

When our energy policy is drafted in secret meetings with the oil companies, we all end up paying more at the pump because they've failed to invest in renewable energy. When our health care legislation is written by the drug companies, we all pay more because they've banned negotiation on prices. The people of this country know corruption when they see it and they saw last November who was benefiting and who was getting hurt.

Business as usual doesn't only generate bad policy and wasteful spending. It also erodes public trust in the integrity of our government institutions, our elected leaders, and the law-making process itself. We the American people know what we want from Washington. It is this: a government that's focused on doing what's best for our nation, and on securing a better and more prosperous future for the people.

This reform legislation gets us there. By passing this legislation, we will make a positive difference in how Congress performs its duties—and these reforms will send a strong, clear message to the American people that we are here for them and focused solely on representing their interests.

And that's the way it should be.

FDA REAUTHORIZATION BILLS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, as my colleagues know, the Senate passed S. 1082, the FDA Revitalization Act, on May 9 by a near-unanimous vote. The House passed its version of this legislation, H.R. 2900, the FDA Amendments Act, on July 11, also by a near-unanimous vote. Staff of the Senate HELP Committee and the House Energy and Commerce Committee has worked many, many hours a day, 7 days a week, to get to a bipartisan, bicameral agreement on the FDA reauthorization bills.

Working together with Senator ENZI, we have already made a great deal of progress. We have reached agreement or near agreement on several titles and have narrowed the gap on most others. Important issues remain to be resolved, but we will do the work we need to do to have an agreement for the House and Senate to consider in September.

I thank our majority leader, Senator REID, for his leadership and support throughout this process and for making this important legislation an early priority in the Senate. While we were unable to appoint conferees today, our bipartisan deliberations will continue through August, and I hope we can name conferees in September and finalize this legislation that is so important to the safety and health of all Americans.

I also commend my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, from both the House and Senate. They have a deep knowledge of the issues presented by these bills and have been strong advocates of different positions on some of the issues. I believe this process has improved the legislation and will con-

tinue to do so and that it will produce an FDA reauthorization bill that the House and Senate can again endorse with broad, bipartisan support.

DROUGHT IN THE STATE OF DELAWARE

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the farmers in my State of Delaware, and those in other parts of the Nation, who are looking out their windows and seeing the damage caused by a drought. This is the time of year when corn is at its best, at its sweetest, but in Delaware, specifically in Sussex and Kent Counties, where agriculture is king, my guys are in trouble. On some farms, corn is half the size it should be, brown and withered, stalks, with no ears of corn. Losses, I have been told, are 50 percent of the crop or even 100 percent of a farmers total crop. Soybeans are also in jeopardy. And we are facing a forecast with little or no rain.

As I have been telling my colleagues, for more than three decades, agriculture is an enormous and vital part of my State. Delaware is an agricultural State. Almost 50 percent of our total acreage is farmland. Sussex County, the southernmost county in my State, is the largest poultry producing county in the entire country. Delaware is first in production value per farm and first in cash receipts per acre. We are ranked No. 2 in lima bean production, and we have 200,000 acres of soybeans and 175,000 acres of corn.

Sadly, this is not the first time that my State has faced a severe drought. In 2002, our farmers faced similar circumstances and suffered major losses. When a severe drought strikes, the impact on the economy, the environment, and the agricultural sector can be devastating. USDA's assistance during these crucial periods help the livelihoods of our farmers in Delaware.

Farmers, always at the mercy of the weather, are constantly faced with decisions of how to best manage risk. With Delaware soil, irrigation is oftentimes an option, but it is an expensive one which can be daunting to a farmer trying to make a profit. Another tool which farmers look to is crop insurance. Throughout my tenure in the Senate, I have supported incentives to make such tools attractive and affordable to farmers.

But for now, our Governor has started the process that triggers Federal assistance by calling for the Delaware Farm Service Agency to survey the crops. Because it is essential that the State, or specific counties, be designated as crop disaster areas to make farmers eligible for Federal disaster assistance, I am hopeful that they complete the process soon. If disaster assistance is needed, I hope the Secretary of Agriculture will move swiftly to help.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I seek recognition today to engage in a colloquy with a number of colleagues who have been true leaders on one of the most challenging issues facing the world today climate change.

