

the opposing side are here. But they are important.

This is an energy bill that is vital to the country. We all want to curb the emission of CO₂, we want to curb our dependence on foreign oil, and we want to bring down the prices of gasoline, electricity, and all the other commodities that are petroleum dependent. There has been a great deal of talk and focus on alternative fuels. That is very good. But alternative fuels are the "sizzle" and conservation is the "steak" when it comes to reducing our dependence on oil and particularly foreign oil.

It costs about a quarter as much to conserve as it does to create an alternative. So these amendments are very simple. I wish to thank the Finance Committee, first, for drafting a provision that will take billions of dollars in tax breaks and other benefits from the oil industry to create new, improved incentives to promote solar power and wind power and cellulosic ethanol.

But we also have to do energy efficiency. You do not have to be Thomas Edison to know that better energy efficiency is a win-win for American families. The Federal Government, thus far, has failed to take the lead in promoting commercializing or deploying energy efficiency technologies despite their cost-effectiveness and reliability.

Unlike the development of cutting new alternative and renewable fuel sources, we do not have to wait for new technologies to reap the benefits of energy efficiency in our homes. An excellent example is our largest State in population, California. Over the past 30 years, it has demonstrated significant efficiency gains that can be achieved through various energy efficiency measures, especially by increasing the efficiency of utilities, buildings, and appliances.

With these measures, California has generated more than 20 percent of energy savings since 1975. California's energy use, per capita, is similar to many countries in Europe because they did this 30 years ago. So if California can do it, so can America.

The four amendments I have mentioned, one on buildings, two on appliances, and one on electric generation, take the California legislation and basically apply it to America. I am going to discuss each.

The first amendment will create a national energy efficiency resource standard that would require utilities to achieve a small percentage of energy savings every year based on their annual sales.

Under my amendment, utilities can generate energy savings through a variety of ways, including helping their customers save energy through energy-efficient programs, improving energy efficiency in their own distribution systems or credit trading.

Energy savings requirements are phased in in small increments each year, which will give the utilities enough time to boost their energy savings program.

This is not a new idea. Many States already successfully have implemented EERS standards—not only California but Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Minnesota, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington.

Several States, including my State of New York, as well as New Jersey, Illinois, Massachusetts, and North Carolina, are actively working to implement the standard. Since the States are moving forward on this standard, it makes sense for Congress to create a national standard so all Americans can reap the benefit of increased energy savings.

According to the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, by 2020 a national EERS will reduce peak electric demand by 130,000 megawatts, saving enough to power 40 million households and reduce CO₂ emissions by more than 300 million metric tons. That is equivalent to taking 70 million cars off the road. Is that not incredible? By simply requiring our utilities to be efficient, it is equivalent to taking 70 million cars off the road. I hope we are going to do it. It would save U.S. consumers \$26 billion from their utility bills. So this is a huge amendment that can do a great deal.

Now, my second amendment deals with buildings. Buildings account for 37 percent of the total energy used in the United States and two-thirds of the electricity. We all focus on cars. We are going to have a fight on CAFE standards. But buildings are as important as cars in producing efficiency. There is much less controversy and we can get it done more easily.

California has demonstrated that significant energy gains can be achieved through State building codes that are well designed and implemented. But despite the great savings made by California, many States have inadequate State building codes or none at all.

Again, the Federal Government has lagged behind the States in setting aggressive energy saving building codes. Under my amendment, commercial and residential building codes will be required to meet specific energy use targets. Both must be 30 percent more efficient by 2015 and 50 percent more efficient by 2022.

States will be deemed compliant once they adopt an acceptable code and as long as 90 percent of all new buildings comply with the States's code. Even if a State is not in compliance, each city that meets the criteria will be in compliance.

I wish to salute the mayor of New York, Michael Bloomberg, for taking the lead in imposing such standards on the city of New York.

