

no one was in it at 5 a.m. The devastation from 175 mile-an-hour winds could be seen all over Harrisburg and the town of Ridgway, where the local Catholic church was devastated.

This decision by FEMA is out of touch with reality—the reality of the damage and the suffering and the reality of this notion that somehow the State and local governments can take care of this.

Historically we have said that when a storm reaches a certain threshold of damage, the Federal Government steps in. In my time in the House and Senate, I have never, ever questioned that decision. I have stepped up to help every State in the Union with disaster assistance, knowing that this could happen to my State.

Now, when FEMA says we don't qualify for Federal assistance, it means that the Small Business Administration is not likely to help businesses in the area with disaster recovery small business loans, for example. As we can see from the photos I have shown, disaster loans are going to be desperately needed by businesses in the area. Harrisburg is going to have a difficult if not impossible time coming back from this disaster without help.

Our State of Illinois can't do it on its own. Governor Quinn and Jonathan Monken have determined that the damage is just too severe for the State. I spoke with the Governor this morning. He is going to appeal the FEMA decision. We are joining him, on a bipartisan basis—Senator KIRK's office is joining our office—to appeal this FEMA decision. Come Wednesday, in my office here in the U.S. Capitol, we are inviting the Administrator of FEMA to come in and make the case as to why this devastation doesn't warrant Federal disaster designation. Sixteen thousand people in these small communities have been displaced from their homes. Local leaders and volunteers have turned up from everywhere, but they can't do it alone. We need to have the Federal Government providing its level of assistance to make sure these communities are made whole, put back together so life can go on. We can never, ever replace the seven lives that were lost, but let's replace the spirit of those communities with Federal, State, and local cooperation.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, before I speak about an amendment I have on the Transportation bill, I wish to commend my friend, the Senator from Illinois, for fighting for his people. I understand what it is like to have devastation happen in a State, and I want to thank him and let him know the people of Michigan certainly stand with the people of Illinois and want to be supportive at a time like this because this could happen to any one of us. So I thank him for being such a champion for the people he represents.

ENERGY TAX EXTENDERS

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support an amendment that will be coming up tomorrow for a vote—a very important amendment for the economy. It is my amendment No. 1812 that would stop a tax increase on American businesses that are creating clean energy jobs by extending the energy tax cuts. These energy tax credits have been so important to stimulating the diversity of opportunity for us in terms of energy sources, and things are beginning to move. It would be such an error to stop or slow this down at this point.

We have right now over 26 different national organizations that have endorsed this, and more are coming, but let me just mention a few. The National Association of Manufacturers, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the American Wind Energy Association, the Solar Energy Association, the Alliance for Clean Energy, Biotech Industry Association, Renewable Fuels—it goes on and on. A number of folks understand that this means jobs, including the United Steel Workers, as well as the Propane Gas Association, the National Electric Manufacturers, the National Wildlife Association, the Sierra Club, the League of Conservation Voters. The list goes on and on. This has broad bipartisan support, including industry workers and those who care very much from an environmental standpoint about what is happening to our country. All have come together to support this amendment to stop a tax increase on our businesses that are creating jobs through clean energy technologies.

All across the country businesses big and small are creating jobs and bringing manufacturing jobs back to America, building the technology that is powering our future. We all understand that part of the next round in terms of growing a strong economy really is around energy—all sources of energy. I am a let's-do-it-all person, but we have to make sure we have energy choices and opportunities for those businesses to grow.

We have entrepreneurs inventing new technology, building plants, hiring workers, producing cutting-edge new products that save consumers money and, importantly, reduce our dependence on foreign oil. Especially now, when gas prices are going through the roof—and believe me, as I drive around Michigan looking at the gas pumps, it is outrageous what is happening right now—when families are struggling more than ever to fill their tanks, we shouldn't be raising taxes on the innovators and the job creators who are helping to lower American families' energy bills, and that is what the vote tomorrow is about.

