

**SEC. 186. EXTENSION OF LOW-INCOME HOUSING CREDIT RULES FOR BUILDINGS IN GO ZONES.**

Section 1400N(c)(5) is amended by striking "January 1, 2011" and inserting "January 1, 2013".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I spoke at length about this amendment today, so it is not necessary for me to go into a great deal of detail. I offer it on behalf of several Senators from the gulf coast in order to help extend the placed-in-service state for several low-income housing units along the gulf coast. We are not asking for additional authority, we are not asking for new tax credits but just to allow us the tax credits that have already been allocated.

Without the State extension, we will lose literally thousands of affordable housing dwellings and approximately 13,000 jobs. Since we are focused on jobs and focused on economic growth and development, we thought this would be an appropriate amendment to this bill.

I have called up the amendment, and I will allow the leadership to decide when the appropriate time to vote on this amendment will be.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

**NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK**

Mr. BYRD. Madam President, this week, March 1 through March 7, is National Peace Corps Week. It marks the 49th anniversary of this unique and important government agency.

When proposing the creation of the Peace Corps to Congress, President John F. Kennedy declared that, "Our own freedom, and the future of freedom around the world, depends, in a very real sense, on the ability to build growing and independent nations where men can live in dignity, liberated from the bonds of hunger, ignorance, and poverty."

For 49 years, nearly 200,000 dedicated Americans have served in 139 countries around the world helping developing nations with health and sanitation projects, assisting them in increasing

their agricultural production, and educating their young. In pursuit of the Peace Corps goal of helping people help themselves, Peace Corps volunteers have served as school teachers, economic development advisers, agricultural and environmental specialists, and in various capacities as skilled laborers. Today, Peace Corps volunteers are working in countries around the world in emerging and essential areas such as information technology and business development.

In fulfilling the mission that President Kennedy established for it on March 1, 1961, the Peace Corps has become an enduring symbol of the American commitment to freedom through the encouragement of the social and economic progress of all nations. It is truly one of the most successful and influential programs in the history of our Nation.

Madam President, I use this opportunity, the 49th anniversary of the Peace Corps, to congratulate and to thank everyone ever involved in this program that provides such an important service to our country, as well as other nations, and to our fellow man.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO VERMONT OLYMPIANS**

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, on a happier note, I see the distinguished Senator from Vermont, Senator SANDERS, on the floor today. I want to congratulate the Vermonters who represented our country at the Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

The Olympics themselves were exciting. I know Marcelle and I watched hours and hours of them. But we watched especially, obviously, when we saw some of these young Vermonters.

These athletes carry on a long tradition of Vermonters participating in the Winter Olympics. Hundreds of Vermonters have competed in the 21 Winter Olympiads, and it is no secret that Vermont produces great winter sports athletes, thanks to our northern climate, beautiful rugged terrain, and also a healthy sports industry.

After all, the first ski lift in the United States was a rope tow built in the town of Woodstock. I remember what a thrill it was when then-President Gerald Ford told me that the first ski lift he was on was on that ski lift in Woodstock. It is a nice memory of a wonderful person, President Gerald Ford.

Thanks to Jake Burton Carpenter and his wife Donna, Vermont is the cradle of snowboarding and it is now a central Olympic event. The Carpenters have worked so hard to make this a real sport, and they have. Our schools in ski areas have hosted dozens of international snowboarding, Alpine, and Nordic ski competitions.

Many Vermonters have won medals at the Winter Olympics over the years.

These champions include alpine skier Andrea Meade Lawrence from Rutland who was the first American to win two gold medals in 1952, Brattleboro's Bill Koch who was the first American nordic skier to medal in 1976, and alpine skier Barbara Ann Cochran, slalom gold medalist in 1972.

The Cochran family is somewhat of an Olympic dynasty in its own right. Barbara Ann's sister Marilyn and brother Bob also competed in 1972 and her sister Lindy in 1976. Bob's son Jim raced in Saturday's slalom at his second Olympics. A member of the family is a member of my own staff and I cherish having him here.

There were 11 athletes in Vancouver this year who were born in Vermont or call Vermont home. Ten others attended high school or college in Vermont, we are going to take credit for them as well, and we are proud to do that.

