

JUDD GREGG

I know others are here. If I can indulge them just for a few more minutes, I would like to make one more speech in praise of another colleague who is retiring, again on the other side of the aisle, and who is a good friend and someone for whom I have had not only great friendship but great respect, and I have served with him a lot on our committees—Senator JUDD GREGG of New Hampshire.

Senator GREGG can be a very effective and persuasive partisan for the conservative causes he holds dear. He also has a strong New Hampshire independent streak and is willing to buck his party when he thinks it is wrong—for example, when he voted against President Bush's Medicare prescription drug benefit bill because it was unpaid for and would add hundreds of billions of dollars to the debt. Indeed, as ranking member and former chair of the Budget Committee, Senator GREGG has been one of the Senate's leading champions of fiscal discipline.

I especially admire Senator GREGG's capacity for reaching across the aisle, building bridges, and getting important work done. On that score, he has represented New Hampshire and the United States at his very best. This quality has made him a standout member of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, which I chair. He forged a very productive working relationship with my predecessor as chair, Senator Ted Kennedy. For example, he played a key role with Senator Kennedy in crafting the bipartisan No Child Left Behind Act, and a few years later, I was proud to work with both of those New England Senators again—especially Senator GREGG—to reauthorize and improve the Americans with Disabilities Education Act.

In 2008, Senator GREGG was a key leader in crafting and forging bipartisan support for the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act. Many have criticized the Troubled Asset Relief Program, TARP, but facts are facts: TARP prevented a total meltdown of our financial system. And almost the entire \$700 billion taxpayer investment has been or soon will be paid back to the U.S. Treasury. In fact, just this week, the Treasury booked a \$12 billion profit on its previous \$45 billion investment in Citigroup.

This year, Senator GREGG has played a key role on the HELP Committee in bringing together Senators from both parties to advance food safety legislation. Frankly, there were many times when sharp policy disagreements threatened the survival of that bill. But at every turn, Senator GREGG played a constructive role in working through the options, crafting bipartisan compromises, and keeping the legislation on track to passage. I have nothing but admiration and gratitude to Senator GREGG for his leadership on the food safety bill, which, as you know, passed the Senate, and because

of a little glitch, the House had to return it, and it is coming back to us on the continuing resolution bill. We will put it on our omnibus bill and send it back to the House. I do not think there is any doubt that this will be signed into law by the President this year.

That is the first modernization of our Food and Drug Administration inspection systems in 70 years—70 years. Again, I wish to publicly thank Senator GREGG for hanging in there over several years' period of time to make sure we kept it on track from one Congress to another, from one Congress to another, up and down, but we finally got it done. As I just said, I have the utmost admiration and gratitude to Senator GREGG for hanging in there and making sure we got the job done.

As many of our colleagues will remember, several years ago, Senator GREGG bought a \$20 Powerball lottery ticket and won \$850,000. Again, we all want to go up and touch him and see if it will rub off on us a little bit. To this day, Senator GREGG is the only person I have ever known who won a Powerball lottery ticket. Well, as we have often said, that was JUDD GREGG's personal good fortune, but it has been our good fortune to have a Senator of his high caliber and character in this body for the last 18 years. During that time, I have placed great store by his friendship and his counsel. Of course, that relationship and friendship will continue, but I am sorry we are going to miss him here in the Senate.

I join with the entire Senate family in wishing JUDD and Kathleen the very best in the years ahead.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, may I first say how proud and privileged I feel to have been on the floor during the distinguished speeches of the senior Senator from Iowa on behalf of his friends and colleagues, many of decades' duration. I am still in my first term here. I know I still have a lot to learn, but one thing I have learned is that this place operates on friendship and that the friendships here are special ones, forged in cooperation, tempered in combat, and sustained in mutual respect. The Senator's eloquent words about our colleagues are a great testament to that fine characteristic of this body. So I felt very touched and pleased to be here.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I am here to draw attention to what I consider to be an urgent need that we include an extension of the Treasury grant program for renewable energy projects in any upcoming tax legislation considered by the Senate. These are called 1603 grants because they were created by section 1603 of the Recovery Act. This grant program has been vital to the renewable energy industry, which creates jobs, promotes

energy independence, and is a vital foundation of the emerging clean energy revolution.

