

(Mr. BOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3018, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the Federal income tax system simpler, fairer, and more fiscally responsible, and for other purposes.

S. 3036

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3036, a bill to establish the Office of the National Alzheimer's Project.

S. 3038

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3038, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to prevent the enforcement of certain national primary drinking water regulations unless sufficient funding is available.

S. 3047

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3047, a bill to terminate the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and for other purposes.

S. 3056

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3056, a bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to repeal a section of that Act relating to exportation and importation of natural gas.

S. 3058

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3058, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the special diabetes programs for Type I diabetes and Indians under that Act.

S. 3059

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3059, a bill to improve energy efficiency of appliances, lighting, and buildings, and for other purposes.

S. 3065

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3065, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the readiness of the Armed Forces by replacing the current policy concerning homosexuality in the Armed Forces, referred to as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell", with a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

S. 3095

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3095, a bill to reduce the deficit by establishing discretionary caps for non-security spending.

S. 3098

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a co-

sponsor of S. 3098, a bill to prohibit proprietary trading and certain relationships with hedge funds and private equity funds, to address conflicts of interest with respect to certain securitizations, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 409

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 409, a resolution calling on members of the Parliament in Uganda to reject the proposed "Anti-Homosexuality Bill", and for other purposes.

S. RES. 432

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 432, a bill supporting the goals and ideals of the Year of the Lung 2010.

AMENDMENT NO. 3453

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3453 proposed to H.R. 1586, a bill to impose an additional tax on bonuses received from certain TARP recipients.

AMENDMENT NO. 3454

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. LEMIEUX), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3454 proposed to H.R. 1586, a bill to impose an additional tax on bonuses received from certain TARP recipients.

AMENDMENT NO. 3458

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3458 proposed to H.R. 1586, a bill to impose an additional tax on bonuses received from certain TARP recipients.

AMENDMENT NO. 3463

At the request of Mr. BENNETT, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3463 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1586, a bill to impose an additional tax on bonuses received from certain TARP recipients.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. BURR, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BURRIS, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 3107. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2010, in the rates of compensation for veterans

with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today, as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I introduce the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2010.

This measure would direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase, effective December 1, 2010, the rates of veterans' compensation to keep pace with the rising cost-of-living in this country, if such an adjustment is triggered by an increase in the Consumer Price Index. This legislation, commonly referred to as the COLA, would make an increase available to veterans at the same level as a cost-of-living increase, if provided to those who receive Social Security benefits.

My colleagues on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, including Senators BURR, ROCKEFELLER, MURRAY, SANDERS, BROWN of Ohio, TESTER, BEGICH, BURRIS, SPECTER, ISAKSON, and GRAHAM join me in introducing this important legislation. I appreciate their continued support of the Nation's veterans.

Congress regularly enacts a cost-of-living adjustment for veterans' compensation in order to ensure that inflation does not erode the purchasing power of those veterans and survivors who depend upon this income to meet their daily needs. Last year, Congress passed, and the President signed into law, Public Law 111-37. While there was no cost-of-living increase in 2010 due to a decline in the Consumer Price Index, the 2011 adjustment has not yet been determined.

The COLA affects, among other benefits, veterans' disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children. It is projected that over 3.5 million veterans and survivors will be in receipt of compensation benefits in fiscal year 2011. Many of these recipients depend upon these tax-free payments not only to provide for their own basic needs, but those of their spouses and children as well.

It is important that we view veterans' compensation, including the COLA, and indeed all benefits earned by veterans, as a continuing cost of war. It is clear that the ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan will continue to result in injuries and disabilities that will yield an increase in claims for compensation.

Payment of disability compensation to those of our Nation's veterans who have an illness or disability related to their service constitutes one of the central missions of the Department of Veterans Affairs. It is a necessary measure of appreciation afforded to those veterans whose lives were forever altered by their service to this country.

I urge our colleagues to work together to ensure this benefit remains

available and is not diminished by the effects of inflation. I also ask our colleagues for their continued support for the Nation's veterans.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 3107

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2010".