Raised in Vermont are snowboarders Kelly Clark from West Dover, Lindsey Jacobellis from Stratton, Hannah Teter from Belmont and Ross Powers from Londonderry; alpine skiers Jimmy Cochran from Richmond, Nolan Kasper from Warren, and Chelsea Marshall from Pittsfield; nordic skiers Andy Newell from Shaftsbury, Liz Stephen from East Montpelier, Caitlin Compton from Warren; and freestyle skier Hannah Kearney from Norwich.

Vermont's colleges and universities, with a strong tradition of winter sports, have sent athletes, both in-state and out-of-state, to numerous games. Jim Cochran is a UVM alum, along with biathlete Lowell Bailey, nordic skier Kris Freeman and hockey goalie Tim Thomas. Nordic skiers Simi Hamilton and Garrott Kuzzy are Middlebury College graduates.

Vermont's ski academies, private high schools that are dedicated to winter sports training, attract hundreds of kids from out of State every year, and have produced hundreds of Olympians. Liz Stephen and Nolan Kasper skied at Vancouver and are graduates of Burke Mountain Academy, which was the first ski academy in the country, founded in 1970. Other ski academy graduates competing in Vancouver are snowboarder Louie Vito who attended Stratton Mountain School along with Andy Newell and Ross Powers; freestyle skier Michael Morse of the Killington Mountain School; and biathlete Laura Spector and skiercross racers Paul Casey Puckett and Daron Rahlves who attended the Green Mountain Valley School along with Chelsea Marshall. Jim Cochran represented the Mount Mansfield Winter Academy, and Kelly Clark the Mount Snow Academy.

Of course, all of Vermont wants to give a special hearty congratulations to those whose efforts resulted in medals—Hannah Kearney won gold in the mogul competition.

I spoke with her the morning after. I told her I had seen her great smile on

television that morning. She said I think it is going to take forever to get that smile off my face. The New York Times had a wonderful article showing Marty Candon driving her in a parade in Norwich this past weekend.

Hannah Teter and Kelly Clark won silver and bronze in the snowboard halfpipe. Our entire State is proud of your accomplishments on this international stage.

But I am proud of every Vermonter who was chosen for the Team. No matter what their results were, it has been a pleasure to watch them, and I know that each minute of competition we saw on television was preceded by hard work, sacrifice, dedication, and thousands of hours of training.

They have been great ambassadors for the United States, and fantastic role models to Vermont's kids. I say congratulations to all of them.

Finally, I want to take a moment to recognize two Vermonters who missed competing in Vancouver because of serious head injuries. Snowboarder Kevin Pearce of Norwich fell while training in Park City, UT, on December 31, and Cody Marshall, Chelsea's brother, of Pittsfield, an alpine slalom racer, was injured last summer. Both have come a long way since their injuries but have difficult recoveries ahead of them. I spoke with Kevin Pearce's mother Pia, and I know how the whole family has come together for him, just as Cody Marshall's family has come together for him. So I wish them and their families well, and I wanted them to know they are special inspirations to all of us. They are in all of our prayers and thoughts.

Vermont is a very small State—second smallest in the country—so it is almost like one big community in our sense of pride for these young people.

I see my distinguished colleague from Vermont on the floor. I yield to him.

Mr. SANDERS. I thank Senator LEAHY for yielding. There is not a lot more I can add to what he has already said.

As you well know, Vermont is a small State. We have 620,000 people—one of the smallest States in the country. But a lot of our young people grow up on the slopes of Vermont. They are involved in skiing and snowboarding from a very young age. My grandson is out there. He is 5. He is doing pretty well as a snowboarder. That is true all over the State.

I think people who have watched the extraordinary Olympics in Vancouver noted that a lot of the participants, a lot of the outstanding athletes came from the State of Vermont. The world watched as Hannah Kearney of Norwich won the first gold medal for the United States. She was closely followed in the women's snowboarding halfpipe when Vermont took both second and third place on the podium. That is

quite a feat for a small State. Kelly Clark of West Dover brought home the bronze, and Hannah Teter of Belmont, the silver medal. This is an incredible feat when you consider that there were a total of just eight women on the U.S. snowboarding team; three of them were from the Green Mountain State and two of them were in the top three. That is pretty good under anybody's definition of success.

