

this year, obviously, for 2007, and that is the reimbursement rate. I think it might in the long run be better for them.

I don't see this as onerous on crop insurance. Some say there is going to be this big cut, but that does not apply to 2007 and 2008. By the time we get to 2009, there may not be any cuts at all, as a matter of fact, depending upon what happens with prices. In fact, it may be better. It actually may be better.

In exchange, what we do get is some more money for conservation, for EQIP. We need more money in the EQIP program, the Grasslands Reserve Program, the Farmland Protection Program, as well as the McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program. I think it is a pretty fair tradeoff. If I thought for 1 minute this was going to devastate, destroy, unduly harm the crop insurance industry, I could not support it. But I believe it is a fair and equitable approach and, quite frankly, I think the methodology is much better in the long term. "Long term," what do I mean? Five years? Probably 5, 7, 8 years. It may be better for the crop insurance industry than hooking onto commodity prices.

Quite frankly, thinking back over the years, I find it hard to argue why it should be connected to commodity prices. What does that have to do with reimbursement? What does that have to do with policy numbers? We should have something that will protect our insurance people from undue happenings and events such as that, and I think that is what this methodology does. We took the average of those 3 years and capped it at that. In conference, we can look at putting in an inflation factor.

It seems to me that makes much more sense for the future of the program. As I said, for that we get more money for the conservation programs, the McGovern-Dole International School Lunch Program, and it also lifts the sunset provision on our nutrition program. Right now the increases we put in the Food Stamp Program with the standard deduction and minimum benefit sunset in 5 years.

Someone in the Democratic Caucus said recently to me: Why are we sunsetting in 5 years the programs that go to the poorest people in our country, yet we don't sunset the programs that go to some of the wealthiest people in our country? Fair question. So in order to lift this sunset, we need additional money, and the money we would save would go to lift the sunset provisions on both the standard deduction and the minimum benefit.

For those reasons, I support the amendment.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I yield back our time on the amendment. I thank the Senator from Iowa.

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

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

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 3 p.m. today, the Senate proceed to conclude the debate with respect to the Klobuchar amendment No. 3810, and that the previous order with respect to the vote threshold remain in effect; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote in relation to the Klobuchar amendment; that upon disposition of that amendment, the Senate then vote in the relation to the amendments listed below in the order listed; that there be 2 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled prior to each vote; that after the first vote, the vote time be limited to 10 minutes; with no second-degree amendment in order to any of the amendments covered under this amendment, prior to the vote; that the amendments covered here be subject to a 60-vote threshold; that if any of these amendments achieve an affirmative 60 votes, it be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that if it does not achieve that threshold, it be withdrawn: Coburn amendment No. 3530; Tester amendment No. 3666; Brown amendment No. 3819, and that the managers' package of cleared amendments be considered and agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I guess we are going to be in recess for an hour, from 2 to 3 p.m. We will come back at 3 p.m. and finish debate on the Klobuchar amendment. We will have that vote, and at the conclusion of that time, we will have three other votes. There should be four votes in sequence at that time.

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 3 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:55 p.m., recessed until 3 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. McCASKILL).

#### FARM, NUTRITION, AND BIOENERGY ACT OF 2007—Continued

AMENDMENT NO. 3810

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of amendment No. 3810.

Who yields time? The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Without objection, the time will be equally divided between the two sides.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I am here to address my amendment, No. 3810, and I want to talk about the importance of reform to this farm bill.

I was disappointed today when the amendment of Senator DORGAN and Senator GRASSLEY was defeated. It was a very important amendment. In other years, we actually had enough votes for this amendment, before I was here, but we weren't able to muster the votes necessary to block the filibuster. Well, we have one more opportunity, and that opportunity is this afternoon.

America's farm safety net was created during the Great Depression as an essential reform to help support rural communities and protect struggling family farms from the financial shocks of volatile weather and volatile prices. I believe after 75 years, the reasons for that safety net still exist, and I believe the farm bill that came through our committee has some very good things in it. It is forward thinking; it is about cellulosic ethanol. It is about finally having some permanent disaster relief. It is about a strong safety net for America's farmers. But there is one thing missing from this farm bill, Madam President, and that is the kind of reform that we need to move forward.

I want to demonstrate what we are talking about here with our amendment, which is cosponsored with Senator DURBIN and Senator BROWN, and why I think it is so important to this bill. As you know, I come from a farm State. It is sixth in the country for agriculture. I am proud of the work our State does and our farmers, and we have diverse farming. I know some of the farmers in my State may not like this, but the vast majority of them support this reform because they know if we don't reform ourselves, someone else will do it for us.

What I am talking about is farm subsidies going to people who shouldn't have them, such as Maurice Wilder, who is a guy that is very wealthy, and who was the No. 1 recipient of commodity payments from 2003 to 2005. He has collected more than \$3.2 million in farm payments for properties in five States, even though his net worth is more than \$500 million. We also have \$3.1 million in farm payments going to residents of the District of Columbia, \$4.2 million going to people in Manhattan, and \$1 million of taxpayer money going to Beverly Hills 90210.

Now, what can we do to change this? The first thing we are doing is we are getting rid of the three-entity rule, which cuts down on abuse and allows these payments to go to the people they should go to, and ending the practice of dividing farms into multiple