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) RATE ADJUSTMENT.—Effective on December 1, 2010, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall increase, in accordance with subsection (c), the dollar amounts in effect on November 30, 2010, for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation under the provisions specified in subsection (b).

(b) AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.—The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are the following:

(1) WARTIME DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1115(1) of such title.

(3) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar amount under section 1162 of such title.

(4) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO SURVIVING SPOUSE.—Each of the dollar amounts under subsections (a) through (d) of section 1311 of such title.

(5) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO CHILDREN.—Each of the dollar amounts under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

(c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—

(1) PERCENTAGE.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), each dollar amount described in subsection (b) shall be increased by the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December 1, 2010, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

(2) ROUNDING.—Each dollar amount increased under paragraph (1), if not a whole dollar amount, shall be rounded to the next lower whole dollar amount.

(d) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons under section 10 of Public Law 85-857 (72 Stat. 1263) who have not received compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

(e) PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified in subsection (b), as increased under subsection (a), not later than the date on which the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act during fiscal year 2011.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 3109. A bill to require the Secretary of the Army to conduct levee

system evaluations and certifications on receipt of requests from non-Federal interests; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Rural Community Flood Protection Act of 2010.

We have all seen, and many of us have experienced firsthand, the devastation that a flood can bring to any community. This devastation is experienced equally, whether your home is in an area that is high or low hazard, rural or urban, wealthy or poor. Flood control is a multi-pronged effort involving structural and non-structural flood control measures, hazard mitigation, emergency planning, and insurance. Our Nation has a myriad of programs designed to address flood hazards. FEMA produces flood maps to define the risk and operates hazard mitigation programs to reduce risk. The National Flood Insurance Program, NFIP, provides flood insurance to property owners in a mapped risk area. The Army Corps of Engineers designs and constructs flood control projects. This hodgepodge of responsibilities has always been a challenge for the U.S., and it continues to be one today.

Nowhere is this challenge more evident than in the process of FEMA's map modernization program, the Corps' levee certification responsibilities, and NFIP program requirements. This issue has lingered around the edges for years, and its impact is now being felt in an enormous way in Montana where communities struggling to navigate the maze of what seems to be an overwhelming Federal bureaucracy are incredibly frustrated.

Let me begin by saying that it is important that we recognize the risks we face before we make snap judgments about whether preventive action should or shouldn't be taken. Specifically, it is a good idea for FEMA to update our Nation's flood maps so that we can be honest with ourselves about the risks we face. However, that process, must be transparent and it must recognize the differences between Sacramento, CA, and Saco, MT. It can be overwhelming for a small community in Montana to participate in this process. That is why I have written to FEMA Director Craig Fugate asking him to consider the needs of small, rural communities as the Agency progresses with its map modernization program.

Once flood hazards are accurately mapped, communities must work to ensure that their flood control structures, if they have them, are up to par and can actually provide protection for the hazards they face. Without a levee "certification" by a professional engineer, those portions of a community located behind the levee, believing for years that they had adequate flood protection, are suddenly faced with a map that depicts them as in the floodplain, unprotected, required to purchase flood insurance.

It seems like it would be a simple process to get a levee certification.

Traditionally, the Army Corps has performed this work. However, in 2008 the Army Corps of Engineers established a policy that it would no longer perform levee certifications on non-Federally operated levees. This policy has left communities like Great Falls, Montana high and dry when it comes to a certification process. I wrote to the Corps of Engineers on February 18, 2010, asking the Agency to re-evaluate this policy.

I hope that the Corps will change their policy. But, Montana cannot wait for that to happen. Great Falls, Vaughn, Miles City, Glendive, Saco, Havre, Forsyth, Malta, Glasgow and others cannot wait for the Corps deliberations. That is why I am introducing legislation today that will give the Corps direct authority to perform levee certifications. In addition, my bill includes special provisions for small communities and for those levee districts that are operated by a volunteer staff, allowing the Corps to perform these certifications at 100 percent Federal cost.

