

for our society. In Denmark, college education is virtually free, including graduate school and medical school.

At a time when in our country millions of people are overworked and underpaid; at a time when we work some of the longest hours of any people in the industrialized world, when people in Vermont are working not 40 hours a week but 50 hours a week, 60 hours a week; at a time when people are not working one job but two jobs, three jobs, trying to cobble together an income; at a time when some employers are hiring people and providing zero vacation time or maybe, if one is lucky, a week off, how does it happen that in countries such as Denmark people not only get 5 weeks' guaranteed paid vacation, but they get another 11 vacation days?

In this country, we talk a lot about family values. However, if you are a working-class woman having a baby, you will get some maybe. If you are working for a large enough employer, family medical leave may have an impact and you may get some time off to have the baby, but you can't stay home very long to take care of your newborn because you will not have any money coming in. Millions of folks have a baby and go right back to work, putting the child back in childcare when they would prefer otherwise. How does it happen in countries such as Denmark that women get 4 weeks off, fully paid before they give birth, and then months off afterwards to stay home with the baby, not to mention three-quarters payment from the government for childcare, while we so poorly manage that?

I think it is time we have a serious discussion about values, and that discussion has to include whether we feel good about the fact that in this country so few have so much and so many have so little.

Do we feel comfortable with the growing imbalance in terms of income and wealth such that the top 1 percent owns 38 percent of the wealth and the bottom 60 percent owns only 2.3 percent, and the gap between the billionaire class and everybody else is growing wider?

As the Pope asked: Are we comfortable with a financial system where the goal is not to invest in the productive economy but to make money for itself, such that the top six financial institutions in this country have assets equivalent to some 70 percent of the GDP of the United States—some \$9 trillion—and enormous political power?

This IRS business people are talking about on the floor of the Senate is related to the absurd campaign finance system we have where big companies can secretly put hundreds of millions of dollars into the political process. Are we comfortable with a political system where people can make contributions in secret that end up in the political process and then end up on a 30-second ad on our TV—money coming from billionaires who don't have to disclose their contributions?

So when we talk about values, it is important to assess who we are as Americans and what we believe in. I believe most Americans believe we have to do a lot better job at focusing on the needs of the declining and disappearing middle class; that we have to create millions of jobs so our young people do not have outrageously high levels of unemployment and older people who lose their jobs have nothing to go back to; that we have to address the issue of high childhood poverty; and we have to, in fact, make sure government works for all of the people and not just the people on top.

I would just conclude by recommending to the Members and to the American people they examine the remarks made this morning by Pope Francis, which I think raise some very important issues. I think there is a lot to be learned from those remarks.

With that, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

WORKER PROTECTION

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, 50 years ago, in August 1963, Martin Luther King wrote, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

When a factory full of human beings collapses in Bangladesh, it matters in Bucyrus and Boardman and Bellefontaine. When the concrete ceiling of a shoe factory crumbles in Cambodia, it matters in Celina and Canton.

Earlier this month we observed Workers Memorial Day. We paused and remembered those Americans who had lost their lives on the job. We honor their memories by passing laws to help ensure no other child waits by the door for a mother or a father who will never return home from work.

Out of the ashes of the Triangle Shirt Waste Factory fire 100 years ago in New York City, we fought and won workplace safety reforms that have helped save countless lives decade after decade in our country. Yet even though we have passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, even though we have a National Labor Relations Board, we still have a moral responsibility to be vocal about violations to worker safety wherever it happens—whether it happens in Cleveland, in Honolulu, or in Bangladesh.

We are interconnected with this world. Our economy is linked to the women and children—to the people—whose names we don't know, the workers we don't know, who sew labels we all know in our shirts and in our sweaters. American and European retailers purchase some two-thirds of Bangladeshi garment production.

