

refinery bill, this bill has bad consequences. While the bill seeks to speed up renewable energy projects, it is really a way to trample over Federal environmental laws or State and local requirements. For example, a city's objections to a windmill or solar panels proposed for the top of a downtown federal building may not have to be resolved or alternatives considered, even if there are local scenic concerns or conflicts with zoning ordinances. In a regular NEPA process, discussion could resolve those concerns and produce a project that meets both Federal and local needs. We should be reaching agreement over the development of renewable energy, not creating conflicts.

Also today, the House will take up H.R. 4545, the Gasoline Price Reduction Act of 2004, a bill that proposes to increase gasoline supplies by capping the number of so-called boutique fuel blends. This bill is not likely to have a beneficial effect in terms of reducing gasoline prices or increasing supplies, and appears designed to significantly worsen air quality. It allows EPA open-ended authority to waive cleaner-burning gasoline or diesel requirements indefinitely based on an undefined "significant fuel supply disruption." In addition, EPA's determination appears not to be judicially reviewable, since the EPA Administrator need only deem a waiver "necessary." Further there is no obligation to mitigate or make up for the excess air pollution that may occur over the waiver period.

This bill also would bar any increase in the number of existing fuels and fuel additives. This would apply to any State-adopted ultra-low sulfur diesel, biodiesel or cleaner-burning gasoline programs, even though these programs do not affect gasoline prices or supply, and regardless of the fact that they may be needed to meet new, health-based air quality standards for ozone or fine particulate pollution.

There are too many serious problems with these bills. The American people do not want us to act at the expense of environmental quality. We should be passing the pieces of the energy bill where we can reach agreement to do so, like those issues I outlined.

We should not be rushing to pass legislation with such serious consequences. These are aggressive, over-reaching bills, and are deeply flawed. I will oppose them, and other Senators should as well.

ENERGY TRADING OVERSIGHT

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, the recent release of audiotapes of Enron traders gloating about their ability to manipulate energy markets should jolt the Senate into passing S. 2015, the Energy Needs Regulatory Oversight Now or ENRON Act.

A public utility near Seattle, which is trying to get back the money it lost to Enron's unscrupulous energy trading practices, received the tapes from the Justice Department. These tapes

confirm what we all suspected: Enron manipulated energy markets and gouged consumers. According to these tapes, Enron traders celebrated when a forest fire shut down a major transmission line into California in 2000. This shut down cut power supplies and raised energy prices. An energy trader sang: "Burn, baby, burn. That's a beautiful thing." These taped conversations also provide evidence that Enron made secret pacts with power producers and Enron traders deliberately drove up prices by ordering power plants to shut down. The traders also brag about their ability to manipulate markets and steal money from the "grandmothers of California," who one trader called "Grandma Millie." The arrogance of these traders shocks the conscience. It also demonstrates the need for Congress to protect consumers from energy market manipulation. We cannot let the market abuses that took place during the Western energy crisis of 2000 happen again.

S. 2105 requires the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to prohibit the use of manipulative practices like these that put at risk consumers and the reliability of the transmission grid. We learned from this crisis that electricity markets need close government oversight to ensure that companies do not engage in risky and deceptive trading schemes leading to soaring energy prices and their own possible financial failure. In both cases, consumers—the people who depend upon the electricity these companies generate or trade—are the losers.

The Senate recently went on record in support of barring abusive energy market practices when it approved an amendment to the fiscal year 2004 agricultural appropriations bill offered by Senator CANTWELL. I am disappointed this language was stripped from the omnibus spending bill. These necessary protections were also omitted from the final energy conference report and the revised energy bill we voted on in April.

We need to send a clear message to the energy industry that this behavior will not be tolerated, and we must show consumers that we will protect them from energy market manipulation. I am proud to cosponsor S. 2015 and encourage my fellow colleagues to pass this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JUDITH RODIN

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to pay tribute to Dr. Judith Rodin, who on June 30, 2004, will complete a remarkable 10-year presidency of the University of Pennsylvania, my alma mater.

