

fact, power plant-related deaths are so numerous that they far outnumber drunk driving fatalities in all but one of the 15 dirtiest States.

Have Americans ever wondered how close they live to a powerplant? A Harvard University study showed that those who live near powerplants, who are often the poorer, less educated, uninsured, or minority populations, tend to be the most affected by pollution. Fortunately for some of us here, we are probably less vulnerable. We live further away, we live more comfortably, and we have access to quality health care.

But does that sound like a fair and equitable distribution of the impacts of pollution? Hardly.

Americans can experience pollution very differently. Although 58 percent of white Americans live in counties violating Federal air pollution standards—an unacceptably high percentage—71 percent of African Americans do. Even worse, twice as many African Americans die from pollution than whites. Does that sound like a fair allocation of the impacts?

If these appeals do not strike a chord, perhaps the economic impact of all these health problems will.

I have mentioned before that over 30,000 premature deaths can be blamed on powerplant pollution every year. An EPA consulting firm using EPA methodology estimated that this loss of life hurts the U.S. economy by \$170 billion each year. I ask unanimous consent that a table from this firm's recent report be printed in the RECORD.

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

ESTIMATED ANNUAL HEALTH AND MORTALITY COSTS DUE TO PARTICULATE MATTER POLLUTION FROM POWER PLANTS

Health effect	Attributable incidence	Mean economic impact
Mortality	30,100	\$170,000,000,000
Chronic Bronchitis	18,600	6,130,000,000
COPD—Hospitalization	3,320	41,000,000
Pneumonia—Hospitalization	4,040	59,000,000
Asthma—Hospitalization	3,020	21,000,000
Cardiovascular—Hospitalization	9,720	179,000,000
Asthma ER Visits	7,160	2,000,000
Acute Bronchitis	59,000	3,000,000
Upper Respiratory Symptoms	679,000	16,000,000
Lower Respiratory Symptoms	630,000	10,000,000
Asthma Attacks	603,000	25,000,000
Work Loss Days	5,130,000	543,000,000
Minor Restricted Activity Days	26,300,000	1,270,000,000
Total		178,000,000,000

Source: Abt Associates, "The Particulate-Related Health Benefits of Reducing Power Plant Emissions," October 2000.

Mr. JEFFORDS. When you add in the economic impact of the tens of thousands of cases of asthma, bronchitis, pneumonia, heart problems, and lost work days, you reach a pretty staggering conclusion.

Powerplant pollution alone is responsible for \$178 billion in damage to our health and our economy each year, burdening our already taxed Medicare program and draining American productivity.

There are even more ways in which air pollution hurts our way of life.

How many Americans seek peace and enjoyment in our national parks, only

to find the vistas clogged with haze? Do families go hiking in our national forests, only to reach bald stands of trees that have been killed by acid rain?

I know many people from my State of Vermont and other States are avid skiers. Do they wonder why ski resorts must make their own snow more now than ever before, and why the ski season continues to come later each year? Global warming will threaten more than ski vacations in the very near future. Global warming and rising sea levels could mean life and death to those in our society who live on the margins.

Do those listening today enjoy fishing trips with their families? Do their husbands and wives, daughters and sons, and grandchildren eat the fish that are caught?

I am sorry to say that the fish being caught may contain unhealthy levels of mercury, likely due to dirty powerplants. Coal-fired powerplants emit mercury emissions. Mercury contaminates rainwater. It settles in waterways. It poisons fish. The contaminated fish create a health risk.

Powerplants are responsible for one-third of all U.S. mercury emissions. Amazingly, they are currently unregulated.

Are doctors warning pregnant women not to eat fish because mercury endangers fetuses? I hope they do, because one in 12 women in this country—that is 5 million women—have blood levels of mercury above EPA's safe health threshold. That means that over 300,000 newborns each year face increased risk of nervous system damage due to mercury exposure in the womb.

How many Americans have children or grandchildren with learning disabilities, speech problems, attention disorders, loss of muscle coordination, memory problems, poor visual spatial skills, vision problems, hearing loss, seizures, mental retardation, or cerebral palsy? Have they ever wondered whether these disorders could be due to mercury exposure?

We all saw what happened when a teen spilled less than a cup of mercury at Ballou High School in Southeast Washington. The metal is so toxic to humans that officials closed the school for over a month and evacuated 17 nearby homes.

