

DRAFT COLLOQUY

SENATOR MAGNUSON and SENATOR TSONGAS
APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE LOCAL SHARE OF THE
ENERGY MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP ACT

SEN. TSONGAS: Will the gentleman from Washington yield?

SEN. MAGNUSON: I yield to the Senator from Massachusetts.

SEN. TSONGAS: I thank the gentleman. Mr. President, after careful review of the Appropriations Committee report, it has come to my attention that there was a significant omission in the Committee's deliberations. I refer to appropriations for the local government portion of the Energy Management Partnership Act.

Mr. President, it was my strong hope during mark-up of this appropriation that the Committee would have provided funding for this important program now. However, it was the judgment of the Subcommittee on Interior that no appropriation should be approved at this point because the bill, which passed the Senate on July 25, had not been fully enacted yet, though House floor action is anticipated next week. Mr. President, though it is not unheard of to provide an appropriation in advance of an authorization when the authorization is all but certain, as in this case, I accepted the judgment of the

Subcommittee and its staff not to press for the appropriation for now. I did so, Mr. President, based on widespread assurance that the Committee report, though lacking any specific appropriation, would state the following report language:

REPORT LANGUAGE
SENATE INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS
CONCERNING THE ENERGY MANAGEMENT PARTNER-
SHIP ACT

The budget request assumes passage of new legislation to authorize programs to assist local governments in energy conservation and renewable resource planning, programming and implementation.

The Committee believes that such an effort to actively involve local governments in the development and implementation of our national energy policy is highly desirable.

Because the authorization for this important new program is not yet complete, the Committee has provided no funds for it in this appropriation.

However, it is the Committee's expectation that the Administration will seek a supplemental appropriation for local government energy conservation and renewable resource programs following passage of the Senate-House Conference report and final enactment of this legislation. The Committee will consider this request rapidly when it is transmitted by the Administration.

Mr. President, as is evident, the Committee Report states no such report language. Personally, I am disappointed and, frankly, I am concerned about the relative indifference to a bill which

passed this Senate unanimously, and bears a total -- total -- Administration budget request for only \$25 million for the local share of the program. I wonder if the gentleman from Washington could provide an overview of his understanding of the situation.

SEN. MAGNUSON: The gentleman from Massachusetts is correct. The Committee report language which he cites, requesting the Administration to submit a speedy supplemental for this program following final passage was an appropriate and effective path to follow to achieve rapid implementation of this important energy initiative. Indeed, the language just read by the gentleman, was approved by my staff and by the staff of the Interior Subcommittee as a logical approach. However, let me say to the gentleman, that during an enormously complex mark-up session, consisting of a long list of major controversies, there simply was not the time to properly take up this matter. Let me give the strongest assurances to the gentleman, that as the Chairman of the Committee and as an original sponsor of the authorizing legislation, it is my intention to work quickly for the supplemental following enactment of the bill. Let me add, that I know

many of my colleagues on the Committee also feel strongly about this appropriation and will join in with me in seeking and approving this supplemental request.

SEN. TSONGAS: Will the gentleman yield further?

SEN. MAGNUSON: I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

SEN. TSONGAS: I appreciate the comments of the Chairman. I find them reassuring as I know will the many supporters of this landmark legislation in the Senate, the House and in the city governments across the country. I look forward to working with the Senator and the Committee towards rapid achievement of the supplemental. I would like to also add, that in my view it will not be necessary for the Administration to wait until the supplemental is passed to begin preparation for implementation of this program. There is much which can be done through existing resources to begin writing the regulations and getting the cities ready for this program so that we can hit the ground running when the supplemental is passed. I wonder, would the gentleman agree that this is a good course for the Administration to follow?

SEN. MAGNUSON: I would strongly agree with the Senator.

SEN. TSONGAS: Will the Senator yield further?

SEN. MAGNUSON: I yield to the Senator.

SEN. TSONGAS: Mr. President, I think it is important to note, particularly since the Senate gave its strong endorsement to this program on July 25, that we need this program working in our cities as soon as possible. We need it because it is the local governments, which if given the chance, will lead the way towards energy independence. And, might I add, that every Senator knows where this recession has hit the hardest -- in the nation's cities. And there are perhaps few approaches which can help our cities get back on their feet quickly than a strong program oriented towards energy conservation and development -- it's a money saver and a jobs producer. I think the gentleman would agree that from a budgetary and energy point of view, we can't afford to wait too much longer to get this program started in the right way.

SEN. MAGNUSON: I do agree with the gentleman.

SEN. TSONGAS: Will the Senator - yield?

SEN. MAGNUSON: I yield to the Senator from Massachusetts.

SEN. TSONGAS: (LANGUAGE TO BE INSERTED RE: MAGNUSON'S OVERALL EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS, ETC.)