

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

AMENDMENT NO. 2965

(Purpose: To modify the funding provided for the Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy)

Strike section 4201(b)(5)(A)(iv) and insert the following:

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) \$325,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2018; and

“(G) \$375,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 and 2020.”; and

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 12 noon tomorrow the Senate vote on the Crapo amendment No. 3021 and at 1:45 p.m. the Senate vote on the Schatz amendment No. 2965; that no second-degree amendments be in order to the Crapo or Schatz amendments prior to the votes; finally, that the time until 12 noon and following the disposition of the Crapo amendment until 1:45 p.m. be equally divided between the two managers or their designees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, and I will not object, but I just want to point out to our colleagues that the chair has worked with us today to get a number of these pending amendments. I know she will probably express this, but it is our intent that hopefully we will have some votes on these other amendments either by voice or additional votes. So I hope colleagues who are interested in other amendments will come down. But I think this process gets us going on the voting and could be on some of these pending amendments as well.

So I do not object.

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, Senators should be aware that we may add additional rollcall votes on amendments to both stacks of votes tomorrow, as the ranking member has said. It would certainly be our intent that we work to process as much as we can during the time that we have.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

HONORING OFFICER DOUGLAS BARNEY

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to a beloved father, a loving husband, and a fallen hero: Officer Douglas Barney of the Unified Police Department. Officer Barney was killed in the line of duty last week when attempting to question a man at the scene of an accident. In the wake of Doug's passing, the Barney family has

experienced an outpouring of love and support from law enforcement officials not only in Utah, but across the Nation. As a testament to Doug's generosity and the many lives he touched, more than 10,000 people attended his funeral services on Monday. Today I join the many who mourn by honoring Officer Douglas Barney—a man of character, commitment, kindness, and courage.

Doug's dedication to law enforcement was matched by his zeal for life. As a teenager, he explored the outdoors, rode dirt bikes on the hills behind his home, and raced cars on Utah's old Bonneville Raceway. As a police officer, he loved the thrill of a high-speed chase and had a knack for defusing tense situations with a well-timed joke. An indomitable sense of humor endeared him not only to those he loved, but even to those he arrested.

On one particular occasion, he was tasked to handle a DUI situation involving a female arrestee whose behavior was growing increasingly erratic. Instead of reacting with force, Doug responded with humor by continuously joking with the arrestee. His off-the-cuff comedy replaced the woman's threats with smiles and her cries with laughter. Eventually, she calmed down enough to cooperate. As one of Doug's colleagues recalls, the two left “the best of friends.” Only Doug could have managed such a feat.

Doug's humor helped him cope with the rigors of a stressful career in law enforcement. It also helped him overcome serious illness. No stranger to adversity, Doug battled back from bladder cancer just a year before his death. Cancer could weaken his body, but it could do nothing to dampen his spirits. Throughout the ordeal, Doug maintained a cheerful disposition and refined his trademark sense of humor.

In addition to laughter, Doug drew strength from family. He befriended his wife, Erika, when they were growing up together in California. While Erika was studying at Brigham Young University, their relationship took a romantic turn, and Doug asked her to marry him. Erika was caught off guard by the proposal and was initially reluctant, but Doug persisted. Time and again, he asked Erika to be his wife. After several months, she finally accepted, and the two were married in 1996. Together, they had three beautiful children: Matilda, Meredith, and Jacob.

Shortly after their marriage, Doug told Erika that he dreamed of becoming a police officer. With her support, he began an 18-year career in law enforcement. Doug's fellow police officers will always remember him for his work ethic, gregariousness, and larger-than-life personality. Over many years of consistent, hard work, Doug won not only the love and friendship of his colleagues, but also their respect and admiration.

Like thousands across our Nation, I am deeply saddened by the passing of Officer Barney. I am immensely grate-

ful for Doug's example and for the service of countless police officers like him. Each day, these selfless men and women risk their own well-being to ensure the safety of others. They are the most courageous of public servants, and I believe Doug was among the best of them. He was a man who lived and loved deeply. He made people laugh, he made them smile, and he helped them hope.

