

to repeal and replace this health care law and replace it with something that works for the American people. This law we have passed and is now on the books is one I believe is unconstitutional and one that the Save our States Act will help our States deal with. This is a way that I think will help the health care of Americans who are struggling at this time to deal with the onerous requirements they see coming at them under the President's new health care law.

With that, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for the period of morning business to be extended until 3 p.m., with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

SBIR/STTR

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I appreciate everyone's cooperation in trying to help us move the SBIR bill through the Senate this week. It is a very important bill. Hopefully, we can get back on that bill officially this afternoon as the leaders are negotiating about the amendments that are pending or those amendments filed against the bill. I see, at this time, the Senator from Maryland who is on the floor and wants to speak for just 1 minute about the bill and then Senator BOXER came down to speak about an amendment. Senator VITTER is also here, and I know he would like to be recognized in just a few minutes as well. Then we will alternate back and forth through morning business. There is no consent agreement at this point, but we will try to be fair to the Members, to move back and forth through the afternoon until 3 o'clock.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask the Senator if she will yield for a question.

Ms. LANDRIEU. The Senator would go after Senator CARDIN.

Mrs. BOXER. I wanted to clarify that.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Then Senator VITTER, if that is OK.

Mrs. BOXER. Because I have a pressing event after, I wanted to be sure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland is recognized.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to go back to the SBIR bill itself and

compliment Senator LANDRIEU, the chairman, and Senator SNOWE, the ranking Republican member. This bill is an important one. I think it is important we get back to it and that we deal with amendments relevant to this legislation and move it forward. We have been on this bill for a period of time. It is time to move on. I urge my colleagues, let's take up the amendments that are relevant to the legislation and move it forward.

This is bipartisan legislation, passed out of committee by an overwhelming vote of Democrats and Republicans. It is a bill that will help create jobs in our community. We are talking about how America, as the President said, can outeducate, outinnovate and outbuild our competitors. We have to outinnovate. The SBIR bill makes it easier for small companies to innovate for America, to help this Nation grow, to help our economy grow. It is about jobs and innovation.

The SBIR Program provides funds for small-tech firms to innovate and grow and create jobs and for America to continue to lead the world in innovation. That is what this bill is about. It provides predictability so if you are going to go into a business, you know the program is going to be here to give the permanency of reauthorization. It provides a greater share of the pie for our smaller companies. Why? Because that is where we are going to get the job growth in America and that is where innovation is going to come from.

This is commonsense legislation we need to move forward. I know everybody has their particular amendment they want to get on that is not related at all to this bill. Let's do our small businesses a favor, let's do the American economy a favor, let's do something that can help not only create jobs but move America forward in innovation and let's get this bill moving for the sake of our economy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I need to tell the American people and my colleagues who have not been following this important debate on a very good bill, I am so grateful to the Senator from Louisiana, Ms. LANDRIEU, for this bill. Unfortunately, there has been an amendment that was attached to this bill on the very first day which would stop the Environmental Protection Agency forever from enforcing the Clean Air Act as it relates to carbon pollution.

This is a first of a kind. It has never been done. It is essentially a repeal of the Clean Air Act as it involves one particular pollutant, carbon, which has been found to be an endangerment to our people. The EPA did not wake up one day and say: We think carbon is dangerous. No; the scientists in both the Bush administration and Obama administration found out carbon is a dangerous pollutant, dangerous to the health of our families. So EPA, in what

is I think a very solid way, has started to prepare to regulate carbon. They have done it in a way that has said they are not going after farms, they are not going after small business, they are going after the biggest polluters in the country.

Guess what. The friends of those polluters, right in this Senate Chamber, have decided—and they already did it in the House, the new Republican majority—they are going to stop EPA in its tracks. That is why I will ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a very good letter from the American Lung Association, the American Public Health Association, the Trust for America's Health, the Physicians for Social Responsibility, and Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America. I ask unanimous consent to have that printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MARCH 30, 2011.