This bill is one step in what will be a long process for all of us as we update and upgrade our knowledge of the risks posed by flooding, our current level of protection, and additional steps we need to take to ensure that lives and property are not unnecessarily lost. In the process of that upgrade, we cannot lose sight of the impact of this process and these decisions on our local communities.

We don't want the cost of staying in the NFIP to rise above the point where small communities can participate. We don't want a burdensome Federal bureaucracy to make it impossible for people to make good decisions about their own safety and that of their community. In these economic times, rural communities are struggling to come up with enough money just to keep afloat, and a hefty certification fee can be an undue burden.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that letters of support be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, March 11, 2010.

Administrator W. CRAIG FUGATE,
Office of the Administrator, Federal Emergency
Management Agency, C Street, S.W., Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR ADMINISTRATOR FUGATE: I am writing to express concern about the impact of FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Map Modernization on small communities across Montana. Let me state up front that I fully support your agency's efforts to provide the nation with digital flood hazard data and maps that are more reliable. It is critically important that land owners are protected against the risk to life and property posed by flooding.

However, as your agency conducts the Map Modernization in Montana, I urge you to take every possible step to accommodate the unique circumstances small rural communities face. For example, small towns often

cannot afford to challenge FEMA's preliminary flood insurance study. These communities are left in the untenable position of paying thousands of dollars for an engineering firm to develop the revised flood insurance study required to appeal FEMA's preliminary study, or to accept FEMA's preliminary flood insurance study as is, even if there are valid grounds to dispute the study's findings. It is clear that an improved appeals process could help correct errors made during FEMA's map modernization and thus prevent unneeded flood insurance expenses.

Please provide a detailed list of the steps your agency is taking to accommodate the special needs of rural communities during the map modernization process. Specifically, detail how your agency accommodates appeals to a preliminary flood insurance study by small communities with small budgets.

Thank you for your prompt response to this request.

Sincerely,

MAX BAUCUS.

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, February 18, 2010.

Hon. JO-ELLEN DARCY,

Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works),
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, G Street,
NW., Washington, DC.

DEAR ASSISTANT SECRETARY DARCY: I am writing to you regarding the January 23, 2008 memo establishing priorities for Fiscal Year 2008 Levee Safety Program Inspection Funds. Specifically, I would like you to provide additional justification for your policy determination that levee certification is a non-Federal responsibility and that these certifications will not be funded using Federal funds.

Throughout Montana and the rest of the country, non-Federal sponsors for Federally-constructed levees are struggling to work through the FEMA floodplain re-mapping process and the associated requirements for levee certification. I recognize the need to ensure that accurate information is provided to property owners and decision-makers regarding the residual risk of flooding that exists behind a flood control structure and to ensure that such properties are adequately insured to prevent excessive disaster payments by the Federal government. I understand that FEMA's map updates will portray a floodplain area protected by a certified levee as an area with 1 in 100 year flood protect and a floodplain area that is protected by an uncertified levee as unprotected.

Therefore, the levee certification process is a critical step in the nation's efforts to ensure that our existing flood control system offers viable protection for life and property. First and foremost, from an engineering perspective, it is important that any flaws or shortcomings in our existing levees are identified and repaired before a disaster, not after. Second, because the certification of a levee is the determining factor in how a particular floodplain will be mapped and what insurance requirements will apply, it is important that communities have access to a clear, reasonable process to obtain this certification.

Prior to January 2008, the Corps performed levee certifications for Federally-constructed levees. On January 23, 2008, a memorandum regarding prioritization of fiscal year 2008 funds was released by your office, which precluded the Corps from using fiscal year 2008 funds to perform levee certifications and stated that levee certification is a non-Federal responsibility. Please provide your justification for this abrupt change in policy, in addition to a cost analysis of the impact of this change to non-Federal sponsors. Please describe the outreach that was

