

At \$6.7 trillion, the climate tax bill—which is what we have before us—the climate tax bill is the largest bill we will consider this Congress. As the Wall Street Journal noted, this legislation represents the most extensive—the most extensive—reorganization of the American economy since the 1930s, which is why, of course, I am mystified as to why the Democrats decided to block the consideration of any and all amendments designed to improve this bill: no consideration of gas prices, no consideration of clean energy technology. A bill with such widespread ramifications merits serious, thoughtful consideration and a thorough debate.

A good example of how to handle a bill like this properly, another time when our good friends on the other side were in the majority—and there was a Republican in the White House—when the Senate considered the Clean Air Act amendments in 1990, the process took 5 weeks on the floor. There were about 180 amendments offered. I was here then, and nobody was telling one side or the other what they had to offer. Nobody said you have to show me your amendment first or I will not let you offer it. And 131 of those amendments were ultimately acted upon by the full Senate.

As it currently stands, we would not even spend 5 days on this bill. But we would like to spend more time on the bill and would encourage the majority to open the process. I don't know what they are afraid of. Since when did we descend to the point in this body that we would not let somebody offer an amendment unless they get to read it first? That isn't the way the Senate used to operate. Yet the majority blocked us from offering even one amendment regarding this massive restructuring.

That makes me wonder, why doesn't the majority want a fair debate on this bill? What are we afraid of? If this bill alone will "save the planet," as has been suggested, why are they refusing to allow an open debate or more than 2 days on the bill?

Perhaps they don't want to expose this bill for what it really is: a climate tax. It is a climate tax. This legislation will raise gas prices, electricity prices, diesel prices, natural gas prices, and fertilizer prices. It will also put America at a significant economic disadvantage compared to the rest of the world.

Given that families are already struggling to pay record gas prices—it is nearly \$4 a gallon now—Congress should be working to lower gas prices, not increase them.

Republicans are eager to offer amendments to the Boxer climate tax bill to develop clean energy solutions and promote economic growth. In America, we tackle problems like this with technology, not by clamping down on our own economy. If this is a problem—and many of us believe it is—the way to get at it is with technology and then sell it to the Indians and Chinese,

who, I assure you, are not going to do this to their own economies. They are going to take advantage of our foolish decision to clamp down on our own economy and have jobs exported to China and India.

If the majority is serious about debating this issue, then let's have a real debate, complete with an open amendment process. Don't shut it down after only 1 day.

This is entirely too important to consumers, to our economy, and to the climate to block a thorough consideration.

#### ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSING OF SENATOR CRAIG THOMAS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, a year ago yesterday marked the occasion of the loss of our good friend and colleague, Craig Thomas, who was the senior Senator from Wyoming at the time. He lost his battle with leukemia at the age of 74.

Born and raised in Cody, WY, a town named after Buffalo Bill, Craig was brought up on a ranch. He brought those values of America's western small towns to our Nation's Capital.

So the Senator from America's smallest State by population, home to a rugged and independent-minded people, was one of the Senate's leading advocates for a smaller, more efficient, and more responsive government.

Other Senators who got to know Craig found him to be always polite and courteous. Yet that did not make him a pushover. A Marine captain, who rose to that rank from the rank of private, Craig was a man of discipline and a man of principle. He was a perfect fit for the people and the values of his great State.

As accomplished as he was, Senator Thomas was also not afraid to poke a little fun at himself as well. I know he once displayed a series of pictures in his Senate office of himself trying his hand at roping a horse. The pictures depict, one by one, his less than successful attempts, and then his unceremonious fall off his steed and onto the dirt.

Many of my colleagues will remember his subtle sense of humor, his skill at working with others to advance legislation, and his passion for promoting the best interests of Wyoming.

I know my colleagues continue to hold his dear wife Susan, a great friend of all of us, and their four children, Peter, Patrick, Greg, and Lexie, in our thoughts. We still consider them members of our Senate family.

I also know how much Craig would be pleased that Senators MIKE ENZI and JOHN BARRASSO are holding to the high standards he set and making Wyoming proud.

