

Whereas Gaylord Nelson grew up in Clear Lake, Wisconsin, and rose to national prominence while exemplifying the progressive values instilled in him;

Whereas Gaylord Nelson served with distinction in the Wisconsin State Senate from 1949 to 1959, as Governor of the State of Wisconsin from 1959 to 1963, and in the United States Senate from 1963 to 1981;

Whereas Gaylord Nelson founded Earth Day, which was first celebrated on April 22, 1970, by 20 million people across the United States, making the celebration the largest environmental grassroots event in history at that time;

Whereas Gaylord Nelson called on Americans to hold their elected officials accountable for protecting their health and the natural environment on that first Earth Day, an action which launched the Environmental Decade, an unparalleled period of legislative and grassroots activity that resulted in passage of 28 major pieces of environmental legislation from 1970 to 1980, including the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the National Environmental Education Act;

Whereas Gaylord Nelson was responsible for legislation that created the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore and the St. Croix Wild and Scenic Riverway and protected other important Wisconsin and national treasures;

Whereas Gaylord Nelson sponsored legislation to ban phosphates in household detergents and he worked tirelessly to ensure clean water and clean air for all Americans;

Whereas in addition to his environmental leadership, Gaylord Nelson fought for civil rights;

Whereas Gaylord Nelson was a patriot, who as a young soldier honorably served 46 months in the Armed Forces during World War II, and then, as Senator, worked to ban the use of the toxic defoliant Agent Orange;

Whereas, in 1995, Gaylord Nelson was awarded the highest honor accorded civilians in the United States, the Presidential Medal of Freedom;

Whereas Gaylord Nelson's legacy includes generations of Americans who have grown up with an environmental ethic and an appreciation and understanding of their roles as stewards of the environment and the planet; and

Whereas Gaylord Nelson was an extraordinary statesman, public servant, environmentalist, husband, father, and friend, and who never let disagreement on the issues become personal or partisan:

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 22, 2010, at 9:30 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 22, 2010, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "China's Exchange Rate Policy and Trade Imbalances."

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 22, 2010, at 2:30 p.m. in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 22, 2010, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Promoting Global Food Security."

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled "Meeting the Needs of the Whole Student" on April 22, 2010. The hearing will commence at 10 a.m. in room 106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 22, 2010, at 2:15 p.m. in Room 628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on April 22, 2010, at 10 a.m., in SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on April 22, 2010, at 3 p.m., in SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Nominations."

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

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 22, 2010, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Examining the Filibuster: History of the Filibuster 1789-2008."

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 22, 2010, at 2:30 p.m.

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet on April 22, 2010, from 2-5 p.m. in Dirksen 562 for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION, FEDERAL SERVICES, AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 22, 2010, at 3:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled, "The Future of the U.S. Postal Service."

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCEANS, ATMOSPHERE, FISHERIES, AND COAST GUARD

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 22, 2010, at 10 a.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT, THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE, AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 22, 2010, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "After the Dust Settles: Examining Challenges and Lessons Learned in Transitioning the Federal Government."

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

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 255, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 255) commemorating the 40th anniversary of Earth Day and honoring the founder of Earth Day, the late Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, today is the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, a day set aside to appreciate the environment. In 1970, Senator Gaylord Nelson from Wisconsin recognized the power of campus activism and established Earth Day as a way to highlight the environmental problems this Nation faced—air pollution from factories, water pollution from unregulated discharges, and toxic waste dumps. After Congress passed legislation to designate April 22 as Earth Day, Congress passed several bills to protect the environment including the Clean Water Acts, the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Federal Pesticides Act, the Clean Air Act, the Environmental Education Act, and the National Hiking Trails and the National Scenic Trails Acts.

Because Michigan is surrounded by four of the five Great Lakes, the problems plaguing the lakes have an enormous impact on Michigan. A generation ago, the Great Lakes were a huge reservoir of persistent toxic substances, but they have improved markedly since that time. The Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, estimates that the Great Lakes Critical Programs Act, which I sponsored in 1990, has reduced direct toxic water discharges by millions of pounds per year. In addition, since 2002, the EPA estimates that close to 900,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment have been removed under the Great Lakes Legacy Act at 5 of the 31 U.S. "Areas of Concern" in the Great Lakes, thirteen of which are found in Michigan.

While the Great Lakes have made strides in recovering, historical problems still exist and new problems are on the horizon. There are still hundreds of fish advisories issued every year; the number of beach closings remains high; Lake Erie is once again experiencing a "dead zone" from high levels of phosphorus; and a new invasive species enters the Great Lakes about every 8 months. Last year, Congress provided \$475 million for comprehensive Great Lakes restoration efforts.