That is why, Mr. President, in the aftermath of the deadly Rana Plaza collapse in Bangladesh and the Wing Star Shoes collapse outside of Phnom Penh, we might have expected outraged American companies to take action. That is not exactly what happened. Which member of this multibillion-dollar industry will speak out for workers who face hazardous conditions for a minimum wage—in many cases of just \$38 per month—making the clothes we wear in this country?

Today, Leader REID, Senator HARKIN of Iowa, DURBIN of Illinois, LEVIN of Michigan, LEAHY of Vermont, MURRAY of Washington State, ROCKEFELLER of West Virginia, and I sent a letter to some of our leading American retailers. We are urging retailers such as Walmart to sign onto a legally binding global accord to help ensure worker safety in Bangladesh. We are asking a number of the largest retailers in America to sign onto this legally binding global accord to help ensure worker safety in Bangladesh.

Remember, as Dr. King wrote some 50 years ago, injustice anywhere threatens our ability to create a more just world. Signing this accord from our retailers is one step our leading retailers can take to help us usher in a new era of justice in this new century.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COWAN). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask consent to speak for up to 15 minutes as in morning business.

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

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am back again to remind this body and the American people for what I think is perhaps the 32nd speech on this subject that I have been giving weekly, that it is time, indeed it is well past time, for Congress to wake up to the disastrous effects of global climate change. The famous Mauna Loa Observatory has for the first time ever hit 400 parts per million of carbon in the atmosphere. That is an alarming benchmark to have hit.

What is happening? Over on the House side today they are repealing ObamaCare for the 37th time. That is the level of seriousness in Washington right now. In particular, our oceans—the Presiding Officer represents the Bay State, I represent the Ocean State—our oceans face an unprecedented set of challenges that come from climate change as well as from pollution and energy exploration and more.

We just have to look around to see it. We can look up to the far north and see that the Arctic ice is melting. Indeed, last summer sea ice extant in the Arctic Ocean hit a record low.

If we go south to the tropic seas, we will see that live coral coverage on Caribbean reefs is plummeting. It is down to less than 10 percent today. If we go to the top of the food chain, we will see marine mammals so laden with PCBs, flame retardants, mercury, and other bioaccumulative pollutants that many of them are swimming toxic waste—living, swimming toxic waste.

If we go to the very bottom of the food chain, we will see that the population of phytoplankton—some of our smallest ocean inhabitants and the basic building block for the oceanic food chain—has dropped 40 percent during the 20th century.

If we go far away from where we are, we will reach the great Pacific garbage patch, which is growing and swirling about the northern Pacific Ocean.

Close to my home—and near the Presiding Officer's home—is Narragansett Bay, which is 4 degrees warmer in the winter than it was a few decades ago.

Globally, the most threatening challenge, and the force behind many others, is ocean acidification. Our oceans have absorbed more than 550 billion tons of our carbon pollution. Try to wrap your head around a number that big. That is the carbon the ocean has absorbed from the excess we have pumped into the atmosphere.

The result is pretty clear, and it is a matter of basic chemistry. The oceans have become more acidic. Indeed, they have become 30 percent more acidic. By the way, that is a measurement, not a theory.

By the end of this century, the increase could be as much as 160 percent more acidic. That makes life a lot harder for species such as oysters, crabs, lobsters, corals, and even those plankton that comprise the base of the food web.

Ocean temperatures are changing dramatically—also driven by carbon pollution. Sea surface temperatures in 2012, from the Gulf of Maine to Cape Hatteras, were the highest ever recorded in 150 years. By the way, that is another measurement.

Fish stocks are shifting northward with some disappearing from U.S. waters as they move farther offshore. As we know, when the temperature rises, water expands in volume. On top of that, fresh water pours out of Arctic snowpacks and ice sheets that are melting, and as a result sea levels are rising.

Tide gauges in Newport, RI, show an increase in average sea level of 10 inches since 1930. That is a big deal when we in Rhode Island think of how devastating the great hurricane of 1938 was to our shores and what more would now befall us with 10 more inches of sea for such a storm to throw at our shores.