My amendment does a number of things. It extends current policy that puts in place this new ability to create jobs, energy, get us off the floor and going. It extends this extremely successful advanced energy manufacturing

tax credit that has been called 48C. This is something I was proud to author, working with our chairman of the Energy Committee, Senator BINGAMAN. We have 43 States where businesses have been able to get a 30-percent tax cut for companies that expand, reequip, and build new plants in the United States to produce clean energy technology.

I want to see “Made in America” again, and I know the Presiding Officer does too. This tax cut is what is helping to make that happen.

In Michigan, a number of innovative companies were able to use this tax cut to create jobs, building amazing new products. Here are just a few examples. I was just with the Dow CEO today, someone who is so focused on sustainability and creating energy alternatives. Dow is building solar shingles, among other things, along with new advanced battery technologies.

But the solar shingles are really something to see. They are called the “Power Shingle.” You put them on your roof just like regular shingles. You roll it out and install it just like regular shingles, and they generate electricity for your home or business.

These are new technologies that are creating opportunities for suppliers and small businesses all around the Midland, Saginaw, and Bay City area in Michigan.

Ventower Industries builds huge towers for wind turbines. They just opened their plant down in the southeastern part of Michigan, in Monroe, MI. They expect to build as many as 250 wind turbine towers—the big towers—every year.

On the west side of the State, Energetx Composites used to manufacture luxury yachts. They have turned their facility and their big bays that made those yachts—thanks to the 48C manufacturing tax cut—into a facility that is now producing wind turbine blades and other advanced materials.

My amendment also extends the tax cut for companies that produce energy-efficient appliances; grants in lieu of tax credits; tax cuts for companies that install charging stations for our new, great electric vehicles; tax cuts for companies producing the next generation of cellulosic biofuels, and much more.

It also extends the extremely important production tax credit, this tax cut for wind energy, which supports businesses and utilities that produce electricity from wind.

There are more than 8 million households in the United States that rely on wind energy for their electricity. In South Dakota and Iowa more than 20 percent of their electricity is generated by wind. Nationwide more than a half million jobs are related to wind energy production so far. In my State of Michigan alone there are 31 facilities manufacturing components for wind energy and 6 more in the works. I might just add, one of those great big wind turbines has 8,000 parts, and we

can manufacture every single one of those in Michigan.

When I look at the opportunities around new clean energy manufacturing, I see jobs in every single part for wind, for solar, for electric vehicles. Any of the areas around clean energy creates thousands of jobs.

It is about the future. Now is not the time to raise taxes on these companies. If we do not extend these tax cuts, that is exactly what is going to happen.

Our economy is slowly coming back, as we know, and manufacturing and clean energy business owners have been leading the way. There are nearly 2.7 million people whose jobs depend on this new part of our economy—the clean energy economy. These are good jobs. This is part of moving our country forward so we can compete successfully in the global economy and keep jobs here.

Right now we are in a race with China and Germany and other countries that want to lead the world in clean energy production. They have made clean energy manufacturing a top priority in their tax policy, in their investment strategy. We know, in fact, in China alone they are spending hundreds of millions of dollars every single day trying to beat us in the clean energy production business.

We should not turn our back on the American businesses that are fighting to compete with countries such as China. We should not turn our back on the millions of people whose jobs depend on the strength of these businesses. We should not turn our back on the opportunity to truly diversify our energy sources so we can get off foreign oil and not have to worry about what that price sign is at the pump.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join together on this amendment, to support it tomorrow, to provide certainty for our businesses and our job creators. This has wide backing from business, from labor organizations, from the environmental and clean energy community. It is a chance to come together and create some certainty for a very important and exciting new part of our economy that is critical for us as we climb out of this recession and create jobs for our American citizens.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MOVING AHEAD FOR PROGRESS IN THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume consideration of S. 1813, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1813) to reauthorize Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Roberts amendment No. 1826, of a perfecting nature.

McCain modified amendment No. 1669, to enhance the natural quiet and safety of airspace of the Grand Canyon National Park.

Corker amendment No. 1785, to lower the FY13 discretionary budget authority cap as set in the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 by \$20,000,000,000 in order to offset the general fund transfers to the Highway Trust Fund.

