

CYBERSECURITY

Mr. President, technology has changed our world, and that is an understatement. It has changed the way we shop, the way we bank, even the way we travel. It changes the way we get information, and that is an understatement, and the way we share it, and that is an understatement.

It was about 10 years ago or so that I decided to sell my home here in the suburbs, and I was stunned by one of my boys telling me: Hey, Dad, do you want to find out what other homes have been selling for around that area? Give me about a minute. And they pulled up on the computer every home in that area that had been sold in the last 2 years—when, how much.

There was even more detail than that. I was like: How do you do that? That was 10 years ago. That was in the Dark Ages with technology. There is so much that can be done now. Somebody can go online, go to Amazon, they can buy virtually anything in the world on that one Web site.

I met with someone a couple weeks ago who had gone to work with Google when they had 15 employees, and he talked to us about the tremendous problems they had starting this company. They wanted to give people information. I will not go into all the details, but it was very difficult to come up with the Google that now exists. It was not there when there were 15 employees.

They were working all night long trying to shut down computers and keep others going. So it is amazing what we have on the computer. Everyone can do it. Who wrote that song? What is the name of that play? What is the capital of Uzbekistan? Go to our BlackBerry. Go to whatever we have and get it in a second.

So the way we get information, the way we share it, has changed so dramatically. It has changed the way our country protects itself. That is not something people understand as well as Google and Amazon. But the way we protect our country has changed. It has changed the type of attacks we have to guard against.

Some of the top national security officials, including GEN Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, GEN David Petraeus, four-star general, now head of the CIA, one of America's great patriots, and Leon Panetta, Secretary of Defense, have all said that malicious cyber attacks are the most urgent threat to our country, not North Korea, not Iran, not Pakistan, not Afghanistan but cyber attacks. We have already seen some of these. They have been kind of quiet to some but not to those in the security field.

We have seen cyber attacks on our nuclear infrastructure, our Defense Department's most advanced weapons, and the stock exchange Nasdaq had an attack. Most major corporations have been attacked. They spend huge amounts of money protecting their

products or their operations from not collapsing because of cyber attacks.

Cyber attacks do not threaten only our national security, they threaten our economic security. These attacks cost our economy billions of dollars every year, millions of dollars every hour, and thousands of jobs. So we need to act quickly to pass legislation to make our Nation safer and protect American jobs.

The Defense Department, Department of Homeland Security, and experts from across the intelligence community have issued chilling warnings about the seriousness of this threat. I cannot stress enough how concerned people who understand security feel about this. Just a few days ago, Senator MCCONNELL and I received a letter from a remarkable bipartisan group of former national security officials, Democrats and Republicans.

The group includes six former Bush and Obama administration officials: Michael Chertoff, who has been a circuit court judge, judicial scholar, became head of the Department of Homeland Security during some very difficult times we had in this country; Paul Wolfowitz, who has been advising Presidents for decades; ADM Mike McConnell; GEN Michael Hayden; GEN James Cartwright, William Lynn, III. That is who signed the letter, and I could give a short dissertation on every one of these individuals about what they know about the security of our country.

The letter presented the danger in stark terms, as stark as I could ever imagine. This is a public letter. Listen to what this one paragraph says: "We carry the burden of knowing that 9/11 might have been averted with intelligence that existed at the time."

Listen to that. They are admitting 9/11 could have been averted with the tools we had at hand. They go on to say:

We do not want to be in the same position again when "cyber 9/11" hits—it is not a question of whether this will happen; it is a question of when.

This is not me saying this. This is General Hayden, who was the head of the CIA, briefing us many times about some of the most sensitive matters going on during the height of the Iraq war, Marine GEN James Cartwright, Defense Department expert William Lynn, III.

This eminent group called the threat of a cyber attack imminent. What does imminent mean? It means now. They said it "represents the most serious challenge to our national security since the onset of the nuclear age sixty years ago."

Let me reread that. They said it "represents the most serious challenge to our national security since the onset of the nuclear age sixty years ago." They said it; I did not. The letter noted that the top cybersecurity priority is safeguarding critical infrastructure: computer networks—we talked about those a little bit already. But computer

networks that control our electrical grid, our water supply, our sewers, our nuclear plants, energy pipelines, communication systems and financial systems and more.