Because of its industrial past, Michigan has faced some challenges with contaminated properties, including complications related to redevelopment. This is why I have also long been a supporter of brownfields redevelopment and smart growth efforts, which connect environmental goals with economic and community development objectives. In 1999, I joined my former colleague, Senator Jim Jeffords to form the Senate Smart Growth Task Force. The task force serves as a forum

for Senators interested in sustainable and sensible growth, and has supported locally driven, federally supported smart growth practices.

Supporting and enjoying Michigan's parks and trails are also important aspects of this Earth Day celebration. Last year, I helped establish the Beaver Basin area as Wilderness at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and I am currently working on another Wilderness designation in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. It is important for the public to have access to these areas so they can enjoy magnificent vistas, quiet streams, freshwater lakes, forests and prairies, and other natural beauty. To promote access and conservation, I have also worked to improve the North Country National Scenic Trail, which runs through Michigan, by helping to provide "willing seller authority" to help the trail be completed more quickly. When completed, the trail will span seven States and roughly 4,600 miles, approximately 1,000 miles of which will be located in Michigan, preserving critical outdoor recreational opportunities while providing a boost to the local economies along the trail.

Michigan is blessed to have so many natural resources. It is important that we recognize that we are just temporary stewards and that we protect and restore our resources for current and future generations.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today our Nation marks the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. For four decades, Americans have joined together on April 22 to celebrate our environment and to commit ourselves to fostering a healthier world. What Senator Gaylord Nelson began as a grassroots response to widespread environmental degradation in the 1970s has grown to become the foundation of the modern environmental movement and an annual recognition of Earth Day. For 40 years, Americans have used this day to organize events and participate in activities to draw attention to environmental issues and to promote environmental awareness and reform. Today, on the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, we can be proud of the many steps we have taken to clean up the environment. With the hard work and dedication of many, we have made progress. But there is more work to be done and we are facing many new threats.

Now for the first time since the passage of the landmark environmental laws of the 1970s, we are close to making significant strides to address environmental, climate, and energy-related issues. Bipartisan legislation is being developed in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, and significant steps have been taken already by this administration to ease the impact of human activities on the natural world, for our benefit, and for the benefit of generations to come. We do not have to choose between creating jobs and protecting the environment or between jobs and solving climate change.

The economy of the 21st century will be built on infrastructure powered by clean energy, and, as Gaylord Nelson once wrote, "all economic activity depends upon the . . . air, water, soil, forest, minerals, wetlands, rivers, lakes, oceans, wildlife habitat, and scenic beauty." These, he said, "are the accumulated capital resources of a nation. Take them away and what you have left is a wasteland."

Today, as the world pauses to consider the awe-inspiring power of our choices, let us reflect on what we stand to lose if we fail to act and what we stand to gain if we make the commitment to improve the air, water, and land upon which we depend. It is clear that Earth Day is not about the next government proclamation or regulation; this day is about the actions of individuals the amazing power of one person to accomplish change.

The threats to our planet are global; they are broad and overwhelming. But they are also very personal. The choices we make today will shape our world for generations to come. Though it may seem improbable to suggest that each person has the power to make a change, in saving our planet and improving our communities, it is certainly true.

It is estimated that by the year 2050, 40 years from now, the global population will be 9.4 billion people, adding more strain to our ecosystems. If personal responsibility for the Earth is truly as simple as conserving water, choosing public transportation or carpooling whenever possible, making your home more energy efficient, buying local sustainably produced food, recycling and reusing goods, there is little reason for any of us to deny our individual power to bring about change.

It is all too easy to imagine that the problems people currently face are a world away—across an ocean, on other continents. It is too easy to imagine problems such as a lack of clean water, vicious storms, and insufficient food supplies as not our own. I know that when it comes to the future of the Earth, the continent that seems so removed could just as easily be my backyard. On this 40th Earth Day, I am proud to call Vermont, the Green Mountain State, my home, and Vermont has been a leader in helping to show the way forward in protecting the Earth.

As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, each of us can renew our commitment to our planet—our home. We can use our power as individuals to work together toward a cleaner environment and a healthier planet. As part of the legacy we leave for our children and our grandchildren, let them enjoy a society that is secure in its commitment to a healthy and environmentally sound future. On this 40th anniversary of Earth Day, while we remember the pioneering spirit of Gaylord Nelson, we must honor his legacy and continue turning his words into action.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize one of our most prominent Wisconsinites, Gaylord Nelson, the founder of Earth Day.