When she came to the University of Pennsylvania in 1994, Dr. Rodin became the first woman president of an Ivy League school. During her tenure, she has led the University of Pennsylvania through a period of growth and development that has transformed the University academically and greatly im-

proved the quality of life on campus and in surrounding West Philadelphia.

Since 1994, the University of Pennsylvania has doubled its research funding, tripled both its annual fundraising and endowment and attracted record numbers of undergraduate applicants. However, Dr. Rodin's greatest legacy will be her response to the challenge the University of Pennsylvania faces as a citizen of West Philadelphia.

From her first days as President of the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Rodin made clear that one of her core beliefs was that a great research university must also be a great neighbor.

Dr. Rodin established the West Philadelphia Initiatives—a multi-faceted urban-planning and community-development program which has reduced crime and blight, increased job opportunities and improved the quality of life in West Philadelphia. This program in turn has reinforced the University's ability to attract the best students, faculty, staff and research opportunities.

The success of the West Philadelphia Initiatives in bringing employment, investment and quality-of-life improvements to West Philadelphia has become a model for collaboration between universities and urban communities throughout the United States. Key to the success of the program has been Dr. Rodin's acute understanding of the problems facing the West Philadelphia community, as a native Philadelphian.

Dr. Rodin was born in Philadelphia and attended Girls' High School, where she was a Mayor's Scholar. As an undergraduate at the University of Pennsylvania, she showed great talent both in the classroom and in politics, where, as president of the women's student government, she helped to lay the groundwork for a merger with the men's student government.

Dr. Rodin later earned a doctorate in psychology at Columbia University, and spent two decades on the faculty at Yale University, where she worked tirelessly to research and explain the biological and psychological factors that lead to obesity—a critical health issue facing our country today.

She also helped launch the women's health movement, and expanded our understanding of aging by demonstrating that elderly people who are empowered lead more active, healthier, and longer lives than those who are consigned to helplessness. It is a true testament to Dr. Rodin that she brought with her to the University this same resolve and tremendous passion to serve the students of the University of Pennsylvania and the less fortunate of the West Philadelphia community.

As a graduate of Penn, I am pleased to be able to honor Dr. Judith Rodin today, as a great Philadelphian, Pennsylvanian, and American, and perhaps most important, a great University of Pennsylvania Quaker.

I thank her for her service and wish her the best in the future.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF U.N. CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to mark the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Since its adoption on June 17th, 1994, some 190 countries, including the United States, have become party to the convention. But for those looking for reasons to celebrate on this tenth anniversary, the news on desertification is not good at all. Indeed, the scope and pace of desertification have increased over the last two decades. In some parts of the world, the rate of desertification has doubled since the 1970s. By 2025, according to the United Nations, two-thirds of the arable land in Africa will be gone.

Today, desertification threatens an astonishing one-third of the earth's land surface, directly affecting over 250 million people and threatening the livelihoods of some 1.2 billion more. Most of these people live in the world's poorest countries, caught in a vicious cycle of accelerating poverty and environmental degradation. Disruptions associated with climate change will likely make things worse.

No one has to be reminded of how important fertile soil has been to human societies. But what can take centuries to form can be eroded or blown away in a matter of years. Loss of arable land directly undermines food security, displacing large numbers of people, creating new opportunities for sickness and disease, and, in some cases, contributing to famine. These sorts of pressures also work to exacerbate political instability in so-called weak states.

Indeed, the links between desertification and security are increasingly apparent, as recognized by a recent NATO workshop on the issue. It is high time that policy makers in the United States take these linkages seriously.

But it is also high time to recognize that desertification is fundamentally a humanitarian issue. We cannot remain indifferent while millions suffer from the effects of desertification. This was the impetus that drove the international community to negotiate and adopt a formal convention ten years ago. As we mark the tenth anniversary of the convention, we would do well to remember this and to acknowledge that we must redouble our efforts to combat this global environmental problem.

