

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

THE DEFICIT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, as the debate over spending gears up ahead of the President's budget next week, I thought it important that we just step back this morning and note one thing: and that is the fact that this debate has completely changed. Two years ago, the President and Democrats running Congress were not debating whether to cut spending. They were debating how much to spend.

You will recall that a lot of them were disappointed that the stimulus wasn't bigger than it ended up being. Some still are.

So we have seen a welcome shift. Today, the only debate is how much to cut. It is a debate that Republicans and, I think, the vast majority of Americans, are happy to have.

And it is in that context that I wanted to mention the President's pledge to freeze his already outrageous spending levels for the next 5 years, and some troubling estimates we got yesterday about what that would mean for the deficit from the people whose job it is to analyze spending and debt here in Washington.

In their monthly budget review, the Congressional Budget Office said that if the current spending levels are frozen at the same level as they are now, and Congress were to enact no other legislation affecting spending or revenues, the Federal Government would end this fiscal year with a deficit of \$1.5 trillion, or about \$200 billion more than the deficit Democrats ran last year.

In other words, even if we do not add another dime to the current spending levels, the deficit will get even worse than last year. That is what would happen under the President's best offer, which is to lock in the dramatically higher spending levels from the past 2 years and put the budget on cruise control. The deficit would not stand still, it will grow by \$200 billion, over the next several months.

So yesterday's predictions by the CBO should be a wake up call to anyone who thinks they can hide behind a spending freeze. This is a dire warning that business as usual is a recipe for disaster. If we do not immediately reduce the size and scope of the Federal Government, the deficit will be even bigger than last year's record deficit.

So we have to get real. We need to listen to our constituents. Freezes are not going to cut it.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

FAA AIR TRANSPORTATION MOD- ERNIZATION AND SAFETY IM- PROVEMENT ACT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 223, which the clerk will report by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 223) to modernize the air traffic control system, improve the safety, reliability, and availability of transportation by air in the United States, provide for modernization of the air traffic control system, reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Wicker modified amendment No. 14, to exclude employees of the Transportation Security Administration from the collective bargaining rights of Federal employees and provide employment rights and an employee engagement mechanism for passenger and property screeners.

Blunt amendment No. 5, to require the Under Secretary of Transportation for Security to approve applications from airports to authorize passenger and property screening to be carried out by a qualified private screening company.

Nelson (FL) amendment No. 34, to strike section 605.

Paul amendment No. 21, to reduce the total amount authorized to be appropriated for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal year 2011 to the total amount authorized to be appropriated for the Administration for fiscal year 2008.

Rockefeller (for Wyden) amendment No. 27, to increase the number of test sites in the National Airspace System used for unmanned aerial vehicles and to require one of those test sites to include a significant portion of public lands.

Inhofe amendment No. 6, to provide liability protection to volunteer pilot nonprofit organizations that fly for public benefit and to the pilots and staff of such nonprofit organizations.

Inhofe amendment No. 7, to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to initiate a new rulemaking proceeding with respect to the flight time limitations and rest requirements for supplemental operations before any of such limitations or requirements be altered.

Rockefeller (for Ensign) amendment No. 32, to improve provisions relating to certification and flight standards for military remotely piloted aerial systems in the National Airspace System.

McCain amendment No. 4, to repeal the essential air service program.

Rockefeller (for Leahy) amendment No. 50, to amend title 1 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to include nonprofit and volunteer ground and air ambulance crew members and first responders for certain benefits, and to clarify the liability protection for volunteer pilots that fly for public benefit.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 54 AND 55

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment so I can call up amendments Nos. 54 and 55.

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

The clerk will report the amendments en bloc.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes en bloc amendments numbered 54 and 55.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 54

(Purpose: To allow airports that receive airport improvement grants for the purchase of land to lease the land and develop the land in a manner compatible with noise buffering purposes)

On page 27, strike line 11 and all that follows through "or transfer" on line 23, and insert the following:

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking "purpose;" and inserting the following: "purpose, which includes serving as noise buffer land that may be—

"(I) undeveloped; or

"(II) developed in a way that is compatible with using the land for noise buffering purposes;" and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(iii), by striking "paid to the Secretary for deposit in the Fund if another eligible project does not exist." and inserting "reinvested in another project at the airport or transferred to another airport as the Secretary prescribes;"

(B) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (5); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

"(3)(A) A lease by an airport owner or operator of land acquired for a noise compatibility purpose using a grant provided under this subchapter shall not be considered a disposal for purposes of paragraph (2).

"(B) The airport owner or operator may use revenues from a lease described in subparagraph (A) for ongoing airport operational and capital purposes.

"(C) The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall coordinate with each airport owner or operator to ensure that leases described in subparagraph (A) are consistent with noise buffering purposes.

"(D) The provisions of this paragraph apply to all land acquired before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this paragraph.

"(4) In approving the reinvestment or transfer

AMENDMENT NO. 55

(Purpose: To require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to the city of Mesquite, Nevada)

On page 311, between lines 11 and 12, insert the following:

SEC. 7. CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO CITY OF MESQUITE, NEVADA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) CITY.—The term "city" means the city of Mesquite, Nevada.

(2) MAP.—The term "map" means the map entitled "Mesquite Airport Conveyance" and dated February 6, 2011.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Land Management.

(b) CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO CITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, subject to valid existing rights, and notwithstanding the land use planning requirements

of sections 202 and 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712, 1713), the Secretary shall convey to the city, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land described in paragraph (2).