DEAR SENATOR: Our organizations have written to you recently on legislation impacting the Clean Air Act. Today we write to express our opposition to the amendments that will come before the full U.S. Senate in the very near future.

We oppose:

1. Amendment No. 183 by Senator McConnell;
2. Amendment No. 215 by Senator Rockefeller;
3. Amendment No. 236 by Senator Baucus; and,
4. Amendment No. 265 by Senator Stabenow

By blocking the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) authority to update clean air standards, each of the above amendments, in its own way, will weaken the Clean Air Act.

If passed by Congress, these amendments would interfere with EPA's ability to implement the Clean Air Act; a law that protects public health and reduces health care costs for all by preventing thousands of adverse health outcomes, including: cancer, asthma attacks, heart attacks, strokes, emergency department visits, hospitalizations and premature deaths.

Additionally, the public strongly opposes Congress blocking EPA's efforts to implement the Clean Air Act. A recent bipartisan survey, which was conducted for the American Lung Association by the Republican firm Ayres, McHenry & Associates and the Democratic polling firm Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research, indicates the overwhelming view of voters:

69 percent think the EPA should update Clean Air Act standards with stricter limits on air pollution;

64 percent feel that Congress should not stop the EPA from updating carbon dioxide emission standards;

69 percent believe that EPA scientists, rather than Congress, should set pollution standards.

The above amendments would strip away sensible Clean Air Act protections that safeguard Americans and their families from air pollution. We strongly urge the Senate to support the continued implementation of this vital law.

Sincerely,

CHARLES CONNOR,
President and Chief
Executive Officer,
American Lung Association.

GEORGES C. BENJAMIN, MD,
FACP, FACEP (E),
Executive Director,
American Public
Health Association.

DEAN E. SCHRAUFNAGEL
MD,
President, American
Thoracic Society.

BILL MCLIN,
President and CEO,
Asthma and Allergy
Foundation of Amer-
ica.

PETER WILK, MD,
Executive Director,
Physicians for Social
Responsibility.

JEFFREY LEVI, PHD,
Executive Director,
Trust for America's
Health.

Mrs. BOXER. They say we “strongly oppose Congress blocking EPA’s effort to implement the Clean Air Act.” That is one of the things they say in the letter.

Then, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD—by the way, these are new letters, yesterday one of them—a letter from Business for Innovative Climate + Energy Policy.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

BUSINESS FOR INNOVATIVE CLIMATE
+ ENERGY POLICY,
March 28, 2011.

Re: Business Support for EPA’s authority to regulate GHG emissions

DEAR SENATE MAJORITY LEADER REID AND SENATE MINORITY LEADER MCCONNELL: We are writing as major U.S. businesses to urge you to oppose all amendments or other measures that would block, delay or curtail EPA’s ability to take action on the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions.

For nearly two years, our coalition, Business for Innovative Climate and Energy Policy (BICEP), has worked with Members of Congress toward passage of comprehensive climate and energy legislation, because we believe it is critical to the health of our businesses and essential for job creation and innovation in the United States.

It is important to underscore that we have always believed strongly that Congress should lead on setting climate and energy policy for the United States. However, in lieu of Congress’s ability to pass a comprehensive bill, EPA’s legitimate authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions should not be constrained at this time.

We urge you and your Senate colleagues to remain focused on the vital task of passing a comprehensive climate and energy bill that will create jobs, reduce harmful emissions, encourage clean energy development and enhance national security.

Sincerely,

ANNE L. KELLY,
Director, BICEP.

Mrs. BOXER. The letter says “Business Support for EPA’s authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions.” It is a letter from Anne Kelly, who is director of this organization. She writes:

We are writing as major U.S. businesses to urge you to oppose all amendments or other measures that would block, delay or curtail EPA’s ability to take action on the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions.

