

seasons are getting worse in the West where the snowpack is melting earlier. Sea-level rise threatens Hawaii's famed beaches, and warming in Alaska is degrading the permafrost that entire communities are built on.

Climate change has already changed rainfall patterns and can load the dice for bad weather conditions such as heat waves. This past summer a heat wave prompted the Kenosha public schools in Wisconsin to cancel all outdoor student practices and sporting events. The district stated on its Web site: "Keeping the best interests of our athletes in mind, we are canceling/rescheduling all contests today."

According to the Denver Post, this past spring a prolonged drought forced Denver Parks and Recreation to postpone opening of the grass sports fields for soccer and lacrosse, which kept thousands of children and adults from starting their athletic seasons.

For some, warmer temperatures mean more time inside because the air is not fit to breathe. Ground-level ozone, commonly known as smog, forms more quickly during hot sunny days, causing asthma attacks, emergency room visits, and even hospitalizations.

In August, I met with two Rhode Island kids: Nick Friend, a 15-year-old from East Providence, and Kenyatta Richards, who is an 8-year-old from Warwick. They have asthma. They have to stay indoors and avoid being too active on bad air days. We have had six bad air days from ozone this year in Rhode Island. That is 6 days when Rhode Islanders such as Nick and Kenyatta can't enjoy the outdoor activities that are so much a part of our American childhoods.

The effects of climate change aren't limited to hotter days and smog. Oceans are warming, ice is melting, and sea levels are rising. This puts coastal infrastructure such as dams, bridges, and coastal powerplants at risk. It also threatens many of our most beloved and expensive palaces of sport. As far back as 2007, "Sports Illustrated" ran a special issue on sports and global warming, saying: "Scientists project up to a one-meter increase in sea level by 2100," warned one article, "which will alter the shape of the land in low-lying regions of U.S.—including San Francisco Bay and South Florida—and swamp well-known sports venues." Places such as the American Airlines Arena and Sun Life Stadium in Miami and AT&T Park in San Francisco are at risk.

As Congress sleepwalks through history, blind to the harmful effects of carbon pollution, responsible groups are acting, including our major professional sports leagues. The NBA, MLB, NFL, and NHL are letters that almost every American knows. These leagues and their teams are cultural institutions. They are also big business with annual revenues in billions of dollars. They take the threat of postponed games and washed-out stadiums seriously.

Earlier this year, the Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change, which I started with Representative HENRY WAXMAN, to keep attention focused on climate change and what we could do to address it, asked the National Basketball Association, Major League Baseball, the National Hockey League, and the National Football League, as well as the United States Olympic Committee, to tell us what climate change means for their sports. Each of these organizations is awake to the dangers of carbon pollution and each is acting.

Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig wrote to the task force and said:

I have often said that Baseball is a social institution, and to that end we recognize our responsibility to be part of the national effort to preserve our environment. And that is why MLB and many of our Major League Clubs have adopted practices that have resulted in clean, energy-efficient ballparks and environmentally friendly baseball events.

One of those practices is the partial offset of the energy used at all the All-Star Game events, including FanFest, the Home Run Derby, and the All-Star Game, by Green-e Certified energy renewable credits, including wind and solar energy.

On the hockey front, NHL Deputy Commissioner William Daly wrote:

Hockey's relationship with the environment is unique. Our sport was born on frozen ponds, where to this day—players of all ages and skill levels learn to skate. For this magnificent tradition to continue, it is imperative that we recognize the importance of maintaining the environment.

The NHL has partnered with ENERGY STAR and the Natural Resources Defense Council to make its own facilities more energy efficient, and it has called on the U.S. Government to develop a nationwide retrofit strategy to help upgrade buildings such as ice rinks and to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions.

Kathy Behrens, executive vice president of Social Responsibility & Player Programs at the NBA, told us:

While Professional NBA games are played inside climate controlled arenas, most basketball around the world is played outdoors. If air pollution, extreme heat, and other forms of climate disruption make it difficult to enjoy or attend our game and, of much concern, actually threatens the health and safety of basketball players, fans, and business partners, that matters greatly to the [NBA].

Pro basketball is working to reduce carbon emissions through improved energy efficiency at its arenas. A number of NBA arenas have achieved LEED certifications and some have installed on-site solar panels. The NBA has also come out in support of standards to reduce carbon pollution from electric powerplants, which is a cornerstone of President Obama's recently announced climate action plan.

On the football front, Adolfo Birch III, senior vice president of Labor Policy and Government Affairs for the NFL, wrote:

Twenty years ago, the NFL became the first professional sports organization for-

mally to address the environmental impact of our marquee events—Super Bowl and Pro Bowl.

