

My home State of New Jersey realized this a few years ago and set about enacting policies designed to spur the growth of its solar market. The results have been extremely successful. New Jersey has the second largest solar market in the entire Nation, from 6 installations to nearly 2,000 in just 5 years, over 7 megawatts of installed capacity, and tens of millions of kilowatt-hours produced each year. New Jersey, of course, is blessed with many things, but it is not blessed with more Sun than most of the rest of the Nation. The State simply recognized that by being visionary we could not only start generating large amounts of pollution-free energy in our own State, but we could also provide a kick-start to a whole new industry. That industry, of course, generates not only great energy, truly clean energy, truly renewable energy, but at the same time creates a very significant economic positive consequence as well.

What New Jersey has done we must do as a nation. The renewable portfolio standard amendment, along with the extension of solar tax credits, will help expand the use of solar energy, and, most importantly, lower the cost.

I also want to urge my colleagues to oppose the Domenici amendment—the amendment that Senator DOMENICI has offered to Senator BINGAMAN's renewable portfolio standard amendment. That amendment would stall the development of renewable energy and thereby undercut the entire point of this bill. There are some who don't want to challenge the industry. There are those who don't want to bring us to a higher standard. For them, the Domenici amendment to Senator BINGAMAN's renewable portfolio standard is their out. That is their out.

For those Members of the Senate who don't want to bring us to a higher challenge, who don't want to challenge the industry, who, in essence, are happy to support the status quo, the Domenici amendment is their solution.

The Domenici amendment, however, has numerous problems. To begin with, the substitute would allow States to opt out of the standard for just about any reason—just about any reason. If a State can opt out, the renewable industries will be hesitant to adequately invest in these projects and, therefore, we won't move forward.

The substitute will also weaken renewable requirements by including nonrenewables, such as nuclear power. This would divert money from renewables to an already well-subsidized energy source.

The Domenici substitute would also allow the Department of Energy to designate "other clean energy sources" to qualify for clean energy credits without any restrictions on the Secretary—without any restrictions on the Secretary. Who knows what would be included under such a definition. This would leave discretion for the Secretary to include "clean coal" or any other source of energy one could put the word "clean" in front of.

In addition, the Republican substitute would include energy inefficiency projects and demand-response programs. The more things we add to the standard, the less meaningful the standard becomes. We cannot pit efficiency against renewables. We need both efficiency and renewables to flourish in partnership and not compete for investment dollars.

Once again, I praise Senator BINGAMAN, the chair of the Energy Committee, on which I have the privilege of sitting, for his amendment, for his vision, for bringing us and challenging us to a higher standard, one that the Nation clearly needs. It will be beneficial for our environment, it will boost our domestic economy, and it will reinforce the actions taken by 23 States that have already shown leadership by instituting renewable portfolio standards. If the States have already shown leadership in this regard, the Nation and the Senate need to show the same leadership.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of that important amendment and against efforts to weaken this important provision. Those are, I hope, words that Members of the Senate will take to heart.

TRIBUTE TO PETER CHASE NEUMANN

Mr. REID. Madam President, today I rise to honor the achievements of Peter Chase Neumann. Not only is Peter recognized locally and nationally for his skill as a trial lawyer, he is also deeply involved with philanthropies whose work has been enormously beneficial to Nevada. These significant contributions have resulted in Peter being named the recipient of the Nevada Trial Lawyers Association Lifetime Achievement Award, and deservedly so.

Peter has tried more than 150 civil and criminal cases to verdict and almost 50 appeals to the Nevada and Arizona Supreme Courts. His ability in the legal profession is renowned, and his talents are wide-ranging, from trial advocacy in personal injury cases to writing academic articles. He has dedicated himself to the cause of justice for the wrongfully injured, and has been recognized for his work in *Town and Country Magazine's* Top Trial Lawyers in America, in *Las Vegas Magazine*, by *Top Gun Lawyers* in Nevada and by *The Best Lawyers* in America.

