

Natural Resources Committee has worked to strip one of the most outrageous provisions of the H.R. 6 conference report—the MTBE liability protection, which many Senators simply cannot abide—from the new version of his energy bill. But I am one of the many who believe that the bill that remains requires very, very substantial revision and thorough debate. With its origins in last year's conference report, there are far too many provisions in the new bill that the Senate Energy Committee has simply never considered. Moreover, if one of our primary policy goals is to improve the reliability of our nation's electricity grid, I am hard-pressed to see how many of the provisions in that bill are relevant.

How will weakening the Safe Drinking Water Act help keep the lights on?

Will providing MTBE producers with \$2 billion in taxpayer-funded "transition" assistance in any way reduce the likelihood of outages?

How would delaying Clean Air Act implementation in our nation's most polluted cities ensure reliable operation of our electricity grid?

Can anyone really argue that exempting oil companies from Clean Water Act requirements will make our high-voltage transmission lines more reliable?

S. 2095 might not subsidize Hooters, but there remain plenty of handouts to the polluters and corporate looters—none of which have anything to do with bolstering the reliability of our transmission infrastructure. And that's before a non-existent conference with the House, the Leadership of which has publicly expressed its complete disinterest in revisiting the provisions of H.R. 6 most objectionable to the Senate. In fact, I ask my colleagues to consider the following passage, published in the February 14, 2004 edition of CQ Today.

"You can't start carving out pieces of a deal you already made," said Frank Maisano, a lobbyist who represents several MTBE producers. "What the Senate does at this point is irrelevant. This is just a vehicle to get to conference." MTBE lobbyists—and perhaps our colleagues on the other side of the Capitol—believe that whatever the Senate does within the context of a debate on the new energy bill is "irrelevant." As the saying goes, "fool us once, shame on you. Fool us twice, shame on us."

So Mr. President, in view of the existing gridlock on comprehensive energy legislation, I believe the only responsible course is for this body to bring up and pass stand-alone electric reliability legislation. I reject the notion that passing comprehensive energy legislation—such as it is—is the sole path to improving the reliability of our nation's electricity grid. We can pass stand-alone reliability legislation. We've done it before. We can—and must—do it again. Good energy policy must not be held hostage to the bad, and I am pleased to begin the process

of placing the bill directly on the Senate calendar.

RULING AGAINST MICROSOFT

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I rise today to voice my strong opposition to yesterday's ruling by the European Commission against the Microsoft Corporation.

While Arkansas is not the headquarters of the Microsoft Corp., we are keenly aware of the negative impact that the European Union's protectionist trade actions have on American business and our Nation's economic growth and job creation.

Time and time again, farmers and agribusiness in my state have been denied the opportunity to compete in the European market.

As a member of the Senate Finance Committee, I am dedicated to ensuring a level playing field with our trading partners.

This goal cannot be accomplished alone. It will require a multinational cooperative effort which developed countries like the United States and Europe must lead.

The EU's actions, specifically the one taken yesterday, are a significant step in the wrong direction.

I encourage the administration to continue to engage their European counterparts and demand a more cooperative effort.

I yield the floor.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, March 25 has very special meaning in Greek history. On this date 183 years ago, a small but resolute band of Greek patriots began the struggle to end the foreign domination that for nearly four centuries had oppressed and impoverished Greek lands. For 8 difficult years, resolute and courageous Greek patriots fought against tremendous odds to secure the liberty of their homeland. On this same date 30 years ago the military junta, which had seized power in 1967 and for 7 long years suppressed democratic institutions and civil rights, was brought down, and democracy was restored to the land of its invention. These two events, distant in time and nature as they are from one another, both mark milestones on the road to the vigorous and prosperous democracy that is Greece today.

Nearly 200 years ago, the United States and Greece were two young republics for whom the future was still uncertain. Inspired by democratic ideas in a world that was largely uncomprehending and hostile, both took on the formidable challenge of building viable democratic institutions. That shared commitment has endured. The United States and Greece have stood together in every major struggle for freedom and democracy: through two devastating World Wars, and through the long decades of the Cold War.