The program to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions during every Super Bowl has resulted in the planting of more than 50,000 trees in the Super Bowl host communities. The National Football League estimates that the 2013 Super Bowl in New Orleans achieved a reduction of nearly 24,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions or the equivalent of the energy use of 8,000 American homes for an entire year.

The U.S. Olympic Committee has also joined in the fight to reduce harmful carbon pollution. According to USOC CEO Scott Blackmun:

The Green Ring program aims to mitigate the USOC and our athletes' impact on the environment through a number of sustainability efforts, an area that is a passion for many of our athletes. Through Green Ring, we hope to contribute to sustainability while using our platform to educate and inspire our constituents to do the same. Our focus is more action, less carbon.

Other international bodies have also launched aggressive plans to fight climate change. The 2014 soccer World Cup in Brazil is aiming to be carbon neutral by offsetting 2.7 million tons of carbon dioxide estimated to be generated by this year's Confederation Cup tournament and the World Cup next year.

Our major sports leagues thus join a great army amassing on the side of climate action: virtually every major scientific body, the insurance and reinsurance industry, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the National Academies, NASA, and the Government Accountability Office, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, leading Americans and international corporations, and the American Public Health Association. To them and many others, who are all in this fight, we can add our friends in the world of sports: Major League Baseball, the National Basketball Association, the National Hockey League, the National Football League, and the U.S. Olympic Committee. There is a growing chorus of voices from every sector of American society calling for action. Indeed, there is work to be done. The major sports organizations are doing their part because they know that few things define American society like the teams we cheer and the games we play.

We in Congress need to wake up and join the fight. It is time to set aside the partisan nonsense and the polluter-fueled fantasies and at last take real steps to reduce our carbon pollution and preserve our distinctly American way of life.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise tonight to talk about the matter that is before us, which is the National Defense Authorization Act. I don't think

we have to make a fulsome argument tonight that it is very important we pass this authorization act for the fundamental purpose of making sure we can, at a minimum, complete action in the very near future on authorizing a whole range of programs that keep our people safe and ensure our national security. I am confident we will do that, but that is vitally important.

I rise tonight to talk about one aspect of that challenge—and, again, it is just one part of our national security interest—relating specifically to what has been happening in Afghanistan over the last decade, and particularly to women and girls in Afghanistan. The amendment I have introduced and will be speaking on behalf of tonight is amendment No. 2172, which regards the security of Afghan women and girls.

For the past 12 years, United States servicemembers have been deployed in Afghanistan fighting the insurgency there. Their sacrifice—the sacrifices of our own people—have created a space for Afghan democracy to take root and for a civil society to develop. It is imperative as we draw down U.S. combat troops in Afghanistan we remain focused on the United States long-term strategic interest in the region. It is in the United States national security interest for Afghanistan to remain stable, secure, and democratic.

We have seen from a distance what life under the Taliban looks like in Afghanistan when the Taliban was in charge. We also can see with the perspective of recent history what it has looked like since the Taliban was removed. A return to their rule, however, will not only set back the progress that has been made, but it will also allow the forces of intolerance and extremism to triumph.

So 2014 marks a significant transition in Afghanistan. U.S. and coalition forces will draw down while voters will go to the polls to choose their second democratically elected president.

We are considering this year's National Defense Authorization Act with just 6 weeks remaining before the beginning of 2014. Our military families are welcoming back soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who have seen more than a decade of conflict in Afghanistan. When I meet—as I know the Presiding Officer and other Members of the Senate do—with servicemembers who have served in Afghanistan, I never forget—as none of us must ever forget—their sacrifice, their determination, and their valor. Since October of 2001, Americans have fought for a stable, prosperous, and democratic Afghanistan.

On my trips to Afghanistan, which now number three, I have come to understand that women and girls often display remarkable courage but are often the most vulnerable targets. But great progress has been made, and I will just mention a couple of examples.

About a decade ago, almost no girls were in school in Afghanistan—very close to, if not, zero. The number of Af-

ghan girls in school now is 2.4 million, and women represent more than 27 percent of Afghans serving in parliament. A small but brave corps of women has joined the Afghan National Security Forces in service to their country. None of this would have been possible just a little more than a decade ago—12 years ago.

Whenever I meet with them, Afghan women emphasize they are not willing to give up—nor should they be—on the gains they have achieved with help from the American people. Just yesterday I met with Nilofar Sakhi, who is working to promote women in the workforce. Hearing her commitment to advancing the role of women firsthand, as I did yesterday, further motivated me to introduce and advance this amendment.

