

in Vail. So our people have to live there. They are not living in mansions. They are not living in condos. They are living in fishing villages and fishing camps and in very middle-class neighborhoods, trying to make a living for themselves, their families, their communities and keep this country operating.

We are running the biggest oil and gas operations out of Houma, LA, the town the House of Representatives has just literally made defenseless. They have no levees. New Orleans now, after Katrina, and Jefferson Parish, and Saint Bernard Parish have \$14 billion of taxpayer money invested. That is a lot of money. I know some people in the country get very aggravated about that. Why did they get \$14 billion?

The country should have given us \$1 billion 10 years ago and we could have saved them 14. But the Congress decided not to do that. We asked. We begged. We pleaded. No. No. No. No. So one day the levees broke. Then the bill came due. It was a big bill, \$14 billion. Wait until the next bill comes through. In that whole timeframe, that whole timeframe where our people are begging, drowning, houses going underwater, begging for help, the government keeps telling us no, no, we sent \$161 billion to this Treasury from off our shore, from offshore oil and gas—\$161 billion.

We come up here and try to get \$1 billion for this levee, \$2 billion for that. We are told: We cannot afford it. I tell you, I do not have the power to do this. I do not. But if I did, and if I were the Governor, I—and I do not think he has the power—but if I could, I would shut down every rig in the Gulf of Mexico until this Congress gives the people of Louisiana the money we need to keep ourselves safe from drowning, from flooding.

I would turn the lights off in Washington and in New York and in Maine. We are tired of it. The people in our State cannot survive without levees. The country cannot survive without our people living where we do, to run the maritime, to run the oil and gas industry. Houma, LA, does not deserve this. Terrebonne Parish does not deserve it. Lafourche Parish does not deserve it. Our delegation is not going to stand for it.

So my message to the Speaker of the House and my delegation in the House and the House is that bill will never see the light of day unless Morganza is put back. I do not know who is going to do it or how they are going to do it.

Please do not tell me there is not enough money. We send alone, Louisiana—forget Texas, forget Alabama, forget Mississippi—Louisiana alone every year sends about \$5 billion to the Federal Treasury just from oil and gas severance taxes, not counting sales tax, income tax, property taxes, other taxes—property taxes would not come here, but income taxes would come here, corporate income taxes would come here. That is not even counting that.

I am tired of begging for nickels and dimes. So the House of Representatives better put Morganza to the Gulf back into that bill. No. 2, I have not read the whole bill. I was just informed about it. So I may have to take this back off the record. But I was told also what they did is say: We are not going to approve projects that had a Chief's report after our committee meeting in June. Then they put some language in that says something like: No project can go forward until they have a committee meeting of the House of Representatives.

So they are basically engaging in earmarks again. In other words, having voted to take earmarks out—I was not for that. I did not go along with that, but they did, the leadership of the House, take earmarks out. They are now trying to put earmarks back in. So the only way you get back in is if you go through their committee and get your project approved, which is earmarking in a different way.

So on two fronts I think the House is wrong. I think they were wrong to take Morganza out, wrong to put this new system in.

The third and final thing I am going to say about this, which is the saddest thing, because Morganza has to go back in, there are some other projects they might have taken out that I am simply not aware of. But I know that the bill that left this Senate was very fair. It was without earmarks. It was based on the science and the process of the Corps of Engineers. But to all of my friends in the Senate, even when I get Morganza back in there, and our delegation does, the problem for all of us is that there is still going to be \$60 billion of authorized projects for all of our States. The total budget of the Corps of Engineers next year that Senator FEINSTEIN chairs—and I serve on the appropriations committee for the Corps of Engineers—will have only \$1.6 billion for new construction.

The total Corps budget is only about \$5 billion. So think about it. Is this not the silliest thing? We have \$40 billion of already authorized WRDA projects. The WRDA bill now has \$20 billion minus Morganza to the Gulf, which they just took out for no good reason, after 20 years of our people suffering. So they are going to add that 20 plus Morganza which will get back in there. Then we are going to have \$60 billion, and all we have is a few billion to fund it.

It is a system that is so broken and so unfair. Every State feels this. It is not just Louisiana. What people hear is my strong voice, I hope, for the people of Louisiana. We feel it the most. We feel it most frequently just because of our geography. But every community in the country is suffering from this. We do not have enough infrastructure, water infrastructure. Our ports are not where they need to be. Our rivers are not dredged to the depths they need to be. We do not have enough to maintain our maritime industry in this country.