(2) **DESCRIPTION OF LAND.**—The land referred to in paragraph (1) consists of land managed by the Bureau of Land Management described on the map as “Remnant Parcel”.

(3) **MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall finalize the legal description of the parcel to be conveyed under this section.

(B) **MINOR ERRORS.**—The Secretary may correct any minor error in—

- (i) the map; or
- (ii) the legal description.

(C) **AVAILABILITY.**—The map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

(4) **COSTS.**—The Secretary shall require the city to pay all costs necessary for the preparation and completion of any patents for, and transfers of title to, the land described in paragraph (2).

(5) **WITHDRAWAL.**—Subject to valid existing rights, until the date of the conveyance under paragraph (1), the parcel of public land described in paragraph (2) is withdrawn from—

(A) location, entry, and patent under the public land mining laws; and

(B) operation of the mineral leasing, geothermal leasing, and mineral materials laws.

(6) **REVERSION.**—If the land conveyed under paragraph (1) ceases to be used by the city for the purposes described in section 3(f) of Public Law 99-548 (100 Stat. 3061), the land shall, at the discretion of the Secretary, revert to the United States.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New Mexico.

AMENDMENT NO. 49

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment so that I may call up my amendment No. 49, which is at the desk.

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

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New Mexico [Mr. UDALL] proposes an amendment numbered 49.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To authorize Doña Ana County, New Mexico, to exchange certain land conveyed to the County for airport purposes)

At the appropriate place insert the following:

SEC. —. DOÑA ANA COUNTY AIRPORT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding section 23 of the Airport and Airway Development Act of 1970 (as in effect on August 4, 1982), or sections 47125 and 27153 of title 49, United States Code, the Secretary of Transportation may, subject to subsection (b), grant releases from any of the terms, conditions, reservations, and restrictions contained in the deed of conveyance numbered 30-82-0048 and dated August 4, 1982, under which the United States conveyed certain land to Doña Ana County, New Mexico, for airport purposes.

(b) **CONDITIONS.**—Any release granted by the Secretary under subsection (a) shall be subject to the following conditions:

(1) The County shall agree that in conveying any interest in the land that the United States conveyed to the County by the deed described in subsection (a), the County shall receive an amount for the interest that is equal to the fair market value.

(2) Any amount received by the County for the conveyance shall be used by the County for the development, improvement, operation, or maintenance of the airport.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam President, this amendment is simple. It provides for a no-cost, fair-value land exchange between Dona Ana County in southern New Mexico and the adjacent property owners.

The Dona Ana County airport in Santa Teresa is a key component for economic growth in the region.

Unfortunately, when the land patent was granted to the county in 1982, it was described in aliquot parts. This created several triangles of land that have been difficult to improve because they meet at their corners and do not share common boundaries.

The county has requested the land exchange so that they may create a secondary access to the airport for general aviation. This new access would separate general vehicle traffic from taxiing aircraft.

The land exchange will also provide an alternate entry to the airport's fuel farm. And it will allow the county to expand airport capabilities to meet the needs of this growing community.

This region of New Mexico is growing and the airport needs to be able to expand to meet increased demand.

This land exchange will help achieve that goal and will improve the economic opportunities in this region. I hope my colleagues will concur that this amendment should be agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 51

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment so that I may call up amendment No. 51, which is at the desk.

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

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New Mexico [Mr. UDALL] proposes an amendment numbered 51.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To require that all advanced imaging technology used as a primary screening method for passengers be equipped with automatic target recognition software)

On page 311, between lines 11 and 12, insert the following:

SEC. 733. PRIVACY PROTECTIONS FOR AIRCRAFT PASSENGER SCREENING WITH ADVANCED IMAGING TECHNOLOGY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 44901 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(1) **LIMITATIONS ON USE OF ADVANCED IMAGING TECHNOLOGY FOR SCREENING PASSENGERS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) shall ensure that advanced imaging technology is used for the screening of passengers under this section only in accordance with this subsection.

“(2) **IMPLEMENTATION OF AUTOMATED TARGET RECOGNITION SOFTWARE.**—Beginning January 1, 2012, all advanced imaging technology used as a primary screening method for passengers shall be equipped with automatic target recognition software.

“(3) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection:

“(A) **ADVANCED IMAGING TECHNOLOGY.**—The term ‘advanced imaging technology’—

“(i) means a device that creates a visual image of an individual's body and reveals other objects on the body as applicable, including narcotics, explosives, and other weapons components; and

“(ii) includes devices using backscatter x-rays or millimeter waves and devices referred to as ‘whole-body imaging technology’ or ‘body scanning’.

“(B) **AUTOMATIC TARGET RECOGNITION SOFTWARE.**—The term ‘automatic target recognition software’ means software installed on an advanced imaging technology machine that produces a generic image of the individual being screened that is the same as the images produced for all other screened individuals.

“(C) **PRIMARY SCREENING.**—The term ‘primary screening’ means the initial examination of any passenger at an airport checkpoint, including using available screening technologies to detect weapons, explosives, narcotics, or other indications of unlawful action, in order to determine whether to clear the passenger to board an aircraft or to further examine the passenger.”.

(b) **REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than March 1, 2012, the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the implementation of section 44901(l) of title 49, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A description of all matters the Assistant Secretary considers relevant to the implementation of such section.

