

needs attention. The ridership at peak hours is already full. We need greater capacity. We need more efficiency and more economy in the use of public transportation. This legislation provides for it. Of the funds that are provided—the \$170 billion plus—95 percent is distributed on the SAFETEA-LU formula; 65 percent for existing systems; 30 percent for new starts; and 5 percent in competitive grants for transportation alternatives and travel demand reduction projects.

It is supported by the American Public Transportation Association, the National League of Cities, and I could add many more.

Mr. President, I strongly support this bill as brought forward by Senator BOXER. I urge my colleagues to support it. I do have amendments to improve it. I hope we will get to amendments. One of my amendments would include the public transportation sector by including metropolitan planning organizations as eligible entities to receive grants under the funding. This builds upon smart growth. Maryland provided leadership nationally on how smart growth can add to our energy independence and a cleaner environment. That experience in Maryland can be used nationwide. My amendment will make funds available for States to move forward for smart growth.

The amendment also provides for transit enhancements, including pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure that would be eligible activities. In Maryland, I am proud of the work we have done in taking funds and building paths for bicycles and pedestrians. The Gwynns Falls Greenway in Baltimore and the Jones Falls Greenway are examples of how we have rehabilitated historical trails where people can walk and bike and add to the quality of life.

Another amendment that I intend to offer will allow for the clean, medium-heavy truck vehicle fleets which are provided for in this bill, funds to help fleets use clean energy but to expand that to public entities—Senator SPECTER and Senator CARPER are joining me on that—that they would qualify. That will help vehicle manufacturers. The coalition that supported the original provision for fleet vehicles—such as Volvo, PowerTran, UPS, Federal Express, and PepsiCo—supports the change I am suggesting.

Lastly, let me point to intercity rail. I will offer an amendment to provide funding for intercity rail. I think it is another way we can get people out of their cars. That is what we have to do if we are going to have a clean environment and be energy independent. The intercity rail is another way we can do it.

Let me make it clear, I hope we get to amendments. Amendments can strengthen this bill. This bill needs to be strengthened. But the bill before us today is a bill that deserves our support. I hope my colleagues will vote in favor of making sure we move forward to enact global warming legislation

this year. I urge my colleagues to do that.

HONORING THE LATE SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, tomorrow our Nation will mark the 40th anniversary of Senator Robert F. Kennedy's death. In his all too brief lifetime, Robert Kennedy was an icon of the struggle for civil and human rights, social justice, and peace. In the midst of the civil rights movement, the increasingly unpopular war in Vietnam, and the assassination of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Senator Kennedy stood as a beacon of hope, inspiring Americans from all walks of life that we could rise above our Nation's struggles. With his death in the early morning of June 6, 1968, America lost a true public servant, a voice for the underprivileged and underserved, and a source of hope during a turbulent time.

My own political career began the year before, in 1967, but for years prior, Robert Kennedy's life had inspired me to seek public office. After managing his brother John's successful 1952 Senate campaign, Robert Kennedy worked briefly on Capitol Hill. He then went on to serve in his brother John's administration as Attorney General, where he was renowned for his diligence, effectiveness, and nonpartisanship. At Justice, he pursued a relentless battle against organized crime, frequently at odds with Federal Bureau of Investigation Director J. Edgar Hoover. During his tenure, convictions of notorious organized crime figures rose eightfold. It was also during this time that Robert Kennedy moved to center stage in the struggle for civil rights. On May 6, 1961, he visited the University of Georgia, which just months before had admitted its first black students. Kennedy addressed the university's law school, enunciating the administration's position on civil rights, stating:

We must recognize the full human equality of all our people—before God, before the law, and in the councils of government. We must do this not because it is economically advantageous—although it is; not because the laws of God and man command it—although they do command it; not because people in other lands wish it so. We must do it for the single and fundamental reason that it is the right thing to do.

Robert Kennedy's commitment to promoting African Americans' right to vote, receive an equal education, and equal protection under the law intensified over time. In 1962 he sent U.S. Marshals and troops to Oxford, MS to enforce a Federal court order admitting the first black student, James Meredith, to the University of Mississippi. As Attorney General, Robert Kennedy demanded that every corner of Government begin recruiting realistic levels of blacks and other minorities. He collaborated with Presidents Kennedy and Johnson to create the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964, and

served as one of its most forceful and committed proponents.