His leadership in the legal community is unparalleled: He has served as president of the Arizona, Nevada, and Western Trial Lawyers Association, and on the Board of Governors for the American Trial Lawyers Association. He was both legislative advocate for and president of the Plaintiffs' Bar, and was accepted as a diplomat in the International Society of Barristers and the American Board of Trial Advocates.

His devotion to the law has not in any way impeded his philanthropic contributions. He and his wife Renate

have served with the Angel Kiss Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to helping families cope with the financial burdens associated with childhood cancer. President Clinton recognized Peter's influence and appointed him to the Tahoe Regional Planning Committee. He has involved himself with Scenic America and Scenic Nevada, committing himself to the cause of protecting Nevada's natural treasures in the Lake Tahoe region and beyond.

Peter is also an accomplished airplane pilot. In recent years, he has spent untold hours soaring in his gliders all over America.

Most people know Peter for his reputation as a renowned trial lawyer or for his work in the philanthropic community in my State. But I have had the privilege to call Peter my friend. It is my great pleasure to offer congratulations to Peter Chase Neumann for his lifetime of excellence in his profession, in his public service, and in his philanthropy.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, with the cost of health care continually increasing for employers, individuals, and the Government combined with the growing number of uninsured Americans it is clear that our health care system is in dire need of change. My goal is to help every American have access to affordable health insurance and to continue the State Children's Health Insurance Program, SCHIP.

In an op-ed in *The Hill* on June 6, 2007, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Mike Leavitt, suggested a very good proposal for increasing access to health insurance. His proposal calls for reauthorization of SCHIP and keeping the program's focus on kids, providing the same tax advantage to all Americans through a standard deduction for health insurance, and encouraging State innovation through grants to help low income individuals afford private health insurance.

I support Secretary Leavitt's ideas. However, health care reform is too big of an issue for one party to tackle on its own. Our only chance of achieving true, meaningful reform is if both parties work together. This involves reaching across the aisle and getting Democrats to say two words "private markets" and Republicans to say two words "universal access."

Two of my colleagues have put forward two different but thoughtful pieces of legislation addressing the uninsured Senator WYDEN's Healthy Americans Act, S. 334, and Senator COBURN's Universal Health Care Choice and Access Act, S. 1019. But I am doing something that I rarely do cosponsoring both of them to encourage my goal of affordable health insurance for every American while continuing the SCHIP program helping children.

I have cosponsored these bills in the spirit of reform, but that does not mean I support every provision in both

pieces of legislation. In fact, there are some provisions that I oppose. Though not perfect, these bills are an important first step toward achieving access to health services for all Americans.

REQUEST FOR SEQUENTIAL REFERRAL

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have my letter of June 12, 2007, to Senator REID printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE,
Washington, DC, June 12, 2007.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. LEADER: Pursuant to paragraph 3(b) of Senate Resolution 400 of the 94th Congress, I request that S. 1547, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, and its companion measure, S. 1548, the Department of Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, both of which were filed by the Committee on Armed Services on June 5, 2007, be sequentially referred to the Select Committee on Intelligence for a period of 10 days, as calculated under S. Res. 400. The basis for this request is that the bills contain matters within the jurisdiction of the Select Committee.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV,
Chairman.

CBO STUDIES

Mr. GREGG. Madam President, today there is a great deal of debate about how Americans are doing, in particular those considered low income. I rise today to dispel a major misconception about the progress of low-income Americans. Those on the other side of the aisle would have you believe that when one person does better it must be at the expense of another. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, when Congress adopts policies that encourages individuals to work harder, save, take risks, and invest more, the economy does better and everyone benefits. Two recent studies I requested from CBO prove a rising tide does lift all boats.

The first report issued in December, entitled "Changes in Low Wage Labor Markets Between 1979 and 2005," found that the inflation adjusted hourly earnings of U.S. workers was 10 percent higher now than back in 1979. Since 1990 those in the bottom 10th percentile of wage earners witnessed their inflation adjusted wages increase 12.8 percent, more than 2.5 percentage points faster than those in the statistical middle.

