

with milder winters, we've seen the sawfly come out earlier to destroy our crops before they can be harvested. Montana's deep freezes also used to kill off the pine bark beetle, which today kills millions of acres of trees across the American West.

Those dead trees—many of which litter our National Forests—combined with historic drought to make 2012's record-setting wildfires possible. Last year's blazes, which burned Colorado suburbs, National Parks and more than 1 million acres in Montana, will become commonplace as the West continues to heat up. And I fear that epic droughts and floods will continue to be regular stories in the national news.

Montana's economy depends in part on the natural beauty of our state. Our outdoor economy generates nearly \$6 billion each year. But decimated forests, wildfires and lost wildlife habitat put our outdoor economy at risk.

Our economy also depends on our state's number one industry: agriculture. Montana's farmers and ranchers feed our state and our nation, but back-to-back years of record flooding and drought are testing even the hardest of our producers.

Montanans already understand that climate change is affecting our daily lives. The argument isn't whether the world is changing, it's how to respond.

History will judge us based on what we do next. In the Senate, I am pushing to develop more sources of renewable energy. I still fill up my tractor with diesel fuel because there are no better options available, but by encouraging the development of wind, water, next-generation biofuels and other renewables, we will create new jobs as we cut the emissions that warm our planet and increase our energy options. That's why I introduced my Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act ([http://www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=562:bipartisan-senate-bill-would-establish-renewable-energy-leasing-process&catid=34:ONB%20Articles&Itemid=54](http://www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=562:bipartisan-senate-bill-would-establish-renewable-energy-leasing-process&catid=34:ONB%20Articles&Itemid=54)) to streamline the permitting for renewable energy projects on public lands.

I've also proposed my Forest Jobs and Recreation Act (<http://www.testersenate.gov/?p=issue&id=70>). For decades, conservationists and loggers fought to control Montana's forests while our trees became fodder for fire and infestation. My bill brought Montanans together to set aside some lands for recreation while requiring logging in others. By better taking care of our forests, we will reduce the growing threat of wildfire.

These are important steps, but achieving a comprehensive solution to climate change and energy development and use will require all Americans to work together before it's too late. Last year was the hottest year on record ([http://articles.washingtonpost.com/2013-01-08/national/36207396\\_1\\_noaa-analysis-climate-change-thomas-r-karl](http://articles.washingtonpost.com/2013-01-08/national/36207396_1_noaa-analysis-climate-change-thomas-r-karl)) in the United States. We are increasingly victims of strong and frequent natural disasters that leave us struggling to pay for both prevention and recovery efforts.

Folks in rural America are already adapting to the new realities brought by climate change. For farmers like me, it means erratic weather is putting my ability to make a living off the land and produce food at risk.

But for folks devastated by Hurricane Sandy or picking up the pieces from last year's wildfires, the ongoing political debate over climate change is even more frustrating. They know action is needed. They're calling for change. The only question is when we are going to listen.

Jon Tester is the junior Senator from Montana. He and his wife, Sharla, still farm the 1,800 acres his grandparents homesteaded in 1912.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, before my friend leaves the floor, I appreciate very much him doing his utmost to keep our eye on the problem we have facing this country. We have no more important issue in the world than this issue, period. So I appreciate very much the Senator from Rhode Island keeping us focused on this.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I thank the majority leader.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on S. 954, a bill to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018.

Harry Reid, Debbie Stabenow, Amy Klobuchar, Christopher A. Coons, Sherrod Brown, Tom Harkin, Benjamin L. Cardin, Heidi Heitkamp, Patrick J. Leahy, Michael F. Bennet, Joe Donnelly, Al Franken, Max Baucus, Patty Murray, Tim Johnson, Mark Udall, Jon Tester.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 1003 AND S. 953

#### CLOTURE MOTIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be considered as if the following motions to proceed were made: motion to proceed to Calendar No. 76, S. 1003, and motion to proceed to Calendar No. 74, S. 953; further, that the cloture motions, which are at the desk, be reported in the order the motions were considered made; finally, that the mandatory quorum required under rule XXII be waived for these cloture motions and the cloture motion for S. 954.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The cloture motions having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motions.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to S. 1003, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to reset interest rates for new student loans.