In 1964, Robert Kennedy ran for the U.S. Senate, challenging and defeating incumbent Republican Senator Kenneth Keating of New York. As a Senator, Robert Kennedy continued to champion civil rights, human rights, and disenfranchised peoples, both at home and abroad. When few politicians dared to entangle themselves in the politics of South Africa, Senator Kennedy spoke out against oppression and injustice there. His groundbreaking 1966 visit to South Africa helped awaken Americans to the bitter realities of apartheid. During this period, he vociferously opposed the Vietnam war, advocating for increased diplomacy rather than the use of force.

At home in New York, Senator Kennedy initiated a number of projects in the State, including assistance to underprivileged children and students with disabilities. He authored legislation that led to the establishment of the Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation, which improved living conditions and brought employment opportunities to economically depressed areas of Brooklyn. Now in its 40th year, the program remains a model for communities across the Nation. This program was part of a broader effort to address the needs of the dispossessed and powerless in America. He sought to bring the facts about poverty to the conscience of the American people, journeying into poor urban neighborhoods, Appalachia, the Mississippi Delta, Indian reservations, and migrant workers' camps.

Senator Kennedy's fervent belief that America could do better compelled him to seek the Democratic Presidential nomination in 1968. The night of June 5 should have been a triumphant one for Robert Kennedy. After winning the California primary by four points, he seemed destined to secure the nomination, standing as a symbol of the hope and change that so many people across the country desperately wanted, but his life was cut short by an assassin's bullet. Coming a mere 2 months after the death of Martin Luther King, Jr., Robert Kennedy's death shocked the Nation.

Early in the afternoon on June 6, 1968, Robert Kennedy's body was flown from California to New York City's St. Patrick's Cathedral for a requiem mass. On Saturday, June 8, a funeral train of 20 cars transported Robert Kennedy's body from New York, through Baltimore, to Washington. Tens of thousands of Americans—some in the press estimated a million people—lined the tracks to pay their respects. Robert Kennedy's casket traveled down Constitution Avenue, past the Justice Department Building that now bears his name, to the Lincoln Memorial and across the bridge to Arlington National Cemetery, where he was buried next to his brother, President John F. Kennedy.

The legacy of Robert F. Kennedy—the passion with which he fought for

civil and human rights, and his steadfast dedication to the dispossessed—has lived on in this Chamber for the past 40 years through his brother, our distinguished colleague and friend, Senator TED KENNEDY. We are fortunate indeed that the Kennedy family's selfless service to our Nation has extended to younger generations. In the House of Representatives, I was proud to serve with Robert Kennedy's eldest son, Joe, and his nephew, Patrick. His eldest daughter, Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, served as Maryland's Lieutenant Governor for 8 years. But the Kennedy family's wonderful record of public service is not limited to elective office alone. Think of Joe Kennedy, who founded the Citizens Energy Corporation; or Robert Kennedy, Jr., who established the Waterkeeper Alliance; or Courtney Kennedy Hill, who worked as a representative for the United Nations AIDS Foundation. And I would be remiss not to mention Robert Kennedy's amazing wife, Ethel, widowed at the age of 40 with 10 children and pregnant with another. Her courage and grace are an inspiration to us all.

At Robert Kennedy's request, his grave consists of a plain white cross and a stone slab on which is inscribed a passage from his Day of Affirmation speech to South Africans. It reads:

Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.

We can honor Robert Kennedy, his legacy, and his promise by standing up for an ideal, by acting to improve the lot of others, by striking out against injustice, and by sending forth those ripples of hope our Nation and the rest of the world so desperately need.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Oregon is recognized.

Mr. SMITH. I thank the Presiding Officer.

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, the Senate is engaged this week in a great debate, an important debate, on the vital issue of global climate change. I join that debate in order to find the best and most practical ways to ease our dependence on foreign oil, reduce pollution, and encourage clean energy.

