto Rico	Vieques National Wildlife Refuge road and bridge reconstruction.	6,000,000
Puerto Rico	El Yunque National Forest slide repair.	3,000,000
U.S. Virgin Islands	Christiansted Bypass construction.	14,000,000
U.S. Virgin Islands	Centerline Road reconstruction	9,000,000
U.S. Virgin Islands	St. John roundabout construction.	7,200,000
U.S. Virgin Islands	Long Bay Road reconstruction	5,500,000
U.S. Virgin Islands	University of Virgin Island sidewalk construction.	988,000
U.S. Virgin Islands	North Shore Road reconstruction.	448,000

Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/2010/dot3610.htm>.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, in California, we are already seeing layoffs because the department of transportation had to lay off and furlough—they furloughed, temporarily I trust—2,000 Federal inspectors who are overseeing in 17 of our States a number of important projects; for example, in Alaska, the Tongass National Forest road cleanup. Another project in Arizona is the Coronado National Monument main park entrance. In Arkansas, there is a shutdown. In California, there is the Sequoia National Park main entrance, the Southfork Smith River, and Golden Gate National Recreation Area road construction. In DC, there is the 9th Street Bridge replacement.

One Senator is stopping these important construction projects. They are crucial safety projects that have been stopped in their tracks because one Senator has decided that it is his way or the highway.

We have to stop bringing this Senate to paralysis. We all have our opinions. I have mine and I know the Senator from Montana has his and the Senator from New York has his and the Senator from Michigan has hers; and we think we are right and we make our case. Once we have argued our cases, the will of the Senate has to go forward.

Senator BUNNING doesn't seem to think it is an emergency that the high-

way trust fund has run out of funds. He doesn't think it is an emergency that there are long-term jobless Americans. He doesn't agree. He doesn't agree that it is an emergency, I gather, that people cannot pay for their health care extension.

By the way, he also stopped—this is very important, and I know the Senator from Montana knows this well—the 21 percent to our doctors who take Medicare. I met with my doctors from California today. They cannot believe this is happening. In Ventura County our doctors are saying that because of this 21-percent cut they are facing in their reimbursements, they are only going to see emergencies. They are not going to see someone who has a non-emergency. This is gamesmanship.

I call on Senator BUNNING to remove his objection to the extension of the highway trust fund and the transportation programs and the unemployment benefits and the cuts in Medicare reimbursement to our doctors. Each week that Senator BUNNING maintains his hold, each week that he insists he will stop this, 6,000 California families will lose their unemployment benefits. Let's end this today. Each week that Senator BUNNING maintains his hold, many California small businesses will not be able to get access to needed loans from the SBA and the flood insurance program was held up. Californians and Americans from every State will lose their health insurance coverage.

I can only marvel at this turn of events—and not marvel in a good way. It takes obstruction to the next level. It is a bridge too far. I think there are Members on the Democratic side who are willing to stand on their feet for as long as it takes to try to get this done today. We hope Senator BUNNING will back down. If he continues and keeps this up, if the highway program is shut down for just 1 month, tens of thousands of jobs are at stake.

I want to say what those jobs would be. In Arizona, it would be 1,400 jobs; in California, it would be 6,000; in Florida, 3,000; in Illinois, 2,000; in Kentucky—the home State of Senator BUNNING, who is stopping the highway trust fund from being funded—it would be 1,198 jobs, if he keeps this behavior up for 1 month.

Senator BUNNING says he has every right to do this. Sure he does. He is a Senator and he can do it. But it is wrong. If each of us decided to throw a fit every time we didn't like something around here, who gets hurt? Not Senator BUNNING. He has a job and he has health care. He is not worried. He is not a physician who is getting held up either. He is fine and I am fine. It is the people of Kentucky, his State, and it is the people of California, my State, who get hurt.