Do we feel comfortable knowing that U.S. powerplants emit 50 tons of toxic mercury into the air every year, so that it may fall in our backyards, in our grandchildren's sandboxes, and in the lakes where we fish?

How many Americans depend on fishing in tainted waters for their livelihood? Chances are, they live in one of the 44 States in the Nation with fish advisories for mercury and other toxic pollutants. Chances are also likely that they are unaware that eating fish poisoned by mercury can damage their nervous system, cardiovascular system, kidneys, and immune system.

Sadly, some ethnic groups and anglers who rely on high amounts of fish

in their diets face two to five times the health risk. Unfortunately, these Americans may lack health insurance and access to proper medical care to deal with these problems.

I have made an appeal today to my distinguished colleagues and to my fellow Americans. I know my colleagues are compassionate and they do everything possible to represent their constituents, their States, and the Nation well. I only hope they are moved by some of what I have said today to take swift and serious action to protect our air quality.

Unfortunately, this administration's recent and upcoming actions to dismantle our clean air laws mean we all have to be vigilant. I will fight to protect those 60,000 lives and those 300,000 newborns. I will fight to bring down the \$178 billion in costs to human health and to our precious environment. But Americans will need all of my colleagues' help, too.

Senators should send a message to the President and EPA Administrator Leavitt right now. It needs to be loud, and it needs to be clear.

The Clean Air Act says utility emissions of air toxics, especially mercury, have to come down drastically. EPA is already years behind in regulating. There should be no further delay.

In the coming weeks, EPA is likely to propose a rule on mercury that is not legal or sanctioned by the Clean Air Act. Senators should tell Administrator Leavitt and the President that these ongoing assaults on air quality have to stop.

I call on the President to do the right thing for once on clean air—cut toxic air emissions from powerplants. Do it right. Do it as the law requires. And do it now.

DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I express my support for an amendment offered by my colleagues Mr. HATCH, Mr. HARKIN, and DURBIN earlier this year that provides funding for the Food and Drug Administration to implement the dietary supplements law.

I sponsored and voted for the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act, DSHEA, of 1994 and continue to support it today because it gives consumers the power to make informed decisions about whether they want to use dietary supplements. Millions of Americans take vitamins, minerals, and other dietary supplements every day, knowing that if there is a problem with a particular product the FDA has the authority to step in to protect the public.

Ever since the tragic death of Baltimore Orioles pitcher Steve Bechler earlier this year there has been increased interest in the potential dangers of taking ephedra. In the wake of that tragedy, the FDA has opened an investigation into the use of ephedra.

I support the enforcement efforts and urge the FDA to act as expeditiously as possible. I know some of my colleagues

would simply like to see ephedra banned by legislation. My own view is that we already have a review process in place under DSHEA and now it is important for Congress to help the agency do its job.

I support the amendment offered by my colleagues because it does just that. We must continue to provide consumers with informed choices about dietary supplements and one way to do that is to make sure the FDA has the resources to do the job as expeditiously as possible.

The FDA should conclude its rule-making on ephedra, as well its "good manufacturing practices" rules, and move forward as quickly as possible so that consumers can be better informed.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

On Saturday, October 25, 2003, an off-duty officer in Austin, TX, was attacked in an apparent anti-gay hate crime. The victim, his partner, and a friend were at a stop sign in a vehicle with a rainbow sticker on the license plate. Two pedestrians in the crosswalk blocked the vehicle while six to eight other men approached and began pounding the car. Witnesses say one man struck the victim in the face and pulled him from the passenger seat while yelling, "faggot." The officer fell to the ground, and the attackers picked him up only to beat him again. He suffered broken teeth and puncture wounds on his lower lip.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

HONORING OUR TROOPS AND LOCAL BROADCASTERS

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a program that provides an important service to the men and women serving in our military. With our Armed Forces deployed for extended tours of duty in both Iraq and Afghanistan, the pressures placed on family members left behind can be enormous. While the military is dedicated to taking care of its own, the need continues to escalate.

Today, more than 140,000 troops are fighting the war on terrorism in Iraq, in Afghanistan, and around the world.

Many of our brave men and women have now been deployed much longer

than expected. Some active units served in Afghanistan, returned home for 6 months, and were immediately re-deployed to Iraq.

