

beyond. Suggested recovery options include: business recovery bridge loans, an extension of existing GO Zone bonus depreciation deadlines, an additional allocation of Gulf Opportunity Zone bonds targeted at parishes impacted by Gustav, and technical assistance for impacted small businesses. Similar assistance was provided after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to help small businesses and their employees get back on their feet.

5. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND READINESS

Every critical disaster demonstrates gaps in the existing system of preparedness, and identifies areas of critical needs to improve the response to future storms. Local governments have prioritized (1) prisoner transportation and evacuation planning, (2) watercraft accessibility, (3) enhanced fixed and mobile generator support, and (4) communications as critical elements to enhancing disaster preparedness. In addition, the state is requesting \$100 million for law enforcement equipment and infrastructure repairs that will support both preparedness and recovery functions. Similar assistance was provided after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

6. HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL SERVICES DISASTER ASSISTANCE

The Louisiana Hospital Association estimates that the total financial and operational impact of Hurricane Gustav on Louisiana's hospitals is as much as \$302 million. The hospitals, many of which were still struggling with post-Katrina and Rita losses, have sustained reported losses of net revenue, and have incurred costs for incremental salary and labor, sheltering and evacuation, facility damage and debris removal, and other non-ordinary costs attributable to the storm. An adjustment of the Medicare Wage Index to address the higher cost of providing services after 2005 and 2008 hurricanes would provide significant relief and allow these institutions to continue administering critical medical services.

Additionally, the hospitals are requesting funding for hazard mitigation and remediation for hardening of facilities and upgrading of generator capabilities. It became apparent during the event that many hospitals could not maintain optimally safe environments with the current capacity of their generator systems. We are also deeply concerned about the lack of generator capacity in our state's nursing homes. Finally, the State of Louisiana is requesting \$50 million in SSBG funding to provide for mental health treatment, primary care medical services, and repair of damaged foster homes.

These priorities are among the many challenges still facing our state as we recover from Hurricane Gustav and do not represent an exhaustive list of recovery needs, especially as we still assess damages caused by Hurricane Ike. It is with great hope for the future of the people of Louisiana that we request this assistance and also request that it be included in the upcoming stimulus legislation or any other legislative spending vehicle. Lieutenant Governor Mitch Landrieu and Commissioner of Agriculture Mike Strain will be in Washington to discuss these important recovery needs with you and your staff.

Sincerely,

GOVERNOR BOBBY JINDAL,
State of Louisiana.
LT. GOVERNOR MITCH
LANDRIEU,
State of Louisiana.
COMMISSIONER OF
AGRICULTURE MIKE

STRAIN,
State of Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I have a number of the press accounts, and I will just read for the RECORD the headlines that are pouring into my office each day from newspapers around the State. This one:

Ike badly damages Rita-ruined region. Hurricane Ike's receding storm waters on Monday revealed a footprint of damage across coastal southwest Louisiana too similar and too soon after Hurricane Rita of 2005.

Storm report: Vermilion Parish sees tough road ahead.

Again, a Parish hard hit just 3 years ago.

Cameron Parish: "Still too much water."

These headlines are streaming into my office.

St. Mary Parish: Cyremort Point residents digging out of mud.

Barataria to pick up pieces.

St. John, St. Charles dig out, clean up.

16,000 people at Blackham Coliseum—

waiting for help and assistance.

Gustav, Ike set record for power outages in Louisiana.

Finally, as my time draws near:

Storm update: Gustav's damage to Louisiana crops estimated at hundreds of millions of dollars.

I wish to say on behalf of my friend from Texas, we have some headlines we received in Louisiana about Galveston and about the billions in storm damage to our neighbors in Texas, because we have a situation that I hope our Congress will respond to before we leave here, some agricultural damage and storm damage for the Gulf Coast States, and also to reach back and pick up some of that damage we did not address in the Midwest floods.

I thank my colleagues for their understanding. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I know the Senator from Michigan is maybe doing so, but as I understand it, there was objection raised to the consideration of a managers' amendment regarding, I guess, 100 amendments. One of those amendments is a proposal of Senator SHELBY and I, along with a unanimous vote of our Banking Committee, after lengthy discussion. It was the Iran sanctions proposal, which took a lot of work and effort to put together.

This was a comprehensive package, widely endorsed across the country by organizations to give us the kind of leverage necessary for us to bring Iran to the negotiating table diplomatically to reduce the threat that their potential nuclear arsenal poses to us, our allies, the State of Israel and others.

I appreciate the fact that the managers of this bill had included this amendment in their managers' package. It would be a great travesty, in my

view, for us to leave here having the other body having adopted similar language. This is the one opportunity for this body to embrace an economic sanctions proposal which would give us tremendous leverage in our efforts to bring Iran to that table.

To lose that opportunity would be a serious loss of opportunity for this country. So, again, my dear friend from Virginia was here. Therefore, on behalf of those of us on the committee, unanimously, the Dodd-Shelby Iran sanctions divestment nonproliferation amendment to the DOD authorization bill, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding any agreement with respect to S. 3001, it be in order for the Senate to consider amendment No. 5572 and that the amendment be considered and agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WARNER. Reserving the right to object, and I will object, I wish to advise the Senator that the vote to take place right now is on final passage. It has been agreed to by unanimous consent. Prior thereto, the distinguished chairman raised the question of the package to which you refer.

I, personally, approved of putting in the amendment. It had been my hope, I say it is now no longer my hope, my disappointment, that that could not be achieved along with about 100 other amendments from both sides of the aisle.

So at this time I have to object and ask the Chair for regular order for the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 3001, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3001) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Reid amendment No. 5290, to change the enactment date.

Reid amendment No. 5291 (to amendment No. 5290), of a perfecting nature.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today in support of the fiscal year 2009 Defense Authorization Act, a critical piece of legislation that honors the