

understand that not everyone in the United States agrees with the Bush plan for prolonged inaction.

To this end, members of my staff traveled to Montreal and met with representatives and negotiators from other countries. They also met with public interest groups, business groups, and others interested in taking positive action on climate change. They witnessed firsthand how the Bush administration worked very hard to dissuade other countries from agreeing to even discuss further commitments. This is not the position that our Nation should be taking. We should be leading the way on climate change, not burying our head in the sand.

From the outset, even before they left Washington, the administration's delegation insisted that any discussion of future commitments was "a non-starter" and that any discussion about future commitments prior to 2012, which marks the end of the first set of Kyoto commitments, was premature. They continued at the conference to make this point to all parties. And when the rest of the world decided to engage in actual negotiations about discussions of further commitments under both the Framework Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, the U.S. stated bluntly that such discussions were unacceptable and pointedly walked away from the negotiating table.

The good news is that the rest of the world stayed at that table and talked throughout the night and into the next morning, reaching agreement on a set of decisions for further discussions. And when those decisions were brought into the light of day, and it became apparent that the United States would have to state its opposition publicly, before all 189 countries, the U.S. was forced to agree to return to the negotiating table and to allow talks to continue next year.

This means that 157 countries have agreed to discuss additional commitments under the Kyoto Protocol, even without the U.S. as a party, and that 189 countries, including the U.S., have agreed to look at the issue of further steps under the Framework Convention. Despite arguments to the contrary, cooperative international agreements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions remain a reality, and slow, but significant, progress is taking place to strengthen those commitments.

The overwhelming majority of Americans support taking some form of action on climate change. A recent poll by the Program on International Policy Attitudes, sponsored by the Center for International and Security Studies at the University of Maryland, found that 86 percent of Americans think that President Bush should act to limit greenhouse gases in the U.S. if the G8 countries are willing to act to reduce such gases. All the G8 countries except the U.S. are signatories to the Kyoto treaty and therefore have already committed to such action.

In addition, the study found that 73 percent of Americans believe that the

U.S. should participate in the Kyoto treaty. Finally, the study found that 83 percent of Americans favor "legislation requiring large companies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 2000 levels by 2010 and to 1990 levels by 2020." Thus, in one way or another, more than 80 percent of Americans favor taking real action on climate change. The current administration is completely out of step with the American public on this issue.

States, regions and even localities are taking on climate change related commitments. Nine Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic States are working together through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, RGGI, to develop a cap-and-trade system for carbon dioxide, CO₂, emissions from power plants. On June 1, 2005, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed an executive order setting greenhouse gas emissions targets for the State. The order directs State officials to develop plans that would reduce California's greenhouse gas emissions to 2000 emissions levels by 2010 and 1990 levels by 2020. The U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted an agreement, sponsored by Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to levels that mirror the Kyoto Protocol limits. California has also adopted a greenhouse gas emission standard for automobiles, and a number of States, including Vermont, have followed suit and adopted the same standards. These actions confirm that there is widespread political desire and motivation to take action within the United States to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

I have sponsored legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from powerplants, which are a large source of carbon dioxide, a principal greenhouse gas. My bill, S. 150, the Clean Power Act, would reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2010. This would be a very important first step by the United States towards combating global warming that would show the rest of the world that we are serious about doing our part. Congress needs to act to provide a mandate and undisputed authority to this and future administration negotiators.

I am both discouraged and heartened by the outcome of the talks in Montreal. Those of us who care about stopping climate change did everything we could to help aid these talks, and despite the Bush administration resistance, the international dialogue on climate change will continue.

But a dialogue is not nearly enough, and the consequences of additional delay are dire. The U.S. has been and remains the largest emitter of greenhouse gases. It has a responsibility to its own people and to the people of the world to be a leader on this issue. Thus far, it has been anything but a leader and these talks highlighted that fact.

I look forward to the day when I can once again be proud of the United States role in these talks, when we can enter these negotiations having done

our part. I believe that is what we agreed to in 1992, when the Senate ratified the climate treaty and it is high time we live up to our obligation.

