

Iraq to obtain nuclear weapons. He said Arabs would strongly oppose U.S. action against Iraq and believes the matter should be handled by the UN.

He said that President Bush's inclusion of Iran in the "Axis of Evil" was a mistake and was not acceptable to the region.

I told President Asad that I would like to see Syria take action to warrant removal from the U.S. terrorism list. He defended Hezbollah and other terrorist groups in Damascus and was clearly disinclined to take any action against them. He expressed the hope that the U.S. would deal with Syria on matters other than only Israel. I replied that I would explore the possibility of more U.S. trade and Syrian membership in the World Trade Organization to the extent that was not precluded by Syria's being on the U.S. terrorist list.

I brought to the President's attention the case of a U.S. woman who had married a man from Lebanon who abducted their two children to Syria after their divorce. President Asad expressed his concern and advised that he would personally look into the matter to try to determine the whereabouts of the children.

Following our meeting with President Asad, we departed for Rome, Italy on the afternoon of March 30th where we were hosted and met by Ambassador Mel Sembler and his wife Betty. At each stop, we were greeted, briefed, and taken care of by very competent and hospitable Ambassadors and their staffs.

We remained in Rome on March 31st for an interview on "Face the Nation" and departed Rome on April 1, 2002, for the U.S.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I thank my colleague from Pennsylvania for his usual erudition which spans many topics. I enjoyed listening to him on this subject, and on Syria in particular, which remains quite an enigma to many of us. Bashar Assad, as he said, is untested at this point.

Mr. SPECTER. I thank my colleague for his kind comments. He and I have worked on many subjects together.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I want to speak for a brief time about the Middle East as well. I guess I am addressing my speech, in a certain sense, to the President and the Secretary of State because many of us—certainly I and many of my constituents in New York and many colleagues in the Senate—are confused. I believe that in making this war on terrorism the No. 1 goal America faces, our President has done a great job. I support not only his concept but the execution. He has just been fabulous in this regard.

My enthusiasm was not simply limited to the area of Afghanistan, southern Asia, and central Asia, but also to the Middle East because I have spent time talking to the President on numerous occasions about the Middle East. I have carefully followed his statements. What he has stated has been crystal clear, and that is that terrorism is terrorism is terrorism—whether it be in Afghanistan, or Iraq, or directed at Israel.

The President has stated unequivocally that Yasser Arafat is engaged in terrorism and that until he is able to curb terrorism, we are not going to

have peace in the Middle East. This administration even had the courage to put the Al Aqsa Brigade, a part of Fatah controlled by Yasser Arafat, on our Nation's terrorism list. Documents that were subsequently made public showed that Al Aqsa was engaging in terrorism and Yasser Arafat was fully aware.

So the last few days have come as a shock, and so many of us are just totally perplexed. So this is an open question to both Colin Powell and the President because sending Colin Powell to the Middle East I don't have a problem with, if someone can help make peace. I think it is difficult, and I think the tone in the Palestinian territories is decidedly against peace. I think the nihilism is enormous. I think the failure to deal with truth throughout the Arab world, with no free press, is incredible when an American Ambassador is vilified for asking that people stand up and remember it is not only Palestinian victims but also Israelis. For Colin Powell to come into the area and to try to bring the sides together, I do not have a problem with that.

What is totally perplexing is this: Given the President's strong stands against terrorism wherever it rears its ugly head, given his view—and I say this as someone who, as you know, Madam President, has been pretty much up and down the line a supporter of the President's policies thus far, in Afghanistan, in the war against terrorism, and in the Middle East; I have said some very laudatory things—all of a sudden it seems the President's previous statements are being ignored.

For instance, we are doing two things at once: Yasser Arafat, whom we acknowledge as an aider and abettor of terrorism—I believe he perpetrates terrorism—is going to meet with Colin Powell. Despite the fact that both the President and the Secretary of State have said repeatedly that they will not meet with Yasser Arafat until he renounces terrorism and takes some steps to end the violence, now we are meeting with him without any preconditions and, at the same time, Israel, which is acting defensively to prevent the kind of suicide bombings which no society can endure, is being restrained. Arafat, the terrorist, the perpetrator of terrorism, is given a pat on the back and a green light—"We will meet with him"—which is a reversal of administration policy because they were not going to meet with him until he did something—not just words but did something.

