

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question now occurs on agreeing to amendment No. 4025.

Mr. ROTH. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The question occurs on agreeing to amendment No. 4025. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 57, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 154 Leg.]

YEAS—57

Akaka	Exon	Mikulski
Baucus	Feingold	Moseley-Braun
Bennett	Feinstein	Moynihan
Biden	Ford	Murkowski
Bingaman	Harkin	Murray
Boxer	Hatch	Nickles
Bradley	Hollings	Pell
Breaux	Inouye	Pressler
Bryan	Jeffords	Pryor
Bumpers	Johnston	Reid
Burns	Kennedy	Robb
Byrd	Kerrey	Rockefeller
Chafee	Kerry	Roth
Cohen	Kohl	Sarbanes
D'Amato	Lautenberg	Simon
Daschle	Leahy	Snowe
DeWine	Levin	Specter
Dodd	Lieberman	Wellstone
Dorgan	Lott	Wyden

NAYS—43

Abraham	Gorton	Mack
Ashcroft	Graham	McCain
Bond	Gramm	McConnell
Brown	Grams	Nunn
Campbell	Grassley	Santorum
Coats	Gregg	Shelby
Cochran	Hatfield	Simpson
Conrad	Heflin	Smith
Coverdell	Helms	Stevens
Craig	Hutchison	Thomas
Dole	Inhofe	Thompson
Domenici	Kassebaum	Thurmond
Faircloth	Kempthorne	Warner
Frist	Kyl	
Glenn	Lugar	

The amendment (No. 4025) was agreed to.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for 12 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

Mr. GRAMS. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. Grams pertaining to the introduction of S. 1805 are

located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. GRAMS. Thank you, Mr. President.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. KENNEDY. I would like to be able to proceed for 4 minutes as if in morning business.

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

INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, today's action by the House of Representatives removes one of the Republican's obstacles to successful action on the minimum wage. An overwhelming majority of House Republicans, 81 percent, tried to kill the increase by attaching a "poison pill" to exempt all workers of small business, but 43 courageous Republicans stood up to the extremists in their party and spit out the poison pill.

As the price for accepting an increase, House Republicans tried to deny any minimum wage at all for millions of men and women who work for small business. It was a Republican sneak attack on the minimum wage, and it did not deserve to pass. The minimum wage is supposed to be a floor. It is wrong for Republicans to try to turn that floor into a trap door.

The Republican philosophy seems to be the only good minimum wage is no minimum wage. It is bad enough that in today's economy, America has to compete with sweatshop labor overseas. If the Republicans have their way, American workers and American employers will have to compete with sweatshop labor right here in our own backyard. How very Republican. Every previous Congress that dealt with the minimum wage voted to expand coverage and give the benefits of the law's protection to more and more Americans. Now is no time to roll back that progress. It is time to end the Republican war on hard-working American families, and I am confident the Senate will also reject any Republican scheme to roll back the minimum wage. No one who works for a living should have to live in poverty.

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

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

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak in morning business for no more than 5 minutes.

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

FOREST HEALTH

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, within an hour or so, we will be adjourning and out for the Memorial Day recess. But when we return, it is my plan to mark up legislation in the Public Lands and Forestry Subcommittee that I chair, dealing with forest health, the health of the forests of our country.

For well over a decade now, we have studied the issue of how to manage our forests in light of the recurrence of wild storm style forest fires that continue to devastate our forests across the Pacific Northwest and across the Southwest every time we get into a dry period, especially the kind the Southwest, New Mexico and Arizona and Colorado, are experiencing at this moment.

What we have found, Mr. President, is that in our great ability to put out fires, we have allowed to build up on our forest floors, massive amounts of fuel in the form of dead and dying trees as a result of bug kill, as a result of fungus, or simply as a result of the overpopulation of our trees and therefore their death because of lack of moisture. In my State of Idaho and across the inland West, where before man came to that region we had tremendously healthy forests and populations of trees of 40 or 50 or 60 trees per acre, now, because of our ability to put out fires, we are finding that we have 300 and 400 trees per acre. Of course, there is only so much moisture. When we get into a drought cycle, there is not enough moisture to keep all of those trees alive.

