

our fellow Americans throughout this Nation.

Obviously, I would have preferred the Senate bill, which was stronger, but we cannot let the perfect be the enemy of the good. We need to get assistance to the victims of Sandy as quickly as possible. This is a vehicle that gets us to that goal.

While the House bill significantly reduces assistance in a couple of areas—including fishery disasters and community development funding, which I think in that respect may stump the recovery of an important industry along our coast and could potentially siphon off billions in CDBG funding that is badly needed right now in New York and New Jersey by amplifying what disasters are eligible for it—I am pleased to say we protected the overall amendment of the CDBG funding from the Senate bill, which is about \$16 billion.

While it is not everything we needed since it will now be spread even thinner across even more disasters, we can certainly help as many communities rebuild and recover as we can because time is of the essence. There is a fierce urgency right now. There are many business owners whom I have spoken to who said to me: Senator, I am at a critical juncture. I don't know whether I can reopen. If the government is not going to give me assistance, then I likely won't open because adding more debt, even in terms of a long-term, low-interest loan, is still debt. They say: I took out debt to start this business or: I took out debt to get through the great recession, but I don't really have the option to take out more debt without some direct assistance, such as a grant. A grant would give the help I need to jump-start my business so I can get those individuals I had employed reemployed once again and create an opportunity for our community.

That decision right now for those businesses, which are life-and-death decisions, is pending and hanging by the will of the Senate to act.

I am also pleased that the package the House passed recognizes what I have been saying all along—that funding the Army Corps of Engineers' efforts is critical to rebuilding coastal communities, particularly New Jersey's weakened coastal defenses. We are at the lowest of our immune system as a coastal State, and we already see the biting cold. It is cold throughout the Capitol today, which shows how cold it is outside. Think about those residents who are fellow Americans and don't have a place to call home because they don't have the wherewithal to get their home back in a way in which they can once again be able to live there, raise their families there, and meet their challenges as a family in a warm nurturing environment. That does not exist for many of our fellow Americans because they don't have the wherewithal to decide whether they are going to get the type of assistance to help them rebuild their homes. All of that is pending.

Part of that is the Army Corps of Engineers' ability to reengineer our beaches in a way that ultimately provides not only for the potential of tourism, which is a \$37 billion industry in our State, but even more importantly for the protection of lives, property, and protection against repetitive losses. That is what is going to happen when we get this money to the Army Corps of Engineers so they can rebuild our coastal defenses. This package would give Jersey Shore residents and businesses the comfort of knowing they would be better protected in the future than they have been in the past.

It also includes \$13 billion in critical funding I sought to help to restore our transportation systems. For example, it would allow New Jersey Transit to repair extensive damage from the storm and allow the agency to build facilities on higher ground to prevent future flood damage, which is a common-sense option. When we think about fiscal responsibility, why would we rebuild only to the very same status that was allowed to be flooded in the first place and caused all of the damage the government would pay for? The passage of this potential package from the House would allow the port authority to finish repairing the PATH station and harden electrical equipment to prevent future damages.

If we could get an agreement, the package that would come to the floor would include necessary policy reforms that I have supported that will streamline recovery efforts and improve FEMA's public assistance programs, which is critical to a successful recovery. These reforms would allow us to rebuild what is in place even stronger and better before there is another storm. Again, this is important in terms of the end results. It is important in terms of the fiscal responsibility to ensure we rebuild in such a way that we don't end up with repetitive damage, which would be more costly to the government.

It would allow a third-party dispute resolution process for major projects. Some of the history we have, particularly with Katrina from Senator LANDRIEU's experience, is the reality of not having a dispute resolution process, which ultimately forestalled recoveries and critical projects to that State and in those communities. Also, coverage for childcare costs related to disaster recovery through FEMA individual assistance is a critical element.

