these examples because when we discuss climate change and solutions, too many people think it has only to do with doing without, cutting back, and doing less. It is true conservation must play a central role in a comprehensive energy policy to clean up our planet and reduce our dependency on foreign oil. This isn't the days of Jimmy Carter putting on a sweater and going on TV and looking glum. People actually see this as an economic benefit, if they conserve, because they are going to save money. It is also true that by adopting a strong, sensible policy toward reducing greenhouse gas pollution, we can open the door to a world of opportunities, which means new jobs.

As we prepare to discuss action on climate change, here is what we must remember. There is a possibility, a strong possibility, an opportunity that we can get more out of this. This means manufacturing a new generation of refrigerators, air-conditioners, and other household appliances that meet the needs of consumers while consuming less electricity. It means designing buildings with ''smart glass'' and rooftop gardens that conserve energy and water. Some people think these rooftop gardens are some kind of landscaper's lark, but they aren't. They keep buildings warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer and capture airborne pollutants that otherwise would enter the air we breathe. JPMorgan, a huge investment bank, recently redesigned its Manhattan headquarters with a rooftop garden and estimates it will save 30 percent on its utility bills.

Since cars and trucks are a major source of our greenhouse gas emissions, this next generation of looking at the world differently means exploiting the full potential of hybrid automotive technology. Hybrid cars and trucks, however, have already shown themselves to be a great success story, on the sales lot and in the engineering laboratory. The old version required you to plug in the car and carry around extra batteries. Because we invested in research and provided some limited Federal incentives, we are not only seeing a better product; we are also seeing an explosion in consumer demand that would have been unthinkable a few years ago.

Now Chevrolet has developed another breakthrough, the Chevy Volt, a battery-powered car which could be on the market in less than 2 years. You will be able to plug the Volt into an ordinary household outlet and then drive up to 40 miles without using a drop of gasoline. Your car isn't going to stop when it finishes up 40 miles. It converts over to fuels and biofuels. The waiting list for hybrid vehicles shows consumers welcome efficient designs and are buying vehicles that will create good jobs for autoworkers and other people in manufacturing.

Taken together, this sort of technology has the potential to create thousands, perhaps millions, of good jobs and spur millions of dollars in productive new investment.

Consider the potential of biomass, burning dedicated crops to produce electricity. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that a concerted effort to develop dedicated energy crops for biomass powerplants could generate 120,000 new jobs over the next 15 years. Consider the potential of wind energy. Each large utility-scale wind turbine that goes on line generates over $1.5 million in economic activity. Each turbine provides up to $5,000 in lease payments per year for 20 years or more to farmers, ranchers or other landowners.

When we start putting all the pieces of this puzzle together, a whole new vista for the economy opens. The Union of Concerned Scientists estimated last year that merely adopting a strong national renewable energy standard, one important step toward reducing greenhouse gas pollution, would create 185,000 jobs in industries such as wind and solar by the year 2020.

Daniel Kammen, who runs the Renewable and Appropriate Energy Laboratory in California, points out that $1 invested in renewable energy creates three to five more jobs than $1 invested in fossil fuels, as we can see here. That is because renewables create jobs in engineering and manufacturing and because that money is invested here at home, instead of being shipped overseas for foreign oil producers.

This institute estimates that if our country met 20 percent of its electricity needs from wind power, solar, biomass, and other renewables, those industries would employ more than 250,000 people every year, compared to fewer than 100,000 jobs if we continue to get all our electricity from fossil fuels.

This week, the U.S. Department of Energy estimated that by the year 2030, it would be feasible for wind power to supply 20 percent of our country's electricity needs, matching the output of nuclear powerplants.

Finally, the Apollo Alliance estimates that if we made a full-bore national commitment to climate change through energy-conserving technology, building design, more efficient vehicles, and renewable fuels, we could create 3 million new jobs and an additional $1 trillion of economic output in the next decade. This is our opportunity. But it is only that. It is only an opportunity unless we seize it because our country will not mobilize the automobile engineers, the landscape architects, the building designers, the appliance manufacturers, the power companies, unless we send the right signal to the economy as a whole, the signal that our country is committed to technologies that will help us battle climate change.

