

Business Meeting Statement
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee
Chairman Joe Lieberman
May 26, 2011

AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY

Good morning. Thanks to everyone for being here today under what are clearly unusual circumstances. I want to thank Senator Collins especially for being here and graciously working with us as we come together again to consider legislation of great importance to many disaster victims left in a financial bind because of mistakes made by FEMA.

That legislation is S. 792, the Disaster Assistance Recoupment Fairness Act of 2011, which would give FEMA greater discretion on reclaiming disaster aid that it erred in paying out in the first place.

Although it was clear that the legislation had the support of a majority of our Committee, a vote failed last week when the measure was brought up out of its agenda order, which caused some Senators who support the measure to miss the vote.

After consulting with Senate legal counsel, we decided to call a new business meeting to consider S. 792, with three days notice, as required by Committee rules, and a new opportunity to offer amendments to the bill.

Again, I thank the Ranking Member for her flexibility and now call on her to make a statement if she so wishes.