I pray that Doug's memory might continue to inspire and bless those he loved.

WILDFIRE FUNDING AND FOREST MANAGEMENT

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to enter into a colloquy with the chairman of the Budget Committee, Senator ENZI of Wyoming, and the chairman of the Agriculture Committee, Senator ROBERTS of Kansas.

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Last session, I came to the floor to speak about the significant wildfire provisions we included in the Omnibus appropriations bill, why Congress could not accept a flawed proposal supported by this administration and a handful of Senators, and to outline a path forward on this important issue in 2016.

As we begin consideration of the energy bill, I have come to the floor to add further definition to that path forward. As many of you know, wildfire budgeting and forest management overlap jurisdictionally with several other Committees so I want to thank my colleagues, Senators Enzi and ROBERTS, for joining me here.

In my view, the time has come to find real solutions to the challenges we face in each of these areas. This crisis has gone on for long enough. It has grown worse and worse. Our lands are burning. Communities are being devastated. And it is time for Congress to act.

I want to start first with wildfire budgeting. For some time now, Members of this Chamber have been talking past each other. Before we can come up with a solution, we have to at least agree on the problem we are trying to solve.

We have all been saying that we want to solve the problem of “fire borrowing”—the unsustainable practice of borrowing from non-fire government programs so that fire response activities can continue when wildfire suppression accounts are depleted.

One way to fix the problem of “fire borrowing” is to continue to fully fund the predictable costs of wildfire suppression, the 10-year rolling average, while allowing access to additional funds through a limited cap adjustment when the agencies run out of suppression funds, for the emergency and unpredictable costs of wildfire suppression.

Another issue relating to wildfire budgeting is the percentage of the Forest Service's discretionary budget

spent on wildfire. The Forest Service has said that it now spends nearly half of its discretionary budget on wildfire. Some of our colleagues and this administration have conflated the fire borrowing problem with this budgeting issue. They have sought to shift anticipated wildfire suppression costs off-budget to limit how much of the Forest Service's discretionary budget is spent on fire with the goal of "freeing up" dollars for other programs under the discretionary cap.

Cap adjustments and budgeting generally are within your committee's jurisdiction. I say to Senator ENZI. Have I properly characterized the wildfire budgeting issues we are wrestling with?

Mr. ENZI. I agree with Senator MURKOWSKI that fire borrowing has been mischaracterized and conflated with the Forest Service's overall concern about its discretionary budget. Although I recognize the fact that the Forest Service has serious management challenges, consensus doesn't exist in the Senate to adjust the caps so the Forest Service can spend more money on other programs within its discretionary budget.

That said, Congress must find a fiscally responsible solution to wildfire funding and fire borrowing. I welcome the opportunity to review the fire borrowing issue in my committee and how the unpredictable costs of wildfire suppression have forced Congress to appropriate emergency dollars in past years. We can find a solution to budgeting for wildfires. We cannot, however, only work on the budget issues without also making changes to the way we manage our forests. It is crucial to ensure taxpayer dollars are being used efficiently and effectively.

Just as there are many State, local, and Federal partners in the field when it comes to suppressing wildfires during the fire season, it is important that all the necessary committees in the Senate work together on this issue. I look forward to addressing these issues with Senator MURKOWSKI and Senator ROBERTS, with my committee members, and with other Western Senators interested in the outcome.

Mr. ROBERTS. Thank you to my colleagues, Senator ENZI and Senator MURKOWSKI, for their work on these important issues related to wildfire and forest management. I would like to echo their concerns and share with the rest of my colleagues that I agree with them entirely that this is a critical issue that needs to be addressed. Coming off the end of a catastrophic wildfire season with a record amount of acres burned, it is essential that the Senate turn its attention to finding a wildfire solution in 2016—and through regular order.

As chairman of the Agriculture Committee, it is my first and foremost priority that the committee serve as the platform for America's farmers, ranchers, small businesses, rural communities—and forest land owners and forestry stakeholders, a constituency

sometimes forgotten. As chairman of the Agriculture Committee, we intend to serve and represent all of agriculture, of which forestry plays an important role.