(B) The status of the compliance of the Transportation Security Administration with the provisions of such section.

(C) If the Administration is not in full compliance with such provisions—

(i) the reasons for such non-compliance; and

(ii) a timeline depicting when the Assistant Secretary expects the Administration to achieve full compliance.

(3) **SECURITY CLASSIFICATION.**—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted, to the greatest extent practicable, in an unclassified format, with a classified annex, if necessary.

(4) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam President, this amendment would significantly improve the privacy protections for passengers being screened by TSA whole body scanners, also referred to as advanced, imaging technology, or AIT.

In 2010, the TSA greatly expanded the use of AIT machines at airport checkpoints around the United States.

The image produced by an AIT machine is highly revealing and many passengers are uncomfortable being screened by the technology. Unfortunately, TSA's policy for passengers who refuse AIT screening is to conduct a full pat-down, hardly an ideal alternative for someone with privacy concerns.

There is a promising option to address the ongoing privacy concerns with AIT. New software, called automatic target recognition, can be installed on existing AIT machines to enhance privacy by eliminating passenger-specific images and instead detecting potential threat items and indicating their location on a generic outline of a person.

This month, TSA will begin testing the new software at Las Vegas McCarran International Airport, Hartsfield Jackson Atlanta International, and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

Senate amendment No. 51 would require TSA to have automatic target recognition software installed on all AIT machines by January 1, 2012. This will provide ample time for TSA to thoroughly field test the software and work with the manufacturers to make necessary adjustments.

However, by imposing a deadline, it will ensure that TSA and the manufacturers make the implementation of the software a priority and will eliminate the potential for unnecessary delay.

This is an issue that has received bipartisan attention and I hope that this amendment will receive strong support from both sides of the aisle.

In closing, I would like to thank my chairman and ranking member for their hard work on the underlying bill.

It is an honor to serve with them and I look forward to working together on the many important issues before the committee.

Just to conclude, I thank our chairman of the Commerce Committee, JAY ROCKEFELLER. I think both Chairman ROCKEFELLER and ranking member KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON have done an excellent job on this FAA authorization bill. I do not have any doubt that they, working in the committee, have pulled us all together. It is a remarkable bill because it is a job-creating bill. It is a bill that we need right now with the economic slowdown we have in America.

The other aspect of this bill that I think is very important is updating the air traffic control system. That is something that is terribly important. It is called NextGen. We are moving on to the next generation of air traffic control. I think it is important to remind people that we are behind the country of Mongolia when it comes to air traffic control. So it is very important that we get this bill passed.

I agree with Leader REID when he said we cannot be on this forever. We

need to move it along. I look forward to helping with that process.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Madam President, I want to reiterate something the leader has said and what the Senator from New Mexico said; that is, the vast importance of this bill. I have said many times on this floor there are 11 million people who work for the aviation industry. That is only the direct jobs. There are probably 2 or 3 million indirect jobs. It is one of the major parts of our economy.

Here we stand, after 17 delays sort of kicking it down the road for 3 months, completely messing up FAA's ability to work with runways or make improvements. We cannot fiddle around with runways. If something goes wrong, they have to be fixed or people die. So the stakes are enormous. This business of slots has become a decision people will have to make. Do they want to see a bill which fails, which goes down, and we go into our 18th or 19th, whatever it is—I have stopped counting—or do they want to see something which is major to the American economy, major in terms of NASA research, in terms of air traffic control systems and which is major in terms of a passenger bill of rights. We have a lot of people stuck. I drove back from Clarksburg, WV, to Washington on Saturday. The reason I drove back is I was so sick of that airline that comes out of Clarksburg getting canceled or having mechanical problems, which means they probably didn't have enough passengers because we are a small State. We often don't have enough passengers to meet the bottom line. I drove back. It was 6½ hours. That was fine. I am prepared to do that. I hate doing that because it is a waste of my time. But the stakes are here.

This is huge, this bill. We have one good amendment, which we will do this morning when Senator NELSON of Florida comes down, and then I think we have to proceed. I appreciate the majority leader being quite tough about all this and saying he is going to lay down cloture. He doesn't want to fool around with this bill. There is only one part of this bill which is in any way contentious. That is slots. That has much more to do with campaign commitments than with the good of the Nation.

Nobody gets everything they want. In West Virginia we get almost nothing. I don't complain. I understand we are at the end of the food chain because we are a little State. Whenever there is a recession or airlines aren't doing very well financially because of fuel prices, we get cut off. My view about that is sort of more bitter but more maybe widespread and trying to look at the public good in general. As the tide rises, all the boats rise.

I strongly plead with Senators to consider the broader national interest and air traffic control system, which is

digitalized GPS and which is three or four times more safe. I know whenever there is a near miss in the airways, when somebody has not calculated the distance correctly, either the pilot or the air traffic controller, I know about those things. They happen very frequently. There were several in the papers last week. We are playing with life and death. We are playing with the major exporter, by far the major exporter the United States has to other countries in terms of products and goods. Yet people sort of want to have just what they want to have because that is what they said last year, and they can't back off because, if they did, they would look weak or they are trying to protect a certain airline.

This, to me, is not about airlines. It is about passengers. The heck with airlines. We need to have more passengers going west because the West is growing faster than the East. They are underserved. There is one flight a day from DC to Los Angeles. That doesn't make any sense. All these things can be cured if people will be reasonable and not try to win out over some other group, some other constituency. My constituency is the national interest in this bill.