It is not business friendly. It is friendly, these terrible amendments, to

the biggest polluters in America who today took out a full-page ad. I guess they can afford \$20,000—maybe it is 50, I don’t know what it costs—for a whole page, saying: “Stopping EPA’s job-killing greenhouse gas regulation.”

Of course, who are they? The Industrial Minerals Association, the National Mining Association, the National Petrochemical & Refiners Association, Petroleum Marketers Association of America, Society of Chemical Manufacturers, et cetera, et cetera.

I guess the question for us as a body is, Whom do we stand with, the biggest polluters in America or the American people, 69 percent of whom said in a bipartisan poll: “EPA should update Clean Air Act standards with stricter air pollution limits.”

This group in this body, for whatever reason—and I respect their reasons, I just strongly disagree with them—are saying: Stop EPA, stop. Mr. President, 68 percent believe Congress should not stop EPA from enforcing Clean Air Act standards.

That is what these amendments do. I say show me one other thing besides we all love our mothers that would get 68 percent of the American people in a bipartisan vote.

Mr. President, 69 percent believe “EPA scientists, not Congress, should set pollution standards.” But we have Senators playing scientist, putting on their white coats, deciding what EPA should do, when it ought to be based on science. What is the science telling us? That it is dangerous to breathe in air pollution with lots of carbon in it.

I ask unanimous consent to have another letter printed in the RECORD from 1Sky, Center For Biological Diversity, Clean Air Task Force, Clean Water Action, Conservation Law Foundation, Defenders of Wildlife, Earthjustice, Environmental Defense Fund, Environment America, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Friends of the Earth, Interfaith Power & Light, League of Women Voters of the United States, Natural Resources Defense Council, Republicans for Environmental Protection, Safe Climate Campaign, Sierra Club, Union of Concerned Scientists, US Climate Action Network, Voces Verdes, Voices for Progress, World Wildlife Fund.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MARCH 30, 2011.

DEAR SENATOR: On behalf of the millions of members, activists, and supporters our organizations represent, we urge you to oppose all amendments to S. 493, the SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act of 2011, that would block the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) ability to protect public health, including Senator McConnell’s amendment (#183), Senator Rockefeller’s amendment (#215), Senator Baucus’s Amendment (#236), and Senator Stabenow’s amendment (#265). Each of these amendments will stop the work underway to clean-up health-threatening carbon dioxide pollution, putting families across the country at risk and stifling investment in a clean energy economy.

For 40 years, the EPA has protected our health and for 40 years the Clean Air Act has been reducing dozens of different air pollut-

ants—all while contributing to America’s economic prosperity. These amendments would block the EPA’s authority to do this critical job, giving big polluters a free pass to spew carbon dioxide and other pollution without limit. Stopping the EPA from doing its job now means more Americans will suffer ill health, not fewer; more clean energy jobs will be outsourced overseas, and fewer American jobs will be created here at home.

Time and again, some in industry have made dire claims in order to avoid taking responsibility for polluting our air. And time and again, the industry predictions have proven false. In fact, between 1970 and 1990 the Clean Air Act returned \$42 in benefits for every dollar spent. And for every dollar spent cleaning up our air from 1990 to 2020, Americans are expected to receive 30 dollars in economic benefits. The Clean Air Act is a clear financial winner.

Medical professionals and public health organizations agree that carbon dioxide pollution is a serious public health issue. Compromising the work of the EPA means more Americans will suffer the impacts of severe asthma attacks, more children will end up in hospitals attached to respirators, and more seniors lives will be put at risk from heat waves and severe weather.

Once again, we urge you to oppose all amendments to S. 493 that would block the Environmental Protection Agency’s ability to protect public health. By doing so, you will stand up for our health, our economy, and our environment. The American people deserve the cleaner air, better health, and saved lives that are made possible by the Clean Air Act.

Sincerely,

1Sky, Center for Biological Diversity, Clean Air Task Force, Clean Water Action, Conservation Law Foundation, Defenders of Wildlife, Earthjustice, Environmental Defense Fund, Environment America, Friends Committee on National Legislation.