On April 22, 1970, 20 million Americans paused for a day to celebrate our planet and press for the urgent actions needed to preserve and protect it. As we observe this 40th anniversary of the first Earth Day, we once again reflect on the necessity of a clean and safe environment, celebrate the successes of the last four decades, and consider the long way we still must go to achieve the goals laid out that day.

In Wisconsin, we also stop to remember and honor one of our most prominent citizens.

Earth Day was born out of the passion of Gaylord Nelson. His life was one of service from the Pacific theater during World War II, to the State House as a State Senator and Governor, and to Washington, DC where he served Wisconsin as a U.S. Senator for nearly 20 years.

When Gaylord came to Washington, he did so with a mission to bring environmental causes to the forefront of the national debate. He believed that the cause of environmentalism needed as much attention as national defense. For his first years in the Senate, his cause was lonely. In 1966, his bill to ban the pesticide DDT garnered no cosponsors.

Gaylord knew that only with the grassroots support of regular Americans, could the environmental agenda rise to prominence. His idea for Earth Day came from the student teach-ins of the 1960s, but his cause inspired people across boundaries of age, race and location. This year, more than one billion people around the world will come together in the same way they did 40 years ago.

In a speech on that historic day in 1970, Gaylord noted that his goal was not just one of clean air and water, but also "an environment of decency, quality and mutual respect for all other human beings and all other living creatures." He told the crowd that America could meet the challenge through our technology. The unanswered question was, he said, "Are we willing?"

That question was answered with a resounding yes. That year saw the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air Act. In 1972, 6 years after Gaylord Nelson stood alone on his proposed DDT ban, its use was ended. Later years would bring better protection of drinking water, emissions and efficiency standards for cars, programs to cleanup brownfields sites, and the protection and preservation of our forests, rivers, mountains and oceans.

Despite that progress and I imagine Gaylord would be the first to note this we still have much work ahead of us. We must use this anniversary to commit to another environmental decade. The needs of 40 years ago cleaner water, cleaner air, more protection of our lands are still here, but the next

challenge we must face is climate change.

From lower lake levels, to more invasive species, the consequences of unchecked climate change could be devastating to the people of Wisconsin. Climate change isn't just a threat, it is also an opportunity. Structured correctly, the solutions to slowing climate change can also speed up our economic recovery.

Remarkable research and development is happening today in Wisconsin on products for cleaner water, advanced battery technology, and using waste from farms and forests to make advanced biofuels. We have companies developing products to harness the power of the sun to replace traditional interior lighting, retrofitting heavy-duty trucks into hybrids, and manufacturing energy-efficient hot water heaters.

In Congress, legislative work to address climate change is ongoing. With the right mixture of requirements and incentives, we can achieve a policy that reduces our dependence on foreign oil, cuts greenhouse gas emissions, lowers prices at the pump and on the electricity bill, and creates good-paying jobs that cannot be outsourced.

We do not have to choose between the environment and the economy, between jobs and solving climate change. Gaylord Nelson made this point over and over again. He once wrote that "all economic activity depends upon the air, water, soil, forest, minerals, wetlands, rivers, lakes, oceans, wildlife habitats, and scenic beauty." These, he said, "are the accumulated capital resources of the nation. Take them away and what you have left is a wasteland."

On this 40th anniversary of Earth Day, while we remember the pioneering spirit of Gaylord Nelson, we must honor his legacy by turning words into action.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, 40 years ago, Senator Gaylord Nelson attempted to bring attention to a degraded environment through a day dedicated to our planet. On April 22, 1970, environmental issues, as they are today, were challenging oxygen levels in the Androscoggin River in my great state of Maine frequently reached zero during the summer, resulting in the death of nearly all fish and other aquatic life in the river and carbon monoxide and ozone emissions significantly degraded our country's air quality. The environmental, economic, and personal costs of a failure to recognize the benefits of a healthy environment had reached a tipping point for many American citizens who demanded action both through greater awareness of personal environmental decisions and through new public laws. Millions of Americans, as Senator Nelson said, "organized themselves" to not only protest the degradation of our environment, but also to educate each other on personal steps to reduce waste, increase recycling, and together improve the condition of environment around us.

