

bailout plan because of that level of suffering, because of that significance to individual workers and families and the economy as a whole.

That may seem a bit of an odd statement to some folks. Why do I say that? Well, for two reasons. No. 1, this proposal, at its core, is about giving these companies \$15 billion of loans, \$15 billion on the promise of a detailed restructuring plan yet to come. So we give them significant amounts of money—\$15 billion—so that they go through that process, so that they start that discussion, so that they come back to us months later with a detailed restructuring plan.

Well, my reaction to that is pretty simple. I think the average American would say: What? Isn't that putting the cart before the horse? \$15 billion, and then later, after that is out the door, we will see a detailed restructuring plan? Secondly, even more important than that, it means that the impetus, the pressure to make that restructuring truly fundamental, truly to the core, which is absolutely necessary for these companies to survive, that pressure is not nearly as great as if we held the money until that detailed restructuring plan was presented.

The second reason I will vote against this bailout plan, the second reason I believe it actually would doom these companies to failure is that I believe it politicizes the management of these companies right at a time where they need to move in the opposite direction so that business and engineering considerations alone guide their company's futures.

Let me say bluntly, I have no confidence—absolutely no confidence—in the present management of these three companies. But let me also say, if there is a way for that to go from bad to worse, it is by injecting into the process politics and a political appointee such as this so-called car czar. That would make a very bad situation very much worse. It would politicize further the management of these companies, again, when they need to move to a situation where business and engineering considerations alone guide their decisions.

Another good, specific example of this politicization is language which has been in the proposal so far to actually prohibit these companies from legally challenging various moves for individual States to impose onerous, complicated, different environmental standards on them. Again, we are bringing political mandates, political pressure, political decisions to bear right at a time when these companies need to move in the opposite direction, get away from all of that, which has been a part of the reason they are where they are today, and base their future decisions on business and engineering considerations alone.

For these companies to survive, no matter what taxpayer dollars are involved, they need truly core fundamental restructuring. They need to re-

vamp and revisit all their obligations, all their business models, all their labor contracts, all their dealership associations—everything that constitutes them as they presently are. They need to do that; if not in a bankruptcy process, they need to do that through a process which is the equivalent of bankruptcy, just by another name.

This plan which is being worked on and will be presented before us is not that. What is worse, it is not only not that, I believe it will prevent that from ever happening and will, therefore, doom these companies to failure, no matter what taxpayer dollars are thrown at them.

Again, for this reason, I have reached what is for me a clear and inescapable conclusion. No. 1, I cannot support this general bailout plan. No. 2, because I believe this plan will actually doom the companies to failure, I will use every procedural tool available to demand a fair and open amendment process on the floor of the Senate and to delay and block the measure as it presently stands.

Mr. President, with that, I yield back the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Thank you, Mr. President.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

FALLEN PENNSYLVANIANS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, yesterday, I came before the Senate to pay tribute to Pennsylvanians who gave, as Abraham Lincoln said, “the last full measure of devotion” to their country serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Therefore, today, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the men and women of Pennsylvania who have served in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. This struggle began in the weeks following the gravest attack on American soil; it was a direct response to eliminate the sanctuary of those who plotted the horrific events of 9/11.

The men and women who have served in Afghanistan have faced extreme danger but have persevered with a can-do spirit. Our men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces are indeed in a class of their own—all their own, I should say. And, like their brothers and sisters serving in Iraq, they mourn the sacrifices of their own.