Secretary Powell himself asked him to say things in English and Arabic which is a basic statement saying: You do not tell the truth; you talk with forked tongue. At the same time, we are telling Israel, which is simply trying to defend herself: Pull back.

It seems as if the policy in the Middle East has had a 180-degree turn without any explanation, without understanding its inconsistency with even the President's speech last week, which

I thought was a tour de force, without letting us understand as Americans who support the war on terrorism how we can sit down with someone who perpetrates terrorism, and at the same time chastise and put handcuffs around the country trying to defend itself against terrorism. It is very perplexing.

I would like the administration to explain itself. What has brought about the 180-degree turn? Why is Colin Powell now meeting with Yasser Arafat without any preconditions? Why isn't America giving Israel the chance to get these suicide bombers, to take their weapons away? We all know we are not going to have peace if in a democracy its leaders can do nothing when a bomb goes off every day in a hotel or a pizza parlor or on the street or in a bus.

The policy seems to be muddled, confused, and inconsistent with what seemed to be a crystal clear direction which I think the vast majority of Americans, whatever one's views are on other issues, supported.

I fail to understand how we can reverse policy so quickly and so dramatically without any change. Has Yasser Arafat renounced terrorism? Has he arrested any of the suicide bombers in the last few days? What has changed? Is the word of what we say not to be believed, that we will change our views on a dime?

This speech pains me because I was so enthusiastic about the President's policy in the Middle East until this past week. I would like to be enthusiastic again. I would like to believe there is something that none of us knows that justifies this reversal, but so far silence.

I urge the Secretary of State and I urge our President to reconsider what they are doing. Make Yasser Arafat come clean; make him renounce the violence—the very same violence that we are fighting in Afghanistan and that we must fight in America has to be fought in Israel as well—and give Israel a little bit of the space that it needs—a week—to get after these engineers—terrorist if there ever was one—who make these evil bombs filled with explosives, nails, and ball bearings that are exploded amid innocent men, women, and children—civilians. Give them a chance to curb them. Then Colin Powell should come into the area and cause the sides to sit down and create peace. Maybe we will have a chance to succeed.

I yield the floor.

NATIONAL LABORATORIES PARTNERSHIP IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2001—Continued

AMENDMENT NO. 3047

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time between now and 2 p.m. is to be equally divided and controlled before a vote in relation to the Craig amendment No. 3047.

Who yields time? The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAIG. Madam President, I yield 5 minutes to my colleague from the State of Washington.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I rise today in support of the Craig amendment which would strike this bill's electricity title, with the exception of its reliability and the Federal Trade Commission related consumer protection provisions. I thank the Senator for offering this amendment.

Because of the truly unique nature of the Northwest energy system—and the historic Federal presence, predominance of public power and our hydroelectric base, to name a few distinguishing characteristics—I believe the electricity title of this legislation is possibly the single most important part of this bill to consumers in Washington State and, frankly, I believe the electricity title falls short of what is necessary to protect our Nation's consumers in this inevitable challenge that we have had in Washington State.

What is at stake here, I believe—and I appreciate the chairman's efforts to try to craft a compromise electricity title. However, my position on the importance of consumer protection provisions has me concerned about the impact that this particular title will have on the State of Washington where the electricity market has gone awry.

Consumers in my State are suffering from rate increases of up to 88 percent on account of the market dysfunction that unfolded in the West last year. I believe the western electricity crisis was really precipitated by two factors: Obviously, California adopted a restructuring plan without adequate thought and deliberation, and the fact that FERC, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, signed off on it. Then FERC allowed generators in the West to charge market-based rates without first ensuring that those markets were sufficient in their competition and that they were adequately monitoring those markets over time.

What that meant is that many industries in my State could not afford those high electricity prices, but nothing was being done to determine whether they were just and reasonable. Many people lost their jobs, and many children were not allowed to go to college because their families were without income. Many consumers paid very high electricity rates.

