

military solution to the violence and instability in Iraq, when what is needed is a political solution among the Iraqi leaders and factions.

Iraq's own Prime Minister Maliki acknowledged recently that "The crisis is political, and the ones who can stop the cycle of aggravation and bloodletting of innocents are the politicians."

The resolution states that it is not in the national security interests of the United States to deepen our military involvement in Iraq by increasing the number of U.S. troops.

The resolution calls for the transition of our military mission in Iraq to a more limited one of training, counterterrorism, and protecting the territorial integrity of Iraq. It also calls for greater engagement of other countries in the region in the stabilization and reconstruction of Iraq.

Last week the President said that he had made clear to Iraq's leaders that America's commitment is not open-ended. I welcome these words. But the reality behind the President's new rhetoric is that the open-ended commitment continues—more American military men and women would be sent into the chaos of Iraq's sectarian violence without condition or limitation.

President Bush also indicated that the Iraqi government needs "breathing space" to make political progress. The opposite is true. The Iraqi leaders don't need breathing space—they must feel real pressure to reach a political settlement. Increasing our military presence in Iraq takes more pressure off. The Iraq Study Group put it this way last month: "An open-ended commitment of American forces would not provide the Iraqi government the incentive it needs to take the political actions that give Iraq its best chance of quelling sectarian violence."

President Bush also said that the Iraqis have set benchmarks for themselves. But look at the track record of the Iraqi government in meeting some of its past benchmarks and promises: Iraqi President Talibani said in August 2006 that Iraqi forces would "take over security in all Iraqi provinces by the end of 2006." That pledge has not been kept. Prime Minister Maliki said last June that he would disband the militias and illegal armed groups as part of his national reconciliation plan, and in October he set the timetable for disbanding the militias as the end of 2006. That commitment has not been kept. The Iraqi Constitutional Review Commission was to present its recommendations for changes in the Constitution to the Council of Representatives within four months of the formation of the Government last May. The Commission has yet to formulate any recommendations. Prime Minister Maliki put forward a series of reconciliation milestones to be completed by the end of 2006 or early 2007, including approval of the Provincial Election Law, the Petroleum Law, a new De-Baathification Law, and the Militia

Law. Not one of these laws has been enacted. The Iraqi army pledged six battalions in support of American and Coalition efforts during Operation Forward Together last summer. In fact, Iraqis provided only two battalions.

This is not a track record that inspires confidence in Iraqi pledges and commitments.

The President said that "America will hold the Iraqi government to the benchmarks it has announced." How did the President say we are going to do that? What will the consequences be if the Iraqis continue to fail to meet these benchmarks, particularly since some of them have been established and missed in the past? The President said "If the Iraqi government does not follow through on its promises, it will lose the support of the American people . . ." That is an empty threat given the fact that the Iraqi Government has already lost the support of the American people, and it hasn't affected their behavior. The President's most recent plan, like previous ones, includes no mechanism to hold the Iraqis to their commitments.

Just two months ago General Abizaid testified before our Committee against increasing the number of U.S. troops in Iraq. He told us: "I met with every divisional commander, General Casey, the corps commander, General Dempsey. We all talked together. And I said, in your professional opinion, if we were to bring in more American troops now, does it add considerably to our ability to achieve success in Iraq? And they all said no. And the reason is, because we want the Iraqis to do more. It's easy for the Iraqis to rely upon us to do this work. I believe that more American forces prevent the Iraqis from doing more, from taking more responsibility for their own future."

Deepening our involvement in Iraq would be a mistake. Deepening our involvement in Iraq on the assumption that the Iraqis will meet future benchmarks and commitments given their track record would compound the mistake.

For America to supply more troops while the Iraqi leaders simply supply more promises is not a recipe for success in Iraq. Telling the Iraqis that we will increase our troops to give them yet more breathing space will only postpone the day when Iraqis take their future into their own hands and decide whether they want to continue to fight a civil war or make peace among themselves.

