

order to collect more data and analysis and to finalize the rules, so it gives EPA what it says it needs. More specifically, it would provide EPA 15 months from the date of the bill's enactment to repropose and finalize the new boiler rules, which I want to emphasize the EPA has actually already requested at this time. This bill would also extend the compliance deadlines from 3 to 5 years, which would allow companies adequate time to comply with the new standards and install the required equipment.

Crucially, this bill would also direct the EPA to ensure that the new rules are achievable and realistic. We all recognize the vital role the EPA plays in keeping the air we breathe and the water we drink clean and safe. We also need to get some commonsense limits on its actions, and that means putting in place laws that protect Americans against the kind of regulatory overreach that too many unelected bureaucrats in Washington seem to live for these days, especially in these challenging economic times.

As I said, this bill has a lot of support not only from Republicans but from Democrats here in the Senate. In fact, 12 of the bill's cosponsors are Democrats. Like me, they understand and appreciate how these new rules would adversely affect jobs and manufacturing in this country, and they want to work with us to do something about it. So this is the perfect example of an issue on which the two parties actually agree. The perfect example.

Senator RON WYDEN supports this bill because it directs the EPA to go back to the drawing board and craft boiler rules that are more in line with what is realistic from mills and factories, he said. Senator WYDEN argues that the EPA itself has admitted its boiler rules need to be fixed.

Here is how Senator LANDRIEU put it over the summer:

With manufacturing being one of our bright spots in our economic recovery, we cannot afford to jeopardize the industry's health and the high-paying jobs it supplies to this country. This legislation will give the EPA the time extension it needs to craft a balanced approach that not only keeps our environment clean, but also our economy strong . . .

This legislation is supported by the American Forest and Paper Association, the National Association of Manufacturing, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Federation of Independent Business, the Business Roundtable, the Biomass Power Association, and around 300 other business groups. Too many jobs are at stake for the Senate not to act on this legislation that has actually already passed the House. I have previously mentioned an Ohio paper mill where 200 jobs are at stake as a result of this rule. The American Forest and Paper Association says 700,000 jobs in the paper industry alone are also at risk.

The Republican House has done its job. Now it is time for the Senate to act. Let's take up the EPA Regulatory

Relief Act, pass it, and send it on down to the President for his signature.

If Democratic leaders cannot agree to take up and pass legislation the two parties actually agree on, then what will they agree to pass? Let's follow the House's lead and show the American people we can work together on this commonsense, bipartisan bill to protect jobs in American manufacturing.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND GENE HUFF

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, today I pay tribute to a good friend of mine, and a man who has been a good friend of the Commonwealth of Kentucky for decades. Whether as a State legislator, a pastor, an evangelist, a radio station operator, or as a dedicated and loving family man, the Rev. Gene Huff of London, KY, has been a good and faithful servant in his community for many years. He has my respect as a model Kentuckian.

Gene Huff was born October 6, 1929. Before he was 20 years old, he had heard the call to preach and began traveling Kentucky as an evangelist. His wife of nearly 60 years, Ethel, recalls the first time she laid eyes on Gene when he came to preach at her church.

"On March 13, 1949, he came to Newport, Kentucky, to preach his first revival at age 19," Ethel remembers.

It was my home church. I had never seen or heard a teenager preach before, so when I first saw Gene, I wondered what he would be able to tell us. He was so young-looking to be a preacher. But I loved his broad, friendly smile and wonderful voice from the very start. And to my surprise, he really could preach!

At that first meeting Ethel was a 16-year-old church pianist. She must have been smitten with the handsome 19-year-old preacher. They dated for 3 years and were married on July 4, 1952. That same year Gene found a permanent home as a preacher when he became the first pastor at the First Pentecostal Church in London, KY, the church that would eventually become his home for three decades. From 1955 to 1963, he followed some other pursuits, including serving as pastor at the Upper Colony Holiness Church and Carmichael Community Church in London, and at the Deer Park Christian Assembly of God Church in Cincinnati.

He also worked for a time as a public school teacher and a tutor. But in 1963, Gene returned to pastor at the First Pentecostal and remained in that capacity until 1989.