I believe the provisions contained in the electricity title will do nothing to prevent another western electricity crisis from occurring. What is more, and what my colleagues should be concerned about, is that this is an electricity title that will do nothing to prevent FERC from making those same mistakes again in other regions.

The electricity title contained in this bill restructures the entire utility industry without giving the Senate ample opportunity to consider the implications of this action. In fact, these very amendments were brought up on

the floor without anyone knowing they were being brought up.

This bill does not direct FERC to establish clear rules for when market rates can be charged, nor does it establish effective measures to police the market and provide needed remedies for any abuses or market imperfections. Again, these are very important issues for consumers.

This electricity title repeals PUCHA, the Public Utility Company Holding Act, and moves merger approval authority from the Securities and Exchange Commission to FERC. In doing so, it weakens the burden of proof standard that companies must meet before they are allowed to merge.

In the aftermath of everything that has occurred in California, everything that has occurred with Enron, why would we take one policy in which we have a standard by which the merger of companies and prices are impacted and remove that standard and make it a lesser degree? I do not believe that is in the interest of consumer protection.

I support the Craig amendment to strike the electricity title because I believe these provisions do push the Northwest closer to a regional transmission organization. As some of my colleagues may know, FERC has repeatedly said the Northwest ought to join a westwide RTO. So, again, to Northwest consumers who have lost jobs because of the electricity crisis or are paying higher rates because of the electricity crisis who were forced under emergency order to send our power down to California and consequently paid a higher price, the fact that we might be hitching our fortunes to California does not sound like a very good issue for Washingtonians.

I am very concerned because even FERC's own cost-benefit analysis suggests that consumers in the Northwest might suffer from the establishment of an RTO organization on a westwide basis.

It is very important, although there are some other things such as the renewable portfolio standard which I think is really a subpar issue, and I think we need to improve on that, we think of the consumer interests. I support the Craig amendment, and I hope we will be able to change some of these issues and protect consumers in the future.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise to lend my support for Senator CRAIG's amendment to strip the electricity title from the energy bill. I believe that addressing electricity in major legislation, at this time, would not be good for the Nation.

The electricity title does not protect consumers the way it should. We have not fully evaluated the effects of this bill on energy consumers, particularly small consumers.

I am uncomfortable with the direction of the electricity title in moving authority away from State regulators to the FERC.

Last year, the west went through a terrible electricity crisis which consumers are still paying for and workers still remain out of work.

Also, in this past year we saw the collapse of Enron.

We are still trying to fully understand the causes and effects of these two events. Hearings are occurring and legal proceedings are ongoing. House and Senate committees as well as numerous Federal and local government agencies are still trying to find out what happened with Enron and why. Many people lost their jobs and many more people lost their savings and retirement accounts.

I do not believe we should move forward on major electricity market restructuring legislation before we completely understand what happened. Enacting broad, far reaching electricity market restructuring legislation before we understand what occurred would be a big mistake.

FERC has been forcing the development of Regional Transmission Organizations around the country in recent years. I have spoken with Chairman Wood and the other commissioners about my concern that their vision of RTOs may not fit with the structure of the Northwest electricity operations and market.

As I have stated earlier FERC is already exercising its broad authority and the national electricity market is rapidly changing. Enron, a major electricity market participant, collapsed late last year. We are still trying to sort out what occurred.

In the Pacific Northwest, energy isn't just a commodity. It is a resource that affects everything from our economy to our air, our water, agriculture, salmon recovery, and our quality of life.

We should not make the same mistake California made, by restructuring the electricity markets, before all the issues have been thoroughly explored and resolved.

Nearly everything I am hearing from people in my State is that they do not like this electricity title. They do not feel it is in their best interests. They are concerned about the direction FERC will take.

I am also concerned that all market participants have not had an opportunity to review this legislation and have not had an opportunity to provide meaningful input. We need to make sure the legislation is thoroughly reviewed and discussed before we enact major legislation.

This is a \$200 billion industry. If bad legislation is passed, the consequences will be significant.

The amendment is not perfect. I am unhappy to see the good provisions of the electricity title removed. I am particularly unhappy that the amendment does not promote renewable and diverse electricity sources. However, Senator CRAIG's amendment is preferable to the existing provisions in the electricity title.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, allow me to state briefly that I will be voting against the amendment offered by Senator CRAIG. I do so not because I feel good about the existing provisions in the electricity title of this bill, but because I believe they are a starting point from which we ought to try to move forward.