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Lamar Alexander, Kelly Ayotte, David Vitter, Thad Cochran, Orrin G. Hatch, John Thune, Rob Portman, Lisa Murkowski, Michael B. Enzi, John Barrasso, John McCain, Roger F. Wicker, Roy Blunt, Johnny Isakson, Daniel Coats.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 74, S. 953, a bill to

amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend the reduced interest rate for undergraduate Federal Direct Stafford Loans, to modify required distribution rules for pensions plans, to limit earnings stripping by expatriated entities, to provide for modifications related to the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Jack Reed, Tom Harkin, Richard J. Durbin, Patty Murray, Benjamin L. Cardin, Al Franken, Amy Klobuchar, Jeff Merkley, Jon Tester, Sherrod Brown, Barbara A. Mikulski, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Charles E. Schumer, Sheldon Whitehouse, Barbara Boxer.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 6, the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on S. 954; that upon the conclusion of that vote and notwithstanding cloture having been invoked, if invoked, the Senate then proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 76, S. 1003; that upon the conclusion of the vote and notwithstanding cloture having been invoked, if invoked, the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 74, S. 953; that upon the conclusion of the vote and notwithstanding cloture having been invoked, if invoked, the Senate resume consideration of S. 954, postcloture, if cloture was invoked on the bill; that upon disposition of S. 954, if cloture had been invoked on one of the motions to proceed, the Senate then resume that motion to proceed postcloture; further, if cloture was invoked on both motions to proceed, the Senate consider the motions, postcloture, in the order in which cloture was invoked; finally, if the motion to proceed to S. 1003 is agreed to, and notwithstanding cloture having been invoked on the other motion to proceed to S. 953, the Senate resume the following motion to proceed, postcloture, upon disposition of S. 1003.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### TRIBUTE TO KRY'S BART

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the leadership of Krys Bart, the president and CEO of the Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority. Krys has worked at the airport authority for 14 years and transformed the airport into a modern facility that welcomes visitors from across the United States and the world to Northern Nevada.

Krys arrived in Northern Nevada in 1998 at a turning point for the airport.

Decisions by the previous management team had negatively impacted employee morale and hurt the airport authority's reputation in the community. With her steady leadership, Krys focused on achievable goals to deliver results for airport passengers and improve the airport authority's reputation. Krys helped direct more than \$500 million in infrastructure upgrades at the airport, including upgrading runways, taxiways, safety systems, and noise mitigation programs. I worked with Krys to secure more than \$250 million in Federal funding for Reno-Tahoe, including a new \$27 million air traffic control tower. These infrastructure upgrades not only created jobs in Northern Nevada, but they also improved the passenger experience for flyers. In fact, the Reno-Tahoe Airport was recognized as one of the top five most efficient airports in North America three times under Krys' leadership.

Krys' reputation as an innovative Nevada leader has been recognized on a national scale by major industry groups and associations. She was selected by her peers to serve as the chair of the board of the American Association of Airport Executives, the largest airport association in the world. Krys is a frequent lecturer at international aviation conferences, sharing the best management practices from her time as an airport executive. In 2011, Krys received the Distinguished Service Award from the American Association of Airport Executives. In 2008, she was chair of the American Association of Airport Executives, and the Airport Revenue News named her the 2006 Airport Manager of the Year. These are just a few of the many awards and accomplishments that have followed Krys throughout her career, and it is a testament to the respect she has earned as one of the Nation's great airport managers.

Later this year, Krys will step down as the president of the Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority after a long and distinguished career in the aviation industry. While Krys' departure is a loss for the greater Reno community, her work to improve the airport and the greater community will benefit Nevadans for decades to come. I am pleased to recognize Krys' accomplishments before the Senate today and I wish her all the best in her retirement.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I was absent for the vote on an amendment to S. 954 on Monday, June 3, 2013. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of amendment No. 987. Alfalfa growers face unique risk management challenges and the amendment would require the U.S. Department of Agriculture to develop improved crop insurance policies for this crop.

