

and National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRs). NPS regulations to implement the concealed carry provisions of PL 111-24 became effective on February 10, 2010 and included all firearms legal in the jurisdiction in which the park was located. Park Service regulations continue to exclude bow and arrows in the National Parks. In some locations this effectively limits bowhunter access to hunt other adjacent BLM, USFS or private lands that are otherwise open to hunting and can now be legally accessed through NPS or NWRs lands by firearms hunters.

36 CFR 2.4 d 4 allows the possibly of permitting for such access through NPS lands where it is otherwise impossible or impractical to make other access except through NPS lands. In 2009 one such request for permitting for Dinosaur National Monument was denied by the Park Superintendent, effectively denying practical bowhunter access to some BLM and state school lands. Firearms hunters may now access these lands across NPS lands without any requirement for permitting.

Similar access issues occur in several of Colorado's game management units bounding on Dinosaur National Monument. These situations likely occur at many National Parks and National Monuments both in Colorado and other states. Attempts to rectify this situation through an administrative rule making process in the Department of the Interior have been denied.

The undersigned sportsmen, representing several major sportsmen's groups and retailers in Colorado request that, barring any change in the DOI stance, legislative action be taken to give bowhunters with archery equipment equal rights in crossing NPS and NWRs as that enjoyed by those carrying firearms.

Sincerely,

Tim Mauck & Gaspar Perricone, Co-founders, Bull Moose Sportsmen's Alliance; Ivan James, Vice-Chairman for Legislation, Colorado Bowhunters Association; Robert Ong, President, Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Society; John Smeltzer, President, Colorado Wildlife Federation; Dean Derby, President, Colorado Traditional Archery Society; Bob Hewson, Executive Director, Colorado Youth Outdoors; Robert Hix, Colorado Regional Director, Pheasants Forever, Inc.; Joel Webster, Director—Center for Western Lands, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership; John & Kathy Tidwell, Owners, Bear Creek Archery Inc; Michael Lewellen, President, Colorado National Wild Turkey Federation; John Gale & David Lien, Co-Chairs, Colorado Back Country Hunters and Anglers.

Mr. BENNET. The overall sportsmen's package from Senator TESTER is also widely supported, ranging from the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership to the Boone and Crockett Club to the National Rifle Association. The Tester bill represent a bipartisan package of commonsense bills that will benefit our Nation's sports men and women. I want to thank Senator TESTER for his leadership on behalf of the West and urge a "yes" vote.

I will simply close by saying it is my fervent hope that once this election is over, some 45 days from now, we will come back to this Chamber, Republicans and Democrats together, and work to avoid surfing over this fiscal cliff that will be so damaging to this economy.

People at home know something that people here have not yet figured out, which is even if you believe you are always right on your side or had a monopoly of wisdom on your side—which I do not, but some people seem to—even if you believed it, we cannot accomplish this meaningful deficit reduction without doing it in a bipartisan way. It is impossible to do it without doing it in a bipartisan way.

People at home actually want to see it bipartisan, frankly, because they do not believe in either party's go-it-alone strategy when it comes to the debt and deficit. So my hope is this election will clear the air, we will get back to work, and that before January we will have something convincing to say to the American public on this subject.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I see no colleagues have come to the floor, so I want to speak on one additional topic. I will be brief, because I understand we likely won't have an opportunity to address this issue before we leave town.

My colleague Senator MARK UDALL and I have been working to provide resources for the USDA's Emergency Watershed Protection Program, also known as EWP. The reason we have been doing this is that EWP resources help communities recover from wildfires, specifically watersheds that, after being burned, are unstable and risk harm to critical drinking water infrastructure and sometimes jeopardize human lives.

As many in this Chamber know, we had a number of devastating wildfires in Colorado this summer. In the communities of Fort Collins and Colorado Springs in particular, they are having trouble protecting their vital drinking water infrastructure as their watersheds recover. Despite a letter Senator UDALL and I authored to the appropriators, the House version of the continuing resolution did not contain this critical funding. That means the Senate won't be able to vote to help these communities recover. And while we are disappointed, we are going to continue to fight for these resources.

