

Unfortunately, there has been no consistency whatsoever across the government in how agencies define the term “program.” GAO has agreed that the current program list isn’t giving us the kind of transparency we want because agencies took different approaches in defining their programs. The Taxpayers Right-to-Know Act addresses this problem by defining the term “program.”

GAO has also noted that the current program inventory does not allow Congress and the GAO to compare similar programs, which is an obstacle to measuring government performance. Additionally, budget and cost information is not available for all programs.

This bill will ensure that agencies provide a full list of their programs along with important information about each program. For grants and other types of direct assistance, it will provide information on how many people a program serves and how many people it takes to run it.

A complete inventory of Federal programs, along with budget and financial information at the program level, will allow Congress to compare similar programs and identify overlap and duplication.

The bill has strong bipartisan support in our committee and was reported out without dissent. Seeing it to final passage would be a good win for this Congress.

I am pleased to yield back to our colleague from Oklahoma for a unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
S. 2113

Mr. COBURN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 531, S. 2113; that the committee-reported substitute be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Madam President, I don’t like this bill. The White House doesn’t like the bill. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING
BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume executive session to consider the Lodge and Walter nominations.

NOMINATION OF VIRGINIA TYLER LODGE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Lodge nomination.

Mr. REID. I yield back all time. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The question occurs on the Lodge nomination.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Virginia Tyler Lodge, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority?

The clerk will call the roll. The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 86, nays 12, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 320 Ex.]

YEAS—86

Alexander	Gillibrand	Murphy
Ayotte	Graham	Murray
Baldwin	Grassley	Nelson
Barrasso	Hagan	Portman
Begich	Hatch	Pryor
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reid
Booker	Hirono	Rockefeller
Boozman	Hoeven	Rubio
Boxer	Inhofe	Sanders
Brown	Isakson	Schatz
Cantwell	Johanns	Schumer
Cardin	Johnson (SD)	Scott
Carper	Johnson (WI)	Sessions
Casey	Kaine	Shaheen
Coats	King	Shelby
Cochran	Kirk	Stabenow
Collins	Klobuchar	Tester
Coons	Leahy	Thune
Corker	Lee	Udall (CO)
Cornyn	Levin	Udall (NM)
Cruz	Manchin	Vitter
Donnelly	Markey	Walsh
Durbin	McCain	Warner
Enzi	McCaskill	Warren
Feinstein	Menendez	Whitehouse
Fischer	Merkley	Wicker
Flake	Mikulski	Wyden
Franken	Murkowski	

NAYS—12

Blunt	Crapo	Paul
Burr	Heller	Risch
Chambliss	McConnell	Roberts
Coburn	Moran	Toomey

NOT VOTING—2

Harkin	Landrieu
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The nomination was confirmed. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. This vote we are about to have will be the last recorded vote of the day.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE
CALENDAR

I now ask unanimous consent that following the vote on confirmation of

Executive Calendar No. 1095, the Senate consider Calendar Nos. 800 and 801; that there be 2 minutes for debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees prior to each vote; that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on the nominations in the order listed; that any rollcall votes following the first in the series be 10 minutes in length; that if any nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered. Mr. REID. We expect the nominations to be considered by voice vote.

NOMINATION OF RONALD ANDERSON WALTER TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Walter nomination.

Mr. REID. I yield back that time. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Ronald Anderson Walter, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority?

Mr. CARDIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll. The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 86, nays 12, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 321 Ex.]

YEAS—86

Alexander	Carper	Fischer
Ayotte	Casey	Flake
Baldwin	Coats	Franken
Barrasso	Cochran	Gillibrand
Begich	Collins	Graham
Bennet	Coons	Grassley
Blumenthal	Corker	Hagan
Booker	Cornyn	Hatch
Boozman	Cruz	Heinrich
Boxer	Donnelly	Heitkamp
Brown	Durbin	Hirono
Cantwell	Enzi	Hoeven
Cardin	Feinstein	Inhofe

Isakson	Merkley	Sessions
Johanns	Mikulski	Shaheen
Johnson (SD)	Murkowski	Shelby
Johnson (WI)	Murphy	Stabenow
Kaine	Murray	Tester
King	Nelson	Thune
Kirk	Portman	Udall (CO)
Klobuchar	Pryor	Udall (NM)
Leahy	Reed	Vitter
Lee	Reid	Walsh
Levin	Rockefeller	Warner
Manchin	Rubio	Warren
Markey	Sanders	Whitehouse
McCain	Schatz	Wicker
McCaskill	Schumer	Wyden
Menendez	Scott	

NAYS—12

Blunt	Crapo	Paul
Burr	Heller	Risch
Chambliss	McCconnell	Roberts
Coburn	Moran	Toomey

NOT VOTING—2

Harkin
Landrieu

The nomination was confirmed.

NOMINATION OF PETER MICHAEL MCKINLEY, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN

NOMINATION OF RICHARD RAHUL VERMA TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

NOMINATION OF TONY HAMMOND TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

NOMINATION OF Nanci E. LANGLEY TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read the nominations of Peter Michael McKinley, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan; Richard Rahul Verma, of Maryland, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of India; Tony Hammond, of Missouri, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission; Nanci E. Langley, of Hawaii, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I yield back the time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON MCKINLEY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Peter Michael McKinley, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON VERMA NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Richard Rahul Verma, of Maryland, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of India?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON HAMMOND NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Tony Hammond, of Missouri, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON LANGLEY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Nanci E. Langley, of Hawaii, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

LODGE AND WALTER NOMINATIONS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I voted to confirm Virginia Lodge and Ron Walter to be members of the Board of the Tennessee Valley Authority. I believe that these nominees are qualified and have demonstrated the characteristics that will enable them to fulfill their duties in supporting the mission of the TVA.

According to the TVA Act, the Board sets the broad strategies and goals of the Tennessee Valley Authority. Given the many changes facing our electricity system, those strategies for TVA—one of the Nation's biggest utilities—are critical. As technology changes the future of energy production and energy use, the administration is busy unleashing costly regulations that risk damaging our economy for little environmental gain.

Navigating these crosscurrents, TVA's Board must strive to keep electricity costs low through prudential and nonideological decisionmaking. They must continue the work of TVA's current management to cut costs without impacting service. Only through demanding decisions based on data and

through questioning assumptions will they successfully lead TVA through today's challenges.

Also of importance is TVA's continued maintenance and eventual completion of the Bellefonte nuclear power plant. In the 1970s, TVA made plans to build a large number of nuclear reactors, but it abandoned those plans after completing several plants while others—including two units at Bellefonte—were only partially completed. TVA continues to maintain its assets at Bellefonte, where it has invested \$6 billion. I know that these nominees will examine the cost to complete Bellefonte and the baseload demand forecasts for TVA to best determine when the plant should be completed.

I believe the nominees have demonstrated the ability to serve effectively and I look forward to their service on the Board and to working with them for the betterment of the region in the years to come.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014

Mr. REID. I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate a message from the House with respect to H.R. 3979.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the House agree to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3979) entitled "An Act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act," with an amendment.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. REID. I move to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3979.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] moves to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3979.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. There is a cloture motion at the desk. I ask that the Chair order it reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3979.

Harry Reid, Carl Levin, Brian Schatz, Martin Heinrich, John E. Walsh, Patty Murray, Jack Reed, Tom Udall, Sheldon Whitehouse, Amy Klobuchar,