CBO's second report entitled "Changes in the Economic Resources of Low-Income Households with Children" indicates that poor households with children experienced real earnings gains of 80 percent since 1991, outpacing even those in the top income quintile whose earnings grew 54 per-

cent. This fact is even more amazing viewed in the context of welfare reform.

Those opposing welfare reforms in the mid 1990s argued that limiting direct Government assistance and requiring low-income people to work more would prove to be disastrous. However, low-income households with children now rely less on the Government, are more self reliant and have a higher standard of living. In 1991, low-income households relied on the Government for a majority of their income with earnings accounting for just 49 percent. Today, low-income households earn 65 percent of their income and rely on Government assistance for the remainder. Female headed households also rely less on the Government for their livelihood. In 1991, 35 percent of their income was earned compared with 54 percent now. The share of their income derived from AFDC or TANF fell from 42 percent in 1991 to 7 percent in 2005.

These two studies prove that when the Government interferes less in the lives of its citizens, they are more productive. Once unencumbered by Government, people are motivated to work harder, save, and invest more.

PASSING OF ADEN ABDULLE OSMAN

Mr. COLEMAN. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express sorrow on behalf of the Somali community of Minnesota, which is currently mourning the death of an important figure for Somalia, former President Aden Abdulle Osman. Aden Abdulle Osman, known by many Somalis as Aden Adde, passed away at the age of 99 on June 7, 2007.

Aden Abdulle Osman became the first President of Somalia in 1960 after the country gained its independence on July 1. Mr. Osman served as President of the newly formed Somalia until June 10, 1967. President Osman led his country during the critical time of its formation and development into a full-fledged state. When he lost the Presidential election in 1967, President Osman graciously ceded his position to his opponent, Abdirashid Ali Shermarke. In doing so, Aden Abdulle Osman set an example for the peaceful transfer of democratic power, which is a critical aspect of all democratic systems. For this reason, Aden Abdulle Osman is viewed throughout Somalia and Africa as a model of statesmanship that seeks the greater good.

I am privileged to represent the State that has the largest Somali community in the U.S. The Somalis of Minnesota represent a thriving community that has enriched the fabric of our State through its vibrant culture. I would like to join my Somali constituents in expressing sorrow for Aden Abdulle Osman's death. It is my sincere hope that the current leaders of Somalia will look to his leadership as an example, and that such leadership will serve to usher Somalia towards peace, stability and democracy.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MODESTO'S NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

• Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding National Night Out program in Modesto, CA. For the past 6 years, the city of Modesto has either ranked first or second in the Nation in National Night Out participation among cities with populations of 100,000 to 299,999.

Since its inception in 1983, National Night Out has brought millions of Americans together to take a united stand against crime and send a clear message to criminals that citizens and neighborhoods are committed to crime prevention. National Night Out has played an instrumental role in helping to raise crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for and participation in local anticrime programs, and perhaps most importantly, improve neighborhood spirit and strengthen community-police partnerships.

In 2006, more than 35.2 million people and 11,125 communities from all 50 States, U.S. territories, and military bases worldwide participated in the National Night Out campaign. Conscientious citizens, law enforcement agencies and civic groups came together to participate in a variety of festive events and activities such as block parties, ice cream socials, flashlight walks, and visits from law enforcement and other public agencies to help promote the importance of community involvement in local crime-fighting programs.

In Modesto, 123 neighborhoods participated in National Night Out last year, making it the Nation's leader among cities with populations of 100,000 to 299,999. The city of Modesto is a shining example of the importance of community and cooperation in local crime-fighting efforts.

As the residents of Modesto gather for another successful National Night Out campaign, I would like to congratulate and commend its citizens, civic leaders, and the Modesto Police Department for their leadership and willingness to help make their city a safer and better place to call home. •

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF SACRAMENTO HIGH SCHOOL

• Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I am pleased to recognize the 150th anniversary of Sacramento High School in Sacramento County, CA.

On September 1, 1856, as the Gold Rush came to an end in California and miners migrated into newly formed cities, Sacramento High School opened its doors and began a long tradition of quality education. As the second oldest high school west of the Mississippi, Sacramento High School is a historical landmark and symbol of a quality educational institution in California's capital city.