

The President has made a request. Yes, it is a hefty \$60 billion. But look at who was hit, a big city that is one of the heartbeats of America, New York, and a little community such as Crisfield. But no matter whether someone lives in New York City or in Crisfield, MD, they deserve the help from their government.

I say to my colleagues, let us think of the people we were sent to represent. We weren't sent to represent a bottom line; we were sent to represent people. I would hope we would put into place, that we would pass the President's request. We have great policies that were arrived at—and if you truly want to honor Senator Inouye, let us honor his own code of conduct, a gentle way, a civil way, a consensus builder, a bipartisan builder, and a worker to move this bill.

Senator Inouye chaired the full Committee on Appropriations these last couple years. His own staff shared a story with me, and it is relevant today.

He said: I chaired the Defense subcommittee, and that is how the Federal budget defends America. But my other committees, like Labor-HHS—and I might add housing, Federal disaster assistance—is how we define ourselves. So those who say let us make sure we defend America, let us also make sure we put the money in the Federal budget on how it defines America.

The way we define America is when one community is hit, all communities are hit. If New York is hit, Crisfield or Ocean City, all communities have been hit. We need to act like the United States of America because the disaster the Chair and I faced 2 months ago could be somebody else's disaster tomorrow. And the real disaster should not be in the Senate because we failed to act.

I call my colleagues to the floor, and I call them forth to pass these appropriations. I look forward again to working on both sides of the aisle to have a safer country from either a defense or a disaster perspective, and I also look forward to moving this bill in a way that we will define our country, that we are a country that helps, neighbor helping neighbor.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I wish to praise the senior Senator from Maryland. I was out here listening to what she said but not just the words. She believes them. It is a passion. She cares.

She and I have served on the Appropriations Committee for about 100 or 200 years, I think. She was a child when she went there, but we have served there together. We both have lost one of our dearest friends, Senator Inouye.

But over and over in that committee, I have heard her stand and say: People are involved. These are human beings, and we ought to stand up for them.

As the distinguished Presiding Officer knows, because she represents New York State, when we have a disaster of this unbelievable amount, the whole

Nation is supposed to come together. We are the United States of America. We are not the State of New York, the State of Maryland, the State of Vermont; we are the United States of America.

We have come together as a country. Whether the disaster has been in California, on the east coast or in Southern States or in the West, we come together, and that is what we are trying to do. I would defy any Senator who has worried about coming together to help these people to go to one of the homes. Go to one of the homes on Long Island. Go to one of the homes that has been devastated. Go to one of the businesses where we have a couple who spent their whole life building up their business, hoping to have something to leave to their children, and now they are looking at rubble. Come on. These are real people. This is the United States of America.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 1, which the clerk will report by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1) making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Leahy (for Inouye) amendment No. 3338, in the nature of a substitute.

Leahy (for Inouye) amendment No. 3339 (to amendment No. 3338), of a perfecting nature.

Merkley amendment No. 3367 (to amendment No. 3338), to extend certain supplemental agricultural disaster assistance programs.

McCain/Coburn amendment No. 3355 (to amendment No. 3338), to strike funding for the Emergency Forest Restoration Program.

Tester amendment No. 3350 (to amendment No. 3338), to provide additional funds for wild land fire management.

Coburn/McCain amendment No. 3371 (to amendment No. 3338), to ensure that Federal disaster assistance is available for the most severe disasters.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I see the distinguished senior Senator from New Mexico on the Senate floor, and I yield to him.

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

Mr. BINGAMAN. I thank my colleague Senator LEAHY.

Madam President, what is the pending business before the Senate now? Is it an amendment to this legislation?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Amendment No. 3371 is the pending business.

AMENDMENT NO. 3344

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside and that I be permitted to call up amendment No. 3344 and ask for its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New Mexico [Mr. BINGAMAN], for himself, Mr. WEBB, and Mr. WYDEN, proposes an amendment numbered 3344.

Mr. BINGAMAN. I ask unanimous consent that further 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 provide for the approval of an agreement between the United States and the Republic of Palau in response to Super Typhoon Bopha)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . APPROVAL OF THE 2010 U.S.-PALAU AGREEMENT IN RESPONSE TO SUPER TYPHOON BOPHA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The agreement entitled “The Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Palau Following the Compact of Free Association Section 432 Review” signed on September 3, 2010 (including the appendices to the agreement) (referred to in this section as the “Agreement”) is approved (other than Article 7 to the extent it extends Article X of the Federal Programs and Services Agreement) and may only enter into force after the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior, enters into an implementing arrangement with the Republic of Palau that makes the adjustments to dates and amounts as set forth in Senate Amendment 3331.

(b) AMENDMENT.—Section 105(f)(1)(B)(ix) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921d(f)(1)(B)(ix)) is amended by striking “2009” and inserting “2024”.

(c) FUNDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There are appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior such sums as are specified to carry out sections 1, 2(a), 4(a), and 5 of the Agreement for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2024.

(2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated under paragraph (1) shall remain available until expended.

(3) EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—Amounts appropriated under paragraph (1) are designated by Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4(g) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-139; 2 U.S.C. 933(g)).

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, this is an amendment offered by myself

and cosponsored by Senators Webb and Wyden. It would provide for the approval of an agreement between the United States and the Republic of Palau in response to Supertyphoon Bopha.

Few people are aware that as Hurricane Sandy was making its landfall in the northeastern part of our country, the United States, a supertyphoon known as Bopha was tracking a path of destruction across the western Pacific. The Republic of Palau, which is one of our closest allies and with which we are tied by a strategic alliance known as the Compact of Free Association, was struck by Bopha on December 2, causing extensive damage. The President of Palau declared a state of emergency, and the U.S. President, acting through the Department of State, issued a disaster declaration for Palau.

