

that debate on H.R. 5005, an act to establish the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close? The yeas and nays are required under the rule. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CLINTON). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 83, nays 16, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 248 Leg.]

YEAS—83

Allard	Domenici	Lott
Allen	Dorgan	Lugar
Barkley	Edwards	McCain
Baucus	Ensign	McConnell
Bayh	Enzi	Mikulski
Bennett	Feinstein	Miller
Biden	Fitzgerald	Murkowski
Bingaman	Frist	Nelson (FL)
Bond	Graham	Nelson (NE)
Breaux	Gramm	Nickles
Brownback	Grassley	Roberts
Bunning	Gregg	Rockefeller
Burns	Hagel	Santorum
Campbell	Hatch	Schumer
Cantwell	Helms	Sessions
Carnahan	Hollings	Shelby
Carper	Hutchinson	Smith (NH)
Chafee	Hutchison	Smith (OR)
Cleland	Inhofe	Snowe
Clinton	Inouye	Specter
Cochran	Johnson	Stevens
Collins	Kerry	Thomas
Conrad	Kohl	Thompson
Craig	Kyl	Thurmond
Crapo	Landrieu	Voinovich
Daschle	Leahy	Warner
Dayton	Lieberman	Wyden
DeWine	Lincoln	

NAYS—16

Akaka	Feingold	Reid
Boxer	Harkin	Sarbanes
Byrd	Jeffords	Stabenow
Corzine	Levin	Torricelli
Dodd	Murray	
Durbin	Reed	

NOT VOTING—1

Kennedy

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 83; the nays are 16. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now stand in recess until the hour of 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, at 12:29 p.m., the Senate recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. CORZINE).

HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF  
2002—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana is recognized.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, what is the pending business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are postclosure on H.R. 5005.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may soon make a unanimous consent request

that the time be charged against the pending measure.

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

DISASTER RELIEF

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, soon, I am going to ask unanimous consent to take up the emergency disaster relief bill that the Senate passed earlier with over 79 votes on September 10, 2002.

The only difference between my consent request today and that amendment is today's bill reimburses the \$752 million of section 32 funds that were used to pay for the livestock compensation program earlier this year. This all really stems from the agricultural disaster our country has been facing for the last year and, frankly, in preceding years.

In 1996, not too many years ago—that is the year before the drought began in Montana—our producers earned \$847 million from wheat sales. In 2001, 4 years later into the drought—we have had a series of droughts in Montana—producers made just \$317 million from wheat sales, a 62-percent decline.

That 62-percent decline in sales is through absolutely no fault of Montana wheat producers. These farmers haven't been cooking the books. This is not an Enron matter or a WorldCom matter. They have not been taking exorbitant bonuses at the expense of their shareholders. They have been farmers and ranchers working the soil and doing their very best, in many cases, just to survive. They are dedicated, honest, plain folks, raising livestock for our country and the world, raising agricultural and grain products to try to make ends meet. They need our help.

The drought is no longer touching only isolated pockets of our country; it has become an epidemic that is affecting a majority of our Nation.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 49 percent of our Nation's counties were declared an agricultural disaster in 2001; 78 percent of our counties were declared a disaster in 2002; 38 percent of those counties were declared a disaster in both 2001 and 2002.

So it is in many parts of the country. In fact, a map I displayed in this body earlier showed that the western half of the United States basically is experiencing drought conditions, and the eastern United States as well. Now, there are also pockets. In Montana, for example, there are some counties where farmers are devastated and other counties where they harvested a bit of a crop.

In any event, if you are a farmer who has lost his crop continuously and you are having a very difficult time making ends meet, I say you deserve our help.

According to the New York Times, on May 3 of this year:

In eastern Montana, more than a thousand wheat farmers have called it quits rather than try to coax another crop out of ground that has received less rain in the last 12 months than many deserts get in a year.

It is anticipated that another 1,300 wheat producers will call it quits this year if disaster assistance is not provided.

Continuing, Mr. President, that same New York Times article—this is an eastern newspaper, not Montana:

Those people, small businesses and rural communities have been devastated by an unpredictable and uncontrollable national phenomenon.

On September 3, 2002, the Wall Street Journal also printed an article:

The United States may be looking at the most expensive drought in its history inflicting economic damage far beyond the farm belt.

Producers every day hope, plead, ask that Congress help them a little bit.

I could go on at great length. I am not going to go on at great length except to say many times we have brought up this measure. It passed the Senate by a large margin both times, and the other body has said no, basically because the White House has said no. That is a fact. Nobody denies that fact. I will ask again today; we still do have time today or tomorrow, however long we are here, to help our farmers. This is a disaster payment; it is an emergency disaster payment. This is what America does. If we have hurricanes, we provide disaster assistance. If we have floods, we provide disaster assistance. We have other natural disaster phenomena in this country, and the Government provides assistance to help the people get back on their feet. That is all we are asking.

If we pass this legislation today, the other body can take it up and pass it, and the President can sign it. It is that simple.

As we near the end of this session and approach the holiday season, the very least we can do is provide disaster assistance to our farmers and ranchers, many of whom are either going out of business or about to go out of business because of an agricultural disaster, in most cases, drought and in some parts of our country it is flooding.

I see our distinguished majority leader on the floor. I am quite certain he wants to speak on this matter as well. It is a huge issue in many parts of our country. It is very much hoped we can take disaster assistance up and pass it at this time. I yield now to my colleague from South Dakota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I commend the distinguished Senator from Montana. He has been at this now for over a year. The very first conversation I had about drought assistance was with Senator BAUCUS over a year ago. I believe it was in connection with the economic stimulus package of a year ago. It has been 278 days since the Senate acted. So he has been at it for over a year. We, as a Senate, have been at it now for 278 days.

I must say, we can go all the way back to a year ago when Senator BAUCUS made the case that if you want