I don't mean to sound prudish, but I so say and believe very deeply.

If it is all right with the Presiding Officer, I will yield the floor to Senator BEN NELSON. He will make his amendment pending and then debate on the Nelson of Florida amendment will start at about 10:20.

AMENDMENT NO. 58

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. I call up the amendment at the desk.

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

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nebraska [Mr. NELSON], for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. AKAKA, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. MENENDEZ, proposes an amendment numbered 58.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To impose a criminal penalty for unauthorized recording or distribution of images produced using advanced imaging technology during screenings of individuals at airports and upon entry to Federal buildings)

At the end of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 733. CRIMINAL PENALTY FOR UNAUTHORIZED RECORDING OR DISTRIBUTION OF SECURITY SCREENING IMAGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part I of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“CHAPTER 124—UNAUTHORIZED RECORDING AND DISTRIBUTION OF SECURITY SCREENING IMAGES

“Sec.

"2731. Criminal penalty for unauthorized recording and distribution of security screening images.

"SEC. 2731. CRIMINAL PENALTY FOR UNAUTHORIZED RECORDING AND DISTRIBUTION OF SECURITY SCREENING IMAGES.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as specifically provided in subsection (b), it shall be unlawful for an individual—

"(1) to photograph or otherwise record an image produced using advanced imaging technology during the screening of an individual at an airport, or upon entry into any building owned or operated by the Federal Government, without express authorization pursuant to a Federal law or regulation; or

"(2) to knowingly distribute any such image to any individual who is not authorized pursuant to a Federal law or regulation to receive the image.

"(b) EXCEPTIONS.—The prohibition under subsection (a) shall not apply to an individual who, during the course and within the scope of the individual's employment, records or distributes an image described in subsection (a) solely to be used in a criminal investigation or prosecution or in an investigation relating to foreign intelligence or a threat to the national security.

"(c) PENALTY.—An individual who violates the prohibition in subsection (a) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned for not more than 1 year, or both.

"(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) ADVANCED IMAGING TECHNOLOGY.—The term 'advanced imaging technology'—

"(A) means a device that creates a visual image of an individual showing the surface of the skin and revealing other objects on the body; and

"(B) may include devices using backscatter x-rays or millimeter waves and devices referred to as 'whole-body imaging technology' or 'body scanning'.

"(2) FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE; THREAT TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY.—The terms 'foreign intelligence' and 'threat to the national security' have the meanings given those term in part VII of the guidelines entitled 'The Attorney General's Guidelines for Domestic FBI Operations', dated September 29, 2008, or any successor thereto."

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters for part I of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 123 the following:

"124. Unauthorized recording and distribution of security screening images 2731".

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Madam President, the amendment Senators SCHUMER, AKAKA, SHAHEEN, TESTER, WHITEHOUSE, MENENDEZ, and I have offered is a commonsense approach to address the serious issue of protecting individuals' privacy when they pass through security checkpoints at both airports and public buildings. Senator SCHUMER and I have been working on this issue for some time, and I appreciate very much his input and counsel in taking this approach. I appreciate the support of the additional sponsors as well as the Presiding Officer, who is one of those sponsors.

By creating a deterrent and establishing criminal penalties for those who take and distribute body scan images inappropriately, we will help protect the American people's privacy while making sure we are using every resource available to try and assure their safety at the same time.

This is not an abstract concern. There has already been a case where these images, some 30,000, have been taken and posted, some of them, online inappropriately. It is our hope this amendment will help prevent that from occurring again.

By including this amendment in the FAA reauthorization, we are telling our constituents we will not ignore their privacy in the process of making sure we have safe airports and Federal buildings. That is what they are asking of us. That is what we are going to deliver. I ask my colleagues to support our amendment when it comes up for a rollcall vote.

I yield the floor.

AMENDMENT NO. 34

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be 10 minutes of debate, equally divided, between the Senator from Florida and the Senator from Texas or their designees.

Who yields time?

The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, while Senators are getting ready to speak, we have made good progress on the bill. Amendments are now coming in. Cloture is going to be filed Monday, so we need to have all the relevant amendments in by then.

I support the Nelson of Florida amendment on which we will vote at 10:30. We agreed last year, in a preconference meeting, that the amendment he has to drop language from the bill would be dropped. I support the amendment. The NASA Reauthorization Act has intervened, and that is the law of the land. It was passed unanimously by the Senate. I believe the Nelson of Florida amendment is a good one.

I yield the floor.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Madam President, I yield time to the distinguished Senator from Ohio.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I rise in support of the Nelson amendment. The amendment would strike section 605, as Senator HUTCHISON said, from the FAA bill. Section 605 would establish an advisory committee on the future of aeronautics to, among other things, consider transferring responsibility for civil aeronautics research and development from NASA to other existing departments. The sole purpose is to take away aeronautics from NASA. That is unacceptable. It belies the very purpose of NASA in our space and aeronautics mission. NASA stands for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. His amendment ensures that NASA stays that way. This is a question of maintaining our space, aeronautics, and economic competitiveness.