At these tide gauges, measurements show not only the sea level rising but

the rate of sea level rise is increasing. This matches reports that since 1990, the sea level has been rising faster than the rate predicted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

I have said before: We will continue to take advantage of the ocean's bounty, as we should. We will trade, we will fish, and we will sail. We will extract fuel and harness the wind. We will work our oceans. Navies and cruise ships, sailboats and supertankers will plow their surface. We cannot undo this part of our relationship with the sea. What we can change is what we do in return. For the first time we can become not just takers but caretakers of our oceans.

We are beginning to take some baby steps. Last week, the Senate voted 67 to 32 to authorize a national endowment for the oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes, which is a funding stream for research, restoration, and protection of our marine and coastal resources. I hope that before long we can find a way to fund it by working with all of my colleagues. The famous ocean explorer Bob Ballard has described as "a major problem . . . the disconnect between the importance of oceans and the meager funds we as a nation invest to not only understand their complexity, but become responsible stewards of the bounty they represent."

This endowment—if we can get it over the remaining legislative hurdles and get it funded—will help us become more responsible stewards of that bounty. It will help us better respond to oil spills, it will help coastal States protect or relocate coastal infrastructure, and it will help our fisheries and marine industries take part in economically important conservation efforts.

I sincerely appreciate the support shown for this amendment by colleagues from every region of the country and both sides of the aisle. Protecting the oceans upon which our communities and our economy depend is neither a Democratic nor a Republican objective, and there ought to be a great deal of agreement on the need to meet these challenges.

We also see that agreement in the bipartisan Senate Oceans Caucus, which works to increase awareness of and find common ground on issues facing the oceans and coasts.

My fellow cochair Senator MURKOWSKI, honorary cochair Senator MARK BEGICH, Senator Mark Wicker, and all of our partners are working to stop illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing. We are working to clean up marine debris and collect baseline scientific data so we can make policy-informed decisions. This is important work. It demonstrates the good both parties can accomplish when we come together. I look forward to getting it done, but it is not enough. Until we address what is causing our oceans to change so drastically, until we protect our planet from carbon pollution un-

precedented in human history, we are doing little more than putting Band-Aids on a gaping and growing wound.

I want to push back on the idea that so many of us seem to have accepted, that we cannot do anything serious on carbon pollution. In fact, we can. The tools to do it lie right around us, if only we would pick them up and go to work.

Very simply, here is my case: Pricing carbon is necessary. Make big carbon polluters pay a fee to the American people to cover the cost of dumping their waste into our atmosphere and oceans—a cost they now push off on to the rest of us—and return that fee to the American people.

At present, however, political conditions in Congress do not allow us to price carbon. It is necessary. Political conditions do not allow us to do it, so we must change those political conditions.

Changing the political conditions will require three actions: No. 1, there has to be a regulatory threat to the polluters. No. 2, there must be a political threat to the deniers here in the Senate and in Congress. No. 3, those of us who wish to limit carbon pollution must gather the armies that are on our side.

Let me go through those steps. First, as long as the polluters and their allies control Congress, legislative action is unlikely. That means we have to rely on the executive branch for regulatory action—very strong regulatory action that will change the equation for the polluters. That is the test. Will it change the equation for the polluters?

The status quo is a win for the polluters. They pollute for free. Change that balance, and it will not take them long to come to Congress. Why? Because regulatory action puts costs directly on the polluters but creates no revenues for them. A carbon pollution fee, now that creates revenues. A portion of that could offset their costs of transitioning to a green economy.

If that is the choice they have—regulation with no revenues or a fee they can get revenues from—it becomes in their interest to strike a deal in Congress. This regulatory step in the executive branch will, however, require an awakening at the White House.

Second, to create a meaningful political threat, the advocates out there for our climate and our oceans will need to employ all of the sophisticated political tools the polluters use—all the political artillery of the post-Citizens United world.

