

we do not act on global warming, our children and our grandchildren will wonder why we walked away from them. How could we have walked away from them? We do not want to walk away from them. I don't know any Member of this Senate who would knowingly walk away from their future family. Scientists are telling us we need to take action soon in order to avoid dangerous global warming. If we fail to act, we could reach the tipping point with irreversible consequences.

I say to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, today I believe we have no choice but to act to slow global warming. We should look at our actions as an insurance policy. Yes, scientists will disagree. Some will say horrific things will happen. Some will say bad things will happen. I don't know of any respected scientist who thinks nothing will happen. But for bad things or horrific things, we need an insurance policy. We need to be conservative. We need to do the most we can do so we protect those future generations so when they look back at us, they will say: They stepped up and did the right thing.

It is hard to persuade people to act when the consequences of inaction lie down the road. But we are smart enough, we are wise enough to do something about global warming.

Here is the good news. Whatever we do about global warming, to reduce greenhouse gases, has a beneficial effect on our society. That is why it is something I think we can wrap our arms around. When we do something for energy efficiency, to cut back on the carbon dioxide, what does it mean? It means we save money in our pockets, if we drive fuel-efficient automobiles, alternative fuel vehicles, hybrid vehicles, cellulosic fuel vehicles. It helps us keep money in our pockets. It says we don't have to rely on foreign countries. So that makes eminent good sense. It means we will be developing technologies that we can export to the rest of the world.

Today, as the incoming Chair of the Environment and Public Works Committee, I am embarrassed to say to the people of the United States that of the 56 emitters of greenhouse gases in the order of what they have done to help solve the problem, we are 53 out of 56. Only a few countries have done less than we have done and those countries are China, Malaysia, and Saudi Arabia. I am embarrassed to stand here and say that to the American people, but I must speak the truth to the American people. We are the No. 1 emitter of greenhouse gases and we are 53rd out of 56 countries in doing something about it.

All this is going to change. I think it is going to change because the people want us to change. The people want us to lead.

I look around and see, for example, Wal-Mart—Wal-Mart, with whom I have disagreed on so many labor issues I can't even start to tell you the story

about that, but here is what they are doing. They want to sell millions and millions of energy-efficient lightbulbs. These lightbulbs will save so much energy, these lightbulbs will save the consumer so much money, and I am very pleased to see that business is stepping up to the plate.

I am also pleased to see the State of California passing landmark legislation to fight global warming—my State—and doing it on such a bipartisan basis. This is very exciting for me.

We have a great bill that will be introduced by the Senator from Vermont, Mr. SANDERS. That will be the same bill written by former Senator JEFFORDS, a great leader on the Committee on Environment and Public Works, before retirement. I have to try to fill his shoes. This great bill is modeled after the California bill and will tackle this issue in a way which will be good for the environment, good for the health of our families, good for foreign policy, and good for the export of new technologies, meaning more jobs here. We can do this. We can reduce costs for consumers, for businesses.

Energy efficiency is the name of the game. It is the easiest way to get more energy.

Everyone who knows me knows I want to pass the greatest bill in the history of mankind to fight global warming. Everyone knows I want to do that. Everyone knows I want us to go as far as we can go. I am an idealist when it comes to this, but I am also a pragmatist. So we will work our colleagues in the Senate, both sides of the aisle, Republicans, Independents, and Democrats. We will open the committee to all the Senators. We will listen to their ideas. We will listen to their views. We will take the best of those ideas, we will sit down, and we will work hard and get a bill. That day will come in the near future. At that time, the faith the people have placed in Congress, once again, that faith will be restored. Some of it was lost because in many ways we took our eye off of what we had to do.

When people ask me, What is it like in the Congress, what do you like to do in the Congress, I say, Let's face it, the easiest thing is to do nothing. When you do something, somebody gets nervous about it, but when we have an issue such as global warming, which is a national security threat—and the Pentagon has told us it is a national security threat because if waters rise and there are refugees all over the world, the instability that will follow will be absolutely enormous; it will create a trend. There are predictions that if we have bad global warming, we will have weather extremes with droughts and floods and all the problems we have been getting a little look at through the lens of the last couple of years.