Remember, one of our Nation's top manufacturing exports—and we don't export nearly enough manufactured goods—is aerospace, which includes civilian aircraft components. Ohio is the

center for the aerospace industry. We make billions of dollars in components both for Boeing and Airbus and many other manufacturers. Section 605 would jeopardize America's dominance in aerospace and would shift the programs that have strengthened our Nation's global leadership away from the experience and expertise at NASA. A consortium of nonprofits and colleges and private corporations and other government agencies can be effective and have been effective to promote public-private partnerships and economic development. But none of these entities, either by themselves or even working together, will ever be able to conduct aerospace and aeronautics research and development better than NASA. Its fundamental aeronautics research capability is already fully integrated. It ensures the future success of NASA space missions.

Furthermore, section 605 is in direct contradiction to the NASA Authorization Act of 2010, which reaffirmed that aeronautics research remains vital to NASA's mission and deserves continued support. Simply put, section 605 jeopardizes not only the future of NASA but America's dominance in the global aerospace marketplace.

NASA centers across the country are unique in their ability to leverage space and aviation systems through their experienced technical researchers. These NASA centers in Cleveland and nine other places around the country are stewards and operators of the Nation's civil aeronautics R&D test infrastructure.

I applaud Senator NELSON of Florida for offering this amendment and his leadership on the Science and Space Committee.

I ask my colleagues to join Senator HUTCHISON and me in supporting the amendment.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, I yield to Senator PAUL to allow him to offer an amendment into the pending amendments so we will have that done before cloture is filed.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Kentucky.

AMENDMENT NO. 18

Mr. PAUL. I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and call up amendment 18.

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

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. PAUL] proposes an amendment numbered 18.

Mr. PAUL. I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To strike the provisions relating to clarifying a memorandum of understanding between the Federal Aviation Administration and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration)
Strike section 509.

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, the amendment I am offering is to continue to have the airlines exempt from OSHA. This isn't because I am not concerned with safety. It is that we have been doing it this way for 30 or 40 years. The FAA voluntarily adheres to OSHA standards in their own manual. I take the President and the opposing party at their word that they are concerned with adding frivolous paperwork and frivolous regulations when, in reality, we are not doing anything to add to safety since the FAA is already adhering to these standards through their own manual. I also suspect that the FAA may be a little bit better in learning to have their own safety manuals and regulations than would OSHA since they specifically have been involved in this.

We would like to ask Members to vote against allowing OSHA to become involved in the FAA.

I yield the floor.

AMENDMENT NO. 34

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Madam President, do I need to set aside the pending amendment to call up amendment 34?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The amendment is now pending, under the previous order.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Madam President, others have already spoken on this amendment. It is to take out unnecessary language in the bill that has been superseded by the NASA authorization bill we have passed. The letters in NASA, the first A is aeronautics, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Aeronautics research is a big part of the NASA bill. We have plussed up a lot of money for aeronautics research. There is superfluous language in the bill about a study. Other studies have already been done. We want to get rid of that red-tape.

I ask for the yeas and nays.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Madam President, we yield back any remaining time on our side.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, we yield back.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the Nelson amendment No. 34.

The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 96, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 14 Leg.]

YEAS—96

Akaka	Feinstein	Moran
Alexander	Franken	Murkowski
Ayotte	Gillibrand	Murray
Barrasso	Graham	Nelson (NE)
Baucus	Grassley	Nelson (FL)
Begich	Hagan	Paul
Bennet	Harkin	Portman
Bingaman	Hatch	Pryor
Blumenthal	Hoeven	Reed
Blunt	Hutchison	Reid
Boozman	Inhofe	Risch
Boxer	Inouye	Roberts
Brown (MA)	Isakson	Rockefeller
Brown (OH)	Johanns	Rubio
Burr	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Cantwell	Johnson (WI)	Schumer
Cardin	Kerry	Sessions
Carper	Kirk	Shaheen
Casey	Klobuchar	Shelby
Chambliss	Kyl	Snowe
Coats	Landrieu	Stabenow
Cochran	Lautenberg	Tester
Collins	Leahy	Thune
Conrad	Lee	Toomey
Coons	Levin	Udall (CO)
Corker	Lugar	Udall (NM)
Cornyn	Manchin	Vitter
Crapo	McCain	Warner
DeMint	McCaskill	Webb
Durbin	McConnell	Whitehouse
Ensign	Merkley	Wicker
Enzi	Mikulski	Wyden

NAYS—1

Coburn

NOT VOTING—3

Kohl Lieberman Menendez

The amendment (No. 34) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion to reconsider is laid upon the table.

The Senator from Kansas is recognized.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may proceed for 10 minutes as in morning business.

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

HONORING THE 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION AT FORT RILEY

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the hard work and dedication of our men and women in the U.S. Army and all branches of service.

Just a couple of weeks ago, I had the pleasure of attending the uncasing ceremony at Fort Riley, KS. It was an honor. For those who have not attended an uncasing ceremony, it symbolizes a homecoming, and certainly that was the case at Fort Riley. It signifies the presence of the command and resumption of that command's authority. It offers a time to reflect on the heroic efforts and the leadership of the men and women of the Big First.

Since returning to Kansas in 2006, the 1st Infantry Division's headquarters deployed to Iraq. But this was not the first time the division has uncased its colors at Fort Riley. In fact, it was the fifth time in 55 years.

During their time in Basra, Iraq, the men and women of the Big Red One assisted in completing many vital projects.

Approximately 850 soldiers deployed from Fort Riley in February of last year. The division's efforts were supported by other services and also government agencies. The mission was more offensive than defensive—a change for the men and women of the Big Red One.