So today in the Senate, I would also like to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of those 25 Pennsylvanian heroes who may have fallen in the battles of Afghanistan but who have only risen in our appreciation for their service and sacrifice. I list them now:

CWO Michael Slebodnik of Gibsonia, PA;
PFC Michael Dinterman of Littlestown, PA;
LTC Richard Berrettini of Wilcox, PA;
SPC Jonathan L. Luscher of Scranton, PA;
SPC Derek Holland of Wind Gap, PA;
PV2 Matthew Brown of Zelienople, PA;

1LT Jeffrey Deprimo of Pittston, PA;
2LT Michael Girdano of Apollo, PA;
SGT Douglas Bull of Wilkes-Barre, PA;
SSG Troy Ezernack of Lancaster, PA;
Po3 John Fralish of New Kingstown, PA;
CPT Bryan Willard of Hummelstown, PA;
SGT Jonathan McColley of Gettysburg, PA;
SGT James Fordyce of Newtown Square, PA;
SGT Brett Hershey of State College, PA;
PFC James Dillon, Jr., of Grove City, PA;
SSG Paul Sweeney of Lakeville, PA;
SGT Christopher Geiger of Allentown, PA;
SFC Scott Ball of Mount Holly Springs, PA;
SGT Jan Argonish of Peckville, PA;
SSG Patrick Kutschbach of McKees Rocks, PA;
CPT David Boris of Pottsville, PA;
MSG Arthur Lilley of Smithfield, PA;
1SG Christopher Rafferty of Brownsville, PA;
MSG Thomas Maholic of Bradford, PA.

To the families of these brave Americans, please know your son's or daughter's service will always be remembered and appreciated. Every time a child is able to go to school in America without fear, that service is appreciated. Every time a graduate looks positively toward their future, to live in a land of freedom and liberty, those who have served are appreciated and their sacrifice is appreciated.

The response of these men and women—whether it was in Afghanistan or anywhere in the world that they served—their response to the ultimate call to service ensures that each of us may live in freedom.

As Benjamin Disraeli once said:

The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example.

During this holiday season, when thoughts of our families and loved ones are on our minds, I wish to express my condolences and gratitude to those families who have loved and lost someone dear to them and also to express gratitude to those whose loved ones are now serving in a war theater far from home. Please know you are in our prayers.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

PERSEVERANCE IN TOUGH TIMES

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I rise during this Christmas season to share with the Senate and the Nation an inspirational story from my home State of Montana. As a former public school teacher myself, I have known for a long time how amazing Montana's young people can be. This story is a story of triumph over tragedy that serves as the latest reminder.

Early on the morning of September 18, Montanans in and around Yellowstone County woke up to learn the tragic news that the Huntley Project

school in Worden, MT, was on fire—an act of arson. Despite the valiant efforts by crews from the Worden, Shepherd, Lockwood, and Billings fire departments, the school burned to the ground.

Although sad and angry about the fire, teachers, parents, students, and the whole community rallied to support the student body. As the Billings Gazette reported at the time:

Huntley Project High was still burning when people in the tight-knit community vowed that the loss wouldn't affect their spirits.

Montana's Superintendent of Schools, Linda McCulloch, put out a request statewide for schools and businesses to donate school supplies and books and backpacks and computers. Montana's business community and citizens opened their hearts and their wallets, even in this tough economic time, to help these students.

Billings School Superintendent Jack Cops arranged for classes to continue in the Billings school district at Skyview High School and at other facilities to help them get through the first days after the fire. Later, temporary trailers were brought to the Huntley campus to help during the rebuilding process. The 230 Huntley High School students soldiered on in the spirit of their homecoming theme—that being warriors. They simply refused to give up. I met with Superintendent Dave Mahon last month and toured the burned campus.

The Huntley Project Red Devils have long been a power in Class B football. After the fire, the whole community rallied to cheer the team that symbolized Huntley's toughness in the face of an unbelievable challenge. The principal said it well: "We're red and black and we're back," as Huntley beat the Townsend Bulldogs in their first game after the fire. There would be many more victories as the team finished a perfect season with a record of 12-0. Last month, Huntley beat the powerful team from Fairfield 41 to 28 to win the Class B State championship in football as players from both teams played their guts out and left it all out on the field. It was the first State championship for the project since 1998.

I wish to congratulate head coach Jay Santy, as well as assistant coaches Rick Dees, Mark Wandle, and Lenny Brown, all of the players and their parents, their teachers and friends and supporters throughout the Huntley community.