Without going through all of the provisions of the House bill, let me just say we need to pass this relief package. People are suffering. They are desperately waiting for certainty so they can start rebuilding their lives, their businesses and communities. They are trying to get back on their feet. They need this aid even if it is late and even if it is ultimately longer than other disasters have had to wait. As I pointed out in the past, I think it was 10 days or so when \$50 billion flowed to Katrina victims. We are nearly 3 months since

the worst disaster on the east coast in terms of a natural disaster that has taken place.

The people of the Northeast, the people of my State of New Jersey and our neighbors in New York desperately need this funding, and it is time to help these fellow Americans. It is time to do it now. It is time to do it this week. It is going to take time for this recovery to take place. The longer we delay, the greater the chance of failure we, in fact, create. I think we want success, not failure. I think we want to understand, as an institution, as I have said many times, that this is the United States of America. That means we respond to the challenges and the disasters that take place in other parts of the country. We do it, hopefully, more expeditiously than this, and at the same time we stand by our fellow Americans so they can reclaim their lives, reclaim their commitments to their communities, reclaim the opportunity to reopen their businesses, to contribute to those communities, to our State, to this Nation, to our society.

So I strongly urge our colleagues who have some reticence to agree to moving forward on a Sandy bill to come to common ground with us, to come to agreement to move this relief package. No American should have to languish months after a disaster to get help. That should not be the standard. The hallmark of our response should be an intelligent but expeditious response to the consequences of a disaster that any American faces. That is our tradition. It is a tradition we should maintain. It is a tradition that, unfortunately, in this particular instance has not been a reality. It is a tradition that I hope we can ultimately embrace once again this week in finally pushing through a Sandy package that can move to the President for signature and bring relief to our communities.

With that, I yield the floor.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO KEN SQUIER

● Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate Ken Squier, of Stowe, VT, for his historic contribution to motor sports and to broadcasting, and for his deep and abiding commitment to the people of Vermont. On November 29, 2012, NASCAR presented Ken with the prestigious Buddy Shuman Award, given to "an individual who has played a key role in the continued growth and success of Cup racing."

Most Americans know Ken Squier as the "Voice of the Daytona 500." In 1979, Squier convinced CBS Sports to broadcast the Daytona 500 in its entirety. This event was a seminal moment for stock car racing in the United States, later described by ESPN as "NASCAR's most revolutionary event," the one that convinced the national networks

that NASCAR had a very wide following around the country.

When he was 14 years old, Ken Squier announced his first race at a small dirt track in northern Vermont—from the back of a logging truck.

In 1960, he opened Thunder Road SpeedBowl, a quarter-mile racetrack in Barre, VT. In summer, the track has hosted stock car races every Thursday night for the last 50 years. These events have become fixtures in the culture of northern Vermont.

As NASCAR developed a national following, Ken Squier became one of its most celebrated personalities. He pioneered the use of in-car cameras during broadcasts, putting viewers right next to the driver during the race. Ken's voice became inseparable from the sport, providing turn-by-turn coverage of all CBS-broadcast races for almost two decades. This included the sport's most prestigious event, the Daytona 500.

Ken Squier is not at all defined solely by his importance to racing. He has deep roots in northern Vermont. In 1969, he became president of Radio Vermont, Inc., a family business that is one of the only independent, family-run radio companies left in the United States. Radio Vermont's stations provide a variety of music, sports, and news; in particular, they focus on local events, the happenings that bind communities together and give them identity. Over the years, Ken has staunchly opposed corporate consolidation of the media because he believes, strongly, that radio stations should serve the community and provide vital conduits for local information. He has practiced what he preaches.

Radio Vermont's immense value to the communities it served was proven during the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene in August 2011. Irene was the most destructive storm to hit Vermont in decades. Torrential rains and Vermont's mountainous terrain brought flooding on a vast scale, wiping out houses, businesses, and historic downtowns. Roads and bridges were washed away, cutting dozens of towns around Vermont off from the outside world. Ken and his staff, Eric Michaels, Lee Kittell, Tom Beardsley, meteorologist Roger Hill, and others kept the station on the air 24 hours a day in the weeks after the storm to ensure vital emergency information reached Vermonters in towns that had been cut off. With the State of Vermont's emergency communications equipment washed away, Radio Vermont proved that local radio stations are fundamentally important to their communities.