ANWR

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, over the past year, and on more occasions than I'd like to remember, I have talked about the abuse of process that proponents of drilling in the Arctic Refuge have resorted to in their attempts to pass an unpopular and misguided measure. Sadly, the Senate faces the very same issue today. Let me unequivocally state that talk of attaching an extraneous and obviously controversial provision regarding the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to the Department of Defense appropriations conference report—a provision that was not included in either the House or Senate version of the bill—is flat out irresponsible and should be rejected.

This last-ditch effort to attach the Arctic Refuge drilling provision to the Department of Defense appropriations bill—or any other bill that is a "must pass" before we adjourn for the year—really reflects poorly on this body. And, what does it mean for greater mischief down the line? That whenever we can't move an unpopular proposal through the regular legislative process, there's no need to worry: you just attach it to an important funding bill? Is this the precedent that we, members of both parties, want to set? I sincerely hope not.

Let me be very clear: I would prefer to be talking about setting a new path for our country's energy policy—a path that reduces our use of fossil fuels while favoring renewable sources of energy. Unfortunately, some of my colleagues are dead set on looking to the past, instead of to the future, for our sources of energy and are even willing to go so far as to use the bill that funds our men and women in uniform as a vehicle for their controversial measure. I am deeply disappointed by this latest move.

I strongly urge any of my colleagues who are currently trying to add language to the Defense appropriations bill, or any other bill we need to consider in the coming days, that would open up the Arctic Refuge to oil and gas development, to reconsider those efforts. Continuing down that path, the path of circumventing established legislative processes to move measures that can't pass on their own merits, is an irresponsible abuse of the rules under which we operate that should be rejected out of hand.

DR. CYNTHIA MAUNG

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, I rise today to call attention to the heroic efforts of Dr. Cynthia Maung and her Mae Tao clinic to provide hope on the border of Thailand and Burma. Dr. Maung, herself a Burmese refugee, has dedicated her life to helping those fleeing political and economic turmoil in

Burma. Few Burmese refugees are granted official refugee status in Thailand, making it almost impossible to obtain healthcare, employment or education.

On the outskirts of the town of Mae Sot, Dr. Maung started a makeshift facility to treat her malaria stricken fellow refugees as they began crossing by the thousands into Thailand, following the Burmese junta's brutal crackdown on the democracy movement in 1988. Mae Tao is now a thriving clinic treating around 70,000 people a year. From providing maternity care and family planning to treating infectious diseases and fitting landmine victims with prosthetics, the Mae Tao clinic represents hope, safety and a brighter future for some of the most vulnerable people in the world. This is a mission we should do everything we can to support.

Dr. Maung's tireless efforts have not stopped with the Burmese refugee population in Thailand, as she trains medical teams to deliver health services to remote villages in Burma. Unable to return to her homeland, Dr. Maung continues to be a fearless advocate for democracy and justice for the people of Burma—on both sides of the border.

We can and must do more to support this courageous woman, and her work to ensure that the refugee population in Thailand is granted basic rights, including healthcare and education, for all.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

A NEWSPAPER FAMILY FOR 30 YEARS

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, keeping a community connected and informed is one of the most important functions of a local paper. In Cottonwood, ID, this job has been attended to with care and expertise by Pat Wherry and her late husband Bob for the past 30 years. In 1975, Pat and Bob took the helm of the Cottonwood Chronicle and Bob, until his death, and Pat have been serving the community of Cottonwood through their hard work and diligence ever since. Their two sons are involved in the businesses as well, each currently holding positions as editors, one at the Chronicle and the other at the Lewis County Herald. Bob passed away in 1996, but Pat has stayed with the paper, working hours that as many involved in small papers know far exceed 40 hours per week.