What we are finding is that before we had this tremendous ability to put out fires, fires would come along on a relatively regular basis, caused by lightning strikes or actually caused by native Americans who saw the useful tool of fire. It would burn at a low rate, at a low pace, burn off the shrubbery and the brush, allow the mature trees to stand and allow young trees that had reached a certain age to survive. That kept the forests, primarily of the West, in a very productive and rather pastoral form.

But that changed and it has changed dramatically over the last 50 years, as we learned to put out fires. But we did not go in and do what Mother Nature was doing, and that was to thin trees or to take down the underbrush. As a result of that, we have had a massive fuel loading in many of the forests of the West and Southwest.

Mr. President, you and I have witnessed, in the last several months, fires in New Mexico and Arizona and now in Colorado that, by our forest scientists'

estimation, are the most intense and hottest wild fires we have ever experienced. As a result, Mother Nature is not served well. These fires devastate the forests, leaving not even a snag standing, destroy the ecosystems, and scald the soil in a way there is little to no recovery for a period of years and years. Those are not normal fires. They are abnormal fires, as a result of massive fuel buildup.

I was visiting with the Senator from New Mexico, Senator DOMENICI, about the fires in his State. One of those areas that was burned had been devastated by beetles. Better than 50 percent of the stand was dead. Yet, because of current law and because of certain interest groups, we were not allowed to go in and thin and clean and allow new growth to start. As a result of that, fire swept through there and destroyed the whole area.

S. 391, the bill that I have worked for over a year to craft, visiting with scientists, holding hearings, and making sure we build a strong bipartisan effort, better known as forest health legislation, the kind I want to mark up as soon as we get back here in early June and bring it to the floor for a debate, hopefully it can become law and become the public policy and a new management tool for our U.S. Forest Service.

It would allow the Forest Service to go in and look at these lands and under current environmental law assure they have the flexibility to go in and thin and remove brush and actually even use fire in a selective way, to assure that our forests can regain their health and regain their vitality in an environmental way and not be swept away and destroyed, as the forests we have seen under fire in the last few weeks throughout the Southwest. Of course, in the State of Colorado last week, when man got in the way of the fire, or man's dwellings, they, too, were swept away, as was true in the State of Idaho in 1994 when we saw wildfires, as a result of our forest health, that were beyond man's recognition.

So I hope when we come back, we can join the wisdom of the Spokesman-Review newspaper that editorialized yesterday in my area, in the inland West, saying that we ought to pass S. 395, we ought to make good public policy, and we ought to allow, once again, strong multiple-use environmental standards to return to our public forests and to the management of those public forests. So it is my wish we mark up S. 395 and move it to become public law.

I hope in early June we can have it here on the floor of the U.S. Senate for a good debate and passage.

I yield the remainder of my time.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET

The Senate continued with the consideration of the concurrent resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, for the information of the Senate, as I understand it, I believe Senator DOMENICI would confirm, we have two amendments remaining, by Senator MCCAIN and Senator BYRD, and final passage. It seems possible to me, because I know some people are trying to catch planes, if we expedite this, we could be through voting by about 5:20 or something of that nature.

I ask unanimous consent the pending amendment be temporarily set aside so Senator BYRD may offer his amendment.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 4040

(Purpose: To improve our water and sewer systems, national parks and Everglades, to be offset by closing corporate loopholes and changes in tax expenditures)

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from West Virginia [Mr. BYRD], for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. LAUTENBERG, proposes an amendment numbered 4040.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

On page 3, line 5, increase the amount by \$201,000,000.

On page 3, line 6, increase the amount by \$408,000,000.

On page 3, line 7, increase the amount by \$649,000,000.

