

that were levied on those oil and gas wells. Therefore, we have laid down new investments for cleaner technologies, for new opportunities for Louisiana and for our Nation.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am glad to have the opportunity today to speak on the critical issue of energy security. In order to secure our country's economic and national security, we need to have a balanced energy plan that protects the environment, supports the needs of our growing economy, and reduces our dependence on foreign sources of energy.

Every man, woman, and child in the United States is a stakeholder when it comes to developing a responsible, balanced, stable, long-term energy policy.

When natural gas prices soared last winter, low-income families and the elderly were the hardest hit. Not too long ago, \$2-per-gallon gas took a great toll on our economy. Trucking companies went bankrupt, small businesses and factories were forced to lay off workers, and farmers suffered a devastating blow of spiked input costs.

We found ourselves, after 8 years of inaction by the Clinton administration, without a comprehensive energy policy. I questioned officials from the Clinton administration and encouraged them to provide to Congress a plan to deal with the rising cost of energy. I even authored an amendment to require them to compile a report detailing their plan to address the energy shortage. I never received such a plan.

I was pleased that President Bush, soon after taking office, pledged to make the energy security of our country one of his highest priorities.

It is unfortunate that since the release of the President's National Energy Policy report last year, it took over 10 months for the Senate to begin this debate. Even more troubling is the process by which this bill was put together. In October, the majority leader and the chairman of the Energy Committees chose to remove this bill from further consideration by the committee, and instead put together this bill without the input of the minority members of the Senate Energy Committee, and that is also unfortunate.

The events of September 11 have made very clear to Americans how important it is to enhance our energy independence. We can longer afford to allow our dangerous reliance on foreign sources of oil to continue.

It is time to get serious about implementing energy efficiency and conservation efforts, investing in alternative, renewable fuels and improving domestic production of traditional resources.

I support a comprehensive energy policy consisting of conservation efforts, development of renewable and alternative energy resources, and domestic production of traditional sources of energy.

As my colleagues well know, I have long been a supporter of alternative and renewable sources of energy as a

way of protecting our environment and increasing our energy independence.

In 1992, I authored legislation to provide the first-ever tax incentive for wind energy production. In 1997, I led the successful effort to extend for 10 years the tax credit for corn-based ethanol.

The energy bill we are currently debating includes a number of provisions regarding conservation and renewable energy development. For example, included in this legislation is a renewable fuels provision which requires a small percentage of our Nation's fuel supply to be provided by renewable fuels such as ethanol and biodiesel.

I strongly support the production of renewable domestic fuels, particularly ethanol and biodiesel. As domestic, renewable sources of energy, ethanol and biodiesel can increase fuel supplies, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and increase our national and economic security.

I thank the majority leader and Chairman BINGAMAN for including this renewable fuels standard, which is very similar to the standard that the Senate Energy Committee Republicans supported early last fall.

The renewable fuels standard, supported by a broad coalition, is good for America's farmers, good for the environment, good for consumers, and good for national security.

However, while this bill addresses conservation efforts and alternative energy, it falls well short on domestic energy development of traditional sources. Critical provisions to support new development of nuclear energy and domestic oil and gas exploration and production were unfortunately left out of the package.

At a time when the United States is dependent on foreign countries for over 58 percent of our oil needs, this legislation does little to support development of resources on our own land. We currently import more than 750,000 barrels of oil a day from Saddam Hussein's Iraq. Yet this bill remains silent on the development of just 2,000 acres of land in Alaska that could supply the equivalent of the oil we import from Saudi Arabia for 30 years.

We must do more to develop, in an environmentally sensitive way, the resources that God gave us. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that the bill before the Senate does more to protect our national security, and reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

I also look forward to debate on an amendment that I plan to offer with Senator BAUCUS. As ranking member of the Finance Committee, I have had the opportunity to work with Chairman BAUCUS to develop an energy-related tax amendment.

Unlike the underlying bill, this amendment strikes a good balance between conventional energy sources, alternative and renewable energy, and conservation.

Among other things, it includes provisions for the development of renew-

able sources of energy like wind and biomass, incentives for energy efficient appliances and homes, and incentives for the production of non-conventional sources of traditional oil and gas.

I believe the Finance Committee did a good job to address our nation's energy security in a balanced and comprehensive way, and I look forward to the Senate's consideration of the energy-related tax package.

In conclusion, I am pleased that the Senate has finally begun to address an issue with such a direct impact on our national and economic security.

For the sake of our children and our grandchildren, we must implement conservation efforts, invest in alternative and renewable energy, and improve development and production of domestic oil and natural gas resources. I hope that during this process we can develop a bill that is truly comprehensive.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CANTWELL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak therein for a period not to exceed 10 minutes.

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

Mr. REID. How long does the Senator from Maine wish to speak?

Ms. COLLINS. If I could be recognized for 10 minutes.

Mr. REID. If the Senator needs more time, no problem.

Ms. COLLINS. I thank the leader for his assistance.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I also appreciate you staying in the chair. I will try not to unduly delay you.

THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PACKAGE

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I rise today to express my support for the Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act, which passed the House earlier today by an overwhelming vote. I am so pleased that it appears we are on the verge of finally passing a very balanced, reasonable, and bipartisan bill to keep our economy on the road to recovery.

It has been a long struggle, back and forth, between the House and the Senate and between the two parties, and now it is great to see us all coming together on a consensus bill.

I thank the House leadership, and in particular Chairman BILL THOMAS for all the work he has done in putting together this excellent legislation.

I am particularly pleased that the bill includes two provisions about which I care a great deal.