The Hellenic Republic was established in 1974. Since that time, Greece has built itself into a strong democracy, a vibrant economy, a regional leader and an ever more solid partner of the United States. Greece has reclaimed its leading role in the region, joining the European Community in 1981. In April 2003, the European Union, under the Greek presidency, signed the Accession Treaty to accept 10 new members in the ancient agora marketplace of Athens, that city serving once again as a cradle for democratic expansion.

Greece's democracy has flourished and prospered over the past 30 years. Recent elections have again demonstrated the stability and openness of the nation's political institutions. With the transfer of power from one party to another, a new generation of Greek leaders is emerging, a generation that promises to build on the strength of the existing relationship with the United States to develop new avenues of cooperation.

Today Greece is preparing for the 2004 Olympics. It is a matter of profound satisfaction for those of us of Greek ancestry that the Games this year are returning to their birthplace, and that Greece will play host to more than two million athletes and visitors from every corner of the world. In connection with the Olympic Games, Greece has undertaken structural improvements that are transforming Athens into a thoroughly cosmopolitan and modern city, and building facilities and infrastructure throughout the country. The investment Greece has made in connection with the Olympics holds out the prospect of a new era, for the people of Greece and visitors to Greece alike. The Games offer a splendid opportunity to present Greek achievements to the international community not only in sports but also in cultural, economic and political terms.

The founders of the American republic were ardent students of the classics, and they looked to the wisdom and experience of ancient Greece as they shaped our nascent political order. In turn, Greek patriots struggling to win independence in 1821 turned to the principles of the new American democracy as they sought to build their own new order. In today's turbulent world, the strong and enduring ties between the two countries are momentous achievements. They give us cause for reflection and celebration on this independence day.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 183rd anniversary of Greek Independence and pay tribute to the contributions of Greece and our Greek-American community. It was on this day in 1821, that Greek patriots rose up against the Ottoman empire and began an 8-year struggle that culminated in a new Greek Republic.

It is fitting that we take this day to reflect on the enormous contributions

the Greek people have made to the modern world. Our own democratic principles have their very foundation in the practices of the ancient Greek republic. Indeed, the ancient Greeks developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was vested in the people. Our own Founding Fathers modeled the American government on the principles of Greek democracy. Thomas Jefferson studied the Greek classics in his youth and was inspired by their philosophy throughout his life, most dramatically when he crafted the Declaration of Independence. When formulating his vision for this country, Jefferson specifically referred to the integrated assertions, theories, and aims of the classic Greek world.

Today, our admiration for Greece continues. Greece and the United States, partners in NATO, are at the forefront of the effort for freedom, democracy, peace, stability, and human rights, forging a close bond between the two nations. We look forward to working closely with Greece in the coming years as we examine ways to bring full peace, stability, and prosperity to all the nations of Europe and the world.

As we celebrate Greek independence, we must also remember the history of those who sacrificed their lives to preserve American freedom and democracy. Greek Americans have served proudly and honorably in every U.S. engagement and war. It is through their efforts and others that we maintain a Nation committed to fighting and winning this war or terrorism.

Today, we join the world in anticipating the momentous 2004 Summer Olympic Games, which will be held in Athens, the birthplace of the Olympic tradition. This event not only highlights the achievements of thousands of world athletes, but signifies the importance of working together to provide greater opportunity and freedom for the citizens of the world.

I am proud to join many of my colleagues as a cosponsor of S. Res. 308 designating March 25, 2004 as Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy. We value our friendship and continuing partnership with the government and people of Greece. I would especially like to offer all Greek Americans my best wishes as they celebrate this day of independence. Finally, I ask all citizens to reflect on the many important contributions to freedom, democracy, peace, and stability Greece and Greek Americans have made to this country and our world.

THE OCEANS AND HUMAN HEALTH ACT

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I thank Senators MCCAIN and HOLLINGS and the members of the Commerce Committee for their leadership in moving the Oceans and Human Health Act, S. 1218. I also express my appreciation for their

willingness to include Senator LEVIN's request and my request to ensure that this bill addresses the needs of the Great Lakes.