This resolution does not limit any future course of action that Congress may decide to take. What it would do is send a powerful message to the President and the Iraqis that Congress does not support an escalation of our military presence in Iraq.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 3—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT IT IS THE GOAL OF THE UNITED STATES THAT, NOT LATER THAN JANUARY 1, 2025, THE AGRICULTURAL, FORESTRY, AND WORKING LAND OF THE UNITED STATES SHOULD PROVIDE FROM RENEWABLE RESOURCES NOT LESS THAN 25 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL ENERGY CONSUMED IN THE UNITED STATES AND CONTINUE TO PRODUCE SAFE, ABUNDANT, AND AFFORDABLE FOOD, FEED, AND FIBER

Mr. SALAZAR (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. BROWNBACK, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. KOHL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. TESTER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. COCHRAN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:

S. CON. RES. 3

Whereas the United States has a quantity of renewable energy resources that is sufficient to supply a significant portion of the energy needs of the United States;

Whereas the agricultural, forestry, and working land of the United States can help ensure a sustainable domestic energy system;

Whereas accelerated development and use of renewable energy technologies provide numerous benefits to the United States, including improved national security, improved balance of payments, healthier rural economies, improved environmental quality, and abundant, reliable, and affordable energy for all citizens of the United States;

Whereas the production of transportation fuels from renewable energy would help the United States meet rapidly growing domestic and global energy demands, reduce the dependence of the United States on energy imported from volatile regions of the world that are politically unstable, stabilize the cost and availability of energy, and safeguard the economy and security of the United States;

Whereas increased energy production from domestic renewable resources would attract substantial new investments in energy infrastructure, create economic growth, develop new jobs for the citizens of the United States, and increase the income for farm, ranch, and forestry jobs in the rural regions of the United States;

Whereas increased use of renewable energy is practical and can be cost effective with the implementation of supportive policies and proper incentives to stimulate markets and infrastructure; and

Whereas public policies aimed at enhancing renewable energy production and accelerating technological improvements will further reduce energy costs over time and increase market demand; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that it is the goal of the United States that, not later than January 1, 2025, the agricultural, forestry, and working land of the United States should provide from renewable resources not less than 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the United States and continue to produce safe, abundant, and affordable food, feed, and fiber.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, today Senator GRASSLEY and I, along with our colleagues Senators HARKIN, LUGAR, OBAMA, HAGEL, and others, are submitting Senate Concurrent Resolution 3, the “25x’25” Resolution, as we did last year, 25x’25 is a critical vision for our energy future that will help reduce our dependence on foreign oil by building a new energy economy here at home. Our resolution establishes a national goal of producing 25 percent of America’s energy from renewable sources—like solar, wind and biofuels—by 2025.

The “25x’25” vision is widely endorsed, bold, and fully attainable. If implemented, it would dramatically improve our energy security, our economy, and our ability to protect the environment.

I am pleased that more than 20 of my colleagues in the Senate, from both sides of the aisle, are cosponsoring this resolution. In addition, the “25x’25” vision has been endorsed by 22 current and former governors and several State legislatures across the country.

The Big Three automobile manufacturers—Ford, Chrysler, and General Motors—are all behind “25x’25” So are many agricultural organizations, environmental groups, scientists, and businesses, ranging from the Farm Bureau and Farmers’ Union to the Natural Resources Defense Council and John Deere. The breadth of support for the “25x’25” vision speaks to the extraordinary economic, environmental, and national security benefits that its implementation will yield. In all, nearly 400 organizations have embraced this vision and are working together on a plan to implement it.

The resolution that Senator GRASSLEY and I are submitting makes the “25x’25” vision a policy goal for our Nation. It sets a challenging but realistic target for our legislative and budgetary work on energy. Our resolution says that the ingenuity and entrepreneurship of the American people should be the engine for a new, clean energy economy.