This is undermining our economic strength and our international competitiveness, besides being terribly unfair to people who happen to live along the coast, which is 60 percent of our population. So I am just sending a little warning signal to the House of Representatives: There is no way, no way, that this WRDA bill is going to go anywhere without the Morganza to the Gulf in it. It is not happening. This is one of those sort of do or die kind of issues for the Louisiana delegation.

We have waited 20 years for this project. It is justified from every angle, shape, form. It has been studied to death. The local people have put up \$200 million of their own money. I am not going home to tell them they are not going to get the project. So I would strongly suggest our House delegation, particularly our leader STEVE SCALISE, the Congressman from Jefferson Parish, who is the chairman of the Republican study group, go have a long talk with the chairman of the committee and figure out how to get this project back in the bill.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Ms. LANDRIEU. I wish to move to another subject. I wish to offer at this time two amendments to the underlying bill that we are trying to debate, which is a very important bill on energy efficiency. I know we cannot debate any amendments, but I think I can offer two amendments.

I wish to tell my colleagues, the first I am offering with Senator WICKER and Senator PRYOR. It would ensure that the Green Building Rating System, which is adopted by GSA currently, and new ones under this bill that are put forth by Senator SHAHEEN and Senator PORTMAN—I support the bill—do not put at a disadvantage the materials that meet the new standard of energy efficiency in the underlying bill.

There was some question about the way the bill was initially worded when it came out of the Energy Committee that it would disqualify some domestic materials that meet the energy efficient standards from being included. This would have a very devastating effect on our lumber and forestry industry, as well as others. I will send that amendment to the desk when I am able and hope that we will get through this skirmish over health care and get to some very important amendments that will help us create jobs in America, Louisiana, and help our industries.

Secondly, I wish to speak about an amendment Senator WICKER and I will offer that would ensure that small companies are excused from the requirements to submit their products for expensive third-party testing to achieve ENERGY STAR certification.

This is really a small business issue. I think this is acceptable to all parties. I am not sure there is any opposition, actually, to either one of these amendments, which is good. We have worked very hard with the parties who might

have a different view to see if we can find some common ground, and I think we have.

I have spoken about these amendments which I will submit for the RECORD when possible, and I hope we can get to the bill of Senator SHAHEEN and Senator PORTMAN. They have worked very hard, and they have built a great coalition.

Again, this is a bill that could create many jobs and opportunities for our people. While there are a lot of Members talking about how so-and-so should focus on jobs and he or she should do this or that, we have a bill whose essence is to create very good jobs in America and to save us energy costs and to reduce costs to taxpayers and consumers.

I believe this bill was voted unanimously out of the energy committee and, if not, it had overwhelming support from Republicans and Democrats. RON WYDEN, the chairman our committee, who was a very able and centrist leader on these matters, has worked very hard. I am very familiar with the benefits of this bill. I am sorry it has become caught up in the politics of health care, but it is important that we get to this Energy bill.

It is most important that the House of Representatives fix a terrible thing for Louisiana which happened just a few hours ago when they stripped, now for the 20th year in a row, a project that has been certified, stamped, sealed, and approved by the Corps of Engineers. For whatever reason they did this, I do not know. I hope they will fix it.

I yield the floor.

REMARKS OF JUDGE CHRISTINA REISS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, on August 16, I had the honor of attending a naturalization ceremony at the Ethan Allen Homestead Museum in Burlington, VT, conducted by the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Vermont, Christina Reiss. This naturalization ceremony was especially timely as the Senate had in June voted strongly in favor of passing a comprehensive immigration reform bill. I am proud of the Senate's work on that legislation, and especially proud of the thorough process we had in the Judiciary Committee to give that legislation a fair and public hearing.

I have attended many naturalization ceremonies over the years and never fail to come away inspired by the process and by the participants. Judge Reiss' most recent naturalization ceremony was a reminder of how meaningful American citizenship is, and of what an accomplishment it is for those who earn it. Judge Reiss invited me to address the new Americans, but I was particularly moved by her remarks to the 10 new Americans who were naturalized as citizens of the United States that day.

Judge Reiss delivered a positive, uplifting, and powerful message to these men and women about what it means to be an American. Her message to them was one of hope. It was also a challenge to be the transformative force that so many immigrants have been for America throughout our history. Judge Reiss encouraged their civic participation and commitment to our constitutional values. She called upon them to be full participants in our democracy, to exercise their rights and their responsibilities by voting, and to embrace the rule of law. And Judge Reiss' remarks were a warm Vermont welcome to the 10 new citizens who chose to make Vermont their home.