In true Vermont fashion, our Olympians bring more than talent, excellence, and commitment to their sports. They showed exemplary dedication to their communities. In other words, these men and women are more than just athletes; they are people who are concerned about the world in which they are living and the communities in which they live. When Hannah Teter took gold in the Torino games in 2006, she combined her prize money with proceeds from maple syrup sales to start a charity called "Hannah's Gold" which brings aid to a village in Kenya. That is what Hannah Teter did. Liz Stephen, a cross-country skier from East Montpelier, supports "Fast and Female," a charity geared toward getting young girls involved in sports. Lindsey Jacobellis, a snowboarder from Stratton, VT, used her love of animals as motivation to get involved with the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. From charity efforts to hometown, family-owned restaurants, the impact of these outstanding individuals is felt by many.

The 11 athletes who are recognized today as Vermont Olympians are the following: in cross-country skiing, Caitlin Compton, Andy Newell; in Alpine skiing, Chelsea Marshall, Nolan Kasper, and Jimmy Cochran; in ski jumping, Nick Alexander; in freestyle skiing, gold medalist Hannah Kearney; and in snowboarding, silver medalist Hannah Teter, bronze medalist Kelly Clark, and Lindsey Jacobellis. It is with great pleasure that I congratulate these athletes on a spectacular job. The State of Vermont is very proud of you all.

#### TRIBUTE TO REVEREND JESSE SCOTT

Mr. REID. Madam President, I rise to acknowledge a respected voice and longstanding figure in the Las Vegas community; I rise to commend a leader of souls and a social advocate for civil rights and children for over 50 years; I rise to wish a happy 90th birthday to a man whom I and many in Las Vegas call their friend. I rise to honor Rev. Jesse Scott.

On March 3, 1920, Jesse Scott came into a world that is far different than what we see today. When I think of the challenges he and so many others have endured over the years, I am humbled by his strength, perseverance, and faith in God.

As a graduate of Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA, Reverend Scott has devoted his life to social justice. He was an organizer and president of the NAACP's Westside Branch in Los Angeles and later supervised the work of some thirty NAACP branches in southern California.

Eventually he came to Nevada, where he served as the executive director of the Las Vegas NAACP. Reverend Scott was on the front lines in efforts to move the city of Las Vegas through very challenging times. In fact he was part of a major effort to integrate the hospitality and entertainment industry. Later, Reverend Scott was selected to serve as executive director of the Nevada Equal Rights Commission and authored an autobiography, "Pioneer for Social Justice."

Today, Reverend Scott is the assistant pastor at Second Baptist Church of Las Vegas and is the former pastor of Second Christian Church in Las Vegas. He is still carrying out his life's mission of social advocacy by working with Nevada's nonviolent ex-offenders to provide job training and employment. He also promotes education for children and is aligned with initiatives that help students graduate from high school and provide scholarships to college-bound young men and women.

Madam President, I ask the Senate to join me in paying tribute to Reverend Jesse Scott for his lifetime of service to Nevada and our Nation.

#### NOMINATION OF BARBARA KEENAN

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today the Senate confirmed Justice Barbara Keenan to be a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit by a vote of 99-0. But the vote took place only after an unsuccessful Republican filibuster of her nomination.

This is just the latest example of the new low to which Republicans have sunk when it comes to the treatment of judicial nominations.

When the Democrats were in the minority under President Bush, we voted against cloture on a handful of his judicial nominees, but only the most controversial and only those for appellate court positions.

Under President Obama, Senate Republicans have filibustered and stalled almost every judicial nominee sent forward, regardless of the court and regardless of the controversy.

Take the case of Virginia State Supreme Court Justice Barbara Keenan. You would be hard pressed to come up with someone less controversial for this Fourth Circuit vacancy.

Justice Keenan had the strong support of her home State Senators, JIM WEBB and MARK WARNER. She sailed through the Senate Judiciary Committee without a single vote of opposition. She received the highest possible