There is an expression that you should not bring a knife to a gunfight. Right now climate advocates bring not even a knife but a feather to this gunfight. It is no wonder we lose. When deniers in Congress see real artillery coming on the political field against them, some will rethink.

Third, and last, is gathering the armies. There is astonishingly wide support for action on climate. Obviously environmental groups support this, as

well as the green energy and investment industry, our national security officials, property casualty insurers and reinsurers, young people—such as the growing college movement for coal divestment—faith groups, many utilities, celebrities, hunting, fishing, outdoor, conservation groups, retailers, such as Apple, Coca-Cola and Nike, labor groups, mayors, local officials, and the public. The public is with us, and the polls show that.

The problem: Most of this support is latent and unorganized. None of these groups feel they can carry this battle on their own; yet if they choose to unite, create an allied command, assemble these various divisions and join in on a strategy that deploys them all effectively into action, that latent strength becomes potent strength, and that is a game changer.

When the polluting industry is looking down the barrel of a regulatory gun, when their political allies are fearful of a strongly backed political operation—backed also by the American people—when mobilized and motivated forces from a wide swath of the economy and multiple sectors are all active, the political landscape then shifts dramatically and a price on carbon is achievable.

I propose to the American people, to those who believe it is time to wake up and take action, to fend off devastating changes to our oceans and our climate: Let us be not faint of heart. Let us have the strength of our convictions and get to work and get this done. We can do it. The tools to do it already lie all around us. This can all take place quite rapidly. Let's get it done.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNIZING THE WHAYNE SUPPLY COMPANY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the Wayne Supply Company, a leader in Kentucky businesses and one of the Nation's oldest and largest Caterpillar dealerships, for reaching the milestone of 100 years in operation. That is a full century of serving the needs of Kentucky's construction, mining, agriculture, and industrial markets; a full century of employing Kentuckians; and a full century of expanding opportunity across the Commonwealth.

Wayne Supply Company was founded in 1913 by Mr. Roy C. Wayne, Sr. At the time of the firm's founding, he was its sole employee, and the business consisted of selling light engines, pumps, wheelbarrows, and bicycles. In 1925, the company began its long and continued association with Caterpillar, one of the world's largest manufacturers of construction and mining equipment. Today Wayne is also the dealer for Thomas Built Buses, Challenger, Lexion, Trail King, Mirencro, Sullair, Allmand, and other lines of construction, industrial, mining, paving, and agricultural equipment.

Today Wayne is consistently ranked as one of the country's top Caterpillar

dealerships. It also provides customers with an extensive parts inventory and broad service capabilities. Wayne Supply Company is currently owned by Monty Boyd, who became president of Wayne Supply in 2005 after working for the company in various roles for 25 years. Under Mr. Boyd's leadership, Wayne has grown to employ over 1,300 people and operate 15 facilities across Kentucky and southern Indiana.

Wayne's home office is in Louisville, and it operates other branches in Ashland, Bowling Green, Corbin, Dry Ridge, Elizabethtown, Hazard, Hopkinsville, Lexington, Owensboro, Paducah, Pikeville, and Somerset, as well as in Evansville, Indiana, and Jeffersonville, IN.

The Wayne Supply Company intends to mark its 100th anniversary throughout 2013 by recognizing its employees and customers and holding a series of community service projects. With the company's ties to all regions of the State, I am sure many Kentuckians will have occasion to note this anniversary and reflect on Wayne Supply's century of service.

Mr. President, I know my colleagues in the Senate join me in commending the Wayne Supply Company for 100 years of operations and saluting them for their commitment to the people of Kentucky.

WORLD WAR II VETERANS VISIT

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise to recognize a very important event that will be occurring this Sunday and Monday: 85 World War II veterans from Montana will take part in the fourth Big Sky Honor Flight and come to Washington, DC, to visit their monument—the WWII Memorial.