Many Kentuckians have also come to know Gene through his life-long experience in politics. He was first elected to the Kentucky House of Representatives in 1967. In 1971, he won a seat in the Kentucky Senate representing the 21st district and served there until 1994.

I worked with Gene in his legislative capacity over the years and can truly say the people of the 21st district could

not have asked for a more dedicated, loyal, or hardworking senator. Gene was always true and faithful to his convictions in the State senate. He was the leader of efforts to oppose a lottery coming to Kentucky. Although he was ultimately unsuccessful, I know he was proud of waging that fight. He would eventually rise to serve as both the minority caucus chairman and minority floor leader and as the ranking Republican on the Appropriations and Revenue Committee for 14 years. In 2000, he was inducted into the 5th District Lincoln Club Hall of Fame.

Gene continued to serve as a pastor while serving his constituents in Frankfort. In 1974, inspired by his son, Marty, who had seen a presentation on a bus ministry, Gene found four schoolbuses for his church to buy and fix up, and he began running these buses across the region to bring people in to hear him preach at First Pentecostal. They named the four buses Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Before the bus service began, Gene's Sunday school had an average attendance of around 150. Within three months over 400 people were attending Gene's services.

Gene traveled even farther than the back roads of Kentucky when it came to spreading the word. In the 1980s, while serving as a State senator, Gene successfully got a resolution passed to assist persecuted Christians in Romania. Shortly afterwards, Gene traveled to Romania to see the situation there himself firsthand. What he saw so moved him that he began an entirely new phase of foreign missions in ministry. Gene would go on to make 28 trips to Romania, and he and Ethel traveled to 33 countries. In 1990 they formed the Good News Outreach missions organization to support their work in foreign missions. Here's how Ethel puts the effect these trips have had on her and Gene: "Involvement and support of foreign missions has been a beautiful addition to the tapestry of our lives."

As if all this service to both congregants and constituents were not enough, Gene succeeded in many other pursuits as well. He has installed air conditioners and furnaces, repaired washing machines, rebuilt cars, worked in home construction, worked at a car dealership and an ice cream shop, and hauled hay, coal, lumber, and watermelons. He once worked as a travel agent for KLM Airlines. In the 1970s he became part owner of an airplane and earned his pilot's license. On the day he resigned from the State senate in 1994, Gene and Ethel raised a 50,000-watt tower for WYGE, a Christian radio station which he continued to operate until 2007. I remember doing two interviews with Gene on WYGE.

Gene played a key role in seeing the brand-new, state-of-the-art St. Joseph-London Hospital completed, an acute-care hospital that serves a population of over 50,000 in four counties. When construction for the new facility came

to a crossroads a few year ago, it was Gene who brought the community together on a Thanksgiving weekend to lobby for the hospital's completion. I am sure he is proud to see the new hospital and its award-winning cardiovascular services up and running.

Gene Huff is not only a well-rounded man but a well-educated one as well. He enrolled in Sue Bennett Junior College in London in the fall of 1952, beginning a pursuit of higher education that would continue over a period of 25 years. He finished Sue Bennett in 1954 and earned a bachelor's degree from Union College in Barbourville, KY, in 1960. His master's degree was earned at Morehead State University in Morehead, KY, in 1976. He also earned an educational specialist degree there in 1977. He pursued further graduate work at the University of Kentucky. In 1999 Gene was awarded an honorary doctor of public education degree from Union College.

Gene turned 82 years old a month ago, and I certainly hope he took the happy occasion of his birthday to look back proudly at a life filled with achievement. The number of lives he has touched, whether through his preaching, his public service or his warm and steady presence among family and friends cannot be counted.

I had the pleasure of talking to Gene on the phone a few days ago and we got to reminisce about old times. I wanted him to know I was thinking of him and that I am proud of him for his decades of service to his community, to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and to God.

It is an honor to come to Washington to represent Kentuckians such as the Rev. Gene Huff. I am sure no one could be prouder of Gene than his wife, Ethel; their five children, Arlene, Martin, Marsha, Anna Marie, and Jeanie; their 19 grandchildren, their 7 great-grandchildren, and many other beloved family members and friends.