If this keeps up for 1 month, there will be 6,000 job losses in Texas and 1,300 in Wisconsin. If this keeps up and we do not get our work done and we do not reauthorize the highway trust

fund, as we did in the HIRE Act, we will lose 1 million jobs in America. That gets to be inexplicable in terms of “a world of hurt.”

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a chart prepared by AASHTO listing the impact of reductions in funding in all 50 States.

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

25-Feb-10

*Jobs impact based on \$1 billion of Federal spending supporting 34,700 jobs

Illustrative Impact of Federal Highway Funding Reduction

State	2009 Appropriations Pre-Rescission	2009 Rescission in 2009 Omnibus Appropriations	SAFETEA-LU Section 10212 Rescission	Total 2009 Rescissions	2009 Final Appropriations Post-Rescission	Pre- and Post- Rescission Percent Change	2010 Reduced Appropriation Amount (Annualized)	Estimated Jobs Impact*	Program Shutdown (Foregone Appropriations Per Month)	Estimated Jobs Impact*	Program Shutdown Foregone Appropriations March-September	Estimated Jobs Impact*	Program Shutdown Foregone Appropriations March-December	Estimated Jobs Impact*
Alabama	\$720,167,779	\$52,584,977	\$176,090,994	\$228,675,971	\$491,491,808	-31.8%	\$491,491,808	7,935	\$40,597,651	1,421	\$286,703,555	9,949	\$409,576,507	14,212
Alaska	\$334,714,520	\$80,939,451	\$114,904,161	\$114,904,161	\$219,810,759	-34.3%	\$219,810,759	3,987	\$16,317,553	636	\$128,222,943	4,449	\$163,175,633	6,356
Arizona	\$734,702,887	\$64,592,477	\$170,845,487	\$235,437,954	\$499,264,723	-32.0%	\$499,264,723	8,170	\$41,605,394	1,444	\$251,237,755	10,108	\$416,053,936	14,437
Arkansas	\$456,112,213	\$39,535,907	\$109,397,303	\$148,933,210	\$307,179,003	-32.7%	\$307,179,003	5,168	\$25,598,250	888	\$179,187,752	6,218	\$255,992,503	8,683
California	\$3,310,972,003	\$293,263,191	\$795,619,594	\$1,088,872,785	\$2,222,099,218	-32.9%	\$2,222,099,218	31,784	\$185,174,935	6,286	\$1,296,224,544	44,979	\$1,851,748,348	64,266
Colorado	\$488,420,972	\$43,683,148	\$114,885,999	\$168,569,147	\$328,851,725	-32.5%	\$328,851,725	5,502	\$27,487,644	954	\$192,413,506	6,677	\$274,876,438	9,939
Connecticut	\$466,061,951	\$44,603,309	\$119,705,144	\$164,308,453	\$301,753,498	-35.3%	\$301,753,498	5,702	\$25,145,125	873	\$176,022,874	6,108	\$251,461,248	8,726
Delaware	\$143,687,127	\$12,296,263	\$34,706,504	\$47,002,767	\$96,694,360	-32.7%	\$96,694,360	1,631	\$8,057,030	280	\$58,399,210	1,957	\$80,570,300	2,680
Dist. Of Col.	\$136,069,626	\$12,181,744	\$34,680,251	\$46,861,995	\$89,207,631	-34.4%	\$89,207,631	1,628	\$7,433,969	258	\$52,037,785	1,806	\$74,339,693	2,600
Florida	\$1,953,266,763	\$161,117,494	\$444,003,590	\$605,121,084	\$1,248,145,699	-32.7%	\$1,248,145,699	20,968	\$104,012,142	3,609	\$728,084,991	25,265	\$1,040,121,416	36,092
Georgia	\$1,251,860,739	\$109,107,524	\$316,985,581	\$426,093,105	\$825,767,634	-34.0%	\$825,767,634	14,785	\$68,113,970	2,388	\$441,697,787	16,715	\$688,139,695	23,878
Hawaii	\$146,371,519	\$15,345,464	\$38,647,517	\$53,992,981	\$92,378,538	-36.9%	\$92,378,538	1,874	\$7,698,212	267	\$53,687,481	1,870	\$76,982,115	2,671