Reservists are facing extended deployment as well. Arkansas reservists in the 39th Infantry Brigade, for instance, were recently called up for what could be a 1-year rotation in Iraq beginning early next year. In many cases, the sole breadwinner in a family is deployed, making it difficult for the families left behind to cope with medical bills or other unexpected expenses.

Today, I would like to recognize an effort undertaken by local radio and television stations to help address these issues. The National Association of Broadcasters is leading its local television and radio stations in a partnership with the Armed Forces Relief Trust to raise funds for military families in need.

By producing, distributing, and airing radio and television public service announcements, the NAB and its radio and television broadcast members are helping raise funds for those military families in need.

Last year, the four emergency assistance programs representing the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps distributed more than \$109 million in interest free loans and grants to military families. Now that the four programs have joined together into the one trust, and more importantly, now that the trust is receiving generous access to the airwaves to get out its message, they will undoubtedly be able to provide yet more assistance.

All of us count on our service people who are far from home protecting us. Their families are enduring hardship enough in waiting for them to return. It is incumbent upon all of us to ensure their families do not want financially during this most difficult time. I would like to compliment the local radio and television stations that are involved in this effort. As small business people, they are dedicating a valuable resource—airtime—to a timely and important cause. I salute their efforts.

TRIBUTE TO CPT RANDALL L. ZELLER

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated patriot, sailor, husband and father, CPT Randel L. Zeller, USN. By the time the Congress reconvenes in January, Captain Zeller will have retired from active duty after 27 years in uniform with the U.S. Navy. CPT Randy Zeller has served the Navy and the Nation faithfully and well over these many years, most recently as the legislative director for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Captain Zeller deserves our recognition and gratitude. He has been associated with the Congress in a variety of positions for over seven years. His career accomplishments reflect the type of military officer this Nation has depended upon for over 225 years, during

peace and conflict. I would like to take a moment to highlight Captain Zeller's career.

The son of a career Army soldier, Randy Zeller was born at Fort Belvoir, VA. Continuing this family tradition of service, Randy earned an appointment to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, graduating in 1975 with a bachelor of science degree in marine engineering. Following commissioning, he completed the nuclear power training program and the Submarine Officer Basic Course.

This promising young officer was assigned to four tours aboard nuclear attack submarines, one tour on an aircraft carrier, a tour as commander of the USS *Gato* (SSN 615) and, as commander of the Trident Submarine Refit Facility. His tours of duty have included assignments to the USS *Groton* (SSN 694) as Division Officer in 1977; Submarine Training Department Head and submarine tactics instructor at the Fleet Anti-Submarine Warfare Training Center Atlantic in Norfolk, Virginia, 1980-1982; and, Chief engineer on the USS *Phoenix* (SSN 702), from February 1983-1985. In November 1985, he reported to Carrier Group Two (CCG-2) aboard the USS *CORAL SEA* (CV-43), as a Tactical Action Officer and the Battle Force Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer. While assigned to CCG-2, he served on the Fleet Strike Warfare Commanders' staff during the surface action and contingency air strikes against Libya in 1986. In December 1987, he returned to the USS *Groton* as Executive Officer, serving until July 1990. During this tour, the USS *Groton* earned the COMSIXTHFLT "Hook" em Award for anti-Submarine Warfare excellence and played a key role in contingency operations near Lebanon.

Captain Zeller's first command was the USS *Gato* in March 1992. Not surprisingly, his ship executed several "First of their kind" missions, demonstrating the utility of the attack submarine in the post cold war era. For her service during the U.N. embargo of Haiti, USS *Gato* was awarded the Joint Meritorious Unit commendation. The USS *Gato* was also awarded the Navy Meritorious Unit commendation for exemplary performance from June 1993 to June 1994. In June 1994, Captain Zeller was the Naval Submarine League RADM Jack Darby national award recipient for inspirational leadership and excellence of command.

After Captain Zeller left command in November 1994, he served in several important staff positions, during which he began his association with the congress. From January 1995 to March 1997 he served in the Department of the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs in the Pentagon (OLA). At OLA he was instrumental in the Navy's successful effort to gain Congressional authorization for the third and final *Seawolf* class submarine, as well as the first ship of the *Virginia* Attack Submarine class. Recognizing his leadership talents and potential to assume greater