performed prior to and after this decision to ensure that levee managers throughout the country were properly informed. Please articulate, in detail, the options available for levee districts seeking certification of their Federally-constructed levee. In determining the effective date of your new policy, was a transition plan considered and/or implemented for those levees that were already moving through the remapping process and were anticipating that the certification process would be conducted by the Corps? Was consideration given to the differing technical and financial capabilities of levee districts throughout the country to ensure that small, rural communities are not adversely impacted by this policy change when compared to large communities? Has the Corps considered the lack of engineering resources in certain parts of the country as a planning factor for implementing the new January 2008 policy? The January 23 memo states that the Corps can perform levee certification on a reimbursable basis. How do the limitations adopted in 31 U.S.C. 6505, as amended, affect the ability of the Corps to perform these certifications? Have levee districts in small, rural communities elected to pay the Corps to perform levee certifications since January 2008? Please describe how this decision was and continues to be coordinated with the FEMA remapping process. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

MAX BAUCUS.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 451—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR A DESIGNATION OF A "WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY"

Mr. BURR (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. JOHANNIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans Affairs:

S. RES. 451

Whereas the Vietnam War was fought in the Republic of South Vietnam from 1961 to 1975, and involved North Vietnamese regular forces and Viet Cong guerrilla forces in armed conflict with United States Armed Forces and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam;

Whereas the United States Armed Forces became involved in Vietnam because the United States Government wanted to provide direct military support to the Government of South Vietnam to defend itself against the growing Communist threat from North Vietnam;

Whereas members of the United States Armed Forces began serving in an advisory role to the Government of the Republic of South Vietnam in 1961;

Whereas, as a result of the Gulf of Tonkin incidents on August 2 and 4, 1964, Congress overwhelmingly passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (Public Law 88-408), on August 7, 1964, which provided the authority to the President of the United States to prosecute the war against North Vietnam;

Whereas, in 1965, United States Armed Forces ground combat units arrived in Vietnam;

Whereas, by the end of 1965, there were 80,000 United States troops in Vietnam, and by 1969, a peak of approximately 543,000 troops was reached;

Whereas, on January 27, 1973, the Treaty of Paris was signed, which required the release

of all United States prisoners-of-war held in North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all United States Armed Forces from South Vietnam;

Whereas, on March 30, 1973, the United States Armed Forces completed the withdrawal of combat units and combat support units from South Vietnam;

Whereas, on April 30, 1975, North Vietnamese regular forces captured Saigon, the capitol of South Vietnam, effectively placing South Vietnam under Communist control;

Whereas more than 58,000 members of the United States Armed Forces lost their lives in Vietnam and more than 300,000 members of the Armed Forces were wounded;

Whereas, in 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in the District of Columbia to commemorate those members of the United States Armed Forces who died or were declared missing-in-action in Vietnam;

Whereas the Vietnam War was an extremely divisive issue among the people of the United States and a conflict that caused a generation of veterans to wait too long for the United States public to acknowledge and honor the efforts and services of such veterans;

Whereas members of the United States Armed Forces who served bravely and faithfully for the United States during the Vietnam War were often wrongly criticized for the policy decisions made by 4 presidential administrations in the United States;

Whereas the establishment of a "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" would be an appropriate way to honor those members of the United States Armed Forces who served in South Vietnam and throughout Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War; and

Whereas March 30, 2010, would be an appropriate day to establish as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors and recognizes the contributions of veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces in Vietnam during war and during peace;

(2) encourages States and local governments to also establish "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day"; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" with appropriate ceremonies and activities that—

(A) provide the appreciation Vietnam War veterans deserve, but did not receive upon returning home from the war;

(B) demonstrate the resolve that never again shall the Nation disregard and denigrate a generation of veterans;

(C) promote awareness of the faithful service and contributions of such veterans during their military service as well as to their communities since returning home;

(D) promote awareness of the importance of entire communities empowering veterans and the families of veterans to readjust to civilian life after military service; and

(E) promote opportunities for such veterans to assist younger veterans returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in rehabilitation from wounds, both seen and unseen, and to support the reintegration of younger veterans into civilian life.

SENATE RESOLUTION 452—SUPPORTING INCREASED MARKET ACCESS FOR EXPORTS OF UNITED STATES BEEF AND BEEF PRODUCTS TO JAPAN

Mr. JOHANNIS (for himself, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BROWBACK, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr.