

used to say: Nothing good comes easy. It is true. We have to try to figure it out.

But I want to say to this President tonight how proud I am that he has stepped up to the plate. All the screaming and the denials and the yelling and the rest and the special interests, which my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE says has a barricade of lies around the Capitol—and he is just looking at his daughters and he is looking at all the young people he meets, and he is saying: You know what, I have to do something. And he is looking at the military. He is looking at them and he is thinking: I am being told—he is saying—by the Department of Defense that climate change is making this an unstable world.

Actually, there is a very strong case to be made that was made in a documentary that a lot of the cause of the Syrian war started out with the farmers rebelling and revolting because they cannot deal with what is happening to their lives—the farmers.

So whether it is climate change or taking care of our veterans or all the other things facing us—the violence—we have a lot on our plate. I just hope we can step up to the plate, with the best of intentions, work across party lines, do our best, stop playing politics. President Obama says one thing. It does not matter what he says, the other side is all over it. How could that be? How could every single thing a person says be controversial? Sometimes I think if the President said “Good morning,” one of the Republicans would say “It is not; how dare you say it is a good morning?” That is what it is getting to. We have to put that aside. We are only here for a short amount of time, and we have to do our best to solve the problems the American people face.

So I took a long time tonight because I feel there are so many things out there that I am so privileged to be able to talk about and, more important, I can do something about. So I hope our colleagues will come together on these topics and we can make some progress for the good of the American people.

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. WARREN. 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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 POLICY

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to offer my strong support of the Environmental Protection Agency’s clean power plan to cut carbon pollution from existing powerplants. The EPA’s proposal is a powerful step in the fight to protect our health and our environment.

We face a crisis. We know that high carbon dioxide levels in our atmos-

phere are driving climate change. We know these carbon dioxide levels are increasing the acidity of our oceans, disrupting already fragile marine ecosystems. We know that powerplants are responsible for about 40 percent of America’s carbon pollution.

Add all that up and we have enough to know that reducing carbon pollution from powerplant emissions will make a real difference in the fight against climate change. Pollution from powerplants is also associated with other dangerous chemicals.

A study led by the University of Syracuse and Harvard University found that reducing carbon dioxide emissions from powerplants can also reduce emissions of other pollutants such as sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, and mercury.

These dangerous chemicals contribute to acid rain, the destruction of ecosystems, ozone damage to trees and crops, and mercury in fish. These dangerous chemicals are also a direct threat to our health, increasing the risk of heart attacks, asthma, and even death. Add all that up and we have enough to know that reducing powerplant emissions will make a real difference in the health of our children, our parents, and ourselves.

Scientists all around the world have collected mountains of evidence about the dangers of carbon pollution. Their basic conclusions are no longer speculative or debatable. Even so, some politicians respond to this evidence by denying it is true, by rejecting scientific evidence or by claiming they just cannot understand the science.

This country was not built by people who ignored facts. Sure, the deniers can defend their friends in the pollution business, they can rail against science or pretend it does not exist, but the facts are catching up with us. This pollution is killing people across this country. According to the American Lung Association, up to 100,000 asthma attacks and 4,000 premature deaths will be avoided in the first year the clean power plan goes into effect.

Let the deniers deny the facts, but do not let them deny our children clean air to breathe or deny our parents long and healthy lives. The EPA’s draft proposal based on its authority under the Clean Air Act is a commonsense approach that builds on work already underway in States and cities across the country. Under the proposal, States will work with the EPA to reduce carbon pollution, and they can use a variety of tools to do it. The clean power plan encourages States to be creative and efficient, to partner with private industry to give our children a safer, healthier world.

In Massachusetts, we have seen how effective those solutions can be, after passing laws to increase energy efficiency and encourage renewable energy production. The Commonwealth joined neighboring States as part of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. We called it RGGI, and since 2005 RGGI has

helped member States cut carbon emissions by 40 percent.

RGGI has shown results and it has done so with bipartisan support and the backing of many members of the business community, members who understand that taking action against pollution is not only good for our public health and our environment, it is also good for business.

The fight against carbon pollution is about protecting our health, protecting our communities, and protecting our future. But make no mistake, this fight is also about whether this country works only for big energy companies or whether it works for everyone else too.

The terrible consequences of failing to act are real. We cannot afford to wait. But every time rules are proposed to clean up our air and water or to protect our environment, powerful deep-pocketed corporations line up to fight these changes. These opponents and their Republican friends are already attacking the EPA’s proposed changes. Their latest move is to argue that the EPA’s efforts somehow are not legal. That argument is laughable. Seven years ago, my State of Massachusetts led a multistate fight that went all the way to the Supreme Court to force the EPA to do its job to address carbon pollution in this country. We won that case and we started the process that resulted in the Supreme Court ruling that the EPA has the authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act.

Instead of embracing change, instead of working to develop rules to reduce pollution and protect the air we breathe, some companies and their Republican friends have fought change at every step. They loudly defend a world where polluters cut their costs by spewing dangerous chemicals and greenhouse gases into our air and water, leaving everyone else to deal with the consequences of their pollution.

They loudly defend a world where giant oil companies suck down billions of dollars in subsidies every year, while the green energy industries of the future fight for every scrap of support. They quietly work to tilt the playing field against the technologies of the future so that clean energy entrepreneurs and innovators have a harder time succeeding, while dirty energy companies keep raking in the profits.

Climate change is real. More than 120 million Americans live in counties that border the shoreline and a rising sea that threatens their homes and their communities. Millions more live in the path of wildfires or will be caught in the drought that will devastate our land. But unlike big energy companies, they do not have armies of lobbyists and lawyers to protect their interests. They see Washington ignore those problems and they see a system that is rigged against them. These millions of Americans have only their voices, and they call on us to fight for them, to

fight for meaningful action to address climate change.

The EPA's new clean power plan is one part of the solution. We must build on this proposal and continue our efforts to cut carbon pollution, to improve energy efficiency, and to invest in building a clean energy economy.

I applaud President Obama and EPA Administrator McCarthy for their leadership in stepping up and pushing for meaningful standards, and I expect that a strong final rule will be implemented next year because no matter the opposition, no matter how powerful those industries that would let our forests burn, let our crops dry up, let our children get sick, and let our cities drown just to protect their own profits, we have no choice but to take real action to fight climate change. The simple truth is that our future depends on it.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. WARREN. 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 LIEUTENANT COLONEL MATTHEW B. RYTTING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and thank Lt. Col. Matthew Rytting for over two decades of service in the U.S. Air Force. Colonel Rytting will be retiring on June 13, 2014, and I am grateful for his service and dedication to our Nation.

Colonel Rytting's career with the