Consider this: Despite the wind farms and solar energy companies cropping up here and there across the country, the United States is no longer a leader in these clean energy technologies. We rank third in wind power, third in photovoltaic power installed. Ironically, our country has been surpassed by countries that took the technology developed in the United States, and it has allowed foreign competition to leapfrog over American businesses.

Here is my answer: We need leaders. We need American leaders, not followers. The private sector has read the evidence and is waiting for us to show leadership. Last winter, the Environment Committee heard from the chief executives of 10 major corporations, including General Electric, DuPont and Duke Energy. They have formed the United States Climate Action Partnership. They seek a mandatory, market-driven approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, an approach they believe will drive development of new greener technology and become an engine for new economic growth and job creation. They are waiting for leadership from Washington. In a few weeks, we will have the opportunity to demonstrate that leadership. My colleagues, Senators LIEBERMAN and WARNER, have written climate change legislation that is bold but practical, forward thinking but pragmatic. They recognize that the time for study is over, the time for hesitation has passed. The time for action is upon us.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

JIMMY STEWART'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a native Pennsylvanian. Today we honor what would have been the 100th birthday of one of Pennsylvania's most famous sons, Jimmy Stewart. The fact that we call him Jimmy tells a lot about who he was, what he meant to our State, what he meant to America. Jimmy Stewart is most famous for his unforgettable roles in movies such as ''Mr. Smith Goes to Washington,'' ''It's a Wonderful Life,'' and on and on, so many great movies to remember him by. But Jimmy Stewart never forgot his Pennsylvania roots.

He was born in Indiana, PA, on May 20, 1908. His family owned the hometown hardware store where the Stewart family could trace their roots in Indiana County back to 1772. Stewart attended Princeton University, where he studied architecture and graduated in 1932. Because of the stock market crash of 1929 and the Great Depression that followed, Jimmy Stewart questioned whether he would find employment as an architect, and he accepted a position in an acting troop. Shortly after joining, Stewart began working on Broadway, which eventually led to screen tests with major motion picture production companies. His work in ''Mr. Smith Goes to Washington,'' in which he played a freshman Senator, earned him his first nomination for an Academy Award. He was also nominated for Oscars for best actor for ''It's

a Wonderful Life,'' released in 1946; ''Harvey,'' released in 1950; and ''Anatomy of a Murder,'' released in 1959. He won his only Academy Award for best actor in 1940 for his role in ''The Philadelphia Story.''

I have to say, in a personal way, that every December, during the holiday season, I think I join a lot of Americans in trying to watch, yet again, ''It's a Wonderful Life.'' The reason I watch it—plenty of reasons—principally is because it is an American story, an American story of struggle, of family love, and the positive impact one person's life can have on an entire community.

We all know Jimmy Stewart served his country in World War II but was initially rejected from service because he was 5 pounds underweight. But he wouldn't let that stop him from serving. He went home to Indiana, added some weight, and enlisted in the Army Air Corps. He got a whole series of commendations for his service in the Army Air Corps. He retired from the Air Force in 1968, at the mandatory retirement age, and received the Distinguished Service Medal. The signature charity event he started, the Jimmy Stewart Relay Marathon Race, held each year since 1982, has raised millions of dollars for the Child and Family Development Center at St. John's Health Center in Santa Monica, CA.

Jimmy Stewart received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the Life Achievement Award from the American Film Institute for fundamentally advancing the art of American film. The American Red Cross presented Jimmy Stewart with their humanitarian award for service to his fellow man. On his 74th birthday, his hometown of Indiana unveiled a statue of their native son in front of the Indiana County Courthouse.

Jimmy Stewart passed away on July 2, 1997. He was mourned by fans worldwide. Perhaps the greatest tribute of the American Film Institute was the observation that James Stewart is an actor ''so beloved by the movie going public that they call him Jimmy, just like a member of the family.''

His was truly a remarkable life. In Pennsylvania and across America today, we say happy 100th birthday, Jimmy.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Rhode Island.

ENERGY PRICES

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, first, let me say how pleased I am to follow the distinguished Senator from Pennsylvania, hearing him talk about his native son, to whom I think it is fair to say he bears some resemblance.

But I have another topic today, which is the cost of gasoline in Rhode Island. In Rhode Island today, a gallon of regular unleaded costs $3.84 on average, according to AAA's daily report. That price is nearly 40 cents higher than it was 1 month ago. It is almost 77 cents higher than it was a year ago. I had a Rhode Island visitor to my office last week who runs a little oil company in Bristol. He reported his oil supply costs have gone up 60 cents in 2 weeks. By the way, it is springtime.

