

John, who had virtually no experience in the energy sector, moved to Maine and joined Central Maine Power, or CMP, as CEO in 1984—as the company was confronting unparalleled challenges. It was also after he came to CMP that my husband, the former Governor of Maine Jock McKernan, and I first met John.

In Maine, John quickly demonstrated exceptional business acumen and quickly altered the discussion in Maine from one of confrontation to one of collaboration that involved regulators and the rest of the business community. He carried that experience forward to New England Electric Systems where he became a forceful voice for deregulation of the electricity markets in the 1990s. Always a strong proponent of increasing competitiveness in the electricity market, John realized that the electricity industry was on course toward a new paradigm when he remarked to the Bangor Daily News in 1995, “We’re on a route to increasing competition, and that is unlikely to be turned around.”

John steadfastly maintained that ideology throughout the rest of his career, and while he left Maine and New England for his work at Exelon and its predecessor, Unicom, he indisputably continued to influence public policy throughout the country—garnering him numerous industry accolades, including Edison Electric Institute’s Distinguished Leadership Award, the Keystone Center Leadership in Industry Award, Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce Burnham Award for Business and Civic Leadership, as well as an induction to the Chicago Business Hall of Fame. But most invaluable to the Nation has been his ever-steady and thoughtful commentary on the development of sensible policies that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions while providing certainty for business investments.

Rather than challenging regulations, John has led the effort to replace antiquated Clean Air Act rules with market-based solutions that provide environmental dividends at a reduced cost to industry and consumers. Specifically, as cochair of the National Commission on Energy Policy, he developed the report, “Ending the Energy Stalemate,” which called for increasing and reforming fuel economy standards, addressing climate change through a mandatory market-based trading program, and increasing the development and distribution of energy-efficient products.

Specifically, the report stated that, “improving passenger vehicle fuel economy is by far the most significant oil demand reduction measure proposed by the Commission.” As a coauthor of the “Ten-in-Ten” Fuel Economy Title of the 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act, I took these recommendations to heart, and with Senator FEINSTEIN, embarked on an initiative to achieve historic fuel economy standards based upon this law—which, given the increasing prices for gasoline, could not be more imperative.

However, John’s true expertise, starting with his initial effort to stop the campaign to close a nuclear plant in Maine, focuses on developing a regulatory environment that provides safe nuclear power to consumers. As the operator of the largest nuclear fleet in the United States, John has meticulously worked to address the current challenges confronting additional nuclear power in the United States, while also preemptively positioning the industry for unanticipated impediments. The American nuclear power fleet is the safest in the world in part because of his unparalleled contributions.

At a time when trust of institutions, companies, and public policymakers has eroded, it is difficult to lose John’s voice as a head of one of the most influential companies in the United States. John has always demonstrated a trust with his colleagues as well as policymakers, and I look forward to watching his continued contributions following his retirement as chief executive officer of Exelon.

I wish John and his wife, Jeanne, the very best in the next chapter of their lives, and I look forward to continuing to work with an individual who believes in cost-effective development of clean energy in the United States, is champion of competition, and is committed to responsibility throughout society.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JAMES MCCORMICK

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, last week, an extraordinary West Virginian, James McCormick, received a national award, Citizen Service Before Self Honors, from the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation. This nonprofit is dedicated to education and awareness about the Congressional Medal of Honor. James McCormick was recognized by this distinguished group for his extraordinary commitment to his fellow veterans. Mr. McCormick returned from service and rather than thinking of just himself, he realized that his fellow veterans needed to work and they needed housing.

His deep understanding of the needs of returning veterans led to the creation of his nonprofit, Raising Cane Farms. The vision is simple but important. Raising Cane Farms is an organic, environmentally friendly farm located in Mason County, WV, that grows and market bamboo for multiple uses, including sales to manufacturers of bamboo products, produce sellers, restaurants, and landscapers. But beyond that, the farm will also serve as an educational facility and place to employ veterans and provide quality jobs in an outdoors, veteran-friendly environment using both the outdoors and fellowship with other veterans to help them recover from combat disabilities.