It is no secret that I am a strong supporter of renewable energy and a meaningful renewable energy production requirement. I admit to disappointment in the provision currently contained in this legislation. While it nominally contains a 10 percent renewable requirement, the various exemptions and carve-outs bring it down effectively to a roughly five percent requirement by the year 2020.

This level of Federal commitment to renewable energy is painfully inadequate and I must express my concern and disappointment at this low number.

I will also point out that, despite the assertions of my colleague from Alaska earlier today, a 10 percent requirement by the year 2020 would not raise consumer energy costs. According to the Department of Energy, a 10 percent Federal renewable portfolio standard would reduce overall consumer energy costs by \$3 billion per year by the year 2020.

The figures the Senator from Alaska was referring to were the gross price of renewable energy, not the increased costs to consumers of using renewable energy versus other forms of energy. The relevant figure is not what the renewable energy itself will cost, but the increased costs, if any, to consumers, from using renewable energy. As I have stated, the Department of Energy says under a 10 percent renewable energy mandate, consumer costs will actually go down, compared to energy costs with no renewable energy mandate.

So even a 10 percent renewable energy requirement will benefit consumers, and I hope we can get to a point where this Congress can actually implement that required level. However, while I am disappointed in the provision currently in the bill, I do believe it is a starting point, and one upon which I hope we can improve. Senator CRAIG's amendment to strike it entirely is not moving forward, but backsliding to where we are right now, which is nothing.

As to other portions of the bill, I have long held the position that we should not move forward with repeal of PUCHA and PURPA without substantial consumer protections, and substantial new investments in renewable energy, including net metering, strong interconnection standards and substantial investments by Federal agencies in renewable energy. Again, I am disappointed in the provisions currently in the bill, but would hope that we could improve these provisions as the bill moves forward, rather than just dropping everything.

For that reason, I will not support Senator CRAIG's amendment, but urge

my colleagues to make the needed improvements in this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, I yield myself 3 minutes of the time that is reserved in opposition to the amendment.

I understand the concerns that have been expressed by the Senator from Idaho. I understand the concerns expressed by the Senator from Washington. There is no question there is a lot of uncertainty about the future of electricity markets, and we are doing our best in this legislation on a bipartisan basis to point in a direction we know we need to move, a direction away from command and control and toward more of a market based system. I think all experts who have looked at it agree that is the general direction in which we ought to go.

This legislation before us is the result of a lot of cooperation between myself, the Senator from Wyoming, other interested Members, and, of course, the administration as well since they have a vital interest in seeing the comprehensive bill we are considering, the energy bill, contain a title related to electricity that helps to ensure we have adequate electricity for our needs in the future, helps to ensure that the proper authority is there at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure that mergers occur when consolidations occur, as they inevitably will, and that ratepayers are not harmed.

We have a provision in the bill. We are taking the authority under the Public Utility Holding Company Act and its requirements, the ones we believe make good sense and protect consumers, and we are shifting that responsibility to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. We are requiring them to ensure four things in order to approve a merger or an acquisition. No. 1, that captive ratepayers are not harmed by the acquisition or the merger; that the capacity of regulators to regulate is not in any way interfered with. That is another requirement. They are required to find there is no cost subsidy between the utility that is the subject of the merger and any other company so ratepayers are not being asked to subsidize any other business.

Of course, they are also required to find that it is in the best interest to go ahead with this merger before they can approve a merger. We believe this will be more effective regulation, more effective oversight of this industry than we have had in the past. We believe this language is a modernization.

Title II of the energy bill represents a modernizing of the law that is in the best interest of consumers and the best interest of our economy long term. I believe it is strongly supported by most of those who are interested in this issue and who have studied it.

I compliment my colleague from Wyoming for his hard work on this issue,

which has led us to the language we now have in the bill, which my friend from Idaho, Senator CRAIG, would have us strip out with his amendment. I hope Senators will vote against the amendment of the Senator from Idaho.

I yield the floor and reserve the remainder of our time.