Four decades later, Earth Day serves as a consequential reminder of what we have achieved since 1970, and what we still have left to accomplish, especially as we evaluate the current state of our environment. In that light, on this Earth Day, as the ranking member of Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard, I held a hearing on the threat of acidification on the largest ecosystems of the world, our oceans. And while the expert witnesses outlined the daunting hurdles of this 21st century challenge to our lobster industry and the beautiful coral reefs of the world, it is encouraging at the same time to reflect upon the past challenges we've met that seemed insurmountable.

In 1970, there were less than 50 bald eagle nesting pairs in Maine, today there are at least 477. This extraordinary increase came to fruition through a combination of the federal banning of DDT and a concerted effort by Mainers who volunteered to track our sacred national symbol and conserve its habitat. Furthermore, just last year, the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife remarkably and thankfully was able to recommend the removal of the Bald Eagle from Maine's list of Endangered and Threatened Species. It was a combination of dedicated attention by Mainers as well as public policies that made this success a reality. And in Maine's iconic rivers and waterways fish are returning and our air quality has improved.

Nationally, for nearly 10 years, I have been pleased to join forces with my good friend and colleague, Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN, to implement technology available today and raise fuel economy standards for our Nation's automobile fleet. And finally, in 2007 we passed legislation that will cut air pollution, reduce our consumption of foreign oil, and save money at the gas pump which will be of benefit to everyone, especially those in the rural parts of my state. And earlier this month, these rules were finalized and will save 1.8 billion barrels of oil over the life of cars and trucks sold between the 2012 and 2016 model years. This welcomed and long overdue advancement will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our vehicles by 21 percent by 2030 and represents the most significant effort so far to combat climate change.

When we commemorate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day in just 10 years from now, let it be said that in 2010, we made great strides in improving our energy efficiency in our homes and offices, we reduced the number of miles that we drive on a weekly basis, we mitigated carbon dioxide emissions, and we reduced the amount of oil we import. Above all, let us hope we can look back and say we were able to forge comprehensive energy legislation that spoke not just to our goals for protecting the environment and harnessing new sources for energy, for ensuring greater not lesser energy

independence, but that reflected once again the hallmark vision, ingenuity, and can-do spirit that have always driven this great land for whom no task is too daunting and no adversity too steep.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, earlier today—the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day—on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol, I test drove the energy-efficient, fuel cell-powered Chevy Cruze.

Across Ohio, next-generation fuel-efficient vehicles are being built. GM recently announced that its plant in Lordstown, OH—near Youngstown in Trumbull County—would bring back a third shift of workers to the assembly line to build the Cruze.

Twelve hundred jobs are expected to be created building this new line of fuel-efficient cars that will reduce our dependence on foreign oil and reduce the pollution of our air.

Forty years ago, many were hard-pressed to see how environmental and economic objectives could coexist.

The Cuyahoga River burned in Cleveland and oil spills marred the beaches of Santa Barbara.

With Lake Erie dying, Americans demanded an end to the polluted air and water that threatened the public health and safety of our Nation.

Such tragedies served as catalysts that established the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, passed the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, and formed a public and political conscience to safeguard our environment.

Today, the Cuyahoga River—41 years after the fire—is cleaner and healthier; more than 60 different fish species are thriving, and countless families are again enjoying its natural beauty.

The modern environmental movement was marked by the efforts of citizens demanding that their government protect our health by protecting our environment.

Like so many times throughout our Nation's history, citizen activism served as vehicle for change.

The 1960s, the third progressive era of the 20th century, was defined by passage of Medicare and Medicaid, the Higher Education Act, the Voting Rights Act, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and the Civil Rights Act.

Rachel Carson's 1962 "Silent Spring" helped the environmental movement educate elected officials and industry leaders about threats to human safety and the importance of environmental sustainability.

U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin persuaded President Kennedy to raise the importance of the conservation through a 5-day, 11 State tour in September 1963.

Senator Nelson took the energy of that tour and found it mirrored across the country in the public's desire for cleaner air and water.

Today, we celebrate Senator Nelson's vision of Earth Day—how his teach-ins and grassroots plea translated the public's concern for the environment into political action.

On April 22, 1970, after years of planning, Earth Day activities stretched from college campuses, to city parks, to community halls across the country.

That citizen call to action spurred decades worth of environmental protections that have improved the health of our Nation's air, streams, lakes, and rivers.

Today, Earth Day is celebrated around the world. And today, our college campuses are once again spurring our Nation's environmental innovation.

In northeastern Ohio, Oberlin College built one of the Nation's first—and at the time the largest—solar-powered building in the Nation. The college is also working with the city of Oberlin to develop green spaces and energy efficient living.

