

incentives for innovations that could drive a clean energy economy. The Murkowski resolution would send the wrong signal to the American business community. That is signed by an organization representing 850 business leaders. The resolution will jeopardize and hinder progress. That is signed by Business for Innovative Climate and Energy Policy. Then the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, on behalf of 320 member companies, opposes the resolution from Senator MURKOWSKI. The member companies in the leadership group provide nearly 250,000 local jobs or one out of every four private-sector jobs in Silicon Valley.

So whether you are voting on this on the basis of the health of our children, whether you care about the auto companies, whether you care about jobs and the rest of the economy and the ability of this economy to create good jobs or because you feel we need to get off our billion-dollar-a-day habit of importing oil, you have a lot of important issues to think about.

I want to close with looking at something no one wants to look at—no one can bear to look at. If anyone thought that carbon isn't a danger, look at what carbon pollution is doing on the ground in the gulf region—in the water, on the beaches, in the marshlands. Do you think that a pollutant like this, when it goes in the air, causes no problem?

There was a cartoon in today's paper that showed a cap going over the well—which we all hope is going to succeed—and out of that well is escaping some of the carbon pollution. It is going into the air and under it, it says: Now it is no problem.

My colleagues of the Senate, this is a point in time we have to make a decision. We are not experts in public health here. We chose as our career to say that we want to be on the side of the people who send us here. This is the moment. Choose sides: It is big oil and all that comes with it and all the polluters or it is protecting our families.

I urge a no vote to proceed to this resolution, and I ask that the regular order occur on the vote at this time.

I yield back the remainder of my time, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 26.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 53, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 184 Leg.]

YEAS—47

Alexander	Chambliss	Enzi
Barrasso	Coburn	Graham
Bayh	Cochran	Grassley
Bennett	Collins	Gregg
Bond	Corker	Hatch
Brown (MA)	Cornyn	Hutchison
Brownback	Crapo	Inhofe
Bunning	DeMint	Isakson
Burr	Ensign	Johanns

Kyl
Landrieu
LeMieux
Lincoln
Lugar
McCain
McConnell

Murkowski
Nelson (NE)
Pryor
Risch
Roberts
Rockefeller
Sessions

Shelby
Snowe
Thune
Vitter
Voinovich
Wicker

NAYS—53

Akaka
Baucus
Begich
Bennet
Bingaman
Boxer
Brown (OH)
Burris
Byrd
Cantwell
Cardin
Carper
Casey
Conrad
Dodd
Dorgan
Durbin
Feingold

Feinstein
Franken
Gillibrand
Hagan
Harkin
Inouye
Johnson
Kaufman
Kerry
Klobuchar
Kohl
Lautenberg
Leahy
Levin
Lieberman
McCaskill
Menendez
Merkley

Mikulski
Murray
Nelson (FL)
Reed
Reid
Sanders
Schumer
Shaheen
Specter
Stabenow
Tester
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Warner
Webb
Whitehouse
Wyden

The motion was rejected.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. MENENDEZ. I move to lay that motion upon the table.

The motion to lay upon the table was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, and that I be recognized to make some remarks after this very historic vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. SHAHEEN.) Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I wish to thank my colleagues from the bottom of my heart for this vote. This was, in many ways, a turning point for the Senate, because what was before us was unprecedented, the first time we had ever been asked to repeal a health finding, a scientific finding, a finding that was made by scientists and health officials in the Bush administration and the Obama administration.

That finding, as we know, is the predicate, is the basis for curbing pollution, carbon pollution, that we know is harmful to our families. We see what carbon pollution is doing in the gulf, to the wildlife. We know what it is doing to an entire way of life. We know what it is doing to the fishermen, to the people who rely on recreation for jobs, to the people who rely on tourism.

Tonight we had a choice. We could have decided to stand with the polluters, big oil mostly, who were behind the Murkowski resolution, or we could have decided, which we did, to stand with those who are looking out for our kids, the doctors, the physicians who treat them, the pediatricians, the Lung Association, the public health agencies in all of our States.

We did the right thing, and this was important. It also means we are going

to move to alternative energy. We are going to move to the millions of jobs that will come about when we have technologies made in America for America. I want to see the words "Made in America" again. So we are on that path right now.

I want to thank the extraordinary leadership of our leaders, Senators REID and DURBIN. They went that extra mile. I want to thank the staff of the Environment and Public Works Committee, headed by Bettina Poirier, extraordinary staff. I want to thank the cloakroom here and all the people here who helped us make sure that every Senator was able to be heard.

Senator MURKOWSKI and I worked very well together debating this in a civil manner. I want to say, as I note Senator LAUTENBERG standing here, I felt the moment this debate came together was when he came to the floor to make a statement, brief though it was. He talked to us not from his notes but from his heart, about what it means to him as a grandparent to watch a grandchild suffer and struggle through asthma, and as he has noted on this floor on more than one occasion, his family making sure that when this child plays in an athletic tournament or goes somewhere, how close is the emergency room.

This is what we are dealing with today, pollution. And today we said: We stand with the physicians, we stand with the scientists, and we are going to move forward toward a clean energy economy and all of the jobs that will come with it, and all of the technologies that will make America a leader in the world.

At this time I yield the floor to my friend Senator DURBIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

(The remarks of Mr. DURBIN pertaining to the submission of S. Res. 549 are located in today's RECORD under "Submission of Concurrent and Senate Resolutions.")

THE NATIONAL DEBT

Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts. I want to shift gears and kind of get back to business a little bit. Today, I rise to discuss the extension bill we are considering on the floor of the Senate. I will be brief.

As you know, this week our national debt crossed the \$13 trillion mark and is on pace to reach almost \$20 trillion by the year 2015. That is \$20 trillion with a T.

Let's stop for a minute and take note of that amazing number. I know I am the new guy around here, and I will probably be racing you home in a little bit to get back to Massachusetts and New Hampshire, Madam President. But in my short time in Washington, it has been a little unsettling to hear the

words like “billion” and “trillion” thrown with little regard to the impact these incredible numbers have on our economy, both now and in years to come.

For example, yesterday the Federal Reserve Chairman warned us that the federal budget is on an unsustainable path. In 1987, when the national debt was approaching \$1 trillion, then-President Ronald Reagan called it “out of control.” One can only imagine what he would be saying today.

Some on the other side of the aisle argued that voting against the debt extenders is about partisan politics and that borrowing another \$80 billion from China to pay for these programs is somehow just another drop in the bucket.

I have to respectfully disagree. That could not be further from the truth. When, if not now, when our Nation's debt is growing at a record pace with no end in sight, will we as elected officials start standing up and making the hard decisions we were sent here to make? Today I am saying to my colleagues: Please start to tear down the terrible prison of debt we are building for our children, our grandchildren, and our great-grandchildren. We need to start finding ways to pay for things and stop spending so much, stop treating everything as an emergency to try to get around the pay-go rules put in place before I got here.

If we continue down this path of reckless spending and borrowing, I believe—and others do throughout the country—the consequences are dire. To be blunt, the push for higher taxes and more dependence on government debt threatens American leadership in the world as well as our national and economic security. As we continue to borrow more and more from countries that are not necessarily friendly to us, it leads us down a path similar to what we are seeing with the European model as it is decaying before our very eyes.

Look at Greece right now, where unchecked government spending has threatened the financial stability of the entire European Union. We are at a point where soon our excessive level of debt will start to hinder the economic growth we so desperately need to get the economic engine moving and continue to create jobs and be competitive.

Make no mistake, I believe we should temporarily extend unemployment benefits and other measures such as the summer jobs program and address the critical issue of lack of jobs for American citizens. We can and should provide temporary relief for the neediest among us, but we need to find a way to pay for it without taxing or resorting to borrowing more money. The fact is, we could easily pay for these extensions by cutting unnecessary spending such as the nearly \$50 billion of unused, unallocated, or unobligated stimulus funds. Instead we are raising permanent taxes by more than \$50 billion extra, including taxes on entrepre-

neurial businesses and investors, the venture capitalists that hope to be the economic engine and job creators of tomorrow.

The administration and the majority party say these taxes are necessary to help to partially offset this extension, but these taxes are necessary because of our reckless spending habits. During the last 18 months, this administration and the Congress have spent more money than the previous administration spent on Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Katrina recovery combined. It was with straight faces they promised to usher in a new era of fiscal responsibility.

Last year the President and the Congress pushed through an Omnibus appropriations bill that included an 8-percent increase in discretionary spending. This was followed by the infamous, nearly trillion-dollar stimulus bill that has not created one new net job. In fact, the unemployment rate in Massachusetts alone since its passage has increased. The President signed another omnibus spending bill with a 12-percent annual increase and jammed through the trillion-dollar, government-run health care bill that was at great cost and clearly was opposed by the American people.

The problem is on both sides of the aisle. The President has said he would like to go through the Federal budget line by line and identify wasteful programs. By golly, let's do it. Let's do a top-to-bottom review of every Federal program, weed out the waste and fraud and put what is left over to help with these needed programs. In his budget, the President has identified programs to terminate and cuts that would save nearly \$25 billion next year. Let's do it. This could help pay for some of these emergency extensions.

Yet year after year, Congress continues to earmark their special pet projects within the budget without any hope for any type of termination of that practice.

In addition, we need to do a top-to-bottom review of all Federal programs, including the military, and we must get aggressive about reining in waste, fraud, and abuse and demand a clawback of some of the billions in overpayments made to Federal contractors that have been owed to us for many years. Let's use that money to help offset the amount we are trying to pay in the extenders bill. Fraud in Medicare and Medicaid costs the taxpayers more than \$60 billion annually, and the GAO has investigated numerous programs that are failing to fulfill their missions. Yet more money from Congress is given to them each year, year after year. No respectable business would be run this way, not in Massachusetts, not in New Hampshire, not anywhere.

There is no shortage of ways Washington can rein in its excessive spending habits while also funding these worthwhile programs. But it is going to require elected officials to make

hard and even sometimes unpopular choices. If we begin using common-sense steps to get our fiscal house in order, we can absolutely put our country back on a path to fiscal security, get back to fiscal sanity, and get our appetite for spending and borrowing under control. Both are crucial for the fiscal and economic stability of our country.

We can start down the path today by saying no to the extender bill that would add close to \$80 billion to our over \$13 trillion national debt right now, an amount we cannot afford and something our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren will be forced to pay back.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRANKEN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CALL TO ACTION

Mr. FRANKEN. Madam President, I rise to speak about the BP Deepwater Horizon oilspill and the need for comprehensive energy legislation.

We just defeated a resolution that was an attempt to take our country backward in our energy policy at a time when moving forward could not be more critical. We are in the midst of the worst environmental catastrophe in our Nation's history. This oilspill is a tragedy—a tragedy for our environment; our wildlife, which is dying in a coat of crude; a tragedy for the people of the gulf whose land and livelihood have been destroyed and threatened; and a tragedy for the workers on that oil rig who were killed or injured and their families.

My constituents are furious, and so am I. I have gotten over 5,000 calls and letters from Minnesotans demanding action and accountability for this disaster.

Well, let there be no question: BP, British Petroleum, will be held responsible for all costs incurred as a result of this oilspill. The company had no viable plan in place to deal with a spill of this magnitude. It is an outrage, and the taxpayers must not be left holding the bag for BP's failure.

But some losses can never be recovered. Fragile ocean and coastal ecosystems have suffered irreparable harm, with massive losses of birds and fish and damages to wetlands that provide a critical buffer against gulf hurricanes. Fishermen will have no way to support their families in these tough times. And kids will go to the beach only to find sand and water drowned by oil. Worst of all, we can never replace the 11 workers who lost their lives in this tragedy, nor can we hope to fully compensate the families of the victims