

the national capital region boundaries would improve coordination among the State and local governments within the region, enhance regional governments and the Federal Government's ability to prevent and respond to a terrorist attack within the region, and affect the distribution of funding under the Homeland Security Grant Program.

Congress created the national capital region boundaries as part of the National Capital Planning Act of 1952. We now use this definition in dealing with our homeland security. Obviously, there have been significant demographic changes since 1952.

We all know if there is a problem in the Nation's Capital, it goes well beyond the immediate counties that surround the Capitol, in Virginia and Maryland, yet the national capital region is restricted to just a few counties. The purpose of this amendment is to have a study to see whether it would make sense for us to expand that region for the purposes of being better prepared to respond to emergencies. If the Department of Homeland Security determines it is appropriate to have new boundaries, we would have a chance to look at that. Those recommendations would be submitted to Congress.

My second amendment is a common-sense technical amendment that corrects an oversight in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorist Prevention Act of 2004. That act contains provisions for cooperation along the national capital region's jurisdictions in the event of a regional or national emergency. As the jurisdictions began working on a mutual aid agreement authorized by the statute, a concern arose that water and wastewater utilities were not included in the original language. Therefore, if there were a problem in Montgomery County dealing with a sanitation issue, someone from Fairfax County would not be allowed to come in to help. That obviously makes no sense whatsoever. We should be able to allow the local governments to proceed with that type of arrangement. The mutual aid provisions in the 2004 law allow this type of exchange of jurisdictions between firefighters, police, and various other emergency responders.

The 2004 bill also explicitly allowed for employees at WMATA and the Airports Authority to work between jurisdictions under the provisions of a mutual aid agreement. My amendment would allow water and wastewater authorities to similarly share staff resources during an emergency and under the provisions of the mutual aid agreement.

The need for this amendment was brought to my attention by the Metropolitan National Council of Governments. All the water and wastewater authorities in the Greater Washington area support this amendment.

My third amendment deals with a problem that is preventing the Maryland Department of Transportation and

Amtrak from negotiating a new contract for MARC trains access to the Northeast corridor and operation by Amtrak. The problem stems from the repeal in the Amtrak Reform and Accountability Act of 1997 of a provision which requires the laws of the District of Columbia to govern all Amtrak contracts.

The original provision was done to create uniformity. Amtrak followed longstanding industry practice of agreeing to resolve disputes by arbitration.

There is an inconsistency between that provision and the laws of Maryland, if they were to apply to dispute settlement procedures. We need to clarify that provision in order to move forward with these agreements. The repeal of the DC provision created a conflict with the dispute resolution clause in Maryland procurement law that requires the Board of Contract Appeals hear all disputes applied to all procurement contracts. Amtrak will not enter into an agreement with Maryland until the State agrees to abide by the same DC law that is still accepted in all other States. Amtrak and Maryland both requested that Congress clarify that Amtrak contracts and the laws of the District of Columbia govern these contracts and leases uniformly. It is critical that Congress act swiftly to address this problem. Maryland's current contract with Amtrak expires in 16 months and therefore we need to move quickly on this issue.

I have conferred with the staffs of the committees. To my understanding, we may still need some technical clarifications to the technical amendment, and if that is necessary I will seek the appropriate consent in order to adjust the amendment to meet the needs and concerns that are being raised by the committee.

I am hopeful the bill managers on both sides will find these amendments acceptable. I look forward to working with them. S. 4 is a good bill. My amendments, if agreed to, will make it better for Maryland, Washington, DC and Virginia. I hope we will be able to move accordingly.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

Mr. LIEBERMAN. I thank the Chair and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate as in morning business.

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

(The remarks of Mr. ISAKSON pertaining to the introduction of S. 747 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. KLOBUCHAR). Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 309

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, my remarks are in regard to amendment No. 309, which is my amendment, but it was offered, as a lot of other amendments on this side of the aisle were, by Senator MCCONNELL, and so I am going to speak now on amendment No. 309.

This amendment seeks to shut down terrorists and criminal organizations by attacking their most valuable resource, and that is their money. Terrorists and criminal organizations take many different forms, but there is one factor that they all have in common, and that is the need to obtain, transit, and store money to do their dirty work.

In the past few years, we have made some significant advancements in identifying how these groups obtain and attempt to legitimize their illicit funds. Yet as we close one door, these criminals seek to open another to move their money around and to continue their dirty work. In fact, they continue to take advantage of loopholes and inconsistencies in our current law. We must continue to be vigilant in closing these loopholes, and we must not underestimate their capabilities or resolve.

As we consider amendment No. 309, I think we have to consider that this will not necessarily be the last word. These terrorists are so sophisticated in their operation that they may find some way to get around what we are doing now. As long as we are constantly vigilant, as long as we are constantly throwing roadblocks in the way of legitimizing their money and transiting their money, we will curtail their dirty work to some extent. Any