I would ask my Senate colleagues to join me in recognizing Rev. Gene Huff for his lifetime of accomplishment. Kentucky is honored to call him one of our own, and I am honored to call him my friend.

I yield the floor.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period of morning business for up to 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the second half.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I wish to ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Montana, Mr. TESTER, the Senator from Louisiana, Ms. LANDRIEU, and the Senator from Connecticut, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and I have unanimous consent to engage during majority morning business time in a colloquy.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PELL GRANTS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. We have just passed through a very significant landmark in this country which is that student debt, the burden of college loan debt Americans have to carry, broke through \$1 trillion. That is \$1 trillion in debt. And because of the laws that have been set up to favor the banks, in particular in this Congress, the debt is not dischargeable in bankruptcy. That is a \$1 trillion burden on folks who required loans to get through college that they can never shake off that is going to stay with them for their lives, for as long as it takes to pay it down even when things don't work out for them. So it is a very significant milestone when it hits \$1 trillion of this particular kind of very onerous debt.

One of the responses to it is the Pell grant.

The Pell grant helps people who can't afford college have the chance to go to college. It helps them pay their way through college, and it does so without leaving that burden of debt behind. It is named after Senator Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island, a Senator and a man who was very important to me in my life and in my development as a political figure in Rhode Island. He was a very dear friend and went almost inexplicably out of his way for me on many different occasions. I am deeply indebted to him. But I am also extremely proud to represent Rhode Island in the Senate and to represent a State that produced Senator Claiborne Pell and, particularly as we face this massive burden of debt, to come to the floor to participate in this colloquy in support of the Pell grant.

I will turn to my colleague, Senator TESTER, in one moment. First, I wish to say how important this is to individual people who wouldn't have the chance otherwise. I was at the University of Rhode Island just a few weeks ago. I met a woman named Amber, who is 29 years old. She is not the standard "come out of high school and go on to college" student. She is actually a mom. She has two kids. She works full time and she goes to school full time and she is the mother of two kids. This is a very busy person and a very energetic and capable person. The only way she can make things work in her life and enable her to be a full-time mom,

a full-time employee, and a full-time student is because the Pell grant that she gets bridges the gap between what she can earn, what she can borrow, what she has to pay, and gives her the chance to move into the college-educated status.

As we know from looking at this recession we are in right now, there are two economies in America. There is an economy for college-educated people—an economy in which the top unemployment rate is below 5 percent—and then there is the economy for people who have not had the benefit and the good fortune of a college education, for whom unemployment is nearly twice as high and for whom the suffering brought on by the Wall Street meltdown and the subsequent recession has been much more acute.

I will turn now to Senator TESTER. I appreciate so much that he has come to join us today to help our colleagues, I hope, come to the realization that cutting Pell grants as we face our debt and our deficit problem would be a wild mistake, a terrible mistake, would undercut the progress we are trying to make, and would be one of the worst places to go for spending cuts. Even though I admit we need to make them, the Pell grant is the wrong place to look.

I yield to my distinguished colleague, Senator TESTER.

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I thank the Senator from Rhode Island. We appreciate his leadership on the issue of Pell grants. I very much appreciate the opportunity to address Pell grants and what they mean to not only our young people and to the folks who are being retrained to find different lines of work with the economic slowdown but also to our economy in general overall.

If we are going to go to an institution of higher learning at this point in time, it takes money. If Pell grants are reduced or potentially even taken away, as some want, it takes away that opportunity. It takes away that opportunity for upward mobility within our society, within the economy. Without education, if a person is born poor, that person is liable to stay poor. Without education, if a person wants to improve their quality of life, it becomes much more difficult.

When I meet with students, both traditional and nontraditional, around the State of Montana, the first question they ask me or one of the first questions is, What is the Federal Government doing to make college affordable? Because if one is unfortunate enough to be born without economic means, these Pell grants are critically important to be able to allow people—students, young people, folks who need to be retrained—to go to college and get that training, thereby adding to our economy and enabling them to get a better job and potentially become business owners and down the line.

Why is this important? It is because Pell grants have been under attack in the House.