Finally, my amendment will authorize funding for technical assistance, training, and to help States ensure they are in compliance with these energy-efficient targets. Again, according to the Alliance to Save Energy, this amendment—listen to this—could save our country 5 percent of its total en-

ergy use. That simple amendment, done now in California, could be done here—5 percent of our total energy use. It would save consumers \$50 billion a year and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an equivalent of taking another 70 million cars off the road. So it is obvious we should do these things.

Finally, the amendments on appliances. Again, California took the lead in improving energy efficiency standards for appliances. However, Federal law has restricted the ability of States in favor of lower Federal standards that, in many cases, have languished at DOE. For example, earlier this year, the GAO found that DOE had missed 34 out of—guess how many—34—34 out of 34—Congressionally set deadlines for reviewing and updating appliance and equipment standards.

GAO found that delays on four of the overdue standards will cost consumers \$28 billion in energy savings by 2030. In addition, even when DOE finally gets around to setting the new standards, these standards fail to meet the very real energy needs of our country.

My amendment also fixes these problems in the bill. First, they will strengthen the process through which the States can apply to DOE to set higher standards for appliances that are currently regulated by the Federal Government; second, to restore authority for efficiency standards—that is the second amendment—to the States when DOE misses legal deadlines for setting or revising standards.

My amendment states that if DOE misses legal deadlines for setting up updated efficiency standards, States may create higher standards that allow them to address their energy needs more effectively.

By cutting our energy use through these energy efficiency measures, while also increasing the use of clean, renewable alternative fuels, we can make a huge difference and begin to address our energy problems, from ending our dependence on unstable foreign sources of oil to helping consumers lower their rising energy bills. I urge adoption of these four commonsense efficiency measures and look forward to working with the managers of the bill as we go forward.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that there be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

IRAQI HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, when the United States went to war with Iraq in 2003, a number of observers feared that a massive humanitarian crisis could occur if a smooth transition was not successful. Despite the quick collapse of Saddam Hussein's

dictatorship, the heroic performance of our servicemembers, and the predictions of some in the administration, the transition was far from smooth. Nonetheless, we did not initially see a humanitarian emergency in Iraq.

Four years later, however, this emergency is now unfolding in the cruelest of ways. With Iraq enmeshed in civil war, the relentless violence has displaced numerous civilians not only within Iraq but outside of it as well.

There are a range of possible factors behind the current situation: as the war is increasingly defined by its sectarian nature, the growing potential for neighborhoods to be "cleansed" by one ethnicity or another may accelerate displacement patterns; the overall increase in violence that occurred following the golden dome shrine bombing of February 2006 may have served as a catalyst that changed the face of the war and the tactics of those fighting it.

Regardless of the reasons, the results are clear—millions of Iraqis have been forced from their homes because of entrenched fear and rampant violence. Basic survival needs such as food, clean water, shelter, sanitation, and health care are in short supply. The government infrastructure has collapsed—if it ever truly existed—taking with it the communities it served.

The U.N. High Commission for Refugees estimates that there are nearly 2 million displaced people within Iraq and close to 2.5 million seeking refuge in neighboring countries. In total, that is almost 4.5 million people, Mr. President, 4.5 million individuals or approximately 13 percent of the total Iraqi population. Many of these individuals are from Iraq's shattered middle class and will be critical to rebuilding the country. But who can say where they will be when that time comes and whether they will be willing or able to contribute to that process.

The United States has admitted only a small number of Iraqi refugees since the beginning of the war. According to the State Department, there have been just 687 Iraqi refugees admitted to the United States since the war began in 2003. We have a particular responsibility to provide aid and safe haven for Iraqis whose lives are threatened because they worked for us.

Fortunately, many neighboring countries have been willing to step up to the plate and allow those Iraqis fleeing their homeland to seek temporary shelter despite the fact that many of their needs are straining the already weak and overburdened social services. Indeed, most of Iraq's neighbors are unable to provide adequate assistance to those living within their borders, citizens and refugees alike. The introduction of more than 2 million additional people into these already precarious environments could tip the balance in the wrong direction.