Because of Senator MIKULSKI—she was the one who said this was important—we did this. We went down to this classified room. We had a briefing on an example of what would happen to New York City if they took down the computer system to run that State's electricity. It would be disastrous, not only for New York but for our country.

These vital networks must be required to meet minimum cybersecurity standards. That is what these prominent Americans believe, and so do I. The letter was clear that securing the infrastructure must be part of any cybersecurity legislation this Congress considers. I believe that also.

GEN Keith Alexander, Director of the National Security Agency, has said something very similar. This is what he wrote to Senator MCCAIN recently:

Critical infrastructure protection needs to be addressed in any cyber security legislation. The risk is simply too great considering the reality of our interconnected and interdependent world.

General Alexander is one voice among many. President Obama; the nonpartisan Center for Strategic and International Studies Commission on Cyber Security; the two Chairmen of the 9/11 Commission, Governor Kean and Congressman Hamilton; the Director of National Intelligence, General Clapper; the Director of the FBI, Robert Mueller, have all echoed a call to action—not sometime in the distant future but now. They believe the attack is imminent.

The attack may not be one that knocks down buildings, starts fires that we saw on 9/11, but it will be a different kind of attack, even more destructive. The entire national security establishment, including leading officials of the Bush and Obama administrations, civilian and military leaders, Republicans and Democrats, agree on the urgent need to protect this vital infrastructure.

That is only part of it. Yet some key Republicans continue to argue that we should do nothing to secure the critical infrastructure, that we should just focus on the military. When virtually every intelligence expert says we need to secure the systems that make the lights come on, inaction is not an option. A coalition of Democrats and Republicans, including the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, Senator LIEBERMAN, and the ranking member, Senator COLLINS; the chairman of the Commerce Committee, Senator ROCKEFELLER—remember, Senator ROCKEFELLER was for years chairman of the Intelligence Committee and/or the ranking member; Senator FEINSTEIN, now the chair of the Intelligence Committee, have joined together and proposed one approach to address the problem. It is legislation. It is not something that is theoretical. It is not an issue paper. It is legislation.

Their bill is an excellent piece of legislation. It has been endorsed by many members of the national security community. It is a good approach, and it would make our Nation safer. But there are other possible solutions to this urgent challenge. Unfortunately, the critics of the bill have failed to offer any alternatives to secure our Nation's critical infrastructure.

The longer we argue over how to tackle these problems, the longer our powerplants, financial system, and water infrastructure go unprotected. Everyone knows this Congress cannot pass laws that do not have broad bipartisan support. There are 53 of us, 47 of them. So we will need to work together on a bill that addresses the concerns of the lawmakers on both sides of the aisle.

But for that to happen, more of my Republican colleagues need to start taking this threat seriously. It is time for them to participate productively in the conversation instead of just criticizing the current approach. There is room for more good ideas on the table, and I welcome the discussion of any Republican generally interested in being part of the solution.

The national security experts agree. We cannot afford to waste any more time. The question is not whether to act but how quickly we can act. I put everyone on notice. We are going to move to this bill at the earliest possible date.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

Under the previous order, the following hour will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half.

The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, before I talk about the production tax credit which brought me to the floor, I wish to associate myself with the leader's remarks.

I have the great privilege to sit on the Armed Services Committee and the Intelligence Committee. The leader has put his finger on what should be a singular focus on the part of the Senate. We have been warned about the threats in the cyber domain. It is time to act. There are plans that are concrete, focused, and have great support. We should act as soon as we possibly can. I wish to thank the leader for bringing that to our attention.

WIND POWER'S FUTURE

I rise to talk about a very important issue for the economies of both my State and the entire Nation. That is the future of the wind power industry in the United States and a future that is at risk, I might add, if Congress does not extend the production tax credit for wind. Such inaction jeopardizes U.S. jobs and threatens what is a real bright spot for American manufacturing. Such inaction is not acceptable

to the people in my home State of Colorado, nor, I believe, to Americans more broadly.