Corker amendment No. 1810, to ensure that the aggregate amount made available for transportation projects for a fiscal year does not exceed the estimated amount available for those projects in the Highway Trust Fund for the fiscal year.

Portman-Coburn amendment No. 1736, to free States to spend gas taxes on their transportation priorities.

Portman amendment No. 1742, to allow States to permit nonhighway uses in rest areas along any highway.

Coats (for Alexander) amendment No. 1779, to make technical corrections to certain provisions relating to overflights of National Parks.

Coats (for DeMint) amendment No. 1589, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to terminate certain energy tax subsidies and lower the corporate income tax rate.

Coats (for DeMint) amendment No. 1756, to return to the individual States maximum discretionary authority and fiscal responsibility for all elements of the national surface transportation systems that are not within the direct purview of the Federal Government.

Coats-Lugar amendment No. 1517, to modify the apportionment formula to ensure that the percentage of apportioned funds received by a State is the same as the percentage of total gas taxes paid by the State.

Blunt-Casey amendment No. 1540, to modify the section relating to off-system bridges.

AMENDMENT NO. 1826, AS MODIFIED AND AMENDMENT NO. 1812, AS MODIFIED

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending Roberts amendment No. 1826 be modified with the changes at the desk and that Senator STABENOW be permitted to modify her amendment No. 1812 with the changes that are at the desk; further, that at noon tomorrow, March 13, the Senate proceed to vote in relation to the amendments listed under the previous order and the following two amendments be the first amendments acted upon, with all other provisions of the previous order remaining in effect: DeMint amendment No. 1756 and Bingaman amendment No. 1759.

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

The amendment (No. 1826) is modified as follows:

SEC. 1013. EXCLUSION.

Section 0101 and Section 0102 shall not apply to the North Atlantic Planning area.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, on Thursday I voted for the Collins amendment No. 1660 to send a message that it is extremely important that Boiler MACT rules be done right. I have heard from manufacturers, paper companies, and the forestry industry all across the State of Michigan who rely on boilers in their plants. While I strongly support efforts to limit air pollution, I am concerned about the

impact of the proposed rules as they are now written on manufacturing businesses and jobs in Michigan.

This amendment is certainly not perfect. I have serious concerns about certain provisions such as the changes to the health-based approach that EPA uses to set emissions rules. This amendment also did not reflect the positive changes that the EPA has already made to the proposed rules. It is my intent to continue working with the EPA as they write their final rules to address the concerns that have been raised by Michigan employers—large and small—and to give our businesses the time necessary to comply with these new emissions rules.

It is critical that the EPA draft rules that protect our environment while also protecting our jobs and our economy.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business.

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

MIDWEST STORMS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I come to the floor again today to resume a conversation with my colleagues about the incredible wave of destructive storms and tornadoes that ripped through my home State of Kentucky, along with several other States in the Midwest, on Friday March 2.

As I have already stated on this floor, these were very severe tornadoes, with at least 11 funnel clouds confirmed to have touched down in the Bluegrass State by the National Weather Service, blowing at wind speeds up to 125 miles per hour.

We now know that these deadly storms claimed 23 lives in Kentucky, and more than 300 were injured. We have heard stories like that of Stephanie Decker, currently in stable condition at the University Hospital of Louisville, who raced home during the storm just in time to hurry her 8-year-old son and 5-year-old daughter into the basement of their three-story, brick-and-stone house.

She covered their tiny bodies with her own as the tornado crashed the house down on top of them. Stephanie has lost one leg above the knee and the other above the ankle, but her children survived without a scratch.

The weekend immediately after the storms I visited the part of Kentucky that was arguably hardest hit by them, the town of West Liberty. The town is home to just 3,400 people—and all 3,400 lives have been thrown into chaos, as virtually the entire population had to be evacuated.

Churches, homes, schools, and businesses are reduced to rubble. The town courthouse and city hall are both in ruins. Basically, this once-thriving,