Unfortunately, the United States has so far failed to play a leading role in the global effort to combat desertification. Although we finally became a party to the convention in 2000, we have never been especially active. I urge the current administration to step up and take a more active role in the convention. Without active participation and leadership by the United States, the effectiveness of international efforts to combat desertification will be limited at best.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DAVID GRUENWALD

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I pay tribute and congratulate David Gruenwald of Owensboro, KY on being named a distinguished finalist for the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. This award honors young people in middle level and high school grades for outstanding volunteer service to their communities.

David Gruenwald has proven himself to be an ideal volunteer. While he is only 14 years old, he has already done more volunteer work than many people will do in their whole life. As a project to become an Eagle Scout, David started a book drive for inmates at the Daviess County Detention Center. He went above the call of duty and began to enlist his classmates at Owensboro Catholic Middle School. Soon they had increased the size of the facility's library from about 30 books to 2,900.

The citizens of Owensboro are fortunate to have a young man like David Gruenwald in their community. His example of dedication, hard work and compassion should be an inspiration to all throughout the entire Commonwealth.

He has my most sincere appreciation for this work, and I look forward to his continued service to Kentucky. •

DR. HENRY N. TISDALE

• Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. Mr. President, I wish today to commend and congratulate Dr. Henry N. Tisdale on the occasion of the celebration of his 10th anniversary as president of Claflin University and to wish him continued success as he leads this historic institution of higher education.

Dr. Tisdale has positioned Claflin as one of the premier liberal arts institutions in the Southeast, moving the university to the "Top Tier" and "Top Ten" ranking among comprehensive baccalaureate granting institutions in the South, according to U.S. News and World Report's "America's Best Colleges 2003." Under his guidance, Claflin University has increased enrollment by 60 percent, added a number of new academic majors to include mass communications, black studies, early childhood education, biochemistry, biotechnology, bioinformatics and the masters of business administration, achieved national accreditation for business administration and teacher education, and transformed the campus through the construction of new facilities, such as the Living and Learning Center and Legacy Plaza, and the restoration of many of its historic buildings.

I congratulate Dr. Tisdale on his remarkable and noteworthy achievements. May you and Claflin enjoy continued success for another 10 years and beyond. •

HONORING CAPTAIN CHRIS CHRISTOPHER

• Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I speak today to honor the service of Captain Chris Christopher, who is currently the Deputy Director for Future Operations, Communications and Business Initiatives at NMCI. Captain Christopher comes to this position after nearly 20 years of distinguished service to the Navy in the fields of aviation, public affairs and intelligence.

Captain Christopher has spent most of his life in New Orleans, and he has made a wonderful home there with his wife Penny and their two daughters. He received undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of New Orleans, and his work with NMCI still brings him back to the UNO campus. Though he is now stationed in Virginia, his heart and family remain in New Orleans. As a Louisiana Senator, I like that!

Captain Christopher's work at NMCI has been truly outstanding. The Navy Marine Corps Intranet is a progressive and comprehensive project with an ultimate goal to transform the Department of the Navy's computer and information networks in a way that increases combat readiness and effectiveness. NMCI will revolutionize command and control efficiencies within the Navy, and between the services, to ensure that our forces are operating in unison. This will save American lives, increase combat readiness and effectiveness, and, ultimately, make us stronger. Under Captain Christopher's leadership, many of these goals have been brought closer to reality.

I once again want to thank my friend, Captain Chris Christopher, for his efforts on America's behalf. Future generations of Sailors and Marines will no doubt reap the benefits of his labor and America will be safer as a result. I am proud of your 'Louisiana-bred' success Chris, and I wish you well in your future endeavors. •

COMMENTATION FOR THE LEGACY OF LOUISIANA'S LONGEST MARRIED COUPLE

• Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize George and Germaine Briant as Louisiana's longest married couple. George and Germaine Briant of Hammond, LA, were married over eighty years ago on July 20, 1921. The couple currently lives at Sunrise of Live Oak Village in Hammond where their affectionate displays of kissing, hugging, and dancing, regularly prove a true testament of their love. As the residents of Hammond would tell you, George never fails to sing "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" to Germaine, at every opportunity.

The Briants contributions to our Nation go beyond their loving example. George served in World War I and was awarded many medals, including the Purple Heart and the French Legion of