I have been closely monitoring reports of widespread loss of alfalfa in Minnesota this spring. Following last year's drought, this loss of alfalfa is

particularly troubling for cattle and dairy producers. I am working closely with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Minnesota farmers to remove barriers for planting forages and also to expand opportunities for grazing livestock on conservation program acres. I will continue to push for immediate relief for Minnesota agriculture producers.

#### TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN JAMES T. LOEBLEIN

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today I honor a superb leader, liaison, and warrior. After more than 3 years of service as Director of the Navy Senate Liaison Office, CAPT James T. Loeblein is very deservedly moving on and moving up to assume the responsibilities of a rear admiral, lower half. On this occasion, I believe it is fitting to recognize Captain Loeblein's distinguished service and dedication to fostering the relationship between the U.S. Navy and this Chamber.

The captain is a 1985 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. In addition to serving as the executive officer of the USS John S. McCain DDG 56, he has held both command-at-sea and major command. Captain Loeblein has also served as executive assistant to commander, U.S. Third Fleet, and as chief of staff and Maritime Operations Center (MOC) director, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/U.S. Fifth Fleet in Manama, Bahrain. Captain Loeblein reported as director, Navy Senate Liaison, in May 2010.

Over the course of the last 3 years, Captain Loeblein has led 37 congressional delegations to 47 different countries. He has escorted 44 Members of Congress, 48 personal and professional staff members, and I have had the pleasure of traveling with Captain Loeblein on many of these trips. He has distinguished himself by going above and beyond the call of duty to facilitate and successfully execute each and every trip, despite any number of weather, aircraft, and diplomatic complications.

This Chamber will feel Captain Loeblein's absence. I join many past and present Members of Congress in my gratitude and appreciation to Captain Loeblein for his outstanding leadership and his unwavering support of the missions of the U.S. Navy, the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and others. I wish him and his wife CAPT Carol Loeblein "fair winds and following seas."

#### OBSERVING PRIDE MONTH

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, when Governor Christine Gregoire signed the Washington State marriage equality bill into law last year, it was a day of joy for all of the loving, committed LGBT couples of Washington—and for all who love, respect, and support

them. And when voters approved the law in a referendum last November, we showed the Nation once again that we can change the course of history and give true voice and meaning to the idea that all are created equal. This law takes us one important step closer towards true equality for LGBT families across Washington State. It is proof of the incredible power a community can have when we come together to fight for equality. Washington is now 1 of 12 States to have affirmed the right for LGBT couples to marry—an amazing sign of progress in our Nation.

I am proud to work with my colleagues in the Senate to achieve equal rights for LGBT Americans in Washington State and across the country. Earlier this year, I joined 172 Members of the House of Representatives and 39 Senators in filing an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in *United States v. Windsor*, arguing the Defense of Marriage Act is unconstitutional and should be struck down. And, as a senior member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I led a letter to Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki calling for an expedited waiver process to grant every same-sex spouse of a veteran burial rights in our national cemeteries.

There is much to celebrate today, but still so much more to be done to ensure equal rights for LGBT Americans. As we look back upon our recent victories, we must also recommit to our efforts and harness the energy we used to achieve marriage equality last year to continue this fight. From our immigration and employment laws to our policies for veterans and military families, there is still plenty of work to be done to ensure all Americans, including members of our LGBT community, are treated equally.

Equal protection under the law is a fundamental right in our country. No one should suffer discrimination because of their race, religion, national origin, age, sex, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Whether applying for a job, finding a home, eating in a restaurant, seeking credit, serving in our military, or attending school, we must ensure all citizens are treated fairly and equally. To me, the fight for equality for the LGBT community is a fight for what it means to be American. That is why Pride Month is so important.

Each June, Pride Month brings our community together to honor diversity, equality, and love. And this year, we can celebrate some truly historic gains as LGBT couples are finally able to express their commitment to each other in the same way so many other Washingtonians have throughout our State's history—by joining in marriage and saying "I do."

Pride Month is a time to commemorate our accomplishments and recharge for the fight ahead. We have many more opportunities to advance our efforts in the coming months and years, and we will not give up until we have