

Rockefeller, Mr. Wyden, Mr. Bayh, Ms. Mikulski, Mr. Feingold, Mr. Nelson of Florida, and Mr. Whitehouse.

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE: Mr. Schumer (Vice Chairman), Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Bingaman, Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Casey, and Mr. Webb.

S. RES. 19

Resolved, That the following be the minority membership on the following committee for the remainder of the 111th Congress, or until their successors are appointed:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE NUTRITION AND FORESTRY: Mr. Chambliss, Mr. Lugar, Mr. Cochran, Mr. McConnell, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Johanns, Mr. Grassley, Mr. Thune, and Republican Leader designee.

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS: Mr. Cochran, Mr. Specter, Mr. Bond, Mr. McConnell, Mr. Shelby, Mr. Gregg, Mr. Bennett, Mrs. Hutchison, Mr. Brownback, Mr. Alexander, Ms. Collins, Mr. Voinovich, and Ms. Murkowski.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES: Mr. McCain, Mr. Inhofe, Mr. Sessions, Mr. Chambliss, Mr. Graham, Mr. Thune, Mr. Martinez, Mr. Wicker, Mr. Burr, Mr. Vitter, and Ms. Collins.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS: Mr. Shelby, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Bunning, Mr. Crapo, Mr. Martinez, Mr. Corker, Mr. DeMint, Mr. Vitter, Mr. Johanns, and Mrs. Hutchison.

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET: Mr. Gregg, Mr. Grassley, Mr. Enzi, Mr. Sessions, Mr. Bunning, Mr. Crapo, Mr. Ensign, Mr. Cornyn, Mr. Graham, and Mr. Alexander.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION: Mrs. Hutchison, Ms. Snowe, Mr. Ensign, Mr. DeMint, Mr. Thune, Mr. Wicker, Mr. Isakson, Mr. Vitter, Mr. Brownback, Mr. Martinez, and Mr. Johanns.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES: Ms. Murkowski, Mr. Burr, Mr. Barrasso, Mr. Brownback, Mr. Risch, Mr. McCain, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Bunning, Mr. Sessions, and Mr. Corker.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Mr. Inhofe, Mr. Voinovich, Mr. Vitter, Mr. Barrasso, Mr. Specter, Mr. Crapo, Mr. Bond, and Mr. Alexander.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE: Mr. Grassley, Mr. Hatch, Ms. Snowe, Mr. Kyl, Mr. Bunning, Mr. Crapo, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Ensign, Mr. Enzi, and Mr. Cornyn.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS: Mr. Lugar, Republican Leader designee, Mr. Corker, Mr. Isakson, Mr. Risch, Mr. DeMint, Mr. Barrasso, and Mr. Wicker.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS: Mr. Enzi, Mr. Gregg, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Burr, Mr. Isakson, Mr. McCain, Mr. Hatch, Ms. Murkowski, Mr. Coburn, and Mr. Roberts.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS: Ms. Collins, Republican Leader designee, Mr. Coburn, Mr. McCain, Mr. Voinovich, Mr. Ensign, and Mr. Graham.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY: Mr. Specter, Mr. Hatch, Mr. Grassley, Mr. Kyl, Mr. Sessions, Mr. Graham, Mr. Cornyn, and Mr. Coburn.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION: Mr. Bennett, Mr. McConnell, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Chambliss, Mrs. Hutchison, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Roberts, and Mr. Ensign.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Ms. Snowe, Mr. Bond, Republican Leader designee, Mr. Vitter, Mr. Thune, Mr. Enzi, Mr. Isakson, and Mr. Wicker.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS: Mr. Burr, Mr. Specter, Mr. Isakson, Mr. Wicker, Mr. Johanns, and Mr. Graham.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS: Mr. Barrasso, Mr. McCain, Ms. Murkowski, Mr. Coburn, Mr. Crapo, and Mr. Johanns.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS: Mr. Isakson, Mr. Roberts, and Mr. Risch.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE: Mr. Bond, Mr. Hatch, Ms. Snowe, Mr. Chambliss, Mr. Burr, Mr. Coburn, and Mr. Risch.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING: Mr. Martinez, Mr. Shelby, Ms. Collins, Mr. Specter, Republican Leader designee, Mr. Corker, Mr. Hatch, Mr. Brownback, and Mr. Graham.