Last November, the Agriculture Committee held a hearing on the effects of wildfire and heard testimony from stakeholders on the budgetary impacts and threats to natural resources on Federal, State, and private forest lands. The message from that hearing was unanimous and clear: it is time for Congress to act and advocate for solutions that not only address funding fixes, but more importantly advocate for solutions that improve the management of our national forests.

H.R. 2647, the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015, which passed the House last summer, has been referred to the Senate Agriculture Committee. This legislation, while not perfect, includes provisions that attempt to address both the funding mechanism and incorporate meaningful forest management tools which are the paramount issues in the overall wildfire debate. I recognize the challenges that remain ahead with crafting such a legislative proposal that satisfies all interested parties involved in this larger debate. With that being said, I stand ready to work with my colleagues to find areas where common ground and consensus can be achieved to address the overall wildfire issues facing us today.

I look forward to working together with Senator MURKOWSKI, Senator ENZI, and others to provide the necessary tools to expedite the much needed work on not just Western forests, but also nationwide, encompassing Federal, State, and private forest lands.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I thank Senator ROBERTS. I look forward to working with him as well. And he is right. The wildfire problem is not just a budgeting problem—it is also a management problem. Reforming the way we manage our forests is absolutely crucial. Healthy, resilient forests are fire-resistant forests; yet despite knowing the value of fuel reduction treatments in mitigating wildfire risks, increasing firefighter safety, and protecting and restoring the health of our forests, active management is still often met with a series of discouraging and near insurmountable obstacles.

High upfront costs, long planning horizons, and regulatory requirements—including what seem like unending environmental reviews—are impeding our ability to implement treatments at the pace and scale these wildfires are occurring. We must also work with our State agencies, local communities, and the public to increase community preparedness and install fuel breaks to break up fuel connectivity to keep fires small.

As you can see here, the chairmen of the committees with jurisdiction over the wildfire budgeting and forest management issues are ready to roll up our

sleeves in 2016. We are going to work through regular order, in a transparent and collaborative manner, to come up with a legislative solution.

We look forward to the input of our colleagues, who also care deeply about these issues. My plan is to dedicate whatever time we have in February after this bill clears the floor—and the entire month of March—to producing this legislative product. I appreciate Members' willingness to work with us and believe we are on a good track to find real solutions to our wildfire challenges.

IMPROVING THE FEDERAL RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES IN MENTAL HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of my remarks to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

IMPROVING THE FEDERAL RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES IN MENTAL HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA

Before we begin today's hearing, I want to briefly mention for the information of committee members one of the next items on the committee's agenda, and that's biomedical innovation. I was glad to announce yesterday our committee's plans to hold its first markup on Feb. 9 to consider the first set of bipartisan bills aimed at spurring biomedical innovation for American patients. Senators and staff on our committee have been working throughout 2015 to produce a number of bipartisan pieces of legislation that are ready for the full committee to consider.

The House has completed its work with its 21st Century Cures Act. The president announced his support for a precision medicine initiative and a cancer "moonshot." It is urgent that the Senate finish its work and turn into law these ideas that will help virtually every American.

The committee has also been working for months on legislation to help achieve interoperability of electronic health records for doctors, hospitals and their patients—and the committee will be releasing a bipartisan staff draft of that legislation later today for public comment.

This February markup will be the first of three committee meetings that we have planned to debate and amend bills as the committee moves forward on the bipartisan goal of modernizing the Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health to get safe, cutting-edge drugs and devices to patients more quickly.

Last week, in his State of the Union address, the president reiterated his support for a Precision Medicine Initiative and announced the administration's cancer "moonshot" initiative—and I look forward to working with the president and Vice President Biden.

In addition, this year the committee intends to be busy on oversight of the Every Student Succeeds Act. A law that's not implemented appropriately is not worth the paper it's printed on, and we will plan a series of hearings this year to make sure that it's implemented the way Congress wrote it and the president signed it.

And, of course, we've done a great deal of work on reauthorizing the Higher Education