Mr. CRAIG. Madam President, may I inquire how much time is remaining on my side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. One minute twelve seconds.

Mr. CRAIG. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. CRAIG. I yield 1 minute to the Senator from California.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I am going to be supporting this amendment and I want to explain why. I am not happy with the part that strips out the renewables. We can put that back in. What I like about this amendment is that it really protects the States.

I have great respect for my friend from New Mexico, but I have to tell him that California's experience with FERC has been nothing less than dismal. FERC is supposed to protect against unjust and unreasonable prices. They have done nothing to help us. They have been unfriendly to us, and the Senator is giving them more power. PUCHA, which is the Public Utility Holding Company Act, which the SEC is responsible for enforcing, is being repealed.

I would rather keep the issue of mergers with the SEC any day of the week than give it over to FERC which has not shown itself in any way that I can tell to be particularly friendly to consumers.

So I thank the Senator. I know everyone comes at this a little bit differently, but the bottom line is, on the whole I think this is a good amendment and I will be supporting it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired. The Senator from New Mexico controls the remainder of the time.

Mr. BINGAMAN. I yield the remainder of our time to the Senator from Wyoming.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAIG. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed 30 seconds to close.

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

The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. THOMAS. Madam President, I thank the Senator, and I appreciate the chance we have had to work together. Certainly, it is interesting. I have a couple of things I want to say. First of all, regarding the comments about FERC, that is exactly the way

we are going, to remove some of the authority of FERC. This has nothing to do with California and Washington, which had their own problems, but it certainly reduces the authority of FERC and that is what we want to do.

I have a letter from NARUC, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners. It came in when the bill was in its initial stage. They point out there is an admirable compromise between Federal and State jurisdictions, including the issues they can support, and then they suggested some other changes which exist in the current bill because of this.

Utility mergers sections, they support that; electric reliability standards, they support that. They support the PUCHA substitute and the PURPA substitute, and the net metering and consumer protection subtitle. This is the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners which is in favor of the changes that have been made and would be opposed to the Craig amendment.

This is a letter from the Secretary of Energy and represents the position of the administration. It says:

I am writing to express my support for the electricity amendment package agreed to by the Senate last week following bipartisan negotiations. . . . These negotiations, between Senate Republicans and Senate Democrats, resulted in a fair, balanced and bipartisan consensus regarding several electricity provisions of the energy bill—a consensus that the administration endorses. Those negotiations also set forth a process to debate and vote on reliability and renewable portfolio standard provisions where consensus could not be reached. As we have discussed on several occasions, I believe that an electricity title is a fundamental component of comprehensive energy legislation. The administration has repeatedly stressed that appropriate electricity legislation is necessary to protect consumers, make wholesale power markets more competitive, strengthen the transition grid, increase electric supply and improve reliability. Any such legislation must also balance these ends with consideration to the role of States. These goals are reflected in the electricity amendments agreed to by the Senate last week.

I think certainly this is something on which we have come together. The fact is, we have not done anything in electricity for years. It is time to get it. Is it a complete answer? Absolutely not. We will have to come back and do some more with it. It is responsible to pass this bill now. The energy industry needs stability. Now is not the time to retreat. I urge opposition to the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAIG. Madam President, let me close by reminding my colleagues that reliability and consumer protection remain in this bill. Electrical advocacy groups, consumer groups, and utilities, some 18 across the country, strongly support the amendment to take down the majority of this title. Why? Because it has not been reviewed. It has not been vetted. It has not been brought up to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

What is your authority? How do you plan to use it? We are extending tremendous new authority to a central, Federal, regulatory body. That should not be where this Senate goes at this time. The House could not deal with it. It was much too frustrating and much too complicated. We did not deal with it in committee in an appropriate, comprehensive way.

Yes, there have been deals made. Yes, there has been discussion. Let's step back, take a deep breath, and review this, as we should. I ask my colleagues to support me and the repeal of this title, leaving in place the reliability and the consumer protection.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CARPER). The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 3047. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 32, nays 67, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 62 Leg.]