Fate has thrown us together, I say to my friends on the other side of the aisle. You never know when you will be born or whom you will come to know.

I have gotten to know the Senator presiding. I am fortunate to have friends on both sides of the aisle. I am fortunate to have the State that has as its core value protecting God's green Earth and this planet. I am going to bring all that enthusiasm to the committee. I am going to be patient. We are going to listen. We are going to write a bill and bring it here.

I say to Majority Leader REID, it means so much to me to have as one of the top bills a bill that uses the word "environment" in the title. I cannot state how long I have been waiting for that. We have it in S. 6. It is called the National Energy and Environment Security Act of 2007. It is an apt name because when we take care of the environment, we are taking care of our own security and the health of our families.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AGENDA FOR COLORADO

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, today we start the 110th Congress of the United States. We embark on a 2-year journey to submit, consider, debate, improve, and eventually pass legislation on behalf of the greater good of our constituents and the American people. Accordingly, I have here today a package of legislative proposals which I believe will benefit Colorado and the country. This package is the first chapter of what I hope becomes a legislative agenda for Colorado and the Nation. These 15 bills address matters from healthcare to housing, land usage to veterans, and Homeland Security to drug trafficking prevention.

These bills are:

- The Methamphetamine Trafficking Enforcement Act of 2007;
- the Medicare Cost Contract Extension and Refinement Act of 2007;
- the Mark-to-Market Extension Act of 2007;
- the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium Expansion Act of 2007;
- the National Trails System Willing Seller Act of 2007;
- the Pikes Peak Regional Veteran's Cemetery Act of 2007;
- the Pinon Canyon Expansion Citizen's Input Act of 2007;
- the Arkansas Valley Conduit Act;
- the Increase Computer Efficiency Study Act of 2007;
- the Mesa Verde National Park Boundary Expansion Act of 2007;
- the Baca National Wildlife Refuge Purpose Act;
- the Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area Technical Amendments Act of 2007;
- the Satellite and Cable Access Act of 2007;

the Granada Relocation Center National Historic Site Act of 2007; and a Ronald Reagan U.S. Capitol Artistic Tribute Resolution.

Mr. President, this agenda of 15 bills represents many hours of work with Colorado citizens, officials, interested parties, and stakeholders. It is a set of fairly controversy-free proposals that will solve problems and offer solutions.

I intend to return to this floor with a second round of legislative proposals, proposals that I am now working on with colleagues, State officials, and Colorado stakeholders. Other measures I plan to address this session include Good Samaritan mine cleanups, bark beetle eradication legislation, Rocky Mt. National Park Wilderness, National ID theft/Social Security number protection, renewable energy tax credits, reverse mortgages, the need for public health veterinarians, oil shale royalties, and manufactured housing reform.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on getting these bills through the legislative process and being able to tell Coloradans that we in Washington are engaged on their behalf.

(The remarks of Mr. ALLARD pertaining to the submission of S. Con. Res. 1 are located in today's RECORD under "Submission of Concurrent and Senate Resolutions.")

(The remarks of Mr. ALLARD pertaining to the introduction of S. 124, S. 125, S. 126, S. 127, S. 128, S. 129, S. 130, S. 131, S. 132, S. 134, S. 135, S. 136, S. 168, and S. 169 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OBAMA). Without objection, it is so ordered.

A NEW BEGINNING

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, first let me congratulate the Presiding Officer for having assumed that position today for the first time. This Senator has a long-time admiration for the Senator from Illinois, for the great work he has done, and for his contributions to this body.

Let me also say that I come here today to congratulate both our majority leader, Senator REID, for his leadership, and Senator MCCONNELL for his leadership as the minority leader, and for them having brought the Members of this body together to start a new beginning, which is based on a sense that we as America will do better by working together, and that the politics of division of the past are politics that we will be able to transcend and move for-

ward with a positive and strong agenda that will make our country and the world a stronger and safer place.