Their trip is hosted by the Big Sky Honor Flight Program. The mission is to recognize American veterans for their sacrifices and achievements by flying them to Washington, DC, to see their memorials at no cost. The program, which has already flown more than 250 Montana veterans to visit the memorials, is generously funded by businesses, student groups, and folks all across Montana.

These veterans come from all parts of our great State, and while they are in Washington, they will see the WWII Memorial and other monuments and enjoy a banquet honoring their service to the country.

This is a special 2 days for this group of heroes, but it is also a time to give thanks for courage and sacrifice of all our veterans and service members. It is a time to reflect on the sacrifices made by those who fought on the frontlines in Europe and the Pacific, on the battlefields of Korea, in the jungles of Vietnam, the deserts of Iraq, and those who are currently fighting in the mountains of Afghanistan. We must not forget their sacrifices.

I am so pleased I will be able to meet with these courageous Montanans. I ask the Senate to join me in welcoming

these heroes to our Nation's Capital this weekend. I ask unanimous consent that the following names be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Douglas M Alexander, Woodrow W Archer, Ralph W Arnold, Tim M Babcock, Peter E Bakken, Norman F Balko, Burl E Baty, Henry F Beckman, Harold M Brown, Charles L Bullis, Lester E Crouse, Stuart Ellison, Frederick L Ernst, Thomas E Francis, Merle M Green, Francis W Grove.

Harry P Hayden, Bernard J Heetderks, Paul L Hickman, Joseph Huckle, Maurice C Knutson, John C Kindelman, Leonard E Kuffel, Donald M Lillenthal, Harry M Merlak, John L Mulford, Antone F O'Dea, Lewis A Paschke, Billy M Paul, Oscar S Peterson, Charles F Petranek, Hardy J Pugliano, Charles F Romee, Raymond R Rumpfelt, Paul T Ringling.

Dorothy K Roeder, Lester T Rutledge, Frank J Schledorn, William K Schultz, Maurice W Shoemaker, Duane Steinke, Robert L Stewart, Ralph W Stodden, John W Todd, Lawrence F Thomas, Kenneth Torgimson, John D Walsh, Roman T Wuertz, George J Wright, Mike N Steiner, Harry H Knodel, Audrey Manuel.

Stanley R Kniepkamp, Leo F Staat, Frank P Scotten, Dean H Elliott, Joseph H Cook, Donald F David, Robert L Tillery, Bishop S Everingham, Oliver R Germann, Paul Hafner, Robert Barnhart, Leonard E Gissler, Thomas W Huff, Leo H Drain, Rolland Karlin, Doris A Adolph, Alfred J Adolph, Vernon L Phillips.

Colin F Glasgow, Leroy Bourque, John P Dillon, Bryon N Manley, Sebastian Messer, Raymond A Grossman, Ben J Raisland, Robert J O'Connell, Alfred J Falcon, Vernon E Locke, George Schuyler, Robert Kovash, Donald R Anderson, Robert G Orlando, Earl K Warne.

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, as a proud co-sponsor of S. Res. 140, I was delighted by the Senate's unanimous passage this week of legislation commemorating the dedication and sacrifice made by Federal, State and local law enforcement officers who have been killed or injured in the line of duty.

As our Nation celebrates National Police Week, I wish to honor five heroes who gave their lives in service to the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 2012. Like 120 other law enforcement officers across the U.S., they died in the line of duty, joining the ranks of the 21,465 officers who have similarly given their lives since 1791.

This week we honor Trooper First Class Blake T. Coble, Police Officer Bradley Michael Fox, Police Officer Moses Walker Jr., Police Officer Brian J. Lorenzo and Patrolman Avery Freeman. Additionally we honor their families who must bear the profound absence of their loved ones.

On behalf of all Pennsylvanians I extend my condolences to the families and friends of these heroes. We mourn the loss of these remarkable men and women who represented the best of their communities and whose memory will serve as an inspiration for future generations.