The Great Lakes are the largest freshwater bodies on earth, holding approximately 20 percent of the world's freshwater. While we all know that water is essential for our survival, scientists are only just beginning to appreciate the connection between human health and our waters. It takes approximately 198 years for the lakes to flush themselves. So a pollutant dropped into Lake Superior in Duluth-Superior Harbor in 1805—during the time of the Lewis and Clark expedition, Thomas Jefferson's presidency, and the organization of the Michigan Territory—would just now be exiting the water system this year. That means that these large bodies of water are holding much of what we have put into them following the Industrial Revolution.

Industrial development in the Great Lakes region resulted in bacterial contamination and floating debris, as well as the release of persistent organic pollutants, such as PCBs. By the 1950s, Lake Erie showed signs that there was a great imbalance in the Lake with massive algal blooms and depleted oxygen. These problems resulted in contaminated drinking water and polluted beaches, which contributed to epidemics of waterborne diseases, such as typhoid fever. More serious health problems were discovered years later when scientists began to understand that some of the nonbiodegradable chemicals would bio-accumulate in wildlife and in humans.

During the 1970s, Lake Erie was declared dead. It was at that time that significant legislative measures were put in place to control the pollution entering the Lakes, and for the last several years, the region has benefited from the great improvements to the quality of our water.

Until recently, many of us thought that the Great Lakes were well on their way to becoming drinkable, fishable, and swimmable—goals of the United States/Canadian Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. However, today, we face new challenges. We now understand that our environmental problems are more than single-issue, cause and effect problems. Scientists must consider the entire ecosystem.

Over this past year, there are reports of unexplained botulism outbreaks on the Lakes, a rise in beach closures and swimming bans, and a new "dead zone" in Lake Erie. Additionally, the Lakes are being threatened by extremely challenging invasive species. People from the Great Lakes region are quite familiar with the more infamous invaders like the zebra mussel, sea lamprey, and Eurasian milfoil, but there are now over 160 nonindigenous aquatic species in the Great lakes with many others on their way. Invasive species are drastically changing the ecosystem and imperiling the health of the Great Lakes and the wildlife.

Though changes to the Great Lakes are not seen immediately, we know we can impact the Lakes, for better or for worse, through our management policies. As the Director of the Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab said, "The one thing that we can predict with near certainty is that the Great Lakes ecosystem will continue to change and the challenges for effective use and management will only increase."

Because of the many challenges threatening the health of the Great Lakes and the health of the people who use the Lakes for their drinking water, fishing, or swimming, it is important to understand the link between our waters and human health. That is why we introduced the Oceans and Human Health Act. It would authorize the establishment of a coordinated Federal research program to aid in understanding and responding to the role of oceans in human health. The bill would establish a Federal interagency Oceans and Human Health initiative and create an Oceans and Human Health program at the Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA. The bill also would direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a coordinated public information and outreach program to provide information on potential ocean-related human health risks.

So, again, I thank Senator HOLLINGS and Senator MCCAIN for their efforts on this legislation and for accommodating my request and the request of my colleague, Senator LEVIN, to ensure that this legislation includes the Great Lakes. It is a good bill and will help us improve the quality of the Lakes and protect them for future generations.

IN HONOR OF DR. DOROTHY IRENE HEIGHT—A NATIONAL TREASURE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Dr. Dorothy Irene Height, a great leader in the struggle for equality, social justice, and human rights for all people, and a true American hero.

A recognized leader in the cause of civil and human rights, Dr. Height has shown her strength and vision through her efforts to promote school desegregation, educate others regarding the status of women in our society, and close our Nation's racial divide.

As a tireless advocate for women's rights, Dr. Height was a valued friend of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. She later encouraged President Eisenhower to desegregate the Nation's schools and promoted the appointment of African-American women to sub-Cabinet posts under President Johnson.

Dr. Height served as the tenth national president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. from 1947 to 1956 and was responsible for advancing the organization's political and social activism, both nationally and internationally.

Subsequently, as president of the National Council of Negro Women, NCNW,