The Cottonwood Chronicle is one of the oldest papers in Idaho, first wearing the banner of the "Cottonwood Reporter" in 1892. It has been the Cottonwood Chronicle since around 1910. At one time, the Wherry family also owned both the Valley News in Meridian and the Lewis County Herald in Nez Perce, but later sold the Valley News. They have devoted their time, resources and energy to keeping the people in these communities educated and involved. Editors of small papers

especially serve many functions—they are the source of news and schedules of events. They are the keepers of community opinion and concerns. Pat especially is a strong and proud advocate for Cottonwood and I always appreciate her information she shares about the exciting things happening in this growing community. I congratulate Pat and her sons Greg and Steve and wish them well as they continue in their good work.●

APPRECIATION FOR THE WORK OF LYNN ROSENTHAL

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I recognize outgoing executive director of the National Network to End Domestic Violence, Lynn Rosenthal. Lynn began at NNEDV in 2000, when I had the wonderful opportunity to become acquainted with her. Since that time, she has worked tirelessly on behalf of victims of domestic violence nationwide. In the course of the past 5 years, she has educated me and other Members of Congress about the high incidence and terrible consequences of domestic violence in the United States and has been instrumental in my becoming ever-increasingly involved in advocating for victims of this terrible crime.

Lynn began her work in her home State of Florida where her leadership and character earned her the Florida Governor's Peace at Home Award. After working in domestic violence advocacy on a regional level, she went on to become the director of the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence before serving as the executive director of NNEDV.

Lynn has devoted her life to advocating for safe and nurturing communities and promoting equality. With dignity, poise, and energetic conviction, as executive director of NNEDV, Lynn has been an invaluable voice of education on domestic violence issues for Members of Congress. She speaks for those who cannot speak for themselves, those imprisoned in their homes, victims of cruelty with no way out and no hope. Her work on the Violence Against Women Act has kept it a powerful policy tool to address the injustices that so many women, children, and men face in their own homes. I am honored to have had the opportunity to work with such an incredible woman, and I wish her the very best as she goes to work on economic justice issues back in Florida.●

CONGRATULATING GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY ON DIVISION II NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it gives me great pride to congratulate the Grand Valley State University football team on winning the Division II National Championship. This is the Lakers' third championship in the past 4 years, and it crowns a perfect 13-to-0 season. I particularly salute the

Lakers' coach, Chuck Martin, who is in his second season with the team.

The Lakers' championship victory came in a game that was thrilling to the end. After finishing the first half down 14-to-7, the Lakers fought back against Northwest Missouri State. A stunning 82-yard scoring drive in the fourth quarter gave the Lakers their first lead of the game with just over 4 minutes left to play. Northwest Missouri mounted an impressive drive of its own, but the Lakers' defense stopped the Bearcats at the 4-yard line as time expired. In this stirring finish, the Lakers showed the skill and poise of true national champions.

Grand Valley is now one of only three schools, including North Dakota State and North Alabama, that have won three or more Division II National Championships in football. And the seniors on the Laker team have tied the NCAA record for the most wins in a 4-year period.

Winning is becoming a tradition at Grand Valley. The volleyball team recently won the Division II championship. The water polo team won a national club title in November. And Mandi Long-Zemba recently won the Division II individual cross-country title as the cross-country team placed second overall.

Congratulations to all of the magnificent athletes at Grand Valley State University on a tremendous year, and best of luck for continued success. Go Lakers.●

TRIBUTE TO CARMEN MCCORMICK

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of Carmen McCormick. She was a brave young woman, beloved by her family and friends, who dedicated her life to the nation she loved through honorable service in the U.S. Navy.

Gunner's Mate First Class McCormick enlisted in the Navy in April of 1999 and completed her basic training at the Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, IL. Upon completion of basic training, she attended Gunner's Mate "A" school, and later continued her technical training at the Naval Training Center in San Diego. Ultimately, her duty led her to the Mayport Naval Station in Jacksonville, FL.

To those who served beside her, McCormick was a tremendous asset as a talented technician and recognized expert in all aspects of ordnance handling, but she was also a trusted leader and a friend whom they came to know and love.

Tragically, she was involved in a serious automobile accident on the night of November 11, 2005. Her shipmates joined her at the hospital shortly after the accident and later joined her family in a constant vigil by her bedside, and throughout the hospital, until the moment she passed away on November 13. She would have been 26 years old next month.