On page 3, line 8, increase the amount by \$946,000,000.

On page 3, line 9, increase the amount by \$1,068,000,000.

On page 3, line 10, increase the amount by \$1,142,000,000.

On page 3, line 14, increase the amount by \$201,000,000.

On page 3, line 15, increase the amount by \$408,000,000.

On page 3, line 16, increase the amount by \$649,000,000.

On page 3, line 17, increase the amount by \$946,000,000.

On page 3, line 18, increase the amount by \$1,068,000,000.

On page 3, line 19, increase the amount by \$1,142,000,000.

On page 4, line 8, increase the amount by \$1,011,000,000.

On page 4, line 9, increase the amount by \$1,049,000,000.

On page 4, line 10, increase the amount by \$1,089,000,000.

On page 4, line 11, increase the amount by \$1,131,000,000.

On page 4, line 12, increase the amount by \$1,068,000,000.

On page 4, line 13, increase the amount by \$1,110,000,000.

On page 4, line 17, increase the amount by \$201,000,000.

On page 4, line 18, increase the amount by \$408,000,000.

On page 4, line 19, increase the amount by \$649,000,000.

On page 4, line 20, increase the amount by \$946,000,000.

On page 4, line 21, increase the amount by \$1,068,000,000.

On page 4, line 22, increase the amount by \$1,142,000,000.

On page 15, line 16, increase the amount by \$190,000,000.

On page 15, line 17, increase the amount by \$118,000,000.

On page 15, line 24, increase the amount by \$224,000,000.

On page 15, line 25, increase the amount by \$160,000,000.

On page 16, line 7, increase the amount by \$258,000,000.

On page 16, line 8, increase the amount by \$222,000,000.

On page 16, line 15, increase the amount by \$293,000,000.

On page 16, line 16, increase the amount by \$276,000,000.

On page 16, line 23, increase the amount by \$228,000,000.

On page 16, line 24, increase the amount by \$312,000,000.

On page 17, line 7, increase the amount by \$265,000,000.

On page 17, line 8, increase the amount by \$304,000,000.

On page 23, line 15, increase the amount by \$821,000,000.

On page 23, line 16, increase the amount by \$83,000,000.

On page 23, line 23, increase the amount by \$825,000,000.

On page 23, line 24, increase the amount by \$248,000,000.

On page 24, line 7, increase the amount by \$831,000,000.

On page 24, line 8, increase the amount by \$427,000,000.

On page 24, line 15, increase the amount by \$838,000,000.

On page 24, line 16, increase the amount by \$670,000,000.

On page 24, line 23, increase the amount by \$840,000,000.

On page 24, line 24, increase the amount by \$756,000,000.

On page 25, line 7, increase the amount by \$845,000,000.

On page 25, line 8, increase the amount by \$838,000,000.

On page 52, line 14, increase the amount by \$1,011,000,000.

On page 52, line 15, increase the amount by \$201,000,000.

On page 52, line 21, increase the amount by \$1,049,000,000.

On page 52, line 22, increase the amount by \$408,000,000.

On page 52, line 24, increase the amount by \$1,089,000,000.

On page 52, line 25, increase the amount by \$649,000,000.

On page 53, line 2, increase the amount by \$1,131,000,000.

On page 53, line 3, increase the amount by \$946,000,000.

On page 53, line 5, increase the amount by \$1,068,000,000.

On page 53, line 6, increase the amount by \$1,068,000,000.

On page 53, line 8, increase the amount by \$1,110,000,000.

On page 53, line 9, increase the amount by \$1,142,000,000.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I voted for the amendment that Mr. DOMENICI offered earlier. It was a good amendment. But, unlike the Domenici amendment which scattershots funds for many popular programs, my amendment targets \$1.5 billion for the safe operation of our parks and \$5 billion for the cleanup of our water and construction of our sewer systems, which are being neglected and run down. Our water is dirty; our parks are rundown. This is a