Idaho	\$267,396,444	\$24,364,215	\$65,490,337	\$89,874,572	\$177,511,872	-33.6%	\$177,511,872	3,119	\$14,782,656	513	\$103,548,592	3,593	\$147,926,560	5,133
Illinois	\$633,607,923	\$84,117,973	\$218,596,722	\$302,713,695	\$930,894,128	-32.8%	\$930,894,128	10,504	\$52,574,511	1,824	\$368,021,575	12,770	\$525,745,107	18,243
Iowa	\$415,284,957	\$36,532,668	\$97,803,350	\$134,336,219	\$280,948,748	-32.3%	\$280,948,748	4,661	\$23,412,398	812	\$163,986,770	5,687	\$234,123,967	8,124
Kansas	\$352,297,846	\$29,565,954	\$92,057,610	\$121,633,564	\$230,664,282	-34.5%	\$230,664,282	4,221	\$19,222,024	667	\$134,554,165	4,669	\$192,220,235	6,670
Kentucky	\$617,843,673	\$52,476,786	\$151,094,681	\$203,571,467	\$414,272,206	-32.9%	\$414,272,206	7,084	\$34,522,684	1,198	\$241,658,787	8,396	\$345,226,838	11,979
Louisiana	\$622,363,573	\$55,768,892	\$135,293,238	\$191,062,131	\$431,301,442	-30.7%	\$431,301,442	6,530	\$35,941,787	1,247	\$251,592,508	8,730	\$359,417,868	12,472
Maine	\$152,035,403	\$12,576,262	\$40,356,371	\$52,932,633	\$98,102,770	-34.8%	\$98,102,770	1,837	\$8,258,564	287	\$57,809,949	2,008	\$82,585,642	2,866
Maryland	\$460,270,402	\$50,675,943	\$140,809,482	\$191,485,425	\$368,780,877	-34.2%	\$368,780,877	6,645	\$30,731,740	1,066	\$251,122,178	7,465	\$307,317,388	10,664
Massachusetts	\$572,403,291	\$54,647,718	\$147,528,597	\$202,176,316	\$370,226,975	-35.3%	\$370,226,975	7,016	\$30,852,248	1,071	\$275,965,735	7,484	\$306,522,479	10,706
Michigan	\$1,002,579,924	\$85,406,635	\$263,354,333	\$348,761,180	\$656,818,744	-34.7%	\$656,818,744	12,102	\$54,734,895	1,899	\$383,144,267	13,295	\$547,348,953	18,993
Minnesota	\$581,459,128	\$47,793,647	\$133,119,494	\$180,853,141	\$400,605,987	-31.1%	\$400,605,987	6,276	\$33,383,832	1,158	\$233,686,826	8,109	\$333,838,323	11,584
Mississippi	\$430,468,932	\$36,108,932	\$102,966,638	\$138,075,568	\$291,411,113	-32.7%	\$291,411,113	4,806	\$24,284,259	843	\$169,989,876	5,898	\$242,842,594	8,427
Missouri	\$946,329,512	\$74,160,262	\$202,262,585	\$276,422,827	\$589,906,685	-32.3%	\$589,906,685	9,592	\$79,534,983	1,648	\$332,445,566	11,536	\$474,922,238	16,480
Montana	\$345,429,222	\$31,910,048	\$83,984,190	\$115,894,239	\$229,534,983	-33.6%	\$229,534,983	4,022	\$19,127,915	664	\$133,995,407	4,646	\$191,279,153	6,637
Nebraska	\$263,961,548	\$22,918,046	\$64,812,320	\$87,790,366	\$176,771,182	-33.3%	\$176,771,182	3,046	\$14,680,932	509	\$102,760,523	3,566	\$146,809,318	5,094
Nevada	\$278,790,512	\$25,261,881	\$38,993,237	\$64,255,178	\$214,535,334	-33.0%	\$214,535,334	2,230	\$17,877,945	620	\$125,145,612	4,343	\$178,779,445	6,204
New Hampshire	\$158,183,641	\$14,211,378	\$41,209,722	\$55,421,100	\$102,762,541	-35.0%	\$102,762,541	1,923	\$8,583,545	297	\$59,944,816	2,080	\$85,635,451	2,972
New Jersey	\$934,596,954	\$88,242,502	\$233,394,133	\$321,636,635	\$613,960,319	-34.4%	\$613,960,319	11,161	\$51,113,360	1,774	\$357,793,519	12,415	\$511,133,599	17,736
New Mexico	\$345,328,513	\$30,509,789	\$82,534,516	\$113,044,304	\$232,284,208	-32.7%	\$232,284,208	3,823	\$19,350,017	672	\$135,499,121	4,702	\$193,570,173	6,177
New York	\$1,580,754,887	\$145,830,156	\$408,000,474	\$553,830,630	\$1,072,924,257	-35.3%	\$1,072,924,257	19,718	\$84,410,355	2,529	\$590,872,463	20,503	\$844,103,548	29,290