To quote Fort Riley's outstanding commanding general, MG Vincent Brooks:

The Big Red One as U.S. Division-South was a trusted partner to the Iraqi Security Forces, to 9 U.S. Provincial reconstruction teams led by the U.S. Department of State, with participants from other agencies of the U.S. Government, and to other U.S. forces in Iraq, the Big Red One ensured that the hard-earned stability emerging in Iraq would never drift away. Their success was our success.

The accomplishments of the Big Red One are numerous and merit the attention of my colleagues.

The division assisted Iraqis in completing the Basra Children's Hospital, a cancer center noted as one of the most modern facilities in the Middle East.

I was fortunate to spend time at the ceremony with about 30 soldiers in the unit. One noncommissioned officer in particular stood out. I asked all of them how many deployments they had made to Iraq or, for that matter, Afghanistan, and the answers were two or three or four. But this one noncommissioned officer had five deployments. I asked him what on Earth was wrong with the deployment situation in his case. He said: Oh, no, I wanted to come back to my unit, to the Big Red One; I wanted to come back to Iraq and continue the work I thought was so important. I asked him what the difference was, and he said: Well, when I was here first in Iraq, we lost nine in our unit; nine paid the ultimate sacrifice. But in this deployment, no shots were fired.

If there ever was testimony from somebody on the front line, and obviously the NCOs run the Army, with due respect to the officers, but he summed it up pretty well: first deployment, nine fatalities; last deployment, no shots fired.

I am truly grateful that all of the soldiers deployed from the Big Red One's division headquarters returned safe this time around.

By the way, General Vincent Brooks, remember that name as I am sure you will hear it again, will soon be receiving his third star and will be reassigned to the Central Command. Anyone who knows General Brooks and his wife, Dr. Carole Brooks, is not surprised. This promotion in the new command comes as no surprise to anyone in the area, especially the people who served under General Brooks and have had the privilege of knowing him. Simply put, he is an inspirational leader with an outstanding record.

From the Kansas congressional delegation, General, well done, sir. You will be missed, but our pride in your success, your future success, and the job you have done and the job you will do make us all proud. It is a pride we all share.

I ask unanimous consent to have General Brooks's comments printed in the RECORD.

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

IID COLORS UNCASING

(By MG Brooks, 20 Jan. 10)

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. I want to first thank the division band, the CG's Mounted Color Guard, Salute Battery outside in the cold air—you both look and sound great. You look and sound great and you make it possible for us to be back.

We are joined today by many distinguished guests. Let me first begin by saying thanks to Governor Sam Brownback, Senator Pat Roberts—it seems we cannot have an important ceremony without a major snowstorm—we certainly appreciate you honoring us by taking the journey here to come here under the conditions to be with us today. We're just honored by your presence. Our civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army. Other distinguished local, state and national elected officials or their representatives, all of whom serve as champions for the interests of Fort Riley in their official capacities. Our friends from Kansas State University also who had the opportunity to witness firsthand the great work our soldiers in Iraq and the real opportunity that exists in Iraq—we thank them for being bold enough to make the journey. As I turn and look at this crowd I see many faces of friends. Faces we have come to know not only as neighbors and colleagues, but as dear friends.

Thank you all for joining us today as the division headquarters symbolically and ceremonially returns from accomplishing our mission and as we bring to a close another chapter in the history of this great division.

This is a fitting occasion—because uncasing the 1st Infantry Division Colors at Fort Riley, after accomplishing a mission overseas has become a well-established practice. For today marks the 5th time in the last 55 years that these Colors—the Colors of America's 1st Division in name and in fact, have been removed from their traveling case and opened at Fort Riley.

Just as in 1955, 1970, 1991, and 2006, today in 2011 we again uncasing and unfurl these gallant Colors with new history having been added to the Colors since they were last seen here. Truly, Fort Riley is the home of the Big Red One and now that we are back, again, we are truly at home in the heartland. And it's good to be back home.

I hope you will indulge me for a few moments to tell you a few highlights of the many accomplishments and achievements that happened through our time of deployment and to thank some people along the way. This is going to be a bit longer than my usual speeches, certainly much longer than the one I gave on the 3rd of January upon our return. I will do my best to highlight some remarkable things that happened in our campaign here as well as our campaign there, overseas. Plus, it's been a while since most of you haven't had a speech from me in a year. So I have to make up for some lost time. So bare with me.

Let me begin by saying that the accomplishments on the homefront here at Fort Riley were at least as impressive as those that occurred in southern Iraq. I want to say that something so that everybody is absolutely certain of that great team that you have here.

You may recall that in this field house over a year ago the division headquarters and the Victory 5 marched off to do our duty first, leaving a rear command supported by a mostly civilian mission support element and

a mostly civilian U.S. Army garrison command.

Brigadier General David "Pete" Petersen and Command Sergeant Major Darrell "Buddy" Wallace took the lead for Fort Riley, standing forth bravely in what is still, in many ways, a journey in uncharted waters. You represented the command exceedingly well and I am very proud of both of you for all you did to shoulder a very, very heavy load with really hard work to do. Thanks to your ladies, Karen and "Lefty" also for your grace and patience and support of these two warriors. General Pete, congratulations on your upcoming promotion to Major general and recognition. And Command Sergeant Major Buddy Wallace, congratulations on the culminating role of a great career as you transition into the "U.S. Army—Retired" ranks.

