

So I would ask the authors to modify their unanimous consent request to include a vote on the Burr-Ayotte-Bennet amendment in relation to the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator so modify his request?

Mr. BURR. I ask unanimous consent that the consent be modified to include a vote on the Burr-Ayotte-Bennet amendment in relation to the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator so modify his request?

Is there objection to the modification?

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, we have an opportunity to update and reform the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and to do so in a way that would ensure it works more efficiently and helps solve the problems facing our Federal Government and States. To do so, we need to pursue a few goals.

First, more money from the LWCF should be sent to the States to implement the worthwhile projects. When the LWCF was conceived, 60 percent of its funding was required to go to the States. That statutory requirement was removed years ago, and now just 12 percent of LWCF money is given to the States, with minimal Federal strings attached.

Next, the LWCF should be used to solve, not to exacerbate, the current Federal lands maintenance backlog. The Federal Government has undertaken an impossible task in trying to manage more than 600 million acres of variant terrain dispersed across thousands of miles. Evidence of the Federal Government's failure to manage its holdings is found in the \$13 billion through \$20 billion maintenance backlog, a number that has grown nearly every single year since President Obama has been in office.

Since LWCF was created some 50 years ago, Congress has appropriated nearly \$17 billion to the fund, and 62 percent of this money has been spent on land acquisition, resulting in 5 million acres being added to the Federal estate.

We should work together to improve the LWCF. Let's work together to make sure that North Carolina, New Hampshire, New Mexico, and every other State in this country gets more money. Let's work together to make sure that the Federal Government only acquires such land as it can adequately manage.

On that basis, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. BURR. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from New Mexico is recognized.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, again, I respect Senator BURR, but I am very

disappointed in that objection. I take a back seat to no one in supporting the Land and Water Conservation Fund. It is extremely popular in New Mexico and critical to enabling our outdoors economy. Senator BURR has been a strong leader on the LWCF. He has brought much needed attention and passion to the issue of reauthorization, and I want to work with him on that. But the current strategy of holding TSCA hostage for LWCF is not the proper one. This is the sort of thing that gives the Senate a bad reputation for dysfunction, and I do not see how it will lead to any progress on LWCF. I have not objected to Senator BURR's efforts to pass reauthorization in the Senate. In fact, I have appraised his efforts. I share his frustration that a small minority of Republicans have blocked his efforts. But now, instead of one bill being blocked, we have two. Without this objection, TSCA would pass today almost unanimously after years of hard work.

So instead of holding TSCA hostage, why not consider LWCF on Senator BURR's legislation?

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LEE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUPERSTORM SANDY RELIEF AND DISASTER LOAN PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2015

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, in the small business committee, we have been working on significant legislation that goes to disaster recovery, the Superstorm Sandy Relief and Disaster Loan Program Improvement Act. We are ready to move that legislation and pass it through the entire Senate.

Since Hurricane Katrina devastated my State of Louisiana in 2005, I have fought to support disaster victims and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our Nation's disaster relief and recovery efforts. I have continued this vital focus on disaster mitigation and recovery as Chairman of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. I stand by my principle that when people are there for you, you will be there for them. Following my brief remarks, I will ask unanimous consent that the Senate pass H.R. 208, which has passed the House unanimously, with the Vitter amendment.

With Superstorm Sandy, similar to after Katrina, we continued to see—and both the GAO and IG confirmed—significant shortcomings with the SBA's disaster loan programs, particularly application processing times and inaccurate information, which discouraged victims from applying for assistance. H.R. 208 reopens the SBA disaster loan

program to those victims for one year, and also includes vital reforms and oversight to the SBA's disaster loan program. This bill does not cost anything as the funds have already been appropriated but sit unused.

The RISE After Disaster Act, which is included in my amendment, passed out of the Small Business Committee with unanimous support, and will provide long-term recovery loans to small businesses through community banks after SBA disaster assistance is no longer available; direct Federal agencies to utilize local contractors for response and recovery efforts, rather than government contractors from Washington, DC, and other areas; address contractor malfeasance, such as the Chinese drywall crisis, by allowing homeowners and businesses to use their SBA disaster loans to remediate their property; provide incentives for innovative firms doing research and development to stay in the disaster-affected area, rather than move elsewhere; and require the SBA to take steps to establish a web portal for disaster assistance, whereby applicants can track the status of applications and approvals, as well as submit required supporting documentation electronically.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, Sandy in 2012, and Joaquin just this month—along with far too many other natural disasters—have all illustrated the devastating effects of hurricanes and flooding on our communities. As Chairman of the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, I am committed to serving small businesses across the country and ensuring that they are afforded the resources and assistance in order to protect themselves from and recover after disasters.