I also congratulate Senator REID and the leadership for the 10 bills introduced here today. I believe those bills create a good framework for issues that urgently need to be addressed by the Congress and by this President. I am hopeful that in the days and weeks and months ahead we will, in fact, be the kind of Senate and Congress that gets results on these important initiatives.

I don't want to comment on all 10 pieces of legislation today, but I will make reference to a couple of them. First, with respect to energy, I think all of us in this body recognize that it is time for us to embrace a true ethic of energy independence. For a long time, we have given rhetoric to the issue of energy and our overdependence on oil from the Middle East and other places. I think today Republicans and Democrats, conservatives and progressives, have come together to say we know what the answer is to this. It is not as difficult as other areas we have to deal with, such as health care. The national renewable energy lab in my home State will tell us all if we put our minds together, we can produce 30 to 40 percent of our energy from renewable energy sources. We can use the new technologies that are out there to get to energy independence.

The only thing lacking, really, has been the will of the leadership of America to move forward to get us to that energy independence. In my view, it is important that we do so, first, because our national security is dependent upon our being energy independent. We ought not to be in a position where the national sovereignty and security of this Nation is held hostage to the whims of the Middle East and those who happen to have oil wealth under their sands.

Secondly, it is important for the economic security of our country that we move forward with energy independence. As we move forward, we will find economic opportunity, including economic opportunity for rural America, to help us grow our way to energy independence.

Finally, we will be able to deal with the environmental security issues that are very much at stake in this energy debate.

I want to comment on the importance of education and the College Affordability Act, which has been presented today by Senator REID. For many of us who know the promise of America, we know that promise of America has come about through the educational opportunities we receive. For many of us in this Chamber, including Senator MURRAY, who spoke a few minutes ago—she talked about the promise of America delivered through the educational opportunities which she had. Even though she was one of seven children and had a father who had multiple sclerosis, she achieved

the highest level of the American dream because that educational opportunity was given to her. I and others have gone through similar circumstances. In my own case, in Colorado, my father and mother never had an opportunity to get a college degree. We were poor, raised in a place that didn't have electricity and a telephone. Yet the promise of America and the promise of education was something that was constantly talked about to us by our parents. I often remember my father going around the table at our ranch and making sure all eight of his children were doing their homework because he knew that education would allow them to seek horizons and get to places he had not been able to reach. Over time, all eight of his children became first-generation college graduates.

Today, I stand here as a Senator from that family, born in that place. Without education, I would not be here, and those in my family would not have had the opportunities they have had. It has been the leaders in the Senate, including people such as former Senator Claiborne Pell from Rhode Island, who stood for the proposition that that educational opportunity should be afforded to all Americans, no matter what your background, no matter your economic condition; that you should be allowed to have an educational opportunity in America, because there was a recognition that with educational opportunity, anything is possible for a child in America.

So that piece of legislation Senator REID introduced today is something I hope we can embrace electively as a Senate moving forward in a comprehensive way.

Finally, let me make a quick remark on the issue of immigration reform. We spent a lot of time on immigration here in the Senate. A few months ago, we were successful in passing a bipartisan compromise to move forward. I am hopeful that as we look at the months ahead, we will be able to work with President Bush and our Democratic and Republican colleagues to fashion a comprehensive immigration reform package that will deliver an effective immigration law for our country.

In my view, that immigration reform package has to have three principles at its center. First, we have to secure our borders. I believe the legislation introduced today will, in fact, help us make sure our borders are secure. We as a sovereign Nation have to make sure we are securing our borders.

Secondly, we need to enforce our laws within our country. For far too long we have looked the other way and the laws of immigration in our country simply have not been enforced. The measure we passed last year put together the pieces to allow us to enforce our immigration laws.

Finally, from both a human and a moral and economic perspective, we need to find ways of bringing the 12