North Carolina	\$1,013,850,615	\$89,067,764	\$248,848,312	\$337,915,476	\$675,935,139	-33.3%	\$675,935,139	11,726	\$56,327,928	1,955	\$394,295,498	13,682	\$563,279,283	19,546
North Dakota	\$223,812,211	\$19,443,205	\$54,526,923	\$73,970,128	\$149,842,083	-33.1%	\$149,842,083	2,567	\$12,686,840	433	\$87,407,892	3,033	\$124,868,403	4,333
Ohio	\$1,271,966,664	\$111,197,305	\$308,052,912	\$419,250,217	\$852,716,447	-33.0%	\$852,716,447	14,548	\$71,059,704	2,466	\$457,417,927	17,260	\$710,597,039	24,558
Oklahoma	\$447,146,429	\$47,827,650	\$136,170,585	\$183,798,235	\$383,346,194	-33.6%	\$383,346,194	6,378	\$30,279,016	1,051	\$211,953,113	7,355	\$302,960,162	10,507
Oregon	\$410,254,119	\$36,305,573	\$98,715,618	\$135,021,191	\$275,232,928	-32.9%	\$275,232,928	4,685	\$22,336,077	796	\$160,592,541	5,571	\$229,360,773	7,959
Pennsylvania	\$1,561,501,663	\$138,715,427	\$405,749,854	\$544,465,281	\$1,017,036,382	-34.9%	\$1,017,036,382	18,893	\$84,753,032	2,941	\$593,271,223	20,587	\$847,530,318	29,409
Rhode Island	\$178,249,629	\$16,610,343	\$44,547,755	\$61,158,098	\$117,091,531	-34.3%	\$117,091,531	2,122	\$9,757,628	339	\$68,403,393	2,370	\$97,578,276	3,366
South Carolina	\$598,929,553	\$50,911,437	\$145,725,201	\$196,637,638	\$402,291,915	-32.8%	\$402,291,915	6,823	\$33,524,326	1,163	\$234,870,284	8,143	\$335,243,263	11,633
South Dakota	\$241,590,301	\$21,082,534	\$57,912,770	\$78,995,304	\$162,554,997	-32.7%	\$162,554,997	2,741	\$13,546,230	470	\$94,823,748	3,290	\$135,462,498	4,701
Tennessee	\$653,559,768	\$65,679,045	\$190,619,674	\$256,298,719	\$527,261,049	-32.7%	\$527,261,049	8,894	\$43,938,421	1,525	\$307,969,945	10,673	\$439,364,208	15,247
Texas	\$3,137,306,195	\$272,403,085	\$742,240,415	\$1,014,643,500	\$2,122,662,096	-32.3%	\$2,122,662,096	35,208	\$176,888,569	6,336	\$1,238,219,906	42,966	\$1,768,865,580	61,240
Utah	\$281,631,755	\$25,631,368	\$65,064,653	\$90,696,061	\$191,035,694	-32.2%	\$191,035,694	3,144	\$15,919,641	552	\$137,437,468	3,867	\$159,165,412	5,524
Vermont	\$146,597,637	\$12,128,206	\$36,599,510	\$48,727,716	\$97,809,921	-33.3%	\$97,809,921	1,691	\$8,150,827	283	\$57,055,767	1,980	\$81,509,268	2,828
Virginia	\$853,848,252	\$80,340,594	\$230,472,390	\$310,812,984	\$643,035,268	-32.6%	\$643,035,268	10,765	\$53,686,272	1,659	\$375,103,906	13,016	\$535,862,723	18,594
Washington	\$599,085,722	\$53,772,670	\$148,061,997	\$201,834,667	\$397,250,751	-33.7%	\$397,250,751	7,004	\$33,104,230	1,149	\$231,729,611	8,041	\$331,042,301	11,497
West Virginia	\$388,585,722	\$31,926,094	\$93,821,763	\$125,747,877	\$262,937,845	-32.4%	\$262,937,845	4,363	\$21,003,164	760	\$174,932,076	5,320	\$219,031,538	7,600
Wisconsin	\$703,347,039	\$61,015,614	\$171,625,320	\$232,640,934	\$470,406,105	-33.1%	\$470,406,105	8,083	\$39,200,509	1,360	\$263,404,561	9,522	\$392,005,088	13,603
Wyoming	\$245,284,243	\$22,550,639	\$57,022,296	\$79,572,935	\$166,692,008	-32.4%	\$166,692,008	2,761	\$13,807,667	476	\$96,653,671	3,354	\$138,076,673	4,791
TOTAL	\$35,799,505,262	\$3,150,000,000	\$8,708,000,000	\$11,858,000,000	\$23,941,505,262	-33.1%	\$23,941,505,262	411,473	\$1,995,125,439	69,231	\$13,965,878,068	484,816	\$19,951,254,383	692,309