I urge every American to join with me and the roughly 400 partner organizations that are part of the 25x’25 Alliance to make this goal a reality. Results from a recent study conducted by the University of Tennessee shows that reaching the 25x’25 goal is achievable. The study also shows that 25x’25 would: increase net farm income by \$180 billion and, including multiplier effects, could result in \$700 billion in economic activity annually; create approximately 5 million new jobs here at home in 2025; save as much as \$15 billion in government payments.

America’s working people can and should be at the center of our energy revolution. Farmers and ranchers in my native San Luis Valley, in Sterling, CO, and elsewhere are already leading the way; they are building biodiesel plants and ethanol refineries that help power cars, tractors, and trucks. They are building wind turbines in Prowers

County and biomass generators in Jackson County. And they are searching for new technologies that will allow them to make even greater contributions to our energy supply.

These Americans understand that we cannot continue to import 60 percent of our oil from foreign countries, many of which are hostile to the United States, if we aim to be strong and secure in the world. They know that we will have to build a clean energy economy if we are to reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

A clean energy economy will take root in our farms and fields. It will help revitalize a rural America that has been forgotten for too long. It will spur our engineers to new developments and designs, and it will help establish the U.S. as the world leader in clean energy technologies.

It is time for Congress to take a more active role in our clean energy future. Establishing a national goal—“25x’25” is the first step.

Today, with this resolution, we articulate a common vision for our energy policy. It is a target we can hit. It is a target that Governors, Senators, Representatives, state legislators, farmers, ranchers, entrepreneurs, scientists, and automakers, all wish to achieve.

I am proud to be working with Senator GRASSLEY and others to establish “25x’25” as our Nation’s shared goal for our energy security and I look forward to working on a legislative agenda in this Congress that will help us reach that target.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to join Senator SALAZAR in introducing a concurrent resolution which expresses the goal of the United States to provide 25 percent of the Nation’s energy needs from renewable resources by 2025.

The goal of this 25 by 25 resolution is quite simple: to replace 25 percent of our total energy needs with renewable resources like wind, hydropower, solar, geothermal, biomass and biofuels by 2025. This is a bold goal, but given our current energy situation in the U.S., it is a necessary goal.

The impact of increased energy prices is being felt around the country by working families, farmers, businesses and industries. The increased cost for energy at the pump, in home heating and for industrial uses has the potential to jeopardize our economic security and vitality.

Our effort with this concurrent resolution is to signal to America’s farmers, ranchers and forestry industry, that we believe they have the ability and resources to generate 25 percent of our energy needs. And, that it’s in our economic and national security interest to do so.

There are many inherent virtues in producing our own domestic energy from renewable resources. It is good for our environment. It is good for our national and economic security. It will provide an economic boost for our rural

economies. And perhaps most importantly, it will ensure a stable, secure, domestic supply of affordable energy.

Already, our farmers and ranchers are working hard to use their resources to produce electricity from wind, biomass and other agricultural wastes. In addition, corn, soybeans and other crops are being used to produce transportation fuels like ethanol and biodiesel. It is evident that rural America has the drive to achieve this goal.

While this concurrent resolution states our renewable energy goal, it does not prescribe a way to achieve the goal. Rather, it recognizes the benefit of implementing supportive policies and incentives to stimulate the development and use of renewable energy. It also identifies the benefits of technological improvements to the cost and market appeal of renewable energy.

The supporters of this goal commit to support sensible policies and proper incentives to work toward the goal. I am hopeful that my colleagues will recognize the importance of this effort, and will consider supporting us in this goal to produce 25 percent of our energy needs from renewable resources by 2025.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Thursday, January 18, 2007, at 10 a.m. in room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a business meeting to organize for the 110th Congress by electing the chairman and vice chairman of the committee and to adopt the rules of the committee and any other organizational business the committee needs to consider.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at 224-2251.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that an oversight hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Thursday, January 25, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Building.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on oil and gas resources on the Outer Continental Shelf and areas available for leasing in the Gulf of Mexico.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact Patty Beneke at (202) 224-5451 or David Marks at (202) 224-8046.