Many of us know—I think all my colleagues know—that we have seen the wind industry grow by leaps and bounds over the last few years. According to the Wind Energy Industry Association, the industry has attracted an average of over \$15 billion annually from 2001 to 2011 in private investment in our wind sector in the United States.

In 2009, that figure was \$20 billion, when 10,000 megawatts, the highest annual total to date of wind, was installed. Seventy-five thousand hard-working Americans find good-paying jobs in the wind sector. There are 6,000 of those jobs in Colorado. So I am not unbiased, but when we look around the country, nobody should be unbiased.

Those jobs also have a positive ripple effect on all these communities where they are based. In just over the last 4 years, wind represented 35 percent of all new power capacity in our country, second only to natural gas. With technology advances, wind turbines are now generating 30 percent more electricity per turbine, which means they are producing more energy while driving down cost.

This also means all Americans from the Great Plains to the eastern shores have access to more affordable, reliable, and secure clean energy. That is a win-win. It is little wonder our constituents are demanding we extend the wind production tax credit. I wish to say this industry and the good news that is coming out of it could not have come at a better time for our manufacturing base, which has seen relentlessly tough times over the last few years.

The wind industry is cutting against the grain. It is creating manufacturing jobs at a time when many companies are outsourcing jobs. This chart gives a great picture of what has been happening all over the country. We see every sector of the country where we have wind manufacturing jobs.

At the end of last year, the wind industry included almost 500 manufacturing facilities that employ 30,000 people spanning 43 States. We have wind projects in a vast majority of States—38 out of 50. Last year alone over 100 different wind projects were installed—ranging from a single turbine to over 4,000-megawatt capacity plants.

Back in 2005—7 years ago—we had only five wind turbine manufacturers. But with steady and consistent growth and government policy support and certainty, the number of domestic and international manufacturers grew to 23 at the end of 2011. That is a key factor, the certainty that has been provided that will help this industry continue to grow jobs.

At a time when our economy is still coming back after the 2008 recession, and we are facing stiff competition from other countries, the wind industry is a dynamic example for how we

can grow manufacturing jobs and investment in our country. When I started, I mentioned the wind production tax credit, the PTC. It has been a key factor in this growth, central to this young industry—and it is still a very young industry—and its success in America by helping make wind energy more economical, which is still being commercialized.

This critical tax credit expires at the end of this year. Unless we act now in this Congress to extend the wind production tax credit, we risk losing this industry as well as the jobs, the investment and manufacturing base it creates, to our competitors in China, in Europe, and other countries. That is the last result we need in our economy.

I have come to the floor to urge the Congress to keep our country an open marketplace for innovative energy industries and for new investments. The United States is on the cutting edge of renewable energy technologies and on a path to further secure our energy independence. We have to maintain that momentum by passing an extension of the wind production tax credit.

In fact, it is so important—this extension—that I am planning to come to the Senate floor every morning until we get our act together and extend the PTC—not just for Colorado but for every State in our country. I plan to talk about the importance of wind energy in a different State every time I come to the floor. I look forward to talking about the State of the Presiding Officer, the State of Delaware.

I hear every day from Coloradoans who are incredulous that we have not acted to extend this commonsense tax credit. We need to be reminded that American jobs are at stake if we fail to act.

Simply put, if we don't extend the PTC as soon as possible, the wind industry will shrink significantly in 2013. Estimates are that we can lose almost half of the wind-supported jobs, down from 78,000 in 2012 to 41,000 in 2013.

If we fail to extend this tax credit, total wind investment is projected to drop by nearly two-thirds, from \$15.6 billion in 2012 to \$5.5 billion in 2013. That is simply unacceptable. Luckily, I am not alone in this effort. There is strong bipartisan support in the Senate for the extension of this tax credit. Yes, this is one of those occasions where we are talking about legislation that is supported by Members of both parties.

Senator GRASSLEY, a Republican Senator from Iowa—along with myself and seven other Democrats and Republicans—introduced a bill earlier this year to extend the tax credit. Senator JERRY MORAN, a Republican Senator from Kansas, and I led 12 Members from across the country and both sides of the aisle in urging our Senate leadership to work with us to extend the PTC as soon as possible.

We have not seen that happen yet, Mr. President. Instead of addressing this bipartisan proposal which has been