[Applaud]

Believe me, the rear command would not have succeeded in the extraordinarily tough work that had to be done if there had not been a group of professionals, Army civilians, called the mission support element and led by Mr. Ollie Hunter. They were the surrogate staff—referred to as the "M staff" seated on the right behind BG Petersen and CSM Wallace, and they were magnificent.

The primary task of generating forces for deployment abroad fell to you—bringing together the modernization of equipment with the arrival of personnel to the individual and collective training that leads to forces ready to be deployed—from four different bases in four different states—in a year when every brigade under the division's responsibility deployed or redeployed, in part or in-toto, in some cases with a short-notice changes of theater and in some cases with a significantly shortened period of training—no matter the circumstances, no matter the curve ball pitched at you—you knocked it out of the park.

Nothing was normal about what you were asked to do, nothing was routine, there was no handbook and no standing operating procedure. Yet, you accomplished the mission in true Big Red One style, demonstrating what it means to say no mission too difficult, no sacrifice too great, duty first. Well done. Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in a round of applause.

[Applaud]

Then, there is the U.S. Army garrison command under the visionary and persistent leadership of Colonel Kevin Brown, Ms. Linda Hoeffner, Command Sergeant Major Ian Mann, and Colonel John Dvoracek all guiding the finest group of professional civilian directors in the entire Army.

What you have accomplished here in one year is absolutely amazing—and believe me that is understating the reality.

You moved the Fort Riley Campaign plan 2015, initiated last January, into a solid set of accomplishments. The opening of the Army's first warrior transition battalion complex; the expanded community covenants connecting Fort Riley even more to the 22 communities around Fort Riley; the start of the ongoing construction of the Army's newest community hospital; trail blazing resilience initiatives not only for soldiers but for military family members as well—programs that have been recognized as best practices throughout the Army; attracting national level leaders to come to Fort Riley to see the premier division level installation, in the making, and to gain their support for initiatives like military family housing and school expansion; the forward momentum of the Flint Hills Regional Council; and the generation of . . . conservatively . . . over \$2.2 billion of revenue for the state of Kansas.

These accomplishments, ladies and gentlemen, are figurative ice chips from an iceberg of excellence. I am immensely proud of the Garrison Command, and ladies and gentlemen please join me in applauding their efforts.

[Applaud]

I want to take this opportunity also to say thanks to our community leaders, our neighbors, our friends, for your patience through the challenges of the last year, and for your steadfast support not only of the leadership here at Fort Riley but all the efforts I have already highlighted, and also of our deployed soldiers and of our families who stayed behind in the Flint Hills while we were gone.

Believe me when I say we truly could not have done what we did without you. You are our reason for doing what we do and we are forever indebted to you and we are joyous to be back with you again.

Finally, I want to thank the families of the warriors who were (and I should add: still are) deployed. You carry a burden that cannot be described adequately, compared accurately, or appreciated fully. You are our hope and our inspiration. You are the focus of what we look forward to while we are gone. You are the finest examples of grace and strength. Thank you for who you are and for all you give. It is so good to be back in your embrace.

Ladies and gentlemen, bear with me for just a few more moments while I highlight what was accomplished by the soldiers who stand before you and all who served under the colors of the 1st Infantry Division in its role as United States Division—South, responsible for all U.S. operations in the southern half of the country of Iraq, 9 of the 18 provinces—and an area positioned between Iran to the east, Kuwait to the south and Saudi Arabia to the west. An area where ancient human history meets the future of the middle east.

Roughly 850 soldiers deployed from Fort Riley to fulfill this headquarters mission which we officially began on the 2nd of February 2010 from our headquarters in Basra, the second largest city in Iraq.

We commanded units from every part of our Army, and were augmented by Navy, Air Force, Marine and Coast Guard and other government agency teammates joined together as a pick-up team that resembled an all-star team.

The deployment was fast-paced, high-stakes, more psychological than physical, more offensive than defensive, more indirect than direct.

An abbreviated way to describe our greatest accomplishment is to say—the Big Red 1 as U.S. Division—South was a trusted partner to the Iraqi security forces, to 9 U.S. provincial reconstruction teams led by the U.S. Department of State with participants from other agencies of the U.S. Government, and to the other U.S. Forces out there in Iraq, ensuring that the hard-earned stability emerging in Iraq would never drift away. Their success was our success.

All we had to do was help Iraq become the sovereign, stable, and self-reliant strategic partner the U.S. has been looking for in the Middle East—all in the face of internal political intrigue and violence, and the ever-present legitimate and illegitimate influences of neighboring countries, especially Iran.

Our soldiers faced violence, uncertainty, and danger courageously while also seizing every emerging every opportunity to meet the challenges in new and creative ways that led to remarkable successes and an acceleration of the stability in southern Iraq well ahead of the rest of the country.

16 Soldiers lost their lives while serving under the Colors of the Big Red One, brigades and battalions assigned to us. They

will forever be a part of our history, they will always be in our prayers and our thoughts go out to their families. Yet, thanks be to God, every one of the 850 soldiers who deployed from Fort Riley as part of the division headquarters returned safely, despite repeated rocket attacks on our bases, ambushes against our vehicles, hundreds of hours in aerial flight, and the harsh conditions of extreme heat, Biblical dust storms, and unforgiving military equipment.

These are the soldiers who developed the intelligence to defeat the enemy networks so that they found no sanctuary.