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE: Mr. Brownback, Mr. DeMint, Mr. Risch, and Mr. Bennett.

MAINTAINING THE SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have made good progress on this legislation today, the Ledbetter legislation. I am not filing cloture tonight. I am very confident we will be able to finish this bill tomorrow. If we do not, I will file cloture on it for a weekend cloture vote because we have to finish this bill this week. If people need more time, they want to have some more debate and amendments on Friday, that is fine with me too.

I think this legislation sets a good tone that we can legislate here, people can offer amendments, with no restrictions on the amendments. I think this is the way we need to move forward.

The simple fact that we have 58, 59 Senators should not in any way give us any idea that we can move through here without bipartisan support. So I hope we can do that. But we still have a schedule to maintain. If that cannot be done, we will do some things over the weekend.

Progress is being made with the nominations. I hope once we get some more reported out of the committees, we can move some of them out of here quickly.

We have so much work to do in just a short period of time. Four weeks, basically, is all we have left of this work period, and we are going to finish a number of items. I have announced what they would be. We are going to do that or we are not going to have our Presidents Day recess.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont is recognized.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

THE WAY FORWARD

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I wish to begin by congratulating Senator MIKULSKI on her continued efforts in fighting for pay equality for women workers. This is a struggle that has gone on for decades. We are making some progress, but we have a long way to go and it is imperative that we pass the Ledbetter legislation.

Yesterday, as everybody in the world knows, Barack Obama was sworn in as the President of the United States. I can tell my colleagues that in my State of Vermont, and I expect all over this country and, in fact, in virtually

every country in the world, there was great anticipation and great joy, not only because we have made history in our country by electing the first African American ever elected President, but also because the people of this country demand that we begin moving America in a very different direction than where we have been going for the last 8 years. Unfortunately, as President Obama assumes office, the Congress, the American people, and he are looking out at a set of the most serious problems that our country has faced since the Great Depression. Let me take a very few minutes to give a broad outline of some of those problems and some of the efforts I personally will be making in order to address these crises.

As a result of the outrageous greed and recklessness and dishonesty on the part of a few hundred or a few thousand speculators on Wall Street, our entire financial system is in danger of collapsing. That impacts not only the United States but, in fact, the financial markets all over the world. At this point, the American taxpayer—primarily the middle class—has already put into the TARP bailout some \$700 billion, but in addition to that, the Fed has lent out trillions of dollars with virtually no transparency and certainly no accountability. This is a crisis we have to deal with in a number of ways. I will tell my colleagues as somebody who voted against the original bailout and who voted against the second bailout, we have to develop a mechanism that does more than pump hundreds and hundreds of billions of dollars to bail out Wall Street. This is a difficult issue, it is a complicated issue, but it is an issue that we have to address.

Furthermore, in my view, we need an investigation to get at the root of the problem. I reject the idea, as some suggest, that this was a problem caused by everybody; all of us are guilty in causing this financial crisis. That is wrong. The fact is there are a relatively small number of people—by and large people who in the last 5 to 10 years have made hundreds of millions of dollars; in fact, in some cases have accrued billions of dollars of wealth for themselves, who have operated in utter recklessness and, in my suspicion, in illegal mannerisms in order to make these incredible profits and to bring our financial system to the edge of collapse. We need to know who these people are, how they did it, hold them accountable, and create legislation which makes sure that we never, ever again are placed in the position we are in today.

The truth of the matter is that while the financial crisis of the last few months has exacerbated the economic problems that we are facing as a Nation today, for many years, despite the assertions of the Bush administration, the middle class has been in a significant state of decline, poverty has been increasing, and millions of people have lost their health insurance and their