As I listened to Judge Reiss deliver her remarks, I reflected on my own family's history of immigration and the experience of my wife Marcelle's mother and father who became citizens and made Vermont their home. I hope the message they heard when they swore the oath to become citizens was as inspirational as the one Judge Reiss delivered this summer in Vermont. And I hope the 10 new American citizens we welcomed together on August 16 will take her words to heart as they begin this new chapter in their lives.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of Judge Reiss' remarks of August 16, 2013, be printed in the RECORD.

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

REMARKS BY UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE CHRISTINA REISS

Delivered at the Ethan Allen Homestead Museum in Burlington, Vermont, August 16, 2013

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my honor as Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Vermont, and as an American citizen, to address you on this special occasion. You are about to undergo an important transformation for which you have carefully and thoughtfully prepared. By the end of this ceremony, you will be a United States citizen.

I am sure that you had many thoughts and feelings as you went through the process of becoming a United States citizen. I want to assure you that you are not alone. Most people here, including me, have had family members who went through this very same process. America is a land of immigrants. With the exception of Native Americans, we all come from other places. Like you, our family members made sacrifices and faced challenges in order to live in this country. We made this country our home. You have made the important decision to make it your home. This is exciting and important for both you and for our country. Your transformation is our country's transformation. Our country gains strength and becomes a better place with the contributions of our new citizens.

You are about to take a solemn oath. In that oath, you will claim the United States as your own country and you will renounce allegiance to all others. You will swear to support and defend the Constitution, and the laws of the United States. And you will promise that you will bear true faith and allegiance to this country. I want to talk with you briefly about what some of those promises mean.

As you know, the United States of America was created through a declaration by its citizens that it would, from now on, be a free and independent nation. The Declaration of Independence also recognizes that we are all created equal, and that we are all entitled to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Those rights are not just something written on a piece of paper. Those rights represent an agreement between us, as fellow citizens, regarding how we will treat each other. Those rights also represent an agreement between us and our Government, regarding what we may expect from our Government, and what it may expect from us in return.

You, too, will be able to enjoy the freedoms guaranteed by the United States Constitution. But as always, with any right comes responsibilities. In accepting the benefits of American citizenship, you likewise accept its responsibilities.

Our society, our freedom, depends on the rule of law. The rule of law requires that every person obey the laws of this country. No person and no organization is above the law. The rule of law is thus an agreement of the citizens of this country to obey the law, to defend it, and to uphold it. The rule of law is what makes our country safe, free, and productive.

If you disagree with a law, you may work to change it. You may vote, you may exercise your freedom of speech, you may seek elected or appointed office, and you may petition the Government. In this country, we encourage citizens to get involved and to work to change the country and its laws for the better.

I know that some of you may come from countries where this opportunity was not available to you. Indeed, you may come from places where by seeking to change a law, you put your life in danger. Here, your right to lawfully seek change will be fully protected.

I urge you to exercise all of your rights and responsibilities as a United States citizen. The right to vote is endangered each time you fail to vote. The freedom of speech is threatened when you do not express your opinions, and stand silent when you should speak up. It is also threatened when you do not tolerate the views of others, or allow their rights to be violated. The rights of all citizens must be protected, if you expect your own rights to be protected.

Before I end my remarks, I want to say a few things about Vermont because I believe that you have chosen to live in a very special place. As you know, Vermont was not one of the original 13 colonies to sign the Declaration of Independence, but it was the first state to forbid slavery in its own constitution in 1777. Vermont has often been at the forefront of this country in protecting human rights. This is a special place. It is a beautiful place. Enjoy it, cherish it, and make it your home. You are welcome here. President Dwight D. Eisenhower said something about Vermonters which I think is very true. In speaking to the people gathered at the State Dairy Festival in Rutland, he said:

"There are certain things I do know about you. I know that Americans everywhere are the same, in their longing for peace, a peace that is characterized by justice, by consideration for others, by decency above all, by its insistence on respect for the individual human being."

It is my hope that your life in the United States is characterized by justice, by consideration for others, by decency, and by insistence on respect for all human beings.

In conclusion, I wish simply to say, "Welcome my fellow American citizens. Welcome, my American brothers and sisters." I wish you success and happiness in pursuing the American dream.