During my last trip to Afghanistan I met with Fawzia Koofi, who is an inspiring lawmaker and women's rights advocate. As a mother of two young daughters, she has worked to instill the importance of education and to make sure her daughters understand that. She now serves in a leadership role in the Afghan parliament.

I would also mention when we were meeting with her she talked about how both her father and her husband had been killed because they were politically active. Yet even in the face of that, she has put herself forward to serve in public office in Afghanistan.

A third example, another brave woman showing the people of the world what it means to serve and to act even in the face of danger, is Suraya Pakhzad, who lives in Herat. Ms. Pakhzad recently traveled to the United States and visited not just my home State of Pennsylvania but literally the county I live in and impressed the people there, as she always does. Suraya is a true entrepreneur and philanthropist. With U.S. government support she has opened a women's shelter in Baghdad province. That is just the beginning of what we could say about her service. We don't have enough time tonight to give more examples, but Suraya has been a great example to me and to so many others.

These three inspiring stories I have talked about are just a few of the many, but I am deeply concerned—and I know a lot of people are—that we have already begun to see the progress on Afghans women's rights and security being rolled back. In an effort to honor the sacrifice the American people have made to help women and girls in Afghanistan, I, along with Senator AYOTTE, have introduced an amendment to this authorization act to ensure those gains are not degraded. The amendment is No. 2172, and I am grateful to Senator AYOTTE for her work and for her leadership on this issue.

It is clear as can be that the security of Afghan women and girls is not simply about their own security and its value and importance. It is also critically important to the long-term future of the country. We know if more

women and girls are allowed to be educated—to go to school and to learn, and to grow and to achieve—that, in and of itself, has an economic impact, a positive impact, on a woman and her family but also on the economy of Afghanistan. The question is what steps are we going to take to ensure not just their own security but the security of the country. If they advance, if women and girls in Afghanistan advance, Afghanistan will be a safer place. It is likely the threat of terrorism will be reduced because of the direct involvement of women in the economy and in the life of the people in Afghanistan.

Let me quickly summarize what the amendment does. First, it focuses on political transition. Afghanistan will hold, as I mentioned before, historic elections in April. As the country votes for a president—a president that will help Afghanistan transition from conflict—it is critical that women not be disenfranchised. Therefore, this amendment seeks to ensure the adequate staffing of polling stations by female officers.

Second, the other part of the transition, of course, is the security transition. This bill would also improve awareness and responsiveness among Afghan National Security Forces personnel regarding the unique challenges that women confront. It will also focus on the recruitment and retention of women in the Afghan National Security Forces.

It would be, to use just one word, unconscionable to abandon the women and girls of Afghanistan who have made such great progress. If we take steps that lead to the abandonment of women and girls in Afghanistan during this transition—this drawdown—we will be making a terrible mistake, and we will not have honored the sacrifice of our own service men and women, and we will be harming the important transition that is taking place in Afghanistan.

This legislation will demonstrate not just our commitment and dedication to this important goal but it will also ensure a much brighter future not just for that young girl or woman in Afghanistan and their family, but it will ensure literally a safer and more secure and much less extreme situation in Afghanistan, when we consider all of the threats that are present there on a daily basis.

So I urge my colleagues to support in this authorization process amendment No. 2172, and I again want to commend and salute the work of Senator AYOTTE on this very important priority for the United States.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Pennsylvania Senator CASEY for his leadership on amendment No. 2172, which is very important. I appreciate what he just said on the floor—the cases of the bravery of Afghan women, the leadership they

have shown under tremendously difficult circumstances, and the sacrifices our men and women in uniform have made to ensure that Afghanistan does not become a haven for terrorists again.

One of the keys to that is that no society can be free, no society can have true safety and security unless the women in the society also have safety and security. So I thank Senator CASEY for his leadership in ensuring that we stand by the Afghan women because we cannot succeed in Afghanistan if women go back to what they endured under the Taliban, which was horrific and was wrong, and none of us should accept.

So Senator CASEY really has been a leader, and I thank him for being so concerned about what will happen in Afghanistan and working to make sure it never becomes a haven for terrorists again; that women in Afghanistan can live with security; that women and girls can go to school; that they can contribute to Afghan society and take part in free elections; and that Afghanistan will be a place where women will no longer be brought into soccer stadiums and violated.

So I thank Senator CASEY for this amendment and bringing it forward. I am very proud to cosponsor it. As Senator CASEY mentioned, our amendment would ensure adequate staffing at polling stations by female officers so that when they have elections, this would improve the security of those stations, making sure women can come forward and vote. It would increase the awareness and responsiveness among Afghan National Army and national police personnel regarding the unique challenges women confront when joining those forces. Yes, women—some of them—are now joining the Afghan security forces to defend their nation.

