

Russia. Four of our NATO allies import 100 percent of their natural gas from Russia. These are our allies. Yet they are heavily dependent on Russia for their energy.

LNG exports would help our NATO allies as well as our strategic partners and allow them to free themselves from Russian energy. That is why our NATO allies are calling on us—on Congress—and the United States to expedite these LNG exports. These will give our allies an alternative supplier of natural gas and enable them to resist Russia's aggression.

It is going to be an added benefit for our country in terms of creating thousands of good-paying jobs here in the United States. As the Economist explained, LNG exports "could generate tankerloads of cash" for America. The exports will create jobs in gasfields in Wyoming, steel mills in the Midwest, and at our Nation's ports.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

I yield the floor.

ENERGY SAVINGS AND INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2014—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 30 seconds for a unanimous consent request.

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I understand that a number of Senators have filed amendments related to energy policy, and I think they ought to be allowed to offer those amendments.

I ask unanimous consent that it be in order for me to offer amendment No. 3013.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. THUNE. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. President. Is it correct that no Senator is permitted to offer an amendment to this bill while the majority leader's amendments and motions are pending?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct that at present there is no place for another amendment on the Senate's amendment tree.

Mr. THUNE. Then, Mr. President, in order to offer amendment No. 3013, I move to table the Reid amendment No. 3023, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Is a unanimous consent request necessary for action just taken by the Senator from South Dakota?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A unanimous consent was previously granted for two motions to table.

Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) would have voted "yea."

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 45, nays 52, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 132 Leg.]

YEAS—45

Alexander	Fischer	McConnell
Ayotte	Flake	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Murkowski
Blunt	Grassley	Paul
Burr	Hatch	Portman
Chambliss	Heller	Risch
Coats	Hoeven	Roberts
Coburn	Inhofe	Rubio
Cochran	Isakson	Scott
Collins	Johanns	Sessions
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Shelby
Cornyn	Kirk	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Toomey
Cruz	Manchin	Vitter
Enzi	McCain	Wicker

NAYS—52

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Begich	Heitkamp	Reid
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rockefeller
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Boxer	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Landrieu	Stabenow
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Levin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Markey	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	McCaskill	Walsh
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Franken	Mikulski	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murphy	
Hagan	Murray	
Harkin	Nelson	

NOT VOTING—3

Bennet	Boozman	Pryor
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The motion was rejected.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry: Is it correct that no Senator is permitted to offer an amendment to this bill while the majority leader's amendments and motions are pending?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. At present there is no place for another amendment on the Senate's amendment tree. The Senator is correct.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, in order to offer amendment No. 2981, I move to table the Reid amendment No. 3025.

I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to table.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) would have voted "yea."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 45, nays 51, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 133 Leg.]

YEAS—45

Alexander	Fischer	McConnell
Ayotte	Flake	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Murkowski
Blunt	Grassley	Paul
Burr	Hatch	Portman
Chambliss	Heller	Risch
Coats	Hoeven	Roberts
Coburn	Inhofe	Rubio
Cochran	Isakson	Scott
Collins	Johanns	Sessions
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Shelby
Cornyn	Kirk	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Toomey
Cruz	Manchin	Vitter
Enzi	McCain	Wicker

NAYS—51

Baldwin	Harkin	Murray
Begich	Heinrich	Nelson
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Reid
Boxer	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Landrieu	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Tester
Coons	Levin	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	Markey	Udall (NM)
Durbin	McCaskill	Walsh
Feinstein	Menendez	Warner
Franken	Merkley	Warren
Gillibrand	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Hagan	Murphy	Wyden

NOT VOTING—4

Bennet	Pryor
Boozman	Sanders

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Minnesota.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. 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.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I want to thank Senators HARKIN, WARREN, and DURBIN for their leadership on the important issue of student debt. In the United States we all appreciate the value of education. We know it leads to higher paying jobs, and we know it leads to better health and even longer lives. Education gives everyone in this country a fair shot.

My grandpa never graduated from high school. He worked 1,500 feet underground in the mines in Ely, MN. He

saved money in a coffee can in the basement so he could send my dad to college. My dad went to a community 2-year college and then went on to the University of Minnesota, where he earned his journalism degree. He went from those hard-scrabble mines in Ely, MN, on to a journalism career where he got to interview everyone from Mike Ditka to Ronald Reagan to Ginger Rogers. My mom taught second grade until she was 70 years old. I still run into people who tell me what a great teacher she was. And here I stand, a U.S. Senator, the granddaughter of an iron ore miner, the daughter of a teacher and a newspaperman, and the first woman elected to this job from my State. One thing I know for sure: It would not have been possible without education. It would not have been possible without my parents, my grandparents, and my teachers, who believed in me and believed in the value of education.

