

It is important to note that NBER did not conclude the economy has returned to operating at normal capacity. Rather, NBER determined only that the recession ended in June 2009 and a recovery began in that month. According to NBER:

(E)conomic activity is typically below normal in the early stages of an expansion, and it sometimes remains so well into the expansion.

Aggregate employment frequently reaches its trough after the NBER trough for overall "economic activity" and the 2007–2009 recession is no exception. That is why this jobs bill is critically important. The economy is still fragile; everyone knows that. So let's do something about it.

S. 3816 has incentives to create jobs here in America and disincentives to moving American jobs overseas.

Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Labor certified a Trade Adjustment Assistance, TAA, petition brought on behalf of human resources personnel at Hewlett-Packard in 10 different States, including Maryland—Ellicott City—that have seen their jobs shipped to Panama. Now, if H-P employees have questions about their pay or their leave or their benefits, they have to call Panama. It is exactly that type of shipping jobs offshore that we need to prevent.

S. 3816 removes tax incentives that allow companies such as H-P to eliminate jobs here, outsourcing that work with the products or services consumed in the U.S. market.

Just since the beginning of 2007, the Department of Labor has certified 50 TAA petitions involving laid-off workers who live in Maryland.

In many cases, the firms involved in these certifications had U.S. tax incentives to ship jobs overseas. S. 3816 helps to eliminate those incentives.

To encourage businesses to create jobs here in the United States, the bill allows businesses to skip the employer share of the Social Security payroll tax for up to 2 years on wages paid to new U.S. employees performing services in the United States. To be eligible, businesses have to certify that the U.S. employee is replacing an employee who had been performing similar duties overseas.

This payroll tax holiday is available for workers hired during the 3-year period beginning September 22, 2010. The Social Security trust fund will be made whole from general revenues, a provision that costs \$1.09 billion over 10 years.

The bill eliminates subsidies that U.S. taxpayers provide to firms that move facilities offshore. It prohibits a firm from taking any deduction, loss, or credit for amounts paid in connection with reducing or ending the operation of a trade or business in the U.S. and starting or expanding a similar trade or business overseas.

This provision raises \$277 million over 10 years.

The bill would not apply to any severance payments or costs associated

with outplacement services or employee retraining provided to any employees who lose their jobs as a result of the offshoring.

S. 3816 also ends the Federal tax subsidy that rewards U.S. firms for moving their production overseas. Under current law, U.S. companies can defer paying U.S. tax on income earned by their foreign subsidiaries until that income is brought back to the United States. This is known as "deferral."

Deferral has the effect of putting these firms at a competitive advantage over U.S. firms that hire U.S. workers to make products here in America.

The bill repeals deferral for companies that reduce or close a business in the U.S. and start or expand a similar business overseas for the purpose of importing their products or services for sale in the United States. U.S. companies that locate facilities abroad in order to sell their products overseas are unaffected by this proposal.

Ending deferral raises \$92 million over 10 years.

I think there is a huge need and a great deal of merit in considering a bill to encourage American firms to keep their plants and factories here in America and to hire American workers.

Too many Americans are looking for work and can't find jobs. The recession hasn't ended for them. I hope the Senate will move forward on legislation that will keep jobs in America and put Americans back to work and begin to put this terrible recession behind us. It is time to ship American goods and services—not American jobs—overseas.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BEGICH. 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. BEGICH. Mr. President, the score is 10 to 0.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that 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.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, the Congress is now close to passing and enacting an intelligence authorization bill for the first time since December 2004. Pending at the Senate desk is House bill H.R. 2701, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, which the House passed on February 26, 2010.

On behalf of Senator BOND and myself, I have filed an amendment to this House bill, and have asked the majority leader to request unanimous consent that the amendment, in the nature of a substitute, be approved and that the bill be sent back to the House for its final passage.

For the benefit of my colleagues, I would like to describe the amendment and discuss why the passage of this legislation is of great importance to the Intelligence community and for oversight of intelligence.

In all but three respects, this amendment is identical to Senate bill S. 3611, which the Senate passed in August by unanimous consent. That bill had been negotiated with the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and had the support of the administration. However, the House did not act on that bill. Instead, last week, the House sent its legislation to the Senate for consideration.

Per agreement with the House and the executive branch, I am therefore introducing this amendment, which replaces the text of the House bill with the previous Senate bill, with the three changes as follows:

The first change is necessary given that fiscal year 2010, the year for which this legislation was first written, ends later this week. The legislation I have offered today therefore does not include a classified annex that describes authorized funding levels for the intelligence community. The amendment text omits references to the classified annex, as well as other provisions that were specific to fiscal year 2010, that were present in S. 3611. This is reflected through the deletion of six provisions in S. 3611: sections 101, 102, 103, 104, 201, and 348. The amendment includes a new section 101, which is being included at the request of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. This section makes clear that all funds appropriated, reprogrammed, or transferred for intelligence or intelligence-related activities in fiscal year 2010 may be obligated or expended. This provision is necessary to meet the terms of section 504(a) of the National Security Act of 1947, 50 U.S.C. § 414.

This legislation also amends section 331 from the version of the bill previously passed by the Senate concerning notification procedures. The amendment adds text to ensure that in the case of a limited notification of a covert action to the House and Senate leaders and chairmen and ranking members of the two intelligence committees—the so-called "Gang of