YEAS—32

Allard	Crapo	McCain
Bennett	Dayton	Miller
Bond	DeWine	Murray
Boxer	Feingold	Roberts
Breaux	Feinstein	Sessions
Burns	Hatch	Shelby
Campbell	Helms	Smith (OR)
Cantwell	Hollings	Stabenow
Chafee	Inhofe	Thurmond
Cleland	Kyl	Voinovich
Craig	Levin	

NAYS—67

Akaka	Fitzgerald	Mikulski
Allen	Frist	Murkowski
Bayh	Graham	Nelson (FL)
Biden	Gramm	Nelson (NE)
Bingaman	Grassley	Nickles
Brownback	Gregg	Reed
Bunning	Hagel	Reid
Byrd	Harkin	Rockefeller
Carnahan	Hutchinson	Santorum
Carper	Hutchison	Sarbanes
Clinton	Inouye	Schumer
Cochran	Jeffords	Smith (NH)
Collins	Johnson	Snowe
Conrad	Kennedy	Specter
Corzine	Kerry	Stevens
Daschle	Kohl	Thomas
Dodd	Landrieu	Thompson
Domenici	Leahy	Torricelli
Dorgan	Lieberman	Warner
Durbin	Lincoln	Wellstone
Edwards	Lott	Wyden
Ensign	Lugar	
Enzi	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—1

Baucus

The amendment (No. 3047) was rejected.

Mr. BINGAMAN. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. CRAIG. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, there are a couple of amendments that I be-

lieve are now ready to be considered and can be approved by all Senators. As I understand it, the Senator from North Dakota, Mr. DORGAN, has one.

I yield the floor to allow the Senator from North Dakota to talk about his amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, for the information of colleagues, I will just be a matter of 2, 3 minutes. I intend to offer an amendment on behalf of myself and Senator MURKOWSKI from Alaska. We have worked on this amendment and have cleared it on both sides of the aisle.

AMENDMENT NO. 3087 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2917

Mr. President, I send the amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the pending amendments are set aside.

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from North Dakota [Mr. DORGAN], for himself and Mr. MURKOWSKI, proposes an amendment numbered 3087.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

On page 11, strike lines 9 through 14, and insert the following:

“(1) identifying the areas with the greatest energy resource potential, and assessing future supply availability and demand requirements.

“(2) planning, coordinating, and siting additional energy infrastructure, including generating facilities, electric transmission facilities, pipelines, refineries, and distributed generation facilities to maximize the efficiency of energy resources and infrastructure and meet regional needs with the minimum adverse impacts on the environment.”.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, the amendment I offer today is on behalf of myself and Senator MURKOWSKI from Alaska. It deals with the issue of siting future transmission infrastructure in areas that have the greatest energy resource potential to maximize energy efficiency. This amendment would have the Department of Energy provide technical assistance to the States and to regional organizations to help them identify areas with the greatest energy resource potential, and then coordinate the development of these energy resources and future facilities so that we can transmit this energy to the greatest extent possible.

We have, in my State, for example, and in other areas of the country, the potential to develop additional energy resources, but we lack the facilities to transmit those resources.

Our transmission capabilities are not keeping up with the ability to create this energy. We can address that in a few basic ways: by improving the planing, siting, and development of transmission infrastructure and corridors. We can also develop new transmission technologies that can increase

the efficiency and, in some cases, perhaps double or triple the capacity of existing transmission lines. One example of this type of technology is the composite conductor wire, which offers great promise.

We would like the Department of Energy to provide the technical assistance to States and regional organizations that are interested in moving in these directions. We think there needs to be some opportunities made available to States and regional organizations to access technical assistance from the Department of Energy to help facilitate and achieve these goals. Our amendment will simply do that.

I thank Senator MURKOWSKI for working with me on the amendment. I think it is an amendment that will add to this bill and help us address some of the transmission issues as we plan for greater capabilities in the future to produce and to transmit energy through a grid across the country where energy is needed.

Mr. President, I urge adoption of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on this amendment?

If not, the question is on agreeing to amendment No. 3087.

Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3087) was agreed to.

Mr. BINGAMAN. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. DORGAN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3088 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2917

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I send another amendment to the desk on behalf of Senator CONRAD and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the pending amendment is set aside.