I still remember getting into college. I still remember back then—and I graduated from high school in 1978—that it was \$10,000 a year to go to the college I went to. I remember my dad thinking: I can't afford this. We went and met with the student loan and financial aid people. He was wearing his brown polyester pants, and he had all these coins in his pockets. Somehow we were able to get this done through loans and through his financing a good part of it. Back then, on a journalist's salary and my mom's teacher salary, we were able to afford a college like that. But now I see my daughter and I know how much it has changed and how expensive it is. Yet it is still so necessary.

Higher education doesn't just benefit individual students, it benefits our entire economy by creating a more flexible, productive, and mobile workforce at a time when more jobs require some form of postsecondary education. In manufacturing now, more jobs require postsecondary education than not. We cannot allow cost to be a barrier to opportunity when we have job openings right now.

I see my friend the Senator from North Dakota, and I know they have job openings in North Dakota. We have job openings in Minnesota. We have job openings that require skill, that require post-high school skills. Yet a lot of our kids can't afford to get those degrees.

Rising costs for education are putting a strain on families and students and making college seem out of reach for too many young people. Many find themselves deeply in debt long before they set foot in the workplace.

This student debt hangs like an anchor around not just these students but around our entire economy, and it is dragging us down. Graduates with high debt may delay making key investments, such as saving for retirement or getting married or buying a home.

We had a hearing today in the Joint Economic Committee with Chairman

Yellen of the Federal Reserve, and she talked about the fact that while our economy is improving, housing is still flat. She talked about the fact that housing is flat because so many young people aren't forming households. They are not getting houses.

Student debt may impact a person's career choices by deterring graduates from taking jobs in order to pursue jobs that allow them to pay their debt. So we don't have people going into teaching.

According to the report I released as Senate chair of the Joint Economic Committee, our State has one of the highest rates of student debt in the country, with 71 percent of recent graduates in Minnesota having a loan debt compared to 66 percent nationally. The average debt load of student borrowers who graduated in 2011 in Minnesota is also more than \$3,000 higher than the national average. It is over \$30,000 in our State compared to \$27,000 nationally.

The good news is that there are things we can do. As you know, Mr. President, last summer we acted to prevent the interest rates on subsidized Stafford loans from doubling. Yesterday we introduced the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act in the Senate. This bill would give student loan borrowers a fair shot at managing their debt by offering them the opportunity to refinance their debt at the same low rates offered to new borrowers in the student loan program.

Outstanding student loans now total more than \$1.2 trillion. That even means something in Washington. It surpasses total credit card debt and affects 40 million Americans. That is why I am a cosponsor of the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act—because it is time we gave students a chance to refinance their loans and find better financial footing.

Education is the pathway to economic opportunity. Workers with higher levels of education have experienced much faster wage growth and lower unemployment rates than other workers. But the increasing level of student debt in recent years presents challenges for graduates just beginning their careers. These bright young people should be planning for their futures, not struggling financially because they worked hard to earn their degrees.

Our country has come a long way since my grandpa saved that money in a coffee can in his basement so he could send my dad to college. There are parents all over America who want to do the same thing, but the money they have to save right now couldn't fit in a coffee can. That is why we have to make it easier and not harder for our students.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and pass this bill so students can manage their debt and build a better future for themselves and for their families.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, this is the first time since 2007 the Senate has taken up and considered an energy bill. I am pleased we are finally discussing this important issue. I hope we will also take time to talk about our country's recent boom in oil and gas production.

In the years since our last energy debate in the Senate, the United States has transitioned from a position of inordinate dependence on foreign energy sources to become one of the largest energy producers in the world today. Much of this is the result of technological innovation, and we must do everything possible to make it easier for domestic companies to access, refine, and transport the oil and gas that has become available with recent advances in technology.

In my view, energy efficiency and industrial competitiveness should not be addressed without also addressing energy production. The two are necessarily interrelated, and it makes no sense to treat each in isolation. But that isn't happening today. As a result, we are missing a critical opportunity to have an important debate on how best to invest our Nation's resources to support domestic energy production.

The bill we have been discussing establishes new programs promoting energy efficiencies for buildings and manufacturing. It authorizes new spending for career skills and workforce training. But instead of simply devoting additional resources to energy efficiency programs, we should first understand the impact of existing energy sector programs administered by the Federal Government and, most critically, have a serious conversation about broader energy policy.

If the Senate actually functioned the way it was designed and I was given the opportunity, I would have called up amendment No. 3015, which would eliminate some of the duplication and overlap which has become so prevalent as the size and scope of the Federal Government continues to expand.

Our Federal bureaucracy has grown to the point that government agencies are simply unaware many of the programs they administer are duplicated by similar—and sometimes nearly identical—programs administered in other Federal agencies.

The Federal Leviathan has become so large and complex that the left hand literally doesn't know what the right hand is doing, especially when it comes to spending taxpayer moneys. This is simply unacceptable.

Our national government has grown so unwieldy that coordination between its individual parts cannot be assumed and often must instead be mandated. This phenomenon is certainly the case with many of the programs that would receive funding if this bill was enacted as currently written.

Currently, the Department of Labor, the Department of Education, and the Department of Energy each administer