

The Shaheen-Portman bill is a chance for a fresh start for the Senate—really a new beginning. We had been making some limited progress this year in moving legislation, starting with the Murray-Ryan budget arrangement. Then we worked together—Democrats and Republicans—to pass a childcare development block grant, a flood insurance bill, and an extension of unemployment benefits.

But as we considered legislation to help American families—like equal pay and a minimum wage increase—Republicans got off track, and working families did not get a fair shot.

So here we are, once again, confronted with the possibility that a good bipartisan bill may fail. And for what? Democrats have acted in good faith, and we have bent over backwards to make this bill work. But it seems our efforts are never enough. Each concession we make brings new demands.

The Republicans working with Senators SHAHEEN and PORTMAN asked for changes to this bill, and 10 bipartisan amendments are now included in the bill before this body.

Republicans asked for a sense of the Senate resolution on the Keystone legislation, and we agreed.

Republicans changed their minds and requested a vote on stand-alone Keystone legislation, and we agreed.

If Republicans stop their filibuster of this bill and allow it to proceed, the Senate will vote on Keystone pipeline legislation, and they know that. That is what they have asked for, and we have given it to them.

But, Mr. President, they have held this bill hostage—this energy efficiency bill—as demand after demand has been met, but even now they are still seeking a ransom.

So why are we here? Why is this bill at risk? I have spoken from time to time recently with my Republican colleagues. They come to me, saying: HARRY, how could we get the Senate back on track?

I appreciate their sincerity in trying to find a solution, but the answer is right under their nose. I say to them, look at what is happening right now.

Mr. President, I have been told that two cosponsors of this legislation will not vote to invoke cloture. These are two gentleman who put their name on this bill.

Look at how Republican obstruction is bringing the Senate to its knees again and again and again—and now even on this bill, a bipartisan bill. This is not a Shaheen bill. It is a Shaheen-Portman bill—a New Hampshire Senator and an Ohio Senator, a Democrat and a Republican.

I repeat, this bill is being filibustered, obviously, by some of its own cosponsors. This useless, mind-boggling obstruction is what continually grinds the wheels of the Senate to a screeching halt.

So to my friends who want to know how we can make things work better in the Senate, I say: Put an end to ob-

struction for obstruction's sake. Take yes for an answer. We have a good bipartisan bill. Let's pass it. It is good for the country. Stop filibustering this good bill.

We made an agreement on Keystone, and Democrats stand willing to honor our commitment. But we need Republicans to honor their commitments.

So let's use this second opportunity at passing this important bill—Shaheen-Portman—to get the Senate working effectively and give working families, American families a fair shot at affordable energy.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Would the Chair announce the business of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAINE). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. LEAHY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

INDIAN COUNTRY NOMINATIONS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, as chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs, I rise in support of the nomination of three distinguished Native American leaders: Vince Logan, Keith Harper, and Diane Humetewa. These individuals have been nominated to positions that are crucial to Indian Country and to our Nation. It is our responsibility to make sure they can begin this challenging work.

I think it is fair to say that no one in this Chamber is happy about how the nominations have been handled in the last 2 years. There are reasons and frustrations on both sides of the aisle about the process. I understand that. But in the case of these nominees, it is long past time to act. By acting on those nominees, this Congress, which has been criticized for not doing very much, can make a little bit of history.

Vince Logan's nomination was first sent to the Senate in September of 2012. He is a member of the Osage Nation of Oklahoma and was nominated to be Special Trustee for American Indians at the Department of Interior. This vote is long overdue. The position has been vacant for 5 years.

The Special Trustee is charged with overseeing the Department's fulfillment of its trust responsibilities to

tribes and individual Indians. It is a difficult job, and I am confident Mr. Logan is the right man to do it. He is a litigator with vast experience in both public and private sectors. He has also shown great passion for working with tribes and individual Indians to manage their trust assets. Mr. Logan was unanimously approved by the Indian Affairs Committee in January. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to do the same.

I would also like to speak in support of Keith Harper, a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. Mr. Harper is the President's nominee to be the U.S. representative to the United Nations Human Rights Council. His nomination has been pending since early February. This is a history-making nomination. If confirmed, Mr. Harper would be the first member of a federally recognized tribe to hold the rank of U.S. Ambassador.

Keith has outstanding academic and professional credentials, having spent many years representing Indian tribes across the country. Keith's nomination was first sent here in June of 2013. What message do we send to Indian Country and to the world when we allow endless delay of the nomination of a man who will be the first Native American to hold the title of Ambassador?

Mr. Harper's nomination has the strong support of the National Congress of American Indians and numerous tribes and tribal leaders throughout Indian Country. He has also been active in human and civil rights organizations and has served as a delegate to the 2001 World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa.

All of these experiences have prepared him to tackle injustice at the global level. It is also important to confirm this position to ensure that the United States has a representative at the United Nations World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in September.

Finally, Diane Humetewa was nominated to serve as district court judge for the District of Arizona, with the strong support of her home State Senators, MCCAIN and FLAKE. Her nomination was reported favorably 3 months ago by the Judiciary Committee, though her nomination has been pending since September of 2013. She is a member of the Hopi Tribe of Arizona. That means, if confirmed, she would be the only Native American serving as a Federal judge. She would be the first Native American woman to ever serve on the Federal bench.

Confirming these nominees during a time of such partisanship will send a strong signal to Indian Country. Whether it is overseeing our trust responsibilities, representing our Nation to the world, or delivering justice, these nominees will help our government function a little bit better and more efficiently.

I ask my colleagues to join me in swiftly confirming these three outstanding nominees.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2014. I commend Senator SHAHEEN and Senator PORTMAN on their leadership and tireless efforts to craft an energy efficiency bill that is good for consumers, good for our economy, and good for our environment.