Section 1603 of the Recovery Act allows for cash grants in place of the 30-percent investment tax credit for renewable energy projects. That direct cash payment provides an immediate jump-start to renewable energy projects. Many renewable energy projects were funded using what were called tax equity partnerships, and much of this funding dried up during the recent credit crunch.

The 1603 grant program is a lifeline to renewable energy developers, and it has allowed hundreds of projects to go forward that otherwise would have stumbled or failed. According to the American Wind Energy Association, the cash grants enabled the construction of 10,000 megawatts of new wind capacity in 2009, while just 4,000 megawatts would have been built without the program.

The transition for America to a clean energy economy is long past due. This country has run on the same fuel at basically the same efficiency levels since the start of the Industrial Revolution at the Slater Mill in Pawtucket, RI. This was acceptable maybe in 1900, perhaps even in 1950, but where does it leave us today in 2010? Sadly, it leaves us behind the international competitive curve.

The next big economic revolution—the green, clean energy revolution—will dwarf the digital revolution in terms of jobs and wealth creation. We have heard testimony in this Senate that the Internet is a \$1 trillion industry worldwide, while energy is expected to be a \$6 trillion energy industry. That means jobs. We know other countries are making significant investments in clean energy to claim those jobs and to claim a commanding position in the race for leadership to a clean energy future for our planet.

Half of America's existing wind turbines were manufactured overseas. Of the two wind turbines installed in Portsmouth, RI, one was manufactured by a Danish company and the other by an Austrian company. Meanwhile, our pace of wind turbine installation is also lagging behind. It looks like in 2010, the United States will have installed about one-eighth of the wind power installed by Germany. The United States invented the first solar cell, but we now rank fifth among countries that manufacture solar components. The United States is home to only 1 of the top 10 companies manufacturing solar energy components and to only 1 of the top 10 companies manufacturing wind turbines.

Companies in other countries see the demand for clean energy, and they are moving swiftly ahead of us in the race to meet that demand. An extension of the section 1603 Treasury grant program would help us create and sustain jobs and build the foundation for our long-term economic growth.

A study by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory found that wind energy projects made possible by section 1603 were responsible for more than 55,000 jobs. Extending the grant program would continue this impressive job creation in a sector of promising growth and at a time when it is desperately needed.

Already I have seen the seeds of green innovation take root in Rhode Island. The U.S. Navy is decommissioning part of a naval station in Newport that it no longer needs. Instead of that land going to waste, a Portsmouth developer is planning to convert 85 of these acres for a large solar power energy project. His plans also include an incubator space for renewable energy projects and a green technology museum.

We have a company based in East Greenwich that develops renewable energy technologies and products to maximize energy efficiency. In the past year, the company has filed for patent protection on three different renewable energy technologies, including an exciting new technology that will generate electrical power from wind turbines mounted on boats and marinas.

Another example is Hodges Badge, the largest manufacturer of ribbons, buttons, and medals in the country. It is located in Portsmouth. If your kids have ever won a ribbon at a track meet or a horse show or some other competition, it was probably made at Hodges Badge in Portsmouth. This family-owned company is on track to become the first manufacturer in Rhode Island powered entirely by clean energy, having just broken ground this month on installation of a 149-foot tall wind turbine behind the factory.

Company President Eric Hodges said:

It'll be nice to say we're first, that we're 100-percent renewable. It's a nice marketing message. But really it's because it's the right thing to do.

Putting up the turbine will cost about \$900,000 and Hodges readily admits that he wouldn't have pursued the project if it were not for renewable energy grants from the State and Federal Government. That project and its jobs would be lost. Hodges Badge does the type of traditional manufacturing that Rhode Island has unfortunately been losing for decades, that our country has been losing for decades. Finding a way to save on energy is one way to ensure this company, which has 95 employees in Rhode Island, can succeed and doesn't leave our State. Extending the section 1603 program would proliferate hundreds of small renewable projects across the country.