Source: AASHTO

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, as I stand here today, it would be pretty easy to solve this problem. Senator BUNNING needs to stand down. He just needs to stand down. He made his point. He argues that we should pay for emergency funding. I voted for pay-go, but we do have a clause that says if it is a real emergency, we do not have to pay for it.

The reason that is important is if we do what Senator BUNNING wants and we extend this jobless help and we extend the highway trust fund and, on the other hand, we cut the economic recovery moneys which are all obligated and on which work is about to start, we are not doing anything for the country.

Let's do this right. Many of us who are standing here saw terrible deficit and debt problems during the Clinton years. You know what we did? We fixed it. We had room for emergencies. But we fixed it by going to pay-go. When there were emergencies, we stepped back.

I think it is fair to note that Senator BUNNING is very agitated about the fact that we would extend jobless benefits without cutting spending in job creation. Yet when it was time for him to vote for tax breaks for the wealthiest people who earn over \$1 million, he could care less that it was put on Uncle Sam's credit card. When it was time to pay for the war in Iraq, oh, put it on the credit card of the country. But all of a sudden, it is help to our families who need it so desperately and we are going to have to cut other programs that are providing jobs. It does not make sense. It is not fair, and it is not consistent.

I renew my request that I have made twice now to Senator BUNNING. I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD my letters to him.

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

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, February 26, 2010.

Hon. JIM BUNNING,

U.S. Senator, Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR BUNNING: On behalf of the 201,000 Californians who will see their unemployment insurance benefits expire in the month of March unless we act to renew them, I ask that you stand down immediately.

As you know, if you do not relent, these benefits will expire on Sunday. Unemployment insurance is a lifeline to the long-term unemployed whose families have been hit very hard by this recession.

Thank you for your immediate attention.

Sincerely,

BARBARA BOXER.

U.S. SENATE, COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS,

Washington, DC, March 1, 2010.