This humanitarian disaster is emblematic of this administration's poor planning when it comes to virtually

every aspect of the war in Iraq. The administration's failure to respond adequately to the needs of these refugees and displaced people will have dramatic consequences for regional and global stability. We still have a chance to reverse course in Iraq, however, to refocus our strategy, and regain our credibility so we can work with the international community and resolve this crisis appropriately.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST ADAM HEROLD

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise to express my sympathy over the loss of U.S. Army SPC Adam Herold of Omaha, NE. Specialist Herold was killed on June 10 when an improvised explosive device detonated near his patrol in Karbala, Iraq. He was 23 years old.

Specialist Herold was the youngest of three brothers in a close-knit Nebraska family. He attended Roncalli High School and would later join the Job Corps in Utah to learn a trade.

In 2005, Specialist Herold made the decision to join the Army. He saw service in the Army as a means to a college education. But he also came from a family with a strong tradition of service to the country. Both of his grandfathers served in World War II.

Specialist Herold had been serving in Iraq since October 2006 with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, based at Ford Richardson, AK.

We are proud of Specialist Herold's service to our country, as well as the thousands of other brave Americans serving in Iraq.

He is survived by his parents Lance and Debbie Herold, and brothers Andy and Kyle, both of Omaha.

I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring SPC Adam Herold.

TRAGEDY IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, on June 18, 2007, in the face of blazing fire, sacrifice and duty overcame fear and surrender. With great sadness and the utmost respect, Senator DEMINT and I mourn the tremendous loss of nine of our finest firefighters, as well as the immeasurable loss experienced by their families and loved ones. As the flames engulfed the building, the brave men and women of the Charleston County Fire Department rushed into the collapsing building as others were running out, fleeing for their lives. May this extraordinary courage and sacrifice forever reflect the spirit of South Carolina, as well as that of our great Nation.

We extend our sincerest condolences to their families, their colleagues, and their friends. You give your loved ones to us to serve and protect our commu-

nities, putting public service above personal comfort. Our gratitude is boundless and our respect infinitely deep. We grieve beside you, and we take pride in and are humbled by this ultimate display of service and valor. In the midst of grief and devastation, may you find comfort in knowing that the memory of your loved ones will be forever etched in the minds of South Carolinians as the true embodiment of an American hero.

The United States has not experienced such a devastating loss of firefighters since the horrific events on September 11, 2001. May the Charleston County Fire Department, led by Chief Rusty Thomas, as well as emergency personnel around the country, forever fill this massive void with the legacy left behind by these brave fallen firefighters. Let their legacy not be engulfed by flames and reduced to rubble but rather let it embolden and encourage others to serve in their honor and continue their mission to public service. There is no higher call than to serve, and to the fallen, their families, and those that will fill their shoes, we are forever indebted to you for your noble sacrifices.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNITION OF BILL SIMMONS

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the work of Bill Simmons, the director of the Yuba County Office of Education's Regional Career Center, and recognize Mr. Simmons' 21 years with the Yuba County Office of Education and commend his more than five decades of service to his country and his community.

In 1954, Bill Simmons began his 24-year career with the U.S. Air Force. He retired in 1977 as a first sergeant for the 9th Field Maintenance Squadron at Beale Air Force Base in Marysville, CA. After his retirement from the U.S. Air Force, Mr. Simmons remained in Marysville and began a long career of service to his community.

Bill Simmons used the leadership skills he gained in the Air Force and began his career with Yuba County as a group counselor in the juvenile probation system. He remained committed to improving the community as he worked to help build the One-Stop Center, an invaluable resource for the region that is the service provider for the Federal Workforce Investment Act's One-Stop Center for Business and Workforce Development.

I had the pleasure of working with Bill when he served on the Yuba County board of supervisors from 1997 to 2005, and we continue to collaborate on issues affecting Beale Air Force Base through Mr. Simmons' role as a member of the Beale Military Liaison Committee. For the last three decades, Bill Simmons has been a forceful advocate