Baldwin Wallace has one of the Nation's only academic programs strictly devoted to sustainability practices.

Case Western is partnering with the Cleveland Foundation to build the world's first wind turbines in fresh water.

In northwestern Ohio, the University of Toledo's Clean and Alternative Energy Incubator has helped entrepreneurs and business make Toledo a national leader in solar energy jobs.

Bowling Green State University has the first and largest commercial scale wind farm in Ohio and the Midwest.

In Central Ohio, the Ohio State University is partnering with Battelle and Edison Welding to develop cutting-edge advanced alternative energy sources.

In southern Ohio, Ohio University is conducting a full-scale wind-data collection project in Appalachia to identify the best wind-energy resources within a 2,000-square-mile 7-county region.

And just this week the University of Cincinnati was named one of the greenest universities in the country.

Across Ohio, from Youngstown State University to Akron University to the University of Dayton and Stark State Community College, Ohio's campuses continue to be a breeding ground of innovation.

The activism and expertise of our students and entrepreneurs mark tremendous progress toward a more sustainable environment.

It is a progress that has led to the largest investment in clean energy and environmental sustainability in our Nation's history.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is making historic investments to make our water and sewer systems safer, our clean energy sources more affordable and available.

And Ohio's history of manufacturing excellence and cutting edge entrepreneurs is leading the Nation in Recovery Act funds used for clean energy.

For four decades, the environmental movement has made clear that without action, we face dangerous consequences. We risk the health of citizens, the viability of our coastal areas, and the productivity of our State's farms, forests, and fisheries.

We risk our long-term economic and national security.

Yet no longer do environmental and economic objectives conflict with each other. No longer do we needlessly pick winners and losers among regions, workers, and industries.

We have seen how despite our population growing by 50 percent in the past 40 years and the number of cars on the road having doubled over that same time, our air is 60 percent cleaner than at the time of the first Earth day in 1970, all while our economy has grown like no other in the history of the world.

Done right, our Nation can become energy independent, improve its global competitiveness, and create new jobs and technologies for our workforce.

As we plant the seeds for economic growth—for new jobs in new industries—we are also planting the seeds for a cleaner, more sustainable environment.

And that is what Earth Day represents—for workers making the Cruze in Lordstown or activists continuing to push for a cleaner environment.

Earth Day reminds us to call upon our history of innovation and perseverance to usher in a new era of prosperity for our Nation and sustainability for our planet.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise today to mark the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. Started in 1970 by Wisconsin's Senator Gaylord Nelson as an environmental teach-in, Earth Day has become a global event. More than 20 million people participated in the first Earth Day and that number has grown to over 500 million in 175 countries.

Since the first Earth Day, the United States has made significant strides in improving the quality of our environment—our air, our water, our land, and our natural resources. The days of having to turn on street lights in downtown Pittsburgh at noon because of the pollution emitted by coal plants, steel mills, and other industries are long gone.

No longer does the Cuyahoga River in Ohio catch fire due to the uncontrolled discharge of oil and other pollutants. Long gone too is the mining of coal and other minerals without regard to the impact on land or water. And today, one can hike through Yellowstone National Park or the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and hear the howling of wolves, a species that was almost completely wiped out in the lower 48 States. These are just a few examples of how our Nation has embraced the tenants of environmental awareness put forth on that first Earth Day in 1970.

Let me relate to you another story of our Nation's environmental progress that is a source of particular pride for Pennsylvanians. Rachel Carson is considered one of the pioneers of the environmental movement in the United States. Ms. Carson was born in 1907 and grew up on a small family farm near Springdale in western Pennsylvania,

went to the Pennsylvania College for Women in Pittsburgh, which later became Chatham College, and completed her M.A. in zoology at Johns Hopkins University. She began her career as a biologist with what was then the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries.

Her seminal work in 1962, *Silent Spring*, brought to the forefront the dangers of DDT and other pesticides. DDT was a major cause of decline in the population of birds of prey, including the peregrine falcon. Because of the efforts of Ms. Carson and others, DDT was eventually banned from use in the United States in 1972. Today, peregrine falcons have returned to much of their former range, including a pair of falcons that have been nesting on the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection office tower in Harrisburg, which fittingly, is named the Rachel Carson Building.

Ms. Carson's call to action on the environment was also a driving force behind a 1972 amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution clearly articulates the right of Pennsylvania's citizens to clean air, pure water, and the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment, and ensuring these rights to generations yet to come.