Friends of the Earth, Interfaith Power & Light, League of Women Voters of the United States, Natural Resources Defense Council, Republicans for Environmental Protection, Safe Climate Campaign, Sierra Club, Union of Concerned Scientists, US Climate Action Network, Voces Verdes, Voices for Progress, World Wildlife Fund.

Mrs. BOXER. It says:

For 40 years the EPA has protected our health and for 40 years the Clean Air Act has been reducing dozens of different pollutants—all while contributing to America’s economic prosperity.

Every single time we try to rein in pollution, special interests say: No, no, no, a thousand times no. We will stop growth. We will stop jobs. We will kill the economy. It is awful, awful, awful.

Let me give one economic fact: If you can’t breathe, you can’t work.

Here is a picture of a little girl suffering, struggling. I urge my colleagues who support Senator MCCONNELL to look at this. They are not here, but maybe on TV they will. Look at this picture. Is that what we want for her future?

We have another picture of a little boy. This is what is happening in this country because of the polluters who will not clean up their mess. Here is another beautiful child. We all love children. How many speeches have we had on this floor—we love children, children are our future, we will fight for our children. Do we want their future to look like this, breathing

through a device? Come on. This is clear.

You go to any school. I defy my colleagues, try this. Go to any school in your State and say: By the way, how many of you have asthma? You will see the little hands go up. Then you say: How many of you know someone with asthma? You will see half the class raise their hands. Yet what are we doing on this beautiful bill—that Senator LANDRIEU, I know, wants to have cleaned up? She doesn't want these amendments on it. Regardless of how she may feel or I may feel, we both agree we should not have these amendments on it, but so be it. We have to vote these amendments down because we are responsible for these kids. All our side is saying is very simple: The Clean Air Act has worked.

If I went up to you and I said: If you know something worked perfectly well, would you mess with it? Would you change it?

No. Why would you, if it is working well?

So let's take a look at how well the Clean Air Act is working. I know how strong the belief of the Presiding Officer is on this subject. Let's take a look at this.

In 2010, the Clean Air Act prevented 160,000 cases of premature deaths. By 2020, that number is projected to rise to 230,000 cases of premature death. So if we stay on course and we fool around with the Clean Air Act—as my Republican friends have already done in the House and I pray to God they do not succeed—we are going to see more deaths in 2020.

In 2010, the Clean Air Act prevented 1.7 million fewer asthma attacks. I showed you the picture of those children. Why do we want to mess with that? The Clean Air Act prevented 10,000 acute heart attacks. You read the stories: So-and-so went out on a heavy, bad air day, took a little jog, and collapsed.

I have to tell you, we have a success story to tell about what the Clean Air Act is doing. I will show a chart of what happened in Los Angeles. A lot of you go to my beautiful State. I know the chairman of the committee said she was just there, and it was a terrific visit to my State. We have a magnificent State. But there were times when you went to Los Angeles that you saw the air. That is not a good thing. When you see the air, that is a bad thing. The air was thick. People were told on many mornings: Do not go out unless you must. The air is so dangerous.

The Clean Air Act passed. Guess what. In 2010, we have had no mornings like that—none. We went from 166 days a year of health advisories in southern California to none in 2010. I have to say, if you show me any other law that has had this record of success, I will smile and be happy. We went from 166 days a year of smog advisories to none because of the Clean Air Act. I have already told you, we have saved lives, saved asthma attacks. We have done it

all. Yet there are people in this Chamber who want to either postpone enforcing the Clean Air Act as it relates to carbon or want to stop it forever, which is the McConnell amendment and the worst amendment of them all, if I had to rate them.

I have a couple other charts to share with you and then I will close. The McConnell amendment, which is the worst of all amendments—none of them are good—they all interfere with the Environmental Protection Agency, which is supported, the EPA, by 69 percent of the people.