A man of grit and courage, Craig never backed down from a challenge, not even his final struggle with leukemia. Through the end of his life, he represented Wyoming with honor and

dignity. Admired by all who knew him, he leaves behind a legacy of legislative accomplishment, as well as a Chamber full of very dear friends in the Senate. We still miss him a lot.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The assistant majority leader is recognized.

#### GLOBAL WARMING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to say a word about the issue of global warming. I notice that my colleagues are waiting to speak in tribute to Craig Thomas, and I will also say a word about that.

I have to agree with Senator REID when he said that global warming is one of the most important issues of our age. I believe he said it was the most important global issue and, of course, we realize whatever our undertaking may be in life, it is of little value if we don't live on a planet that can sustain life. That is what we are worried about—that we have warming and carbon pollution that is changing the planet on which we live.

I cannot think of a more formidable challenge that we have ever faced. That is why we think it is important to move forward with this legislation. The notion that we have blocked all amendments is not true. We have said to the Republicans repeatedly: Provide us with the amendments. Show us what you are going to offer. Here is what we will offer. I think that is a good-faith effort—at least on our side—to try to start this important debate. Yet the Republican side has refused. They took 30 hours of general debate and didn't produce amendments. They asked that this bill be read for 8 hours, and they didn't produce any amendments.

Our fear, of course, is that when the time for actual debate begins, without any indication of what they might offer, we will face the same thing we did on the GI bill. If you recall that legislation, which was to help our returning veterans, it was stopped in its tracks by an amendment offered on the Republican side, with a cloture motion filed. That meant that 30 hours had to be burned off the clock while we waited for the cloture motion to ripen.

Now, that is use of a procedure here which doesn't advance the debate or deliberations. So we asked for assurances from the Republican side. We asked is this going to be a good-faith effort to debate and amend this bill? Will you produce the amendments? They would not. It is clear they don't want to. They are opposed to this bill. We have seen this before. We have had 72 filibusters during this session. We have broken all of the records of the Senate. The Republican minority has stopped us time and again when we have tried to bring up critically important issues for our Nation and the world.

President Bush and the Republicans have dismissed this issue of global

warming, and I think that is why many Americans are dismissing their chances of speaking to the needs of this Nation. This is a critically important issue. If this Republican minority will not allow us to reach it, I predict the American voters will have the last words. We will reach this issue. They will demand that we reach this issue.

All of the fear being spread here about change in America is indicative of the problem the Republicans have today. They are afraid of change. Anything that will change things scares them. They don't think America is resilient enough and powerful enough to accept change. They are wrong.

Our Nation desperately wants change, starting in Washington, and rippling across America, to deal with the issues that face us—first and foremost, to bring peace to our Nation, bring our troops home, stabilize and strengthen our economy, and deal with critical issues, such as global warming.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. DURBIN. Yes, I am happy to.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I just ask the distinguished assistant majority leader if he and the Democratic majority would agree to an amendment designed to help bring down the price of gasoline at the pump for the American consumer, and whether they would agree to allow us to file that amendment, debate that amendment on this bill, and then have an up-or-down vote on the Senate floor?

Mr. DURBIN. My response is that we are on another bill now, while we are waiting for cloture to ripen on the global warming bill. It is our intention to move directly into the debate that you have just indicated. We have to deal with energy pricing in America. If the Republican side is going to offer a good-faith policy amendment to deal with this issue, I am sure that will be appropriate.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I take it from the answer of the assistant majority leader that his answer is no.

Mr. DURBIN. The answer is yes.

Mr. CORNYN. I take it that they would not allow us to offer an amendment on this bill that would be designed to bring down the price of gasoline at the pump by opening America's natural resources to development and production.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, time and time again we are told by the Republican side, if we could just drill for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, all of our prayers would be answered and gasoline would be \$1.50 a gallon, people would stop complaining, and the American economy would be back on its feet. It turns out this idea of drilling for oil in ANWR is not the answer to our prayers. For many of us, it is somewhat blasphemous to think we would take a section of land that was set aside by President Eisenhower as a wildlife refuge and say that we are so desperate in America for oil that we are going to change it forever.