The Shaheen-Portman energy efficiency bill is supported by a coalition of environmental organizations, including the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Sierra Club, and the BlueGreen Alliance. It is also supported by business trade associations such as the chamber of commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers. By working together on a bipartisan basis, the two Senators have put together a bill that is officially sponsored by seven Democrats and seven Republicans and I believe the vast majority of the people in this Chamber.

Although this bill is not a substitute for comprehensive energy or climate legislation, it is the right effort to put us on more secure energy footing and strengthen our economy. I have always argued that at a time when we have been having a hard time working on comprehensive energy legislation—something which I believe we should do and which would be very good for our economy—we need to get behind efforts such as this one. I am so pleased this has finally happened; however, I am not certain we will be able to get it done this week.

I believe the beneficial role energy efficiency improvements can have for consumers and also our economic competitiveness often gets overlooked in today's debate. The Shaheen-Portman bill creates new incentives to install energy-efficient technologies in homes, businesses, and manufacturing facilities that can quickly pay for themselves. The savings for consumers alone are astounding. According to a new study, Shaheen-Portman is estimated to save consumers \$16 billion a year by 2030. Making these improvements will not only save consumers and businesses money, it will also create more than 190,000 jobs.

America has always been a country that benefits from the development of innovative technologies, but this bill recognizes that we don't need to reinvent the wheel or rely on a new space race to move our economy forward. This bill will lead to the installation of energy-efficient technologies that are

commercially available today and can quickly pay for themselves through energy savings.

The bill doesn't just work with individuals in the private sector on a voluntary basis to encourage energy efficiency, the bill also helps the government become more efficient. Some people might question why the government should try to make energy efficiency improvements when there are so many demands for Federal resources. I believe we can't afford to needlessly waste energy and taxpayer resources on older heaters, inefficient lighting, and drafty buildings. Making commonsense improvements to our Federal buildings will pay dividends for years to come.

The Shaheen-Portman bill includes a number of commonsense provisions that will help keep energy affordable. I wish to briefly focus on one example which may not sound important at first blush but which has a big impact on the Minnesota Rural Electric Association and the consumers it serves in my State.

The rural electric co-ops strongly support a provision in the Shaheen-Portman bill that my friend and colleague from North Dakota, Senator HOEVEN, introduced and that I am helping to lead, and that is to change the Department of Energy rule to ensure that large-capacity hot water heaters that are part of a demand response program can continue to be manufactured.

The rural electric co-ops in my State have installed thousands of large-capacity hot water heaters in people's basements. Heating water is a major source of energy consumption, and our co-ops have found a way to provide an important service in a way that incentivizes wind energy development and saves consumers money. These hot water heaters are only turned on at night, when the wind blows the strongest and the demand for energy is the lowest. Then in the morning, when people wake up and turn on their lights, the heaters are already off. The wind energy is stored in the form of hot water that can be used throughout the day.

This provision in the Shaheen-Portman bill will provide regulatory certainty that these heaters will continue to be available.

Another provision I worked on with Senator HOEVEN was to find new opportunities to engage the nonprofit community in making energy efficiency improvements. We have an amendment that would help nonprofits—including hospitals, schools, faith-based organizations, and youth centers—make energy efficiency improvements that will help them save money and ultimately serve our people.

Our amendment, which is fully offset, has the support of Senators BLUNT, PRYOR, STABENOW, and MIKULSKI.

The amendment would provide \$10 million each year for the next 5 years to create a pilot grant program so that nonprofits can save through energy ef-

ficiency. We work with stakeholders to ensure that grants will achieve significant amounts of energy savings and are done in a cost-effective manner. The grants would require a 50-percent match so that there is complete buy-in from the nonprofits, and grants would be capped at \$200,000.

Our amendment has the support of the National Council of Churches, the YMCA of the USA, and the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations, to name a few.

This provision was one of the many good ideas—many of them bipartisan—that promote energy efficiency and that we believe will be included in the bill once it is finally voted on.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, the Nonprofit Energy Efficiency Act, and also support the underlying bill. The bill, as we have discussed, would save consumers and taxpayers money, reduce energy consumption, help create jobs, and make our country more energy independent.

Another issue that can drive up the price of energy for consumers is metal, and this is the final issue I wish to talk about because I have attempted to get this bill on several other bills. I was able to pass it through the Judiciary Committee. It is a bill that is cosponsored by Senator GRAHAM, and Senator GRAHAM and I are leading the bill. Senator HOEVEN and Senator SCHUMER are also cosponsors of this bill, as well as Senator COONS.

We have been working very hard on the issue of metal theft for years. It has broad support because it has struck so many electric companies and so many consumers. Houses have blown up when people take simple copper piping out of the basement and then someone turns on the gas. Literally, people have lost their lives. We had one incident in Minnesota, and we have seen others across the country. This is unbelievable, but the stars that were placed on the graves of veterans during veterans holidays have been stolen. The beer industry is strongly behind this bill. Why? Because kegs are being stolen all over the country.

Those are just things I am recalling by memory. But this is a major problem. Ask any power company or construction crew across the country or even operators of ice skating rinks in Minnesota, where one theft of a couple thousand dollars' worth literally costs the city of St. Paul millions of dollars because once they take a pipe out, they have to rebuild the entire system. Talk to any of these people and quickly learn about the growing problem of metal theft.

My bipartisan bill—the Metal Theft Prevention Act—has been filed as an amendment to the energy efficiency bill to bring attention to this important issue. The amendment is the much needed Federal response to the increasingly pervasive and damaging problem of metal theft.

Metal theft has jumped more than 80 percent in recent years, hurting businesses and threatening public safety. It