But the McConnell amendment is a disaster. It is the same as the Upton amendment, the Upton bill in the House, and the Inhofe bill in the Senate. The McConnell amendment—what does it do? It says that forever more, the EPA cannot do anything to regulate carbon pollution regardless of how dangerous it is, regardless of what the scientists tell us, regardless of what the physicians tell us, regardless of what the people tell us through the polls, regardless of what our communities tell us, what our States tell us, what our mayors tell us. Forever more, they are repealing the Clean Air Act as it relates to carbon pollution. Rather extreme. Outrageous. We have to beat it. We must beat it. It is so bad. It goes against the Supreme Court decision. By the way, there will be lawsuits up the wazoo if it ever becomes law, and it will not, I pray.

The Supreme Court said that if we find—scientists—that carbon pollution is dangerous, we have to regulate it. Guess what. The scientists found that carbon pollution is dangerous. They made an endangerment finding. The EPA is ready to act, I think in a judicious way. They are very mindful. They are not going after farms, they are not going after small businesses. That is not good enough for these special interests who took out this huge ad today standing against—it is a beautiful ad. It looks almost environmental, green. This is not green; it is dirty—dirty air. That is what this ad stands for—dirty air.

A lot of people did not want me to come back here because they knew I would come here and tell the truth about this. But I am here, and I am going to tell the truth every day in every way because I love my grandkids and I love everybody's grandkids. As far as I am concerned, that is why I am here—not to protect the rich polluters who make billions of dollars a year. They can clean up their act. We proved it. We proved it. We have said we do not want kids struggling for air, and we said we can do this right. We proved it. We not only proved we can clean up the air, we not only proved we can save lives, we not only proved we can save asthma attacks, we proved we can grow this economy.

I am going to close now and let my friend from Louisiana have the floor, but I have to close with this. There is a lot of talk about how this is bad for

business. But the fact is, every time the polluters get up and say: Do not pass any more Clean Air Act amendments, it is going to be bad for jobs. We found out that cleaning up the environment actually creates jobs. Not only does it create jobs, it creates new technologies. Not only does it create new technologies, but those technologies are exported to the world. And I will have printed in the RECORD the number of jobs that have been created as we moved to clean up the air.

So the reason I am here—and I think it is quite a spirited discussion I am having with all of you—is because we are facing four bad amendments—four, count them, the worst being McConnell—all of which would either slow down the EPA or stop the EPA.

By the way, the McConnell amendment is so terrible that it even says EPA can no longer have anything to do with tailpipe emissions of cars, which is such an important part of the dirty air we are facing.

In closing, according to information from the Institute of Clean Air Companies—those are American companies that oppose these big polluting companies—from 1999 to 2001, the number of boilermakers in the United States increased by 6,700—a 35-percent increase—even though we said: You have to clean up the air.

The Department of Commerce shows that the U.S. environmental technology industry generated \$300 billion in revenues, supported 1.7 million jobs. The air pollution control sector produced \$18 billion in revenue. Small and medium-sized companies make up 99 percent of the private sector firms in this sector of the economy.

So here is what you have. You have these huge, multibillion-dollar polluters who can afford to take one-page ads, full-page ads in the Washington Post. They want to continue polluting the air, and they don't want to clean it up. And you have a whole other group of businesses that have written to us and said: Please let the EPA do its work. It saves lives, it saves our children, and it creates many jobs—new jobs, clean jobs, good jobs.

If we go down the path of the McConnell amendment and these other amendments, we are ceding our leadership in environmental clean tech to China. That is the last thing we want to do. They are already surpassing us in solar production, and we created it.

So the bill before us is a fine bill. I hope, if we have to vote for these amendments, and they do come up as part of this agreement as we move forward, we will not pass any of them and we will allow the people to have their way. Sixty-nine percent of them say: Let the EPA do its job.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CARDIN). The Senator from Louisiana.

U.S. ENERGY PRODUCTION

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, since President Obama took office, the price