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New Mexico [Mr. BINGAMAN], for Mr. CONRAD, proposes an amendment numbered 3088.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To direct the Secretary of Energy to conduct an assessment of wind energy resources and transmission capacity for wind energy)

On page 64, on line 7, strike "resource," and insert "resource, together with an identification of any barriers to providing adequate transmission for remote sources of renewable energy resources to current and emerging markets, recommendations for removing or addressing such barriers, and ways to provide access to the grid that do not unfairly disadvantage renewable or other energy producers."

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, this amendment relates to a renewable energy assessment.

This amendment is to section 262 of amendment No. 2917. That section requires an annual resource assessment by the Secretary of Energy that reviews available assessments of renewable energy resources within the U.S. The report must contain an inventory of available amount and characteristics of renewable resources and such information as the Secretary believes would be useful in developing such resources, including terrain, population and load centers, location of resources and estimates of cost.

The amendment adds to the report identification of barriers to providing adequate transmission, and recommendations for removing such barriers, and ways to provide access to the grid that do not unfairly disadvantage renewable resources.

I think the amendment is agreeable to everyone. I urge the amendment be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the amendment?

The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, the amendment is agreed to on this side.

I want to also speak relative to Senator DORGAN's amendment. Obviously, we cosponsored that together. I am pleased it has been accepted.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 3088.

Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3088) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas is recognized.

J.C. PENNEY'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, since we are at a lull in the debate on this very important bill, I take this opportunity to congratulate a company headquartered in Texas that is celebrating its 100th anniversary: the J.C. Penney Company.

I think it is incredible, when you think of a company that was started in 1902, that it is still going strong today. I think it is worthy of note.

The founder of J.C. Penney, James Cash Penney, was fond of saying to his workers that they were not building a business but a community. This is the kind of business philosophy I hope more businesses in America will adopt because businesses supporting communities means people are supporting communities, and that is what makes our country so strong.

J.C. Penney encourages its employees to volunteer in the community. They contribute to the local United Way across the country, which is so helpful in the quality of life for every community.

They are especially doing something that I want to point out because I know so many working parents worry about what happens with their children from the time school is out until they

can get home. J.C. Penney has made a tremendous effort to ease their employees' fears and anxieties by providing more places and more opportunities for children in afterschool programs across our country. This is the kind of thing that really makes a contribution to our way of life in America.

So I thank the employees of J.C. Penney for their commitment to building America's communities and for making a place for Americans to work to be a good place to work. I wish them the best and not only congratulate them on the last 100 years but for another 100 years of making the quality of life better for families throughout America.

Mr. President, I will yield to my friend, the Senator from Wyoming, where J.C. Penney actually started until they had the good sense to move to Texas to make their headquarters.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

Mr. ENZI. I thank the Senator from Texas.

Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I get to bring you the rest of the story.

I have always said you can tell a lot about a country by learning about the leaders of that country. One of the areas of leadership on which this country can pride itself, worldwide, is its leadership in small business and in retailing. And we have a Wyoming boy who has done well. I want to share with you, for just a moment, his history and the history of the company he started.

I also have to tell you about a young man of 83 who has just taken up a career in writing in Wyoming. Since his retirement, he has written a book called "Pride, Power, Progress." His name is John "Ace" Bonar. He had a distinguished career and, as I say, has now taken up writing. He has written a very short history of an important man that I want to share with you.

To quote him:

The year was 1902. With the blessing of President Teddy Roosevelt the Panama Canal was being built. Roosevelt, who said, "Speak softly and carry a big stick," was also sending the United States Navy around the world to demonstrate its effectiveness.

And back in the states an unheralded project had started. In the tiny mining town of Kemmerer, Wyoming (population 1,000), a 27-year-old man had opened a dry goods store. James Cash Penney was his name. Son of an unordained Baptist minister father in Missouri, Penny, like his father was a strict disciplinarian. He adhered to honesty, thriftiness and hard work. "Jim," his father admonished, "you have no right to make money if you take advantage of people!"

At the age of 8, the younger Penney ran errands for a nickel. The \$2.50 that he saved was invested in pigs. On complaints of neighbors, he sold out. But he made \$60. At 12 years old he was horse trading and raising