It strikes me that we have to look at the reality. Of all the oil reserves in the world, the United States has access in our boundaries, near our shores, to 3 percent of all the oil in the world. We consume 25 percent of the oil in the world. The Republicans believe we can drill our way out—drill in the Great Lakes, drill in the ANWR—and it will all be just fine. We know better. We have to take an honest look at this and realize that drilling in those places will not answer the need.

#### REMEMBERING SENATOR THOMAS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I know my colleagues are waiting. I liked Craig Thomas. We served in the House together and in the Senate. When they had his funeral service, I made a point of joining many of my colleagues to make the trip out to his beloved Wyoming to meet his neighbors and supporters and friends and family. It was a wonderful, beautiful service. He was such a quiet and strong man. He and I disagreed on lots of issues, but I respected him so much. I think his real strength was shown in his last battle with leukemia and cancer. Craig kept a smile on his face, despite some very difficult days. His wife Susan at his side out in Wyoming was a reminder that we are really a Senate family.

We can debate issues back and forth, as we just did, but at the end of the day, I think he was a great Senator who served his State well, and it was an honor that I could count him as a friend.

I yield the floor.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to a period of morning business for up to 2 hours, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans in control of the first 30 minutes and the majority in control of the second 30 minutes.

The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

#### REMEMBERING SENATOR CRAIG THOMAS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, 1 year ago yesterday, the State of Wyoming and our Nation lost one of the great cowboys ever to ride this land. On June 4, 2007, Senator Craig Thomas, my senior Senator, my mentor, and most important of all, my friend, lost his battle with leukemia. I still expect to see him come in that door every time we vote

and go over to the candy desk and get a piece of candy and come down to the well to visit with me.

I can tell you right now, I feel him over my shoulder saying: You cannot let the Senator from Illinois get away with what he just said. That is what Craig would do. He used to do it from that desk right over there.

Craig would have said that honesty, truth, and promises are virtues of the West. When you promise three circuit court judges, you deliver them. They did not deliver. That is why, yesterday, we weren't able to do the tributes that we are doing today.

When it comes to the global warming issue, he would have said "gotcha" politics doesn't have a place here. But that is what they are doing on issue after issue.

How do you tell it is "gotcha" politics? If it didn't go to committee, it is "gotcha" politics. Oh, yes, they would argue that global warming went to committee. Well, a bill went to committee, but that is not the bill that we have shifted to. We have shifted to one that didn't go to committee. It is full of little landmines. That is not the way we used to do things around here. I know my friend, Craig, would have pointed that out. Both the cowboy and the marine in Craig Thomas would have been forced to point that out—to be honest, get the judges up; be honest, do the bills that go through the committee that everybody has a chance to amend.

As Craig comes through the door, which he does in my mind all the time, I symbolically lift my hat to him, to celebrate the life of a great Senator.

He was raised in Wapiti, WY. That is between Cody and Yellowstone Park. The school he went to now has about an 8-foot fence to keep grizzly bears out. Craig was so tough, they didn't need that fence when he went to school there. He was executive director of the Wyoming Farm Bureau, executive director of the Wyoming Rural Electric Association, he was a small businessman, a State legislator, a Member of the U.S House of Representatives, and a Senator. He was a marine at heart, but he was a cowboy in his soul. He was quiet. He was focused. He was tough. He was a staunch fiscal conservative. His life became a portrait of the American West. He preferred to see the world from the saddle of a horse and from under the brim of his cowboy hat, but he sacrificed much to serve us here.

He was proud of Wyoming and our country, and we in Wyoming were proud to be represented by him. He encouraged vision, Mr. President, and, as you can tell, he still challenges me and, I think, you. The cowboy and marine in Craig made him a fierce fighter on behalf of Wyoming, and he approached his cancer no differently.

I will never forget when I learned about my friend's passing. I was overcome with shock and heartbreak, but I also felt a sense of serenity, knowing that Craig was at peace.