With that, Madam President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

FARM BILL

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I see we have been joined by the Chair of the

Agriculture Committee, Senator STABENOW. She has just arrived, but I wanted to report to her that before she arrived I was talking about the need to pass a farm bill and the fact that, over the break, I had traveled 2,500 miles around the State of Colorado—in rural parts of our State on the west slope and on the eastern plains—and nobody wanted to talk about anything except why we can't get a farm bill passed. It makes no sense to them. They know it was completely bipartisan here in the Senate, and they know it is the only bipartisan piece of legislation with deficit reduction any committee of either Chamber has been able to accomplish.

In the case of Colorado farmers and ranchers, we are going through the worst drought we have had in a generation, and they want to know why Washington, DC, has a completely different set of priorities than they have.

There is still time for the House to pass this bill. This is the first time in modern history a House Ag Committee has passed out a bill—in this case a bipartisan bill, though not as good, I don't think, as ours, but a step forward—that hasn't come to the floor for a vote. They cannot even get a vote.

So while the Senator is here, I wanted to thank her, and I would also say to the ranking member of the committee if he were here, for their extraordinary bipartisan effort over the last 2 years that resulted in a very fine bill. I also think their work sets a model for the way we should be approaching our work in this Chamber.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, first, I did come to the floor to talk about the urgency of the farm bill, but I also want to thank my friend and colleague from Colorado, who chairs our conservation subcommittee, for the tremendous piece of work on the conservation title in the farm bill. I thank him for all of that effort and also say to him I understand what is happening in Colorado. As he and I know, we passed disaster assistance—a permanent livestock disaster assistance program—in our farm bill, along with help for food growers in Michigan and other places.

We are totally committed in the short run to helping those who have the riskiest business in the world, which is farming and ranching in this country, but we also know what they want is the economic certainty of a 5-year farm bill. So I thank my friend for all of his efforts and in coming to the floor.

I want to say, for the record, there are 10 days until September 30—10 days until the farm bill expires and 16 million people in this country who rely on agriculture for their jobs or their livelihood are put in limbo. That is the reality of where we are.

We worked so hard, on a bipartisan basis in the Senate, to pass a farm bill,

and we did that as quickly as we could so the House would have time to act and we could actually get things done in the summer before we got involved in what would be happening in the fall, with all of the critically important end-of-the-year issues that have to be addressed. So we passed a bill in June, as we all know, on a bipartisan basis. It took a lot of work.

I continually thank everyone who was willing to hang in there with us to get this done—my ranking member, Senator ROBERTS, and our two leaders for giving us the time to do this. We worked hard and we got it done and we sent it to the House. Then the House committee went to work and they passed out a bipartisan bill. Never before, that I can remember—and I have been around here a while; this is my fourth farm bill—have we seen a situation where a bipartisan bill came out of committee and yet the House wouldn't take it up. They wouldn't take it up in July, the beginning of August, and wouldn't agree to allow us to negotiate differences over the August break to come up with a way to get this done by the end of this month.

So here we are. The House is leaving today. The Senate is leaving either today or tomorrow or the next day, and there are 10 days left on the clock to provide economic certainty for 16 million men and women whose livelihoods come from agriculture. Many of these men and women watched as their crops withered under the hot summer Sun this year, as days and weeks went by without a drop of rain in the worst drought in 50 years. Yet House Republicans are planning to leave without finishing their work on our farm bill. That is absolutely stunning to me.

The work we did in the Senate passed on a strong bipartisan vote. As I said before, the committee in the House put forward their bill on a strong bipartisan vote. If nothing happens, in 10 days we begin to see a transition over the next few months to what is called permanent law, which goes back to the 1940s.

We had over 90 different groups that came in last week. We had hundreds of farmers from around the country—farmers who got off their tractors, took their time at their own expense to fly in and say: Hey, wait a minute, When there is a job to do, you have to get it done. When the crops are ready to harvest, you don't wait a month. You have to do what you have to do when it needs to be done.