Climate change is real. It is a problem, and it needs our response—for the sake of our economy, our environment, and our national security. Our country's energy future is one of the greatest challenges we will face in the coming decades. Addressing climate change is about what is good and what is right for our country, for our future. It is about how we reduce our reliance on foreign oil, develop a new sector in the American economy that will spur domestic manufacturing, and create mil-

lions of new jobs, all while reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

These challenges are too great and the stakes are too high—America cannot take a backseat or sit on the sidelines. We simply must lead on this issue. We must make fundamental changes, and we must start now, today. We put a man on the Moon. We defeated communism. We even created an Internet world. Many thought the Internet was a fad, but look how it has changed our world in a decade. A renewable energy economy can and will do the same thing.

America is an exporter of our thoughts, our ideas, our dreams, our ideals. On the great challenges facing us today, we must reach high, challenge our thinking, and deliver results such as only the American people can deliver.

We are on an upward path with the emergence of green, renewable technologies in the State of Oregon—wind, solar, wave, and geothermal. Today, in Oregon, we are leading the way, from innovative biomass in Umatilla, to geothermal in Klamath Falls, to our long-lived hydropower dams and wind farms in eastern Oregon.

Jobs are being created in Oregon by companies that research and manufacture these new energy sources, boosting our economy, addressing climate change, and cutting our dependence on foreign oil.

Oregon and the Northwest already enjoy one of the best sources of green energy—our hydroelectric dams—a source of 100-percent carbon-free energy. These dams are not only critical to our economy but are a perfect example of existing sources of green energy.

In Oregon, we are leading the way in training the next generation workforce for green-collar jobs. Schools across Oregon—Oregon State University, Oregon Institute of Technology, Lane Community College, and Columbia Gorge Community College—are creating programs that will help supply our State and Nation with a vibrant and skilled workforce to accommodate a future of renewable, independent, and clean energy facilities.

Through a combination of Federal and State tax incentives, Oregon has been able to attract solar panel manufacturers, geothermal developers, fuel cell manufacturers, biomass facilities, and significant wind energy facilities.

Oregon has become a hub of investment in solar facilities. For example, SolarWorld, one of the biggest solar manufacturers on Earth, is investing over \$650 million in a manufacturing facility in Hillsboro, Oregon, that will employ over 1,000 people.

As the lead sponsor of legislation to provide for the long-term extension of the investment tax credit for solar and fuel cell facilities, I am encouraged by the investments solar and fuel cell companies are making in Oregon and across the Nation.

We must provide for the extension of these and other renewable energy tax

incentives in order to avoid the boom-bust cycle we see in these emerging technologies every time the tax credit is allowed to expire. That is an action we can and should take now that will produce results now.

We must set ourselves on a path to energy independence and reduce our oil consumption. That is why I fought successfully to increase our investment in renewable fuels such as those thriving back in Oregon. That is why Senator OBAMA and I passed a bill to raise the fuel efficiency standards for the first time in two decades for our automobiles in this country.

We have been making small strides. Now we need to make big ones. Renewable energy sources and less oil consumption will benefit not only our environment but our economy and our national security—energy sources, clean ones, produced here at home instead of imported from the Middle East.

The private sector in America is already visionary about a clean, strong economy. We in Congress must help and not hinder. This transformation will not happen overnight, but we can start now. We must start today. Right now, the sources of our fuel-efficient vehicles and renewable energy manufacturing too often come from foreign countries. If we do not take the lead going forward, these foreign countries will. To do so would put our country and our economy behind the eight ball, reliant upon others and not ourselves.

Right now, the world's fossil fuel is controlled by countries such as Iran, Venezuela, and Russia. We cannot let our national security and our economic security be at risk to the whims of rogue governments. Our reliance on foreign oil has gotten us into the entanglements that many of us wish had not happened. By investing in a clean energy future—a skilled green workforce, investment in the next generation of biofuels, the promotion of fuel-efficient transportation—we will depend on ourselves, not on others.

It is also time for America and this Congress to debate the merits of a new system to regulate carbon to reduce greenhouse gases and to reduce this country's carbon footprint. I know we can come together, in this Chamber and with the next President, to practically and effectively reduce the greenhouse gases we emit in this country.

To truly reduce carbon, the response must be global. We have all the tools. We have the will, the technology, the raw resources. It is time to move forward for the sake of our environment, for the sake of our economy, and for the sake of our national security. Success will only be found in setting aside partisan agendas and focusing on common-ground solutions.

Our country can do this, and we must lead. I have great confidence in the will of the American people. They know this must be done. I will help to make sure it is done.