

We also know that the Montanans who use and live on the land every day best understand how to best protect those resources. But, unfortunately, the Obama administration's persistent efforts to stretch the true intent of the Antiquities Act threatens Montana's ability to manage our State's resources, and it is a trend we are seeing across other States as well.

Too often these unilateral designations completely ignore the needs of the local community—the farmers and ranchers, the sportsmen and small business owners directly impacted by these new designations. My amendment will establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund for legislation to ensure States and local governments support national monument designations.

This amendment in no way precludes the President from proposing a national monument. However, any bill or designation that has a potential to impact land management must be locally driven, not spearheaded in Washington, and must have local government and State support as well. This amendment ensures the people affected most by these designations have a seat at the table and their voices are heard.

AMENDMENT NO. 389

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and call up my amendment No. 389.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Montana [Mr. DAINES] proposes an amendment numbered 389.

Mr. DAINES. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to holding Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives accountable for failing to pass a balanced budget)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO HOLDING MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ACCOUNTABLE FOR FAILING TO PASS A BALANCED BUDGET.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to holding Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives accountable for failing to pass a balanced budget by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2016 through 2025.

Mr. DAINES. Madam President, I offer amendment No. 389 to the budget

resolution to establish a deficit-neutral reserve to hold Members of Congress accountable for failing to pass a balanced budget.

Washington has balanced its budget only five times in the last five decades. Let me say that again. Washington has only balanced its budget five times in the last 50 years. This is completely unacceptable, and it threatens the prosperity of future generations. By strengthening accountability and demanding results, my amendment will help restore fiscal responsibility—I would call it fiscal sanity—in Washington.

I have introduced related legislation—the Balanced Budget Accountability Act—which would terminate the salaries of Members of the House and Senate if their respective Chamber does not pass a balanced budget. Simply put, no balanced budget, no pay. It is time to hold Congress accountable to the taxpayer. It is time to hit the Members of Congress in their pocket-books if they can't pass a balanced budget.

Chairman ENZI's budget meets this commonsense principle, and by passing my amendment to the budget resolution we will reinforce our commitment to passing similar balanced budgets in the future.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). The Senator from West Virginia.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

LYNCH NOMINATION

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, before turning to the budget resolution pending before the Senate this week, I would like to first discuss the nomination of Loretta Lynch to be Attorney General. Last week, I met with Loretta Lynch to discuss the legality of President Obama's Executive actions and her views concerned me.

President Obama and his administration have a record of overstepping legal authority on immigration, implementation of the Affordable Care Act, and imposing anti-energy regulations. Despite her qualifications, I am not confident that Loretta Lynch will exercise the independence needed to stand up for the proper separation of powers, and I will not support her nomination.

THE BUDGET

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, turning to the budget, I rise in strong support of this resolution that delivers on the promise to balance our budget without

increasing taxes. West Virginia families and families across our country understand they cannot continually spend more money than they take in. Each month families have to balance their budgets and decide how to spend their limited resources, make tough choices, set priorities, and account for unexpected expenses.

Unfortunately, annual deficits are routine for the Federal Government, but we have recently endured 4 straight years with an annual deficit of at least \$1 trillion. Despite recent drops, our national debt now stands at \$18 trillion. That totals more than \$56,000 for every American.

American families cannot withstand spending more than they earn from month to month and neither should the Federal Government.

The debate on this budget resolution brings the Senate to an important crossroads. We can choose the President's path, which increases taxes and adds another \$6 trillion to our national debt, or we can choose to support the responsible budget on the Senate floor this week. If we fail to make the tough decisions to reduce our Federal spending, we will leave mountains of debt to our children and our grandchildren.

Our first responsibility as leaders should be to leave our country better and stronger for the next generation of Americans. That starts by taking steps to balance our budget, and this budget balances in 10 years.

This budget provides us with the flexibility to address many of the important issues confronting our Nation, including evolving threats from terrorists. When West Virginians hear about ISIS, instability in Yemen, the failing state of Iraq, the first thing we think about is the safety and security of our own families. Terrorism hits close to home, and we must ensure we have the flexibility to fund a strong national defense. Like American families, we must have flexibility to account for unexpected expenses and unexpected threats as they arise.

This budget resolution gives us the ability to pass a long-term highway bill that is paid for. We must invest in our Nation's roads and bridges and do so in a fiscally responsible way.

This budget resolution paves the way for an extension of the State Children's Health Insurance Program—a bipartisan initiative which will, hopefully, be considered by the Senate in short order. This budget facilitates changes that help our rural hospitals continue to provide critical medical services in their communities.

Our Nation's priorities are reflected in this Nation's budget. I want to draw special attention to the energy provisions in this budget. I have said many times an energy economy is a jobs economy. Energy is at the forefront of many West Virginians' minds, whether we are paying for our monthly energy bill or checking the gas prices.

The production of coal and natural gas accounts for tens of thousands of