That is exactly where we are right now. They just need to do it. I am confident the chairman and the ranking member, working in a bipartisan way, could do this in 1 day. I really believe they could do this in 1 day. It is not as if there is a lot of other substantive work going on in the House. So 1 day. If they decided today: Okay, we are going to get this done before we leave, they would create a situation so our farmers, who are planning for next year, who have to go in and sit down

with their banker, will know how to plan and what tools they have available. These are people who have been hit hard, have been devastated by disasters.

In every single one of the counties in Michigan, 83 out of 83 counties, there has been a disaster declaration. They are looking at us and saying: Thank you for what the Senate did, but why won't the House act? And, frankly, I don't know why the House won't act. But they should, because they are leaving an awful lot of people hanging.

We know the consequences of not acting are that we begin to unravel a set of policies that need to be in place for production agriculture, for conservation, for local food systems, for energy, and for nutrition. We know also if we step up and do what we worked so hard to do in the Senate we will get the added plus of \$23 billion in deficit reduction. The only thing that has passed the Senate that has bipartisan deficit reduction is our farm bill.

We know we need to make reforms. That is why we eliminated four different subsidies, moved to a risk-based, market-based system, based on crop insurance providing tools for farmers to make sure they can make their own planning decisions, not plant for government programs, but make their own planning decisions and then have tools to support them and to manage the risks that come. We certainly know now, because we have seen this year, what kind of devastating risks may come for our farmers and ranchers across the country.

I have gone through so many times what is in our farm bill that I will not do that now, except to say we have more reform—in fact, the Wall Street Journal said there is more reform in this farm bill than any in decades. We are proud of that. We have more in deficit reduction than in anything else we have passed. We have policies for the future. We have listened to farmers who said crop insurance is the most important thing for them in being able to manage their risk. We have focused on local food systems, providing schools with the ability to purchase locally and support their local farmers. There are energy opportunities for the future and bio-based manufacturing, where we truly can make things and grow things and grow the economy and grow the middle class of this country. There is rural development, where millions of Americans live—for small towns, such as Clare, where I grew up—with the ability to fund infrastructure—water, sewer, Internet—and have a business loan financed, and all those things that go into rural development. We provide for telemedicine to create a quality of life and health for seniors and families.

All those things are involved in what we call the farm bill. All of those things were passed in the Senate. We did what I believe the American public wants us to do, and I certainly know people in Michigan want us to do—to

make tough decisions, to evaluate what works and what doesn't work and to cut out the duplication. We eliminated over 100 different programs and authorizations and we streamlined. That is what folks want us to do, and we did it. Now it is time for the House to do their job.

The reality is, even though there are 10 days until the end of the month, the Speaker said they are going home with no action. So the real number is zero. We are out of time for farmers and ranchers and their families, and, frankly, for all of us. If we are fortunate enough to have lunch or breakfast today, we ought to care about the farm bill and the people who provide us with the safest, most affordable, and abundant food in the world. That is what we do in this bill. We are proud of it. And the House of Representatives should be ashamed of themselves for leaving town without supporting rural America.

Madam President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MAKING CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired. The question occurs on agreeing to the motion to proceed to H.J. Res. 117.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK).

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

The result was announced—yeas 67, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 195 Leg.]

YEAS—67

Akaka	Cochran	Klobuchar
Alexander	Conrad	Kohl
Baucus	Coons	Kyl
Begich	Durbin	Landrieu
Bennet	Feinstein	Lautenberg
Bingaman	Franken	Leahy
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Levin
Blunt	Hagan	Lieberman
Boxer	Harkin	Lugar
Brown (MA)	Heller	McCaskill
Brown (OH)	Hoeven	McConnell
Cantwell	Hutchinson	Menendez
Cardin	Inouye	Merkley
Carper	Johanns	Mikulski
Casey	Johnson (SD)	Murkowski
Coats	Kerry	Murray