

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

happy little community is now barely there.

Scenes from West Liberty are replicated across the State in places like Magoffin, Menifee, Kenton, Morgan, Laurel, Lawrence, Martin, Pulaski, Johnson, and Trimble counties, which are among the hardest hit.

And too many Kentucky families are mourning what was taken from them by the storms that can never be replaced.

In Lawrence County, Joyce Chaffins, 65, and her granddaughter, 14-year-old Samantha Wood, died when a tornado struck their home. Samantha was a ninth-grader at Lawrence County High School, where she played in the band and was a member of the National Junior Honor Society.

The storm has also claimed James Gregory Brooks, 48, Donald L. Beemon, 78, and Linda Beemon, 73, of Kenton County.

In Johnson County, in Middle Fork, a tornado ripped the home of Gregory Perry, 20, right off its foundation and carried it over a 25-foot embankment into rushing creek rapids, where, according to the county coroner, the house "just disintegrated."

Gregory was killed, along with Sean Shepherd, a 16-year-old boy from Prestonsburg who had the misfortune of visiting Gregory at the time.

More lives taken by this destructive force of nature include Sherman DeWayne Allen, 49, Debbie Allen, 49; Wilburn Pitman, 81, Virginia Pitman, 73, and Ethel Pruitt, 64, all of Laurel County.

In Morgan County, husband and wife Charles and Betty Sue Endicott, both in their early 50s, were caring for Charles's mother, Elizabeth Endicott, 72, after her recovery from a stroke.

A tornado struck their trailer home, killing all three of them. Charles's sister, Marita Moore, surveyed the scene of destruction and said this: "There's not even a memory left down there."

More Kentucky families who do not deserve such a painful loss include the families of Beverly Bowman, 47, Anita Smith, 53, and Vershal Brown, 79, all of Menifee County; and Alex Clayton Dulin, 86, Emma Dean Cecil, 87, and Wilmer Cecil, 90, all of Morgan County.

In Pulaski County, 74-year-old Helen Placke was found dead in her home. She had sought shelter from the storms inside a closet—but to no avail.

In Kenton County, in the town of Falmouth, Courtney Stephenson died when her car was suddenly lifted and catapulted across six lanes of traffic on I-75. She was 42 years old.

It is sobering and humbling, to think about the many wondrous technologies and abilities we have in this great country—from the medical advances that can place tiny tools into the smallest human capillaries, to our scientific discoveries that enable us to send cameras to the outermost edges of the solar system and actually take pictures of other planets and send them back to Earth.

And yet human life is still so fragile when confronted with the powerful forces of the natural world.

I would be remiss, if I did not conclude my remarks with a note of gratitude—and that is gratitude for the many brave and heroic first responders and other Kentuckians who have rushed to the aid of those hardest hit by these storms.

Over the last week, my office has been contacted by people throughout the country asking how they can help. We have pointed them to various places in the Commonwealth where the people on the ground have coordinated incredible assistance to those in need.

Volunteers from the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, Goodwill, the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association, the United Way, and the business community have come together to provide food, blood, resources, and shelter to those in need. Many churches and civic organizations have taken up collection drives.

And many Kentuckians of good heart, without any prodding, have on their own simply loaded up their cars with bottled water, food, and whatever else they can spare and driven to scenes of tornado wreckage to ask, "How can I help?"

Government has a key role to play as well. FEMA is on the case. And my friend Senator PAUL and I have sent a letter to the President urging him to approve Governor Steve Beshear's request for federal assistance.

The Kentucky State Police have played a vital role in collecting water, food, clothing, and other resources, and distributing them to the communities that need them.

And as always, the Kentucky National Guard is in the foreground of disaster relief. More than 220 members of the Kentucky National Guard and Air Guard were mobilized and deployed to 10 counties after Governor Steve Beshear declared a statewide emergency.

Even in the face of such tragedy, the burden on our hearts is eased by the good will and good works of so many Kentuckians willing to serve and come to the aid of their neighbors. It makes me proud to represent the people of Kentucky in this United States Senate.

REMEMBERING JIMMY LEE VANCE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, today I wish to pay tribute to a man who spent his life working to strengthen his local community and helping the citizens who reside there along the way. Mr. Jimmy Lee Vance of Corbin, KY, encompassed every aspect of a tried and true entrepreneur, and he had the special quality of a generous heart.

Mr. Vance was a religious man who cherished the words of the "red letters" in the Bible, words spoken by Jesus Christ. Those who knew him believe he exemplified the attributes that those letters described, and that it was a creed of love, forgiveness, and grace

by which he lived. Sadly, Jimmy Lee Vance left this world on December 20, 2011, due to complications from cancer. He was 70 years old.

Originally from Hart County, KY, Mr. Vance held an array of jobs before settling down in Corbin permanently. He served his country in the U.S. Navy, and later received a degree in accounting from Western Kentucky University on the GI bill. Jimmy took a job with the Internal Revenue Service's office in Louisville, KY, and then purchased a Corbin CPA firm, which he spent the next few years building up before eventually selling it to Ms. Mary Lynn Long. Next, Jimmy set his sights on the areas of real estate and business management, and in these fields he would make his greatest contribution to the Commonwealth.

Jimmy honed in on the area surrounding Interstate 75 near Corbin. He and his friends put a major effort into breaking new ground and building from the ground up. After years of planning and construction lead by Mr. Vance, Corbin's Exit 25 has become one of the most popular stops on I-75. The restaurants, movie theaters, shopping centers, and hotels just off of the exit bring in thousands of travelers each year, courtesy of Jimmy and his innovation and hard work.

Next came the billboards. Mr. Vance knew that in order to entice travelers to enter the city of Corbin, he had to let them know what was waiting for them. Jimmy was really the first man in the area to get into the billboard business. The billboards undeniably led to massive tourism in the area, and Jimmy knew this. It is amazing that advertising in its simplest form, along with Jimmy's innovative imagination and hard work could combine for such a home-run success for the area's economy.

Mr. Vance was instrumental in virtually every field of business in Corbin. He had helped in large part from his wife Donna Barton, who was one of his best business assets. Together they owned and operated the Landmark Inn, and Donna was notorious for catering to the needs of all the Landmark Inn's guests. The couple's customer service was unmatched, and the family atmosphere they provided was an experience unlike any other to the people who would stay the night while traveling on I-75.

Along with hotels, Jimmy was responsible for bringing many different businesses to the area, which resulted in hundreds of new jobs for the residents of Corbin. But what truly stood out about Jimmy to the locals was his remarkable character. One Corbin-area leader said, "Sometimes when Jimmy and I had lunch, someone would come up needing money for a meal or pay bills, and Jimmy without any fanfare gave them help. Those were things about Jimmy you didn't read in the papers."

Jimmy Lee Vance was a humble servant of God, a beloved family man, and