As I stated on the floor several weeks ago, the time for action is now. According to the latest scientific findings of our world's leading experts—the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change—the confidence that humans are altering earth's climate has reached 90 percent certainty.

It is with this sense of urgency that I recently introduced, along with Senator SPECTER, the Low Carbon Economy Act of 2007, S. 1766—which is also supported by Senators AKAKA, MURKOWSKI, CASEY, STEVENS, and HARKIN—is the product of over 2 years of deliberation and analysis and enjoys the support of many in industry, labor and conservation.

Senator SPECTER and I are convinced—and I believe my good colleagues from Connecticut and Virginia would agree—that legislation can only attract the bipartisan support needed to put the United States on a path to a low carbon economy if it contains the following: No. 1. mandatory limits on U.S. greenhouse gas emissions; No. 2, an economy-wide approach that meets the economic test of “no significant harm”; No. 3. increased incentives to accelerate the development and deployment of low and zero emission technologies; No. 4. measures that strongly encourage our major trading partners to begin reducing emissions and that balance U.S. emission-reduction commitments with the necessity of engaging other countries; and No. 5. measures to allocate allowances under the program equitably and efficiently.

Ultimately I am optimistic about our ability to forge bipartisan resolution of all of these issues because there is now such broad agreement within this body and within the business community and the general public about the need for real progress and action on this issue. At the same time, I recognize that we have work left to do. Senator SPECTER and I today hosted a meeting among many of the Nation's leading power producers to explore some new ideas for allocating emission permits within the power sector. We were encouraged by this discussion and plan to broaden the discussion to include a wider array of consumer and environmental perspectives.

While the legislation we have introduced and the outline you are sharing today differ in some important respects, I believe that we have a great deal in common. Senator LIEBERMAN and Senator WARNER, I stand ready to work to address our differences in the interest in forging a broad consensus capable of passing legislation this year.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I thank my friend, the Senator from New Mexico, for the enormous contribution his efforts have made to move the climate change debate forward. He has

taken the time to study and consider many of the nuts-and-bolts issues that are critical to developing a balanced approach, and we all are better informed for his efforts.

Like my friend, I stand here today very optimistic that we can forge bipartisan legislation. It is my honor to chair a subcommittee on climate change in the Environment and Public Works Committee and to have Senator WARNER as my ranking member. Senator BOXER has shown great leadership and commitment to moving climate legislation through our full committee, and I look forward to working with her and all members of our committee to report out a strong bill in the fall. Senator WARNER and I have reached agreement on the salient aspects of our climate proposal. I agree with Senator BINGAMAN's description of the necessary design elements and believe that he and others will find that the legislation we are working on in our committee embraces these same principles.

Much of the debate recently has centered on what level of U.S. emissions reductions are necessary to stabilize atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gas emissions by midcentury to avoid catastrophic consequences. I believe that it is ultimately our moral responsibility to curb our emissions to avoid these consequences for those who follow us here on Earth. I also agree that we must ensure that our efforts to address climate change are consistent with our commitment to strengthening the U.S. economy and our economic competitiveness.

I note that some labor unions support the Low Carbon Economy Act, and while I also recognize that we are proposing approaches to cost-containment that overlap in part and differ in part, I am optimistic that we may be able to find a common way forward that will protect the environment and the economy. It is my personal belief that reducing climate pollution will ultimately provide a benefit to the U.S. economy; however Senator WARNER and I recognize that there remain many in this body who are deeply concerned about economic impacts from climate regulation. For these reasons, like Senators BINGAMAN and SPECTER, I am convinced that we must have robust cost-control measures in place in order to forge the bipartisan consensus needed for timely and aggressive action.

The world is looking toward the United States for leadership on climate change. Only with bipartisan leadership and quick action will we be able assume this leadership role. I appreciate my colleagues joining me today in this colloquy and pledge that I will work closely with them to ensure that the bill we report out of the Environment and Public Works Committee enjoys the broadest level of bipartisan support possible.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I would like to join my colleagues in commending the growing bipartisan

movement to craft climate legislation that can pass this body. Senator BINGAMAN and I have been striving for some time to develop an approach that provides a deliberative and measured response to climate change. I agree with the criteria outlined today. Several of these elements were critical to my support for the Low Carbon Economy Act.