This means rigorous oversight of the SBA's disaster loan programs and extensive examination of economic recovery efforts, agency coordination, and the efficiency of disaster assistance delivery. Small businesses are vital to every community's economy and serve as the major source of jobs—one great incentive to have folks return after a major disaster—and is why helping them to more quickly recover is one of the most effective and beneficial tactics we can and should take.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 208 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 208) to improve the disaster assistance programs of the Small Business Administration.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Vitter amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read

a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 2747) was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The bill (H.R. 208), as amended, was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I congratulate Senator VITTER on the passage of the bill and would remark on the support for it by Senator BOOKER and Senator MENENDEZ on our side of the aisle.

ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED FISHING ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2015

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I now in turn ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 774 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 774) to strengthen enforcement mechanisms to stop illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, to amend the Tuna Conventions Act of 1950 to implement the Antigua Convention, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 774) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, we have worked long and hard in the bipartisan Oceans Caucus to clear this Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act of 2015. It will help fishermen on all of our coasts better withstand foreign competition that cheats, that destroys resources, and that engages in what we call pirate fishing. This is a House bill. It passed with a huge majority on the House side, and now having passed in the Senate, it can go to the President for its signature. It will be good for fishermen across the country.

I thank Senator VITTER for his consideration and for working together to clear both of these bills this afternoon.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, assuming it is not too late, I ask unanimous consent to be added as a cosponsor of that legislation as well.

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

Mr. VITTER. Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, to clarify the request, I ask unanimous consent to be added as a cosponsor of the Senate bill, which represents—excuse me, Mr. President. I withdraw the unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The request is withdrawn.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CYBERSECURITY INFORMATION SHARING ACT OF 2015—Continued

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that if cloture is invoked on the Burr-Feinstein substitute amendment to S. 754, the Senate then vote in relation to the Paul amendment No. 2564, as modified, with 10 minutes divided in the usual form prior to the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and call up amendment No. 2117, which is a 60-day extension of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I believe the amendment number is 2717.

Mr. UDALL. It is amendment No. 2717. The Senator is correct.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I thank Senator UDALL. He is a cosponsor of the permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. I came to the Senate prior to the expiration of the Land and Water Conservation Fund with the hope that my colleagues would give it a 60-day extension. It has now expired. The 60-day extension on an expired act isn't even an offer that is on the table.

For my colleagues, let me just remind you that the Land and Water Conservation Fund has been around a long time—50 years. Some say: They have \$20 billion in funds; why don't they just draw on it? It is because they receive about \$900 million a year in royalties off of offshore exploration of energy. Congress in its infinite wisdom said if we are going to tap our natural resources we are going to put part of the royalties of that back into con-

servation. The unfortunate thing is they never got the \$900 million a year. Our appropriators in the Congress have seen fit to give them on average over the life of this fund about \$390 million a year.

Some of my colleagues suggest that there is a fund over there, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and you could just tap it. Well, no, there isn't. The appropriators spent that money long ago. As a matter of fact, this year it was just over \$350 billion for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

So as delighted as I am that he has sponsored the permanent reauthorization, most Members believe that we should reauthorize this permanently. So I would ask the Senator to modify his unanimous consent request to make the amendment read that we would take up the Murkowski-Cantwell permanent extension language.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. LEE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and call up amendment No. 2717, as modified, which is a 1-year extension of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. BURR. I object to the last unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. BURR. And on the current unanimous consent request, if I can address that, reserving the right to object, again, without being repetitive, this is a 1-year extension. The beauty of the effort by Senator CANTWELL and Senator MURKOWSKI, a bipartisan approach to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, addresses exactly what Senator LEE asked for, a reformed bill. This is a package that has been negotiated by Republicans and Democrats—the chairman of the energy committee and an individual who is extremely invested in the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

So I would once again ask the Senator to modify his unanimous consent request to make that amendment read that we move to the Murkowski-Cantwell permanent extension language.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. LEE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. BURR. I object, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I can't tell you how disappointed I am. The Senator from North Carolina objects to making an unrelated amendment to his bill, but he insists on one to ours. It seems we are at a standoff—a standoff with a bipartisan TSCA reform that