These are the soldiers who planned the operations to provide the surveillance that supported the Iraqis who then, on their own, arrested the violent extremists and who taught the Iraqi investigators and the judges how to gather evidence that led to convictions under the rule of law.

These are the soldiers who established the satellite communications to reach everywhere even places where no other Army unit has been able to extend communications.

These are the soldiers who determined which Iraqis we should develop relationships with to gain influence, who committed money like a weapons system to change the environment around us, who determined which projects should receive our attention and fought for successful completion and closure of 628 separate projects.

And these are the soldiers who planned and executed the drawdown ending operation Iraqi Freedom, beginning operation New Dawn, including the movement of 1,200 trucks, 14,000 separate pieces of equipment, \$286 million dollars worth of U.S. property, responsibly moved out of the country of Iraq and the closure of 30 of 58 military bases in southern Iraq in only 6 months, including the conversion of a former prison complex into a logistics city for commercial enterprises to establish themselves.

These are the soldiers who created through their own initiative a program and center for building resilience even while deployed.

What a legacy to have been left by 800 Americans.

Ladies and gentlemen, these soldiers have truly added to the illustrious history of the Big Red 1 and have earned these decorations Command Sergeant Major Champagne and I affixed to the Colors and I would ask you please join me in a round of applause for these warriors.

Iraq is on the pathway to becoming sovereign, stable and self-reliant and we helped them have a chance. Now we are home and our attention is turned to rejoining our friends and loved ones—on building our resilience—and finally on our Fort Riley 2015 Campaign Plan which continues to move forward. We will address all of these with the same vigor, reunited and energized by the growth we have all experienced over the last 12 months. Exciting times await us. Forward the Big Red One.

Thank you again for joining us today. May God continue to bless you all and may his protection be with those who remain deployed and upon their families.

Duty First.

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

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

PRESIDENT'S TALK WITH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, President Obama talked with the chamber of commerce yesterday. I think that was a good step, but talk and rhetoric are not policy and not action. It is reported that he received applause from two different lines, and he got that in a 35-minute address, which is a bit unusual.

It does appear the President understands he has a serious problem with the job-creating community and is willing to at least meet with people. But the problem really is policy and action. I am disappointed he has not gone further to deal, in a realistic way, with the job problems this Nation has.

He talked about lowering corporate taxes but not reducing the burden of government borne by these companies. In other words, he talked about lowering the rate through eliminating loopholes, and some of the loopholes, I am sure, are not justified. Some of them may be very effective in helping us to be competitive and create growth, not just eliminating those and making it appear that the corporate tax burden has been reduced.

I talked to the chamber of commerce and businesspeople, and they tell me we are in a competitive world environment, and businesses decide where to make products and hire workers based on the cost of doing business in that area. A CEO in North America, for an international company in my home State, told me: We thought we were going to add 200 jobs—at an Alabama plant that he oversees to make a chemical product. But his headquarter company in Europe said: No, after considering taxes, we are not going to build that plant in Alabama. It is going to be in a foreign country. In other words, they had won the competition on costs. Another country with lower tax rates on a corporation had won the bid. The idea that you can have a high tax rate is not good.

We have the highest tax rate in the developed world—as soon as Japan brings theirs down, which they are planning to do, then we will be the highest corporate tax country in the world. This makes us less competitive, and it creates fewer jobs. Simply to eliminate loopholes and bring it down from 35 to the high twenties, as apparently is being discussed, does not reduce the burden of taxes on corporations. Many of our corporations are going to have a significant increase in their tax rates, and they will be less able to hire workers. This is a major issue that I think we have to confront. It is a competitiveness issue.

The President continued to talk, as he did in the State of the Union, about more investment spending. We don't have the money to do more spending. I am disappointed that he has not begun to realize that the day is over that we can just waltz in with a lot of good ideas for new spending programs. He continued to talk about spending and

the role of democracy in this region and key industries at a time when we need to streamline regulations that are killing jobs in America. He did not call for a vigorous and realistic plan to reduce spending.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak. I appreciate the President beginning to enter into a dialog with the folks who create jobs. I am not suggesting that we need to reduce corporate rates to be nice to corporations. I do not have any grief to bear to try to make it somehow easier for corporate executives to make big amounts of money.

What I do understand is if we overtax American corporations, they will move other places. Canada is looking to reduce its corporate tax rate to 16 percent. If we are at 35 percent and Canada goes to 16, will that not be a factor in us losing jobs in competition with Canada? We have to defend our interests.

I see the distinguished majority leader. I know he is busy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO STAN ISRAEL

• Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to an outstanding Rhode Islander, a Vietnam veteran, and champion of workers' rights and justice in the workplace who retired after 35 years of service—my friend, Stan Israel.

After serving two tours in Vietnam, Stan began working for the Service Employees International Union, SEIU, in 1974, first as an organizer with Local 1199, covering New York and Long Island. Stan represented health employees in hospitals and nursing homes organizing employees around workplace safety and fair wages. Then, in 1983, after a short stay in neighboring Connecticut, Stan moved to Rhode Island to head the New England District of SEIU, where he recently retired as executive director.

For nearly three decades, Stan led Rhode Island's second largest union, which represents hard-working health care employees at hospitals across my State and hundreds of nursing and community health centers as well. Stan is a man of principle, good judgment, and great character. Moreover, he has been an unmatched advocate for the social and economic concerns of those in greatest need.