First, I represent a State that relies heavily on manufacturing and coal production. We must craft climate change legislation that will protect the U.S. economy. It is critical that we not only provide funding to develop and deploy new climate-friendly technologies, but we must also find the most efficient way to drive these new technologies forward. One aspect of the bill I sponsored with Senator BINGAMAN that I want to highlight is designed to drive the development of carbon capture and storage a technology that is critical to coal-producing States such as Pennsylvania. The bill provides a significant economic incentive to innovative companies willing to take on the challenge of building commercial-scale power plants that capture and store carbon dioxide emissions.

Second, while I agree that the United States needs to take more aggressive steps here at home to address this issue, I also believe that any legislation must include provisions to ensure that we periodically review whether other countries are taking comparable action and that we be prepared to apply pressure on nations that continue to avoid implementing emissions limits.

I believe that this is an idea we all embrace and thank the Senators from the Environment and Public Works Committee for their willingness to work with us as they move legislation through the committee. We must bring together many interest groups in the fight against global warming. Only with broad support inside and outside of this chamber will we develop a bill that can pass.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I am honored to join with my colleagues in this colloquy on developing a bipartisan approach to addressing climate change. As my friend from Connecticut already stated, we have agreed on the principal outlines of a climate change proposal that we intend on moving through the Environment and Public Works Committee this fall. Climate change is a very big problem, and the solution will require a very big tent. In addition to the good work by my colleagues standing here today, we also welcome continued leadership by Senators CARPER and ALEXANDER on our committee, Senators KERRY and SNOWE in the Commerce Committee, Senators BIDEN and LUGAR in Foreign Relations, and many others.

I can say with utmost confidence that Senator LIEBERMAN and I embrace the principles for action described by our colleagues today. As always, the details matter a great deal. Senators BINGAMAN and SPECTER have clearly in-

vested significant time and effort on this issue, and we truly welcome their input as we move legislation through the committee.

Like my colleagues, I believe that as we legislate on climate change we must be careful to protect our economy and pay special attention to those industries and regions that will bear the brunt of achieving necessary reductions. That is why last week I joined Senators LANDRIEU, GRAHAM, and LINCOLN in introducing legislation that I hope will allay the concerns of some Senators about the economic impacts of a cap-and-trade program. We have included this bipartisan measure in the proposal Senator LIEBERMAN and I have agreed to today. While I believe the cost-containment measures we have proposed present a sound basis for legislation, I, too, am open to consider a combination of efforts and ideas so long as the resulting product makes sense ecologically, economically and politically. It will not be easy, but if we can succeed in uniting our coalitions of support, I believe we will have the ability to pass climate legislation in this body.

In my 28 years in the Senate, I have focused above all on issues of national security, and I see the problem of global climate change as fitting within that focus. As with national security concerns, to succeed in addressing the threats of global climate change, we must be united at home.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I thank my friends and colleagues for their remarks and their commitment. We must approach this issue in a thoughtful and constructive way. It is my hope that we can take action on this issue by the end of the year. Let's not wait any longer when we know the one course of action we can't afford or defend is continued paralysis.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. I am committed to working with you and suggest that we bring our key staff together early in the recess to move this discussion forward. I think we all agree that these issues must be resolved and we can only benefit from a serious effort to try and resolve them together.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CORPORAL DUSTIN LEE WORKMAN II

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, today I honor Army CPL Dustin Lee Workman II.

Upon his graduation in 2005 from Ashland-Greenwood High School in Ashland, Nebraska, Corporal Workman joined the Nebraska National Guard. His friends and family describe him as an iron-willed person, and as someone who was deeply in touch with his faith. One of his former teachers described him as a talented and creative writer. In fact, Corporal Workman, who was not yet 20 years old, composed a poem, which was set to music by one of his friends and sang at his funeral. I attended the funeral, and it was a moving rendition. The poem follows: