

signing of the Central American Free Trade Agreement, I hope we have learned some lessons. I hope, as we observe this 5-year anniversary, as we observe the 10-year anniversary of allowing China, under permanent normal trade relations, into the World Trade Organization—and how they do not play fair as a member of that body, and how we are not willing to stand up to them as a country and force them to play fair—I hope we are learning these lessons, as we have lost too many manufacturing jobs. We were losing manufacturing jobs when our economy was going much better 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 years ago, in part because the Bush administration did not enforce any of the trade laws that could benefit us. But we are, obviously, doing even worse now with this economy. That is why President Obama's actions on some of the CAFTA enforcement of labor rights is so very important. But it does not obviate the need for us to look at these trade laws again to figure out what works and what does not work.

We know what does not work. We know more trade agreements only dig us deeper into a hole. That does not serve American workers. It does not serve those American companies that cannot compete when China games the system on currency and other things, and it does not serve those communities where these businesses are located.

Madam President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I rise today to speak on behalf of Rhode Islanders who are fed up with our inaction to address climate change and to reform our Nation's energy policy.

In the media and in this very Chamber, we have all seen the tactics of deception and delay intended to convince the American public that the overwhelming body of climate science is inconclusive, that there is some doubt about whether our planet is experiencing unnatural changes in its climate. They argue that the American people are not concerned about warming temperatures, rising sea levels, and shrinking glaciers. They imply that business as usual is our best option, that job-creating, clean energy technologies built right here in America aren't worth the trouble or the investment. These voices of deception and delay are simply wrong.

During my time representing Rhode Island in the Senate, I have received thousands of letters and phone calls urging that this Chamber take bold action to price carbon and create clean energy jobs that will fuel our economy for generations to come. Contrary to what detractors would have us think,

the vast majority of my constituents know that continuing to fiddle as the world warms is irresponsible, dangerous, and harmful to our Nation's interests.

Some of the most poignant letters I have received are from students, Boy Scouts, and other young people who are concerned about the future of the planet they will inherit from us. In December, a high school student from Wakefield named Kristin shared her concerns, writing to me:

As a teenager with my whole life ahead of me, I am concerned about the dire consequences of climate change and the impact it will have not only upon Rhode Island, but the whole world.

Kristin says she hopes to stay in Rhode Island for the long term, but she is worried about the impacts rising ocean temperatures may have on the vitality of the fishing industry—a critical economic driver for the Ocean State that she calls home. By continuing to delay climate legislation, we not only damage the Earth for Kristin's generation, we also force her and her peers to be participants in an economy based on unchecked carbon emissions, unwilling contributors to the damage of their planet.

Rhode Islanders also believe they will benefit from comprehensive climate legislation because energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies will be the foundation of a vibrant new clean energy economy.

Doug from Newport recently started a small business designing and installing residential solar panels. He hears from many of his potential customers that they want to reduce their dependence on fossil fuels, especially in light of the BP oilspill down in the gulf. Doug does everything he can to make his product affordable. He helps his customers investigate loan options and tax credits, and he offers prices significantly lower than many of his competitors. Doug's business is a promising one, and he is undaunted by challenges, but at this point he has difficulty competing with dirty fuels such as coal that are allowed to pollute our environment for free, regardless of the costs they impose on the rest of society. Putting a price on carbon pollution would help Doug compete on a level playing field with other fuel sources.

Doug, like other clean energy supporters, has our country's best interests at heart. Doug says he wants to "get it right" by purchasing many of the solar panels from manufacturers in the United States, creating jobs here in America and keeping our energy dollars from flowing overseas. Nonetheless, he says American-made products are often more expensive or even sometimes unavailable. That is because other countries such as China and India are outpacing the United States in the advancement of wind and solar technology while we continue to subsidize coal and oil. We are deliberately losing this race at this point. It is long

past due to make coal and oil start paying for the pollution they create in our environment and to begin investing in clean energy policies that will promote American businesses like Doug's.

Another constituent, Gary from Wakefield, wrote in after hearing that a wind farm in Texas was being built with turbines manufactured in China. He was understandably frustrated that the American economy didn't benefit from the jobs that made-in-America turbines would have generated. Gary demanded to know: "What are we waiting for?"

Rhode Islanders overwhelmingly support energy reform that will create jobs and make polluters pay. Construction workers, small business owners, biodiesel producers, and renewable energy manufacturers wait anxiously for America to start catching up with our competitors around the globe. Schoolchildren want to know that the natural world and all its beauty and diversity will be preserved for their enjoyment and exploration well into the future. Consumers want to reap the benefits of energy efficiency technology that will let them keep money in their pockets that we are now sending overseas to fuel our oil addiction. Faith-based groups want to be good stewards of God's Earth, as they believe mankind is charged to be. Grandparents want to share the world as they have known it with their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

As we move ever closer to the close of the 111st Congress, the question Gary asked rings even louder: What are we waiting for?

I wish to refer to an article in the Wall Street Journal from July 29, 2010, reporting a new assessment that concludes that the Earth has been getting warmer over the past 50 years and the past decade was the warmest on record. It describes the "State of the Climate 2009" report published Wednesday in a special supplement to the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society. It was compiled by 300 scientists from 48 countries, and it drew on 10 climate indicators.

Seven of the indicators were rising: air temperature over land, sea-surface temperature, sea level, ocean heat, humidity—all going up. Three indicators were declining: Arctic sea ice, glaciers, spring snow cover in the northern hemisphere. Those are all declining.

"Each indicator is changing as we'd expect in a warming world," said Peter Thorne, the senior researcher at the Cooperative Institute for Climate and Satellites. The report concluded:

Global average surface and lower-troposphere temperatures during the last three decades have been progressively warmer than all earlier decades, and the 2000s (2000–09) was the warmest decade in the instrumental record.

The scientists reported they were surprised to find Greenland's glaciers were losing ice at an accelerating rate. They concluded that 90 percent of the additional warmth over the past 50

years has ended up in the oceans. They can only absorb so much, and then it begins to affect us directly.

"A comprehensive review of key climate indicators confirms the world is warming and the past decade was the warmest on record," the annual state of the climate report declares.

The amount of increase each decade—about a fifth of a degree Fahrenheit—may seem small. . . . but the temperature increase of about 1 degree Fahrenheit experienced during the past 50 years has already altered the planet, the report said. Glaciers and sea ice are melting, heavy rainfall is intensifying, and heat waves are becoming more common and more intense.

I ask unanimous consent to have these two articles printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Wall Street Journal, July 29, 2010]

STUDY SAYS PLANET WARMED IN 2000S

(By Gautam Naik)

A new assessment concludes that the Earth has been getting warmer over the past 50 years and the past decade was the warmest on record.

The State of the Climate 2009 report, published Wednesday as a special supplement to the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society, was compiled by 300 scientists from 48 countries and drew on measures of 10 crucial climate indicators.

Seven of the indicators were rising, including air temperature over land, sea-surface temperature, sea level, ocean heat and humidity. Three indicators were declining, including Arctic sea ice, glaciers and spring snow cover in the Northern Hemisphere. "Each indicator is changing as we'd expect in a warming world," said Peter Thorne, senior researcher at the Cooperative Institute for Climate and Satellites, a research consortium based in College Park, Md., who was involved in compiling the report.

The report's conclusions broadly match those of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a United Nations body, which published its last set of findings in 2007. The IPCC report contained some errors, which further stoked the debate about the existence, causes and effects of global warming.

The new report incorporates data from the past few years that weren't included in the last IPCC assessment. While the IPCC report concluded that evidence for human-caused global warming was "unequivocal" and was linked to emissions of greenhouse gases, the latest report didn't seek to address the issue.

The report "doesn't try to make the link" between climate change and what might be causing it, said Tom Karl, an official at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration involved in the new assessment.

The report said that "Global average surface and lower-troposphere temperatures during the last three decades have been progressively warmer than all earlier decades, and the 2000s (2000-09) was the warmest decade in the instrumental record." The troposphere is the lowest layer of the atmosphere.

The scientists reported that they were surprised to find Greenland's glaciers were losing ice at an accelerating rate. They also concluded that 90 percent of the additional warmth over the past 50 years has ended up in the oceans. Most of it accumulated in near-surface layers, home to phytoplankton, tiny plants crucial to virtually all life in the sea.

A new study has found that rising sea temperature may have had a harmful effect on

global concentrations of phytoplankton over the past century.

[From the Boston Globe, July 29, 2010]

SCIENTISTS SAY PLANET CONTINUES TO WARM

(By Associated Press)

WASHINGTON—Scientists from around the world are providing more evidence of global warming, one day after President Obama renewed his call for climate legislation.

"A comprehensive review of key climate indicators confirms the world is warming and the past decade was the warmest on record," the annual State of the Climate report declares.

Compiled by more than 300 scientists from 48 countries, the report said its analysis of 10 indicators that are "clearly and directly related to surface temperatures, all tell the same story: Global warming is undeniable."

Concern has been growing in recent years as atmospheric scientists report rising temperatures associated with greenhouse gases released into the air by industrial and other human processes. At the same time, some skeptics have questioned the conclusions. The new report, the 20th in a series, focuses only on global warming and does not specify a cause.

"The evidence in this report would say 'unequivocally, yes, there is no doubt' that the Earth is warming, said Tom Karl, the transitional director of the new climate service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The new report said continued warming is a growing threat.

"The amount of increase each decade—about a fifth of a degree Fahrenheit—may seem small. . . . But the temperature increase of about 1 degree Fahrenheit experienced during the past 50 years has already altered the planet," the report said. "Glaciers and sea ice are melting, heavy rainfall is intensifying, and heat waves are becoming more common and more intense."

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I will conclude by saying it is obviously not going to be easy to address real climate legislation, real clean energy jobs legislation here in this body. The big special interests have their way here far too often. They have spent years salting the fields of public opinion with their propaganda. Their power in this Chamber is immense. We may not have the luxury of waiting to take this on until it is easy. We may have to take this on while it is hard, while it is a fight against the entrenched interests, while it is a fight against the big polluters, while it is a fight against the propaganda and dissimulation and deceit and delay that are their stock-in-trade on this issue. But the one thing I think that can reassure us is that the public is with us, that the facts honestly looked at are clear, that the stakes by any standard are high, and that history's judgment of our failure will be a stern one.

I hope we can pull ourselves together to take on this issue so that the Rhode Islanders who communicate to me so often about this and the people from across this country who see clearly, without the fog of special interest money and influence, what is happening to our country and our world, that their voices are heard more than the big money and the big special interests.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

FIGHTING FOR OUR CHILDREN

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I rise tonight to speak about a topic we speak to on a regular basis, but, frankly, we don't speak about it enough in terms of the priority we should place upon it. That, of course, is the issue and the priority we place upon the children of America. We talk, as we often do in Washington, about how important our children are, but we don't speak about or act in a concerted effort to address some of the most urgent needs of our children, especially in a time of recession.

Fortunately, we are recovering. We have a very high unemployment rate. We have 15 million Americans out of work. In my home State of Pennsylvania, there are more than 591,000 people out of work. But we are recovering. Within a recession, in a time of horrific nightmare, really, for a lot of families, the ones who pay the price in a very severe and substantial way are the children of America. We speak tonight about how they are getting through this recession, how we get them through the shadows of this recession so that we can do everything we can to make sure they are healthy, safe, and ready to learn.

I believe—and I think this is true of most Americans—that every child born in America is born with a light inside them. For some children, because of their circumstances—their family background or other advantages they have—that light inside them is boundless, blinding. You can't even see the reach of it. They have all of the gifts and all of the ability anyone would want, all of the advantages anyone would want. For other children, that light is more limited, more circumscribed. It is limited through no fault of their own, through no fault of that child. When that is the case, as is the case for many American children, it is the duty of every public official—every Federal official, every State official, every county and local official—to use every opportunity they have—and some have more opportunity and more power to impact our children than others, but whatever opportunity you have as a public official, you have an obligation to do everything you can to help children along the way. Whether you are in office for 1 year or 1 month or 10 years or 20 years or longer, every public official has an abiding obligation—I think it is actually a sacred duty—to do everything possible to ensure that the light inside every child burns as brightly as the reach of its potential.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

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

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