For example, in Rhode Island the program would help a 100-kilowatt project at a low-income housing project in Portsmouth, a 1.5-megawatt project at a water treatment facility in Jamestown, and a 300-kilowatt solar project in Wakefield. Without the grant program, these types of projects and the jobs associated with them would dry up. That goes for large-scale

projects too. A renewable energy company in Rhode Island has proposed the country's largest offshore wind farm off the coast of Rhode Island, a 200-turbine, 1,000-megawatt project with a goal of starting construction in 2014. This impressive project would provide power to States all along the east coast. We cannot let innovative projects such as these, job-creating projects such as these, entrepreneurial projects such as these, be stopped in their tracks by this bill.

What would extending the Treasury grant program cost? The tax cuts for wealthy Americans that are part of the newly announced tax deal would pay for the extension of the Treasury grant program supporting these renewable jobs 20 times over.

It is time for us to lead again. Just imagine if every one of the wind turbines to be sited in Rhode Island waters and all up and down the Atlantic coast was manufactured in the United States or imagine if we converted brownfields across the country to solar farms, creating a profitable use for this property and bringing jobs to blighted neighborhoods or finally, for a minute, imagine 1 million more manufacturing facilities like Hodges Badge running their assembly lines entirely on solar, wind, geothermal and other renewable energy sources and no longer being held hostage to rising fuel costs. A clean energy economy beckons with vast promise and jobs, efficiencies, and entrepreneurship. We must not, we cannot ignore the call.

I urge our leaders to include in any tax compromise we take up an extension of the renewable energy tax credits and the 1603 program.

I thank the distinguished Senator from Oregon for his patience and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). The Senator from New Hampshire.

START TREATY

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I think most of us believe we should not play partisan politics when it comes to nuclear weapons. But in a speech this morning at the Heritage Foundation, my colleagues, our colleague, Senator JIM DEMINT, claimed the new START treaty weakens our national security. I like our colleague from South Carolina. He has been the ranking member on the European Affairs Subcommittee of the Foreign Relations Committee, which I have chaired for the last 2 years, and we have worked very well together. But on this issue he is just wrong.

Nearly the entire foreign policy and national security establishment, Democrats and Republicans alike, completely disagree with him. Senator DEMINT is arguing that this treaty somehow weakens our national security and limits our strategic options. That argument has little basis in reality and is opposed by every living

former Republican Secretary of State, five former Secretaries of Defense, seven former commanders of our strategic nuclear weapons, foreign policy and national security giants from seven former Presidential administrations and former President George H.W. Bush. All of these national security heavyweights argue the exact opposite of Senator DEMINT, and they all agree the new START treaty strengthens our national security.

The new START treaty has the unanimous backing of America's military leadership and America's NATO allies. According to the most recent CBS news poll, the treaty now has the support of 82 percent of Americans. Now is the time to vote on the new START treaty. No one is rushing this treaty. Since the treaty was signed back in April, the Senate has had 245 days—I want to repeat that, 245 days—to thoroughly review and consider this agreement. After 20 Senate hearings, more than 31 witnesses, over 900 questions and answers, and 8 months of consideration, including a significant delay during the August recess for additional time before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the consensus is clear. New START is in our national security interest, and the Senate should not wait any longer to ratify this treaty.

I ask the opponents of this treaty to consider our broader national security interests. Think about the effect stalling this treaty or publicly rejecting it will have not only on our ability to monitor Russia—because we have had no inspectors on the ground in Russia for over a year now because the treaty expired on December 5, so it has been over a year—but on all of our counterproliferation efforts around the world. Failing to ratify New START this year tells the world we are not serious about the nuclear threat.

I know my colleagues don't want Iran or North Korea or al-Qaida to have the bomb. We have heard that from everyone in this Chamber. Everyone is clear about that. Last week five former Republican Secretaries of State from five former Republican Presidents connected the passage of New START to our efforts on Iran and North Korea.

Again, I ask opponents of this treaty, are ideological goals worth the risk to our national security? Delaying a vote on New START into next year is a dangerous and unnecessary gamble with this Nation's security. I hope the opponents of this treaty will reconsider their opposition and recognize how important it is to this country's security to pass this treaty this year in this Congress.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.