

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent that my statement be printed in the RECORD prior to the previous vote.

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

(The remarks of Mrs. MURRAY and Mr. ISAKSON are printed in today's RECORD during the consideration of S.J. Res. 5.)

Mr. ISAKSON. I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WHITEHOUSE). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, over the course of the past several months, we have been working to complete negotiations on making our committee assignments so that all the new members will be able to attend committee meetings and be active participants. In some instances, I understand that chairmen have invited new Members to attend meetings and be involved in the process.

I am happy to report that earlier this week, the Republican leader and I agreed to what the committee ratios will be for the 111th Congress. This process of give and take is tedious, and the giver always feels that they have given more, while the taker believes that they deserve more. We had to increase the size of some of the committees during these deliberations. In any event we have reached agreement on ratios, and I ask unanimous consent that a copy of that agreement be printed in the RECORD.

Committee Ratio Agreement

Agriculture	12/9
Judiciary	11/8
Appropriations	17/13
Intel	8/7
Armed Services	15/11
Aging	12/9
Banking	12/9
Budget	13/10
Commerce	14/11
Indian Aff	9/6
Energy	13/10
JEC	6/4
EPW	11/8
Rules	11/8
Finance	13/10
Small Bus	11/8
For. Relations	11/8
Veterans	9/6
HELP	13/10
Homeland	10/7

(Ethics Committee remains at 3/3)

Mr. REID. With respect to the Democratic membership, we have had a meeting of our Democratic Steering Committee and they have ratified the proposed membership slate. Additionally, the Democratic Caucus has also

given its stamp of approval to the slate.

Therefore, Mr. President, the majority is ready to proceed ahead with Senate action on considering an organizational resolution which appoints committee membership. However, I understand from the Republican leader that they still need to complete their process. So, I fully expect that when we return after the inauguration, the Senate will act on an organizational resolution.

COMMITTEE FUNDING

Mr. McCONNELL Mr. President. We have included language for the 111th Congress which keeps Republican Committee budgets from going below the funding allocation for fiscal year 2008.

Upon enactment of a full year appropriation for the legislative branch, the Rules Committee has agreed to authorize \$100,000,000 annually for committee majority and minority staff salary baselines to be allocated at a 60 percent to 40 percent ratio, majority/minority respectively, during the 111th Congress.

Additionally, upon the enactment of a full year appropriation for the legislative branch, the authorization will provide for salary baselines to be adjusted by future cost-of-living adjustment, COLA, increases as approved by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Further, the majority leader and the chairman of the Rules Committee have agreed that 89 percent of special reserves is available to each chair/ranking member for administrative expenses, if requested, to be allocated at a 60 percent to 40 percent ratio, majority/minority respectively. Special reserves, which have been available to committees since 2001, shall not exceed historic levels.

While fiscal constraints have made this process very difficult, I appreciate the good faith effort made by the majority leader to fulfill the commitment we entered into at the beginning of the 110th Congress to keep minority staff salary baselines from going below funding levels allocated to the Republicans in the 109th Congress. The agreement we have reached provides the ability for minority committee budgets to be funded no less than the allocation in the 110th Congress.

Mr REID. I concur with the remarks of the Republican leader. The baseline was not reduced for Democratic staff in the 108th Congress and this agreement allows for a similar accommodation for the Republicans in the 111th Congress.

I ask unanimous consent that a joint leadership letter be printed in the RECORD.

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

We mutually commit to the following for the 111th Congress:

Upon enactment of a full year appropriation for the legislative branch, the majority and minority staff salary baselines for the committees of the Senate, including Joint

and Special Committees, and all other subgroups, shall be apportioned at a 60 percent to 40 percent ratio, majority/minority respectively, based on an authorization of \$100,000,000 annually. Additionally, upon enactment of a full year appropriation for the legislative branch, the authorization will provide for salary baselines to be adjusted by future cost of living adjustment, COLA, increases as approved by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Further, the majority leader and the chairman of the Rules Committee have agreed that 89 percent of special reserves is available to each chair/ranking member for administrative expenses, if requested, to be allocated at a 60 percent to 40 percent ratio, majority/minority respectively.

This will allow individual minority committee funding levels to remain unchanged, if special reserves are requested. Therefore, no committee budget shall be allocated to reduce the minority committee budget below that of fiscal year 2008.

Funds for committee expenses shall be available to each chairman consistent with the Senate rules and practices of the 110th Congress.

The chairman and ranking member of any committee, may, by mutual agreement, modify the apportionment of committee funding, and/or space.

The division of committee office space shall be commensurate with the 60 percent to 40 percent ratio.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

OMNIBUS PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2009

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the Senate for its passage of the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Amendments Act, which was included as part of S. 22, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. First, I would like to thank Senators LIEBERMAN, KERRY, and KENNEDY, who joined me in introducing a stand-alone version of this bill last week and have worked with me for many years to preserve this beautiful part of New England. I would also like to thank the chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senator BINGAMAN, for his tireless work to pass all of the critically important public lands bills included in S. 22. Because of his efforts, hundreds of thousands of acres of pristine wilderness will be added to the National Wilderness Preservation System, and many new ecologically unique and culturally significant sites will receive Federal protection under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, the National Trails System, and the National Heritage Area program.

I have long felt that as Senators, one of our most important obligations is to ensure that our Nation's vast array of