

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

Nelson (NE)	Sanders	Warner
Nelson (FL)	Schumer	Webb
Portman	Shaheen	Whitehouse
Pryor	Stabenow	Wicker
Reed	Tester	Wyden
Reid	Udall (CO)	
Rockefeller	Udall (NM)	

NAYS—31

Ayotte	Enzi	Risch
Barrasso	Graham	Roberts
Boozman	Grassley	Rubio
Burr	Hatch	Sessions
Chambliss	Isakson	Shelby
Coburn	Johnson (WI)	Snowe
Collins	Lee	Thune
Corker	Manchin	Toomey
Cornyn	McCain	Vitter
Crapo	Moran	
DeMint	Paul	

NOT VOTING—2

Inhofe	Kirk
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The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CARDIN). The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, for the last several days I have been telling everyone that we needed to do a couple of things before we leave. We have to do the CR, and we have to do the sportsmen's package.

Mr. President, just a second on the sportsmen's package. If we flip through the dictionary and find the word "bipartisan," part of that definition would be TESTER's sportsmen's package because it is a Republican and Democratic bill. It involves hunters, fishermen, and other sportsmen, including offroad vehicles. It is a very good piece of legislation for a group of people who are totally unrecognized most of the time. We are going to do those two things before we leave.

In order to bring us to that result, I will fill the tree and file cloture on the CR. Unless we get consent, the cloture vote on the CR will occur sometime after midnight on Saturday, at 1 a.m. or thereabouts. Once we invoke cloture on the CR, the 30 hours postcloture will run until 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, give or take an hour. We would vote at that time to pass the CR. Immediately thereafter we will vote to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to the sportsmen's package.

So here is where that leaves us: We file cloture on the CR and the motion to proceed to the sportsmen's package. That sets up two votes for very early Sunday morning in addition to tomorrow night, Saturday morning at 1 a.m. or thereabouts. We can do those votes now and finish everything today or we can wait. The choice is clear. We end up in the same place Sunday morning or we can get there today.

I have had some Senators come to me and say, well, we are not going to vote on the sportsmen's package. Well, yes, they are. We have that set up. There is a clear path. The problem with the rest of the stuff is not our problem; it is the Republicans' problem.

I worked something out in good faith with RAND PAUL. He in good faith worked something out with me. I am not here to be a cheerleader for RAND PAUL; I am here to tell everyone what happened. Now, if the Republicans don't want to vote on that, I think it

would be too bad because RAND PAUL, after all of this time—whether anyone agrees with what he wants to do or not—he and I in good faith worked something out.

We had a number of Senators come here, including the senior Senator from Arizona to name one, who said we need more time on that. I have no problem with that. Yesterday when he said he wanted more time, I said just take the hour because Senator PAUL has been here talking about this for weeks and weeks. We have heard a lot from him, and he said: I have talked a lot on this—and I am paraphrasing—and 15 minutes would be enough for me. I thought I was being generous by setting up an hour rather than 15 minutes. If the senior Senator from Arizona wants more time, I don't care. I really don't care.

Also, I had some conversations with LINDSEY GRAHAM. He and Senator LIEBERMAN have been pushing very hard on a containment resolution that deals with Iran. It is another bipartisan piece of legislation. Eighty Senators are cosponsors of it. The other 20, I bet, like it also. If not, the majority of the 20 do. It is something we overwhelmingly need to do. I think it would be good in that we are trying to work things out in Iraq, which is not stable at this time—at least not the way we want it to be. It would be nice if America had an ambassador to go to Iraq. That has been held up.

With all the problems we see with Pakistan, I think it would be a good idea if we had an American ambassador to Pakistan. That has been held up for a long time.

Again, to his credit, Senator PAUL said have a vote on the containment resolution and have a vote on the two ambassadors. He is not standing in the way of that.

Momentarily, I am going to file cloture and procedurally block any other amendments on the continuing resolution. We will vote on that whenever the Republicans want, but no later than Saturday morning at a time we will decide. When I say "we decide," it is a statutory clock, and that is when it runs out. Following that, we will have a vote on final passage of the CR and a motion to proceed to TESTER's sportsmen's package. That is what we have to complete. For people to try to get out their stuff is just unfair.

I have seen newspaper accounts of Republican Senators who love the TESTER legislation. I didn't ask them; I read it in the paper. They think it is good because it is good. It is bipartisan. It does something we have been trying to do for a long time; that is, a lot of these little bills have been held up—hundreds of them. TESTER and the people who support this legislation have joined together 20 of these little bills into this one piece of legislation. It really is the right thing to do. I hope we can get this done.

Remember the choice—I repeat for the third time—is very clear. We can

quickly complete everything tonight or we can come back here Saturday morning in the middle of the night sometime and early Sunday morning. We will be at the same place. Those votes are going to take place. It is up to the Republicans and what they want to do with Senator PAUL and the unanimous consent request they objected to yesterday.

MAKING CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have an amendment at the desk as it relates to H.J. Res. 117.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (H.J. Res. 117) making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2013, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2844

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 2844.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following new section: SEC. ____.

This joint resolution shall become effective 5 days after enactment.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2845 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2844

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 2845 to amendment No. 2844.

The amendment is as follows:

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

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion which I ask the clerk to report with the permission of the Chair.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close the debate on H.J. Res. 117, a joint resolution making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2013, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Daniel K. Inouye, Patty Murray, Bernard Sanders, Jeanne Shaheen, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Debbie Stabenow, Max Baucus, Mark L. Pryor, Christopher A. Coons, Jon Tester, Michael F. Bennet,