

women, who are unemployed through no fault of their own—the plant picks up and goes to Mexico, goes to China, goes someplace else. This is not their fault. They want to work. They are great workers. They are going to continue to find a way to work. But to hold them as pawns at this time is shameful.

So, Mr. President, I am being told there is going to be a Republican objection. I received a note to that effect. I am told there is no one here who is able to object at this time. But due to the courtesies of the Senate, I will not ask, although I am very tempted, I have to tell you—but due to the courtesies involved in the Senate, and the rules of the Senate, I will not proceed to ask for unanimous consent because, in fact, I have received a notice that the Republicans will, in fact, be objecting one more time, one more time, one more time to our ability to support and help working men and women and their families for the next 3 months.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXTENDING AIP CONTRACT AUTHORITY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Congress is currently considering proposals to extend contract authority for the Airport Improvement Program, which is known as AIP. If lawmakers—that is us—are unable to reach an agreement and fail to pass legislation extending contract authority before Congress adjourns for the year—that will be in a few minutes—the funding for critical safety, security, and capacity projects at airports throughout the country will be delayed.

The omnibus does not contain any funding authority from the aviation trust to pay for airport grants. The short-term extension includes such funding authority for 6 months and has formula changes that allow the Department of Transportation to run the program with only half a year's funding. If the separate FAA extension isn't passed, the Department will not be able to make any grants to airports.

Lack of contract authority for the Airport Improvement Program grants would cause significant impact. Unless rectified through authorization, the program would lose a construction season for airports that have had to bid contracts early due to winter weather for work in the spring and summer.

Delaying these funds would be particularly hard on small airports that rely on this funding as the primary source of revenue for infrastructure projects and those airports in parts of

the country with short construction cycles.

Since Congress has been unable to pass a multiyear Federal Aviation Administration authorization bill, airports are urging Congress to pass legislation that will extend the authority through the end of March for a total of 6 months of funding.

Extending this contract authority through the end of March would provide airports with more than \$1.8 billion in AIP funds. Extending the AIP contract authority through the end of March will allow the FAA to fully fund the Letter of Intent Program, which provides funding for critical infrastructure projects at major commercial airports around the country.

It was my intention to ask unanimous consent to pass S. 2530, the Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act for 2007, which was introduced earlier. It is my understanding that there would be a Republican objection, so, sadly, I will withhold asking for that consent.

I am disappointed that this is not going to be able to go forward. There are many airports around the country, airports in Pennsylvania, and I am sure in Nevada and other parts of the country that, simply will be unable to do what they need to do for the people who are so dependent on them, especially these rural airports.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, another month has passed, and more American troops lost their lives overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan. It is only right that we take time in the Senate to honor them.

Since last memorializing the names of our fallen troops on November 16, the Pentagon has announced the deaths of 39 troops. They lost their lives in Iraq and in Operation Enduring Freedom, which includes Afghanistan. They will not be forgotten. Today I submit their names into the RECORD:

PFC Justin R. P. McDaniel, of Andover, NH
SGT Austin D. Pratt, of Cadet, MO
PVT Daren A. Smith, of Helena, MT
SFC Jonathan A. Lowery, of Houlton, ME
SSG Michael J. Gabel, of Crowley, LA
CPL Joshua C. Blaney, of Matthews, NC
SGT Samuel E. Kelsey, of Troup, TX
SPC Brynn J. Naylor, of Roswell, NM
CPO Mark T. Carter, of Fallbrook, CA
SSG Gregory L. Elam, of Columbus, GA
CPL Tanner J. O'Leary, of Eagle Butte, SD
CPL Johnathan A. Lahmann, of Richmond, IN

SPC Randy W. Pickering, of Bovey, MN
SGT Eric J. Hernandez, of Waldwick, NJ
PVT Dewayne L. White, of Country Club Hills, IL

CPT Adam P. Snyder, of Fort Pierce, FL
SGT Kyle Dayton, of El Dorado Hills, CA
SGT Blair W. Emery, of Lee, ME
SPC Matthew K. Reece, of Harrison, AR
SFC John J. Tobiason, of Bloomington, MN
CPL Allen C. Roberts, of Arcola, IL
PVT Isaac T. Cortes, of Bronx, NY
SPC Benjamin J. Garrison, of Houston, TX
SSG Jonathon L. Martin, of Bellevue, OH
SPC Melvin L. Henley, Jr., of Jackson, MS
SGT Alfred G. Paredes, Jr., of Las Vegas, NV

PFC Marius L. Ferrero, of Miami, FL
CPL Jason T. Lee, of Fruitport, MI
CPL Christopher J. Nelson, of Rochester, WA
2LT Peter H. Burks, of Dallas, TX
SSG Alejandro Ayala, of Riverside, CA
SGT Steven C. Ganczewski, of Niagara Falls, NY

SGT Mason L. Lewis, of Gloucester, VA
SGT Kenneth R. Booker, of Vevay, IN
2LT Stuart F. Liles, of Hot Springs, AR
SPC Ashley Sietsema, of Melrose Park, IL
CPT David A. Boris, of PA
SPC Adrian E. Hike, of Callender, IA
SGT Derek R. Banks, of Newport News, VA

We cannot forget these brave men and women and their sacrifice. These brave souls left behind parents and children, siblings, and friends; we want them to know the country pledges to preserve the memory of our lost soldiers, who paid the ultimate price, with the dignity they deserve.

FHA MODERNIZATION ACT

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, last week, I was pleased to support passage of the FHA Modernization Act, S. 2338. This legislation will update the FHA program so that it once again is better able to provide many low-income and first-time homebuyers another option as they try to secure a mortgage for a new home or to refinance an existing mortgage under more affordable terms.

As some consumers experience credit tightening in the home mortgage and other financial markets, a byproduct of issues in the subprime mortgage market, the availability of stable financing alternatives is critically important to reducing the negative effects of the current market turmoil.

While the FHA Modernization Act is not a silver bullet, it represents a responsible step the federal government can take to benefit thousands of borrowers around the country.

Additionally, in the last several days Congress passed a measure, which I cosponsored, that encourages homeowners and their lenders to work out alternative payment plans that prevent individuals from losing their homes. The Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act, H.R. 3648, will protect taxpayers from an IRS tax bill in the event they have a portion of their mortgage debt forgiven. Under current law, homeowners entering foreclosure or refinancing their mortgage at a lower loan value due to a drop in housing prices, face an unfair and unwarranted tax. The last thing someone struggling to stay in their home needs is a huge tax obligation on income that they never saw. I expect the President to sign this legislation into law in the coming days.

In addition to the legislation recently advanced by Congress, the Federal Reserve proposed a rule this week that would prohibit lenders from making so-called "no documentation" loans where a borrower's income or assets are not verified; prohibit lenders from engaging "in a pattern or practice" of lending without considering a borrower's ability to repay a loan; restrict prepayment penalties on certain