Sen. JIM BUNNING,

Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR BUNNING: I want to make sure you are aware that as a result of your objections to a short-term extension of unemployment insurance, COBRA, and other help for people who have lost their jobs, not

only are 1 million people—including 201,000 Californians—losing their unemployment benefits but the Department of Transportation has now furloughed without pay nearly 2,000 workers.

This is completely unacceptable. It is hurting people in your state, in my state and all across the country.

As a consequence of the furloughs, federal inspectors will be removed from critical construction projects across the nation, and work is already shutting down. I am attaching the Department of Transportation's list of some of the affected projects, which includes critical construction work in 17 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

We can't have an economic recovery if people can't make ends meet and if transportation projects grind to a halt. I am writing to you as Chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee to ask you to stop this gamesmanship and remove your objection to the extension of the transportation authorization and unemployment benefits.

Sincerely,

BARBARA BOXER.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I wrote to him on February 26 "On behalf of the 201,000 Californians who will see their unemployment insurance benefits expire" and telling him that the benefits will expire on Sunday, which was 2 days ago; that unemployment insurance is a lifeline to the long-term unemployed whose families have been hit hard by this recession. I thanked him for his immediate attention, and I hope he did, in fact, read this letter. And I hope he read my letter of March 1.

I wrote to him as chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee. I wanted to make sure he knew that he also objected to reauthorizing the highway trust fund expenditures, and that means the Department of Transportation is starting to lay off people. They laid off inspectors, furloughed them. They will go back to work when we fix this mess. But what a mess.

Do you know what it is to shut down construction jobs midway? By the way, these are private sector employers, private sector workers who are doing this work. It is unacceptable. I told him, "It is hurting people in your State, in my State and all across the country." These Federal inspectors will be removed from critical projects across the Nation. Work is shutting down. I attached the Department of Transportation's list of the affected projects. I said:

We can't have an economic recovery if people can't make ends meet and if transportation projects grind to a halt.

We all know the housing sector is so weak. That construction is not going well. We need to construct the infrastructure of this Nation. These are not make-work projects. These are projects fixing bridges and highways and making sure our roads are safe. I asked him to stop his gamesmanship and remove his objection to the extension of the transportation authorization and the unemployment benefits.

As I said today, I add to that the extension of the funding for our physi-

cians who are relying on us not to allow a 21-percent cut for Medicare to go into place. The fact that we do not have a lot of leadership down here says to me they are working on this now. It says to me they are reaching out to Senator BUNNING and my Republican colleagues to see if they will stand down.

I want to say I hope he does. These are real people. These are real people who are suffering. There is no need for them to suffer. We are not going to turn our backs on the long-term jobless. We are not going to turn our backs at all. This is just political maneuvering which is making life very difficult for people whose lives have been pretty much shattered if they are long term unemployed and looking for work and trying desperately to get it.

Hopefully, Senator BUNNING will back down, and my Republican friends will agree that we can move forward. If they want a vote on Senator BUNNING's plan to cut economic recovery funds that have already been obligated to put people to work to pay for an emergency, I am willing to take that vote any day of the week.

I hope to be back later and have some comments. I hope those comments are: Good, we got past this crisis. But at the moment, it is 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and we are not through it yet. I am hopeful that maybe later we will get through this and extend these vital programs to the people who need them.

I am going to close. I thank the people who have worked so hard with me on getting this highway reauthorization done. It is Republicans and Democrats. It is the Chamber of Commerce. It is AASHTO. It is the general contractors. It is the construction unions. This is an amazing team of people. It is the AAA. It is the car riders associations. It is everyone—Republicans, Democrats, Independents. They want an end to these games. I hope today we will see the end. If we do not, then we are going to have a long, long night ahead of us to make the point that it is wrong for one Senator to stop our people, our American people from getting the help they deserve, from getting the jobs they deserve to have in the highway fund and the help they need while they are looking for work.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

EXTENSION OF BENEFITS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, before my friend from California leaves