The amendment would focus on improving the recruitment and retention of women in Afghan security forces, and it would ensure that as we enter the bilateral security agreement that DOD will produce a strategy to promote the security of Afghan women and girls.

These issues are very important. I commend our men and women in uniform for everything they have done in Afghanistan to prevent Afghanistan from being a haven for terrorists and to ensure that women and girls can live securely and won't be violated the way they were when the Taliban was in charge of Afghanistan. The images so many of us saw were beyond the word "outrageous." We can't even describe the horrific way women and girls were treated—worse than second-class citizens—under the Taliban.

This amendment will ensure what we all understand to be the bottom line: that no strategy in Afghanistan can succeed if women are not an integral part of that strategy, if women aren't allowed to have the security, the dignity, and the freedom all people deserve.

I thank Senator CASEY for his leadership. I hope my colleagues in the Senate will adopt this amendment because last year when we considered Defense authorization, the Senate passed a similar provision by unanimous consent. So I hope my colleagues will do the same and pass the Casey-Ayotte amendment to promote the security of Afghan women and girls; as we look to the bilateral security agreement, as we look to working with our coalition partners as we are drawing down in Afghanistan, we will not leave the Afghan women and girls behind and we will ensure that Afghanistan does not become a haven for terrorists again.

I thank Senator CASEY for allowing me to speak on this very important issue.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to engage in a colloquy with Senator WYDEN for 15 minutes.

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

SURVEILLANCE REFORM

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, to start, I would like to pay tribute to my two colleagues, Senator CASEY and Senator AYOTTE, for their focus on human rights and particularly the rights of women wherever those women may live.

I rise tonight to talk about the rights that are enshrined in our Bill of Rights. To that particular key concern of Americans, I wish to talk about the importance of reforming our domestic surveillance laws.

As Senator WYDEN and I both enter this discussion, we have one general goal in mind; that is, to find a proper balance between keeping our Nation safe from terrorism and still protecting our cherished constitutional rights.

Senator WYDEN and I are both members of the Senate Intelligence Committee. We have argued for years that the government's domestic surveillance authorities need to be narrowed, and we are going to keep leading this fight in the days, weeks, and months to come. As part of this ongoing effort, we recently introduced comprehensive bipartisan legislation that would end the NSA's selection of millions of innocent Americans' private phone records, shield Americans from warrantless searches of their communications, and install a constitutional advocate at the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.

We believe that overly intrusive domestic surveillance programs, misleading statements made by senior intelligence officials, and revelations about how secret courts have handed down secret rulings on secret law have eroded the trust and confidence of the

American people. Simply put, we need to restore this trust, and the best way to do that is to carve out time and hold a vigorous and substantive debate here on the Senate floor—a debate the American people have demanded and deserve.

Senator LEAHY, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, introduced his own comprehensive reform proposal last month with Representative SENSENBRENNER. Representative SENSENBRENNER is a key figure because he was the original author of the PATRIOT Act. He has had concerns. He has joined forces with Senator LEAHY. This bipartisan plan, the Leahy-Sensenbrenner plan, includes many of the proposals Senator WYDEN and I have long called for, and we are proud to support this effort.

Let me be clear. This issue is not going away. It will not go away because more and more Americans and more and more of our colleagues are coming to understand the true overreach of our Nation's surveillance programs and the effect on American privacy. This issue is not going to go away because we are not going to stop shining a light on the potential for future abuse that comes with our government's secret interpretation of its authorities under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

I truly believe that ultimately our efforts—the efforts of Senator WYDEN, Chairman LEAHY, Representative SENSENBRENNER, Senator PAUL, Senator BLUMENTHAL, the Presiding Officer, myself, and a growing number of others—will lead to a majority of this Congress acting in commonsense ways to protect the privacy of Americans.

We are here today on the floor in the midst of consideration of a very critical piece of legislation for our national security and for the well-being of our men and women in uniform, the Defense Authorization Act. I am a member of the Armed Services Committee. I have the great privilege of chairing the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces. I know as well as anyone that this is a must-pass bill. The issues we debated this week related to Guantanamo Bay and the scourge of sexual assault on our military are matters that rightfully demand significant and thoughtful time on the Senate floor. While I think Senator WYDEN and I would agree that this week's debate on the National Defense Authorization Act is not the right time for a full, comprehensive debate on surveillance reform, I do believe it is the right time to begin that conversation.

Senator WYDEN has introduced a smart pro-transparency, pro-accountability amendment, and that amendment is the right place to start. His amendment is based on the work we have been doing for a number of years now. That is why I am a proud cosponsor and a strong supporter.

This amendment would increase the transparency of domestic surveillance programs, and I think it should—and I