America faces some tough challenges today. Last month, more than a half a million American workers lost their jobs. Many parts of the country are suffering from the foreclosure crisis in the housing market and the domestic automobile industry teeters on the brink of collapse. As we work here to tackle those tough challenges, I suggest we follow the example of perseverance of these tough young Montanans. I suggest we lace up our cleats, strap on our helmets, and go out and get the job done.

As we approach the Christmas season, I urge the Senate to look at Huntley Project school and the greater community and look to the future with hope and grit.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, today I rise in tribute to the spirit of recovery for the Huntley Project High School which was destroyed in an early morning fire on Thursday, September 18. The bottomless community spirit and immediate outpouring of support from around Montana has enabled this school, its faculty and staff, 230 students, their parents and supporters to put their energies and efforts into opening its doors. Through the extraordinary leadership of school superintendent Dave Mahon and principal Tynie Mader, students gathered in the junior high auditorium at 8:15 a.m. on Monday, September 22, to receive school supplies and restart the school year in the wake of the fire. Classes are being held in trailers located on the practice field west of the burned high school.

The weekend following the fire, families and members of the community came together to clean up temporary classrooms for use, donate funds to replenish music and sports equipment, books and computers lost in the fire. Donations have come in from communities across Montana the Malta School District sent \$500 to help, having experienced a devastating fire in 1995. The school has received bandstands from Absarokee schools, cleats from a major sports corporation, backpacks from Billings elementary schools, donations from the local banks and area businesses and offers from as far away as North Carolina.

The students have taken it upon themselves to shoulder part of the burden. They have applied to the television show "Extreme Makeover" to get their school rebuilt. They have been an integral part of sorting, carrying and cleaning school equipment. And their academic and extracurricular activities are getting an extra dose of school spirit these days.

The school and community rallied around the athletic teams at Huntley Project following the devastating fire. This burst of school spirit helped propel the Huntley Project Red Devils to the Montana Class B State championship in football on November 22. Huntley Project defeated Fairfield High 41-28. The victory in the State title game on the Red Devils home field capped off a perfect season for coach Jay Santy and his players. A sign on the fence encircling the field said "Devils risen up with the flames." Indeed this statement is true of all in the Huntley Project community. The Red Devils girls volleyball team also rose to the occasion to excel this season. After being displaced from their gym due to the fire, the team was forced to practice and play all their games away from home. Despite this added challenge the squad led by coach Iona Stookey placed third at the State class

B volleyball tournament. I would like to congratulate these fine student athletes, their coaches and teachers, and all in the Huntley Project community not only for their achievements on the playing field but also for coming together to support each other and working to rebuild the school.

Much has been done. More will need to be done. But we are Montanans, and we have that frontier spirit and grit that pulls a community together without question and without hesitation in times of need. In the meantime, we are all pulling for the Huntley Project Red Devils until their school is rebuilt.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business and to use as much time as I may consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, obviously we have been in negotiations with a tremendous amount of work going on around the question of the American auto industry and the position they find themselves in as a result of, first of all and foremost, a global credit crisis. So I stand here today on behalf of hundreds of thousands of incredibly smart, productive, working men and women in Michigan and the millions of others around the country who design, build, service, finance, and sell American-made automobiles and have done so now for over a generation—the people who not only build the parts that are given to the auto industry but to the vehicles that our brave men and women drive right now in Iraq and around the globe, those who have built America and the American middle class, those who advertise and market and are engaged in so many different ways in the foundation of American manufacturing, which is the American auto industry.

I also wish to speak on behalf of Americans today who have benefited from a great American middle class, built on the notion that we don't just move paper around on Wall Street, we actually make things and we grow things. I know the distinguished occupant of the chair, from Pennsylvania, understands that, coming from a great State that makes things, grows things, adds value to it, people who work hard every day. The shower they may take is after work rather than before work, but they are just as valuable—and, I argue, maybe more valuable—in terms