When I was home over the weekend, I saw prices for regular gas at $3.89 and super at $4.12. High gas prices have been over all the news in the last several weeks in Rhode Island and across the country. But this problem did not emerge overnight. It has built up over the 7½ years of the Bush administration.

Since President Bush took office in 2001, gas prices in Rhode Island have more than doubled—a price hike of more than $2 for every gallon. Seven years of two oil men in the White House has left Rhode Islanders facing the highest gas prices they have seen since the fuel crisis days of 1981.

The steady and steep rise in the price of gasoline is forcing many working families in Rhode Island to make choices that would have seemed unimaginable only a few months ago, choices that are harsh and cold: A mother walks home from work through pouring rain because she can only afford to spend $10 a week on gasoline; a man cuts down on buying gas so he will have enough to pay for his prescriptions. Families in South County are hungry but have to think twice about the gas to drive to the food pantry to pick up food for their families.

One man told the Providence Journal:

> The food is expensive, the clothes are expensive—I've got medication. I don't know what will happen—every week, everything is more expensive.

For too many families in our Ocean State, when everything is more expensive, some things get left out: Only half a tank of gas this week, less money for groceries, no new clothes for the kids.

Working Rhode Island families do not have an extra $2,000 in their annual family budget to spend on gas, and that is how much more they are paying now than they did in 2001 when Bush took office. Bush-McCain economics have left these families struggling to make ends meet, wondering how they will pay the bills if a child gets sick or the plumbing breaks. They do not have an extra $30 or $40 or $50 to pour into their gas tanks every week. But still gas prices go up, and families already stretched to the limit are stretched even further.

These Rhode Islanders and millions like them all across this country need help, and they need it now. They are looking to us in Congress for answers.

Last week, Congress passed legislation taking a key first step—shutting off the gush of oil flowing into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. This massive stockpile of crude oil owned by the Federal Government, maintained in the event of a disruption in fuel supplies or other such emergency, has a capacity of 727 million barrels of oil. Right now, the Strategic Petroleum Reserve is about 97 percent full. Yet the Bush administration continues to pump between 70,000 and 80,000 barrels of oil every day into massive underground caverns. Unsurprisingly, the administration actually wants to double the size of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to 1.5 billion barrels, even as millions of Americans struggle with record fuel prices. Amazing. At a time when American families are cutting back on food and other necessities in order to fill their gas tank, President Bush wants to reduce the supply of oil into the open market, jack up the cost of fuel, and further line the pockets of the big oil companies. With the price of gas hitting nearly $4 a gallon, those 70,000 to 80,000 barrels should flow into the market, not into the ground. And let's not forget that at today's price of over $129 a barrel—a new record price for crude oil as of this morning—pouring oil into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve costs our Government millions of our precious tax dollars every day.

There are a number of things we can do right now to help provide some short-term relief at the pump. I have cosponsored our majority leader Senator REID's Consumer First Energy Act, a plan that gets at some of the immediate root causes of these staggeringly high prices.

First, we must take steps to protect American consumers from market speculation and price gouging. The administration's failure to regulate the oil futures market has left it fertile ground for speculators who game that market to reap high payoffs for themselves, while consumers pay the price.

Commodities traders take advantage of lax margin requirements that allow them to buy oil futures for only 5 to 7 cents on the dollar rather than the 50-percent downpayment required for purchases of stock futures. Many experts have pointed to rampant speculation as one of the principal reasons for the inflated price of crude oil in the market.

The Consumer First Energy Act would prevent traders of U.S. crude oil from routing transactions overseas to evade our limits on speculation, and it would require the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to substantially increase the margin requirement for oil futures trading.

I particularly applaud my colleague from the State of Washington, Senator CANTWELL, for her leadership in calling for an oil and gas market task force to investigate irregularities in the price of energy.

Our bill would also prevent price gouging by giving the President the authority to declare an energy emergency in cases of supply disruption, shortage, or significant price anomalies in the market. Once such an emergency has been declared, it would be unlawful to set an ''unconscionably excessive price'' for gasoline. The Federal Trade Commission would have the authority