The first Earth Day was also a major impetus for our Nation to move forward with a myriad of Federal legislation—including the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, and the Endangered Species Act—that provided the regulatory framework for America to be a world leader in environmental stewardship.

Just as importantly, we have seen since the first Earth Day that environmental protection can go hand-in-hand with economic growth. According to US EPA, since 1980, total emissions of six principal air pollutants—carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, particulate matter, and sulfur dioxide—decreased by 54 percent.

And during this same period, gross domestic product, GDP, increased by more than 126 percent while the U.S. population grew by 34 percent, clearly demonstrating that we can maintain a strong, robust economy while at the same time protecting and promoting a safe and healthy environment for all Americans.

Today, as a nation, we need to applaud the accomplishments we have made since the first Earth Day in improving the quality of our air, water, and land. But we also need to acknowledge that the task of protecting our environment is far from complete.

The remaining challenges are many. Nutrient pollution is still a concern for the Chesapeake Bay and other waterways. Mercury from large stationary sources still threatens the health of our Nation's vulnerable population of infants and pregnant woman. And many of our urban areas still exceed national standards for air quality.

But the most daunting environmental challenge today is climate change. The scientific evidence about the threat of climate change cannot be disputed. We must move forward with climate and energy legislation that will put us on a path that ends our unsustainable reliance on foreign energy. A path that will create new, clean energy jobs and that will regain our competitive edge over countries like China, which is out-investing us and out-innovating us when it comes to new energy technologies. A path that regains control of our environment, our economy, and our national security.

Let me close with a quote from Rachel Carson. It goes, "Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts." So, as we celebrate Earth Day today, let us all take a moment to consider the beauty and wonder of the natural world around us.

And let us use the strength we take away from these moments to continue to preserve and protect our Nation's rich natural history and environment for our children and grandchildren. So that future generations will always have a clean environment, a robust economy, and a secure Nation.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to; that a Coburn substitute amendment to the preamble be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 255) was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3729) was agreed to, as follows:

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas Gaylord Nelson, former United States Senator from Wisconsin, is recognized as one of the leading environmentalists of the 20th Century who helped launch an international era of environmental awareness and activism;

Whereas Gaylord Nelson grew up in Clear Lake, Wisconsin, and rose to national prominence while exemplifying the progressive values instilled in him;

Whereas Gaylord Nelson served with distinction in the Wisconsin State Senate from 1949 to 1959, as Governor of the State of Wisconsin from 1959 to 1963, and in the United States Senate from 1963 to 1981;

Whereas Gaylord Nelson founded Earth Day, which was first celebrated on April 22, 1970, by 20 million people across the United States, making the celebration the largest environmental grassroots event in history at that time;

Whereas Gaylord Nelson called on Americans to hold their elected officials accountable for protecting their health and the natural environment on that first Earth Day, an action which launched the Environmental Decade, an unparalleled period of legislative and grassroots activity that resulted in passage of 28 major pieces of environmental legislation from 1970 to 1980, including the

Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the National Environmental Education Act;

Whereas Gaylord Nelson was responsible for legislation that created the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore and the St. Croix Wild and Scenic Riverway and protected other important Wisconsin and national treasures;

Whereas Gaylord Nelson sponsored legislation to ban phosphates in household detergents and he worked tirelessly to ensure clean water and clean air for all Americans;

Whereas in addition to his environmental leadership, Gaylord Nelson fought for civil rights;

Whereas Gaylord Nelson was a patriot, who as a young soldier honorably served 46 months in the Armed Forces during World War II, and then, as Senator, worked to ban the use of the toxic defoliant Agent Orange;

Whereas, in 1995, Gaylord Nelson was awarded the highest honor accorded civilians in the United States, the Presidential Medal of Freedom;

Whereas Gaylord Nelson's legacy includes generations of Americans who have grown up with an environmental ethic and an appreciation and understanding of their roles as stewards of the environment and the planet; and

Whereas Gaylord Nelson was an extraordinary statesman, public servant, environmentalist, husband, father, and friend, and who never let disagreement on the issues become personal or partisan:

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

SUPPORTING GOALS AND IDEALS OF WORLD MALARIA DAY

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 499, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 499) supporting the goals and ideals of World Malaria Day, and reaffirming United States leadership and support for efforts to combat malaria as a critical component of the President's Global Health Initiative.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 499) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 499

Whereas April 25th of each year is recognized internationally as World Malaria Day;

Whereas malaria is a leading cause of death and disease in many developing countries, despite being completely preventable and treatable;

Whereas, according to the World Health Organization, 35 countries, the majority of