The first is the extension of unemployment compensation for displaced workers for an additional 13 weeks. Last October, I introduced the first bipartisan bill to extend unemployment benefits for workers who had exhausted their regular State benefits and yet still have been unable to find new work or to be rehired because of the weak economy. These workers need our help.

We know that in January alone some 370,000 unemployed workers exhausted their benefits, up 63 percent from the year before. The situation is similar in Maine. We experienced a large increase in the number of unemployed workers who have been unable to find new work and have exhausted their normal 26 weeks of State unemployment benefits.

This extension could help some 3 million unemployed workers, many of whom lost their jobs either as a direct or indirect result of September 11 or have been affected by the recession that our country just now seems to be on the verge of pulling out of.

I know the Presiding Officer has been very concerned about the large number of unemployed Americans living in her State which has experienced one of the higher jumps in unemployment insurance. I know this is a provision she has been a strong advocate for as well.

The second provision on which I want to comment tonight is one that is very near and dear to me. It is a provision I have worked on for the past 3 years, originally with Senators Coverdell and KYL, and more recently with Senators WARNER and LANDRIEU.

Just Tuesday, President Bush spoke about the need to support our elementary and secondary education teachers, to help them bring out the best in their students, our children. Now we are close to passing another milestone in our journey toward the goal of supporting our teachers.

The provision to which I am referring is known as the teacher tax provision. It is a provision that has been included in the economic recovery package that would establish an above-the-line deduction of up to \$250 to compensate teachers for a small part of what they invest in our children.

This tax deduction would be available to teachers who dip deep into their own pocket in order to buy supplies, materials, or books for their classrooms. This above-the-line deduction would be available for teachers, teacher's aides, principals, and counselors to help reimburse them in just a small way for the books, supplies, and equipment they purchase for their students.

I notice the Senator from Iowa is in the Chamber. He has been very helpful with this provision as well. I thank him, too.

Just last year, we passed landmark legislation reauthorizing the Elemen-

tary and Secondary Education Act. A principal goal of this bill is to promote teacher excellence. We know that other than involved parents, the most important predictor of a student's success is a quality teacher.

I have visited close to 100 schools in the State of Maine, and I have seen firsthand how dedicated our teachers are. They deserve our support. This is a way we can recognize the selfless efforts of our teachers and the financial sacrifices they make in entering the field of teaching and also in making purchases to improve the classrooms where they teach.

According to a study by the National Education Association, the average classroom teacher spends more than \$400 a year out of his or her own pocket in order to buy supplies or materials or books for the classroom. This sacrifice is typical of the dedication of America's teachers to their students.

So often teachers in Maine and throughout the country spend their own money to better the classroom experiences of their students. Let me cite an example. I have spoken to dozens of teachers who have told me about their efforts to improve the quality of their teaching by giving their students access to supplies and other materials they would not otherwise have.

One example is Idella Harter. She is president of the Maine Education Association. One year, Idella saved all of her receipts from the purchases of classroom materials. She started adding up the receipts and was startled to discover she had spent over \$1,000 of her own money to enrich the educational experience of her students. She told me she decided after she got to \$1,000, she had better stop counting.

The relief our Tax Code now provides to our teachers is simply not sufficient because most teachers do not itemize so they do not get the benefit of the tax deduction for the supplies for their classroom. By changing the system so that we now have an above-the-line tax deduction, we will help many more teachers. By allowing them to take an above-the-line deduction for classroom expenses, this provision takes a fair, progressive approach that will provide just a bit of thanks and a little bit of incentive and financial relief to our schoolteachers. It will also encourage additional spending on classroom supplies.

The teacher tax provision of the Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act helps teachers to go that extra mile for their students. We have all seen them. We know how dedicated they are. We know the difference they have made in our own lives. As President Bush has eloquently noted, teachers sometimes lead with their hearts and pay with their wallets. This provision would reimburse educators for a small part of what they invest in our children's future.

I hope we will clear this bill very shortly and pass it either tonight or first thing tomorrow morning. I hope

all of my colleagues will join in a strong vote for this important legislation.

I thank the Presiding Officer for allowing me to comment on these two important provisions. I am delighted to see two of my top legislative priorities on the verge of being signed into law.

I yield the floor.

JOB CREATION AND WORKER ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2002

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I am about to propound a unanimous consent request. I have been in consultation with the Republican leader, with the distinguished Senator from Iowa, and I know of no objections to the request. So at this time I will make it.

I ask that the Chair now lay before the Senate a message from the House on H.R. 3090 and that on Friday, March 8, immediately following the usual opening ceremony, the Senate resume consideration of the message; that upon disposition of that message, the Senate immediately resume consideration of S. 517 and the McCain amendment No. 2979; and there be 2 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled, with no second-degree amendments in order prior to a vote in relation to the McCain amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the House agree to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3090) entitled "An Act to provide tax incentives for economic recovery", with the following House amendment to Senate amendment:

In the amendment of the Senate, strike the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; ETC.

(a) *SHORT TITLE*.—This Act may be cited as the "Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act of 2002".

(b) *REFERENCES TO INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986*.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—

Sec. 1. Short title; etc.

TITLE I—BUSINESS PROVISIONS

Sec. 101. *Special depreciation allowance for certain property acquired after September 10, 2001, and before September 11, 2004*.

Sec. 102. *Carryback of certain net operating losses allowed for 5 years; temporary suspension of 90 percent AMT limit*.

TITLE II—UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

Sec. 201. *Short title*.

Sec. 202. *Federal-State agreements*.

Sec. 203. *Temporary extended unemployment compensation account*.