Ken Squier has helped change sports in America, but even more significantly, he has been a true exemplar of a good citizen. Vermont is, and will remain, deeply in his debt.●

REMEMBERING CATHERINE O'NEILL

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in hon-

oring Catherine O'Neill, the great advocate for refugee women and children who died in Los Angeles last month at age 70. Cathy was my friend and neighbor, and I will miss her.

Catherine was born in 1942 in Queens, NY, the daughter of Irish immigrants Patrick and Bridget Vesey. After graduating from St. Joseph's College in Brooklyn and teaching as a Catholic missionary in Texas, she earned master's degrees in social work from Howard University and in international affairs from Columbia.

Cathy had an extraordinary career as a social worker, writer, editorial director, businesswoman, and director of the UN Information Center in Washington, DC. She was also active in political life, twice running for office in California and serving as finance director for Governor Jerry Brown's 1976 presidential campaign, but she is best known for her groundbreaking and heroic efforts to help refugee women and children.

In 1989, after visiting refugee camps around the world as a board member of the humanitarian International Rescue Committee, Cathy became a founder of the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, now Women's Refugee Commission.

As the Commission's board chair, Cathy traveled the world to listen to refugee women and children and learn about their most pressing needs. She attracted prominent women journalists, academics, and philanthropists to the Commission and became a leading advocate for refugee issues on Capitol Hill, at the UN, and in the media. Under her leadership, the Women's Refugee Commission has shaped policies and practices in the U.S. and around the world to address the needs of women and children displaced by war, persecution, and natural disasters.

On behalf of the people of California, I send my gratitude and condolences to Cathy's husband, Richard Reeves, her daughter Fiona Reeves, sons Colin and Conor O'Neill, Jeffrey Reeves, her grandchildren, and her sister Mary Ann Garvey. Catherine O'Neill was an amazing person who made our world a better and more compassionate place, and we will miss her dearly.●

REMEMBERING FRANCIS JOSEPH CHASE

● Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to a proud veteran, a committed Marylander, a great American, and my good friend, Francis Joseph "Frank" Chase. Frank passed away on December 11, 2012 in his Columbia, MD home after a brief illness. He leaves behind his beloved family: his wife of 50 years, Carole, a daughter Amy, and a granddaughter Grace.

Frank loved his country dearly, and he showed it through years of public service, which began in 1955, when he entered the Army for 3 years. Frank then joined the civil service, beginning at the Social Security Administration

and later moving to the Health Care Financing Administration, both in Baltimore. When he retired in January 1993, Frank left government service with far more than his Federal pension. For at SSA and HCFA, he had honed expertise that would for many years guide him to continue, as a volunteer, to improve the lives of retirees, persons with disabilities, and others.

A man of boundless energy, Frank was a valued confidant and a member of my health advisory group for the past 20 years. With nearly perfect attendance at meetings and conference calls, he could always be counted on for a warm greeting, sage advice, and wisdom born of compassion and clear-sightedness.

A graduate of Dartmouth College, Frank maintained strong ties with his alma mater, serving terms as president of the Dartmouth Alumni Association and president of the Dartmouth Club of Maryland. He also served his community through volunteer work at Common Cause of Maryland, United Seniors of Maryland, and the National Association of Retired Federal Employees.

Through his involvement in Maryland politics, Frank fought tirelessly for fair election practices, propelled by the belief that, regardless of their views, all Marylanders deserved to have their voices heard. Through my many conversations with him over the years, I discovered a man who loved democracy and justice, and who felt compelled to live his life in service to these causes.

In closing, when I think of Frank, I am reminded of the words of Robert Frost in "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening":

The woods are lovely, dark and deep.
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

Frank could have led a comfortable, quiet life after retirement, but he chose instead to keep going for many more miles, working for the causes he believed in deeply and the Nation he loved. Like all who were privileged to know him, I will miss my dear friend Frank Chase, and I ask you to join me in celebrating his life.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)