This massive storm went on to kill over 1,000 people in the Philippines. Fortunately, there were no deaths in Palau, but high winds and storm surge and torrential rains caused widespread damage.

A week ago the Ambassador from Palau, the Honorable Hersey Kyota, wrote to me as the chair of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, which has jurisdiction for assistance to nations that are in free association with the United States. The Ambassador asked for my help in responding to the disaster, but he did not ask for additional funding. Instead, the Ambassador asked that the agreement on future assistance that was signed between the United States and Palau in 2010 be added to this emergency supplemental so the funding already agreed to by representatives of the United States would become available for disaster relief and recovery in Palau.

I fully support the request by the Ambassador. I am glad to have the cosponsorship of my colleagues Senator WEBB, who is chairman of the Asia-Pacific subcommittee, and Senator WYDEN, who, of course, is the incoming chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and I urge my colleagues' support of the amendment.

The amendment tracks S. 343, which was introduced by me in February of 2011. At that time it was cosponsored by Senators MURKOWSKI, AKAKA, and WEBB. The agreement to be approved would revise and update the Compact of Free Association that has governed U.S.-Palau relations since 1994 by extending and phasing out financial assistance over 11 years.

Palau is an island nation located strategically between the U.S. territory of Guam, the Philippines, and Indonesia. Captured in World War II, Palau became part of the U.S.-administered Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. In 1994 Palau became a sovereign nation in free association with the United States under a 50-year compact that grants the U.S. military rights that the Department of State calls "vital to our national security."

The compact also provided Palau with an initial 15-year term of assistance that ended in 2009. The agreement would extend and phase out U.S. assistance by 2024. Congress has provided stop-gap funding since 2009, but the Department of Defense wrote to our committee—the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources—in April of 2011 stating:

Failure to follow through on our commitments to Palau, as reflected in the proposed [agreement], would jeopardize our defense posture in the Western Pacific.

The agreement provides for the phaseout of financial assistance for operations, construction, and maintenance. The Congressional Budget Office's 10-year budget estimate for direct spending is \$171 million. This U.S. commitment to future funding would make a crucial contribution to Palau's efforts to respond and recover from this present disaster.

U.S. failure to respond to the needs of this strategic ally in its time of need by simply approving the already signed agreement would signal to Palau and to most other nations in the Pacific that the United States is an unreliable partner. So I urge the support of my colleagues for this amendment and for approving the agreed-to assistance to Palau so they may have the resources needed to respond to Supertyphoon Bopha.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, I rise today to address this Chamber for possibly the last time as the senior Senator from the great State of Texas.

I have to say it is an ironic note that if I had given my farewell address last week, there would have been so much joy in the halls of the Capitol, ringing with the laughter and the anticipation of our season's happiest time. But in just one weekend, a sadness has set in with the news of a massacre of innocent children in Newtown, CT, followed by the loss of our wonderful colleague, Senator Danny Inouye.

So I will leave this extraordinary institution and experience with a heavy heart for those who have been lost in the last few days.

I want to thank the people of Texas for asking me to represent them in Washington. I want to thank the many people who have served on my staff for almost 20 years. I have to say I am touched that both benches on both sides of this room are filled with my staff members who have been so hard-

working and so loyal and have produced so much in 20 years for our State and Nation, and I thank them.

I want to thank my colleagues and all the people who work here, the Senators, but also those who work behind the scenes to make our lives as good as they can be with the hard hours we all have; those who keep our buildings safe and clean, who work in the libraries, the shops, the cafeterias, and who guide tens of thousands of tourists through our Nation's beautiful Capitol each year.

I want to thank my husband Ray and our two children Bailey and Houston. They are 11 years old now, and so many of my colleagues who were here when I started bringing my children as babies have watched them grow up. The Senate isn't easy on families. They have sacrificed so I could serve the people of Texas, and I am grateful for their patience and generosity. They have loved coming to the Capitol—11 years for the children and 20 for my husband Ray. And I know my children's fondest memory, if I ask them what do they remember most about visits to the Capitol, is playing soccer in the Russell Building's hallways in the evenings when the coast is clear.

I would not be here today if it were not for my parents who gave me the gifts of strong values, unwavering support, and education to be whatever I wanted to be. I must say that my parents were surprised when they saw what I wanted to be. They would never have thought that their daughter, growing up in LaMarque, TX—a town of 15,000 good people—would think she could be a United States Senator. We had a wonderful public school system, and I am proud to say I am a product of public education. My public schools in LaMarque—which were excellent—and my University of Texas and University of Texas Law School prepared me to be what I could be.

It has been a privilege to walk these halls in the Capitol of the world's greatest and longest serving democracy.

I think back to the days that stand out in our memories. September 11, 2001, of course, is the one none of us will ever forget. We know exactly where we were the minute we knew there was a terrorist attack on America. And though we suffered a horrific attack, the strength, resilience, and extraordinary acts of kindness of the American people showed the world that attempts to destroy our way of life would never succeed. On that day, no one could get in or out of Washington and many communications networks were inoperable. So when the Pentagon was hit and the Capitol was evacuated, my staff and I walked one block to my home on Capitol Hill. Just as an example, the husband of my office manager worked in the section of the Pentagon that had been hit, so we were on the one phone that we had to hospitals, the police, anyone we thought might be able to tell us if he was safe. Thankfully, he was fine. But there were so