Raising Cane Farms has been helped by dedicated partners including the Farmer Veteran’s Coalition, FVC, that

provided support to clear the land, build roads, establish a watering system, and build a greenhouse. Other partners include Work Vessels for Veterans, which helped with funding for a trailer, marketing and Web development support, and important introductions to other veteran farmers including Veteran Farm’s pioneer Adam Burke.

As the longest serving member of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee, I am deeply moved by the courage of our veterans and their ongoing service to our country and their colleagues. James McCormick is such an inspiration.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:50 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5. An act to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system.

H.R. 1339. An act to designate the City of Salem, Massachusetts, as the Birthplace of the National Guard of the United States.

At 1:54 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4281. An act to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a multiyear law reauthorizing such programs.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 6:23 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Bias, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY) has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 4281. An act to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a multiyear law reauthorizing such programs.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. REID).

### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1339. An act to designate the City of Salem, Massachusetts, as the Birthplace of the National Guard of the United States; to the Committee on Armed Services.

### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 5. An act to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system.

### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5516. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Division of Swap Dealer and Intermediary Oversight, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Commodity Pool Operators and Commodity Trading Advisors: Compliance Obligations" (RIN3038-AD30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5517. A communication from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tuberculosis in Cattle and Bison; State and Zone Designations; New Mexico; Correction" (Docket No. APHIS-2008-0124) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5518. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bacillus pumilus strain GHA 180; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9343-1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5519. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Cooperative Threat Reduction Programs (DCN OSS-2012-0407); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5520. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Defense's fiscal year 2010-2018 Strategic Workforce plan; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5521. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual Developing Countries Combined Exercise Program Report of Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2011; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5522. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Secretary's personnel management demonstration project authori-

ties for Department of Defense Science and Technology Reinvention Laboratories; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5523. A communication from the Principal Military Deputy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Research, Development and Acquisition), transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification of plans to donate the destroyer ex-EDSON (DD 946) to the Saginaw Valley Naval Ship Museum for permanent berthing and public display in Bay City, Michigan, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2012; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5524. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001, with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5525. A communication from the Chief of the Recovery and Delisting Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Establishing a Manatee Refuge in Kings Bay, Citrus County, FL" (RIN1018-AX27) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2012; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5526. A communication from the Deputy Chief of the National Forest System, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the detailed boundary for the Allegheny Wild and Scenic River in Pennsylvania, added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5527. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maine; Regional Haze" (FRL No. 9652-1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5528. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Quality Assurance Requirements for Continuous Opacity Monitoring Systems at Stationary Sources" (FRL No. 9653-3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5529. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Amendment to HFO-1234yf SNAP Rule for Motor Vehicle Air Conditioning Sector" (FRL No. 9651-3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5530. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Listing and Designation of Critical Habitat for the Chiricahua Leop-

ard Frog" (RIN1018-AX12) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5531. A communication from the Chief of the Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revised Endangered Status, Revised Critical Habitat Designation, and Taxonomic Revision for *Monardella linoides* ssp. *viminea*" (RIN1018-AX18) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5532. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Terrestrial Environmental Studies for Nuclear Power Stations" (Regulatory Guide 4.11, Revision 2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5533. A communication from the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, a legislative proposal relative to amending the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 and the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5534. A communication from the Acting Director of Human Resources, Office of Human Resources, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Administrator for Toxic Substances, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5535. A communication from the Acting Director of Human Resources, Office of Human Resources, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Administrator for Toxic Substances, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5536. A communication from the Chief of the Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interest on Untimely Paid Vessel Repair Duties" (RIN1515-AD74) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 23, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5537. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to the Congress on the Implementation of the Medicare Self-Referral Disclosure Protocol"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5538. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Plan to Implement a Home Health Agency Value-Based Purchasing Program"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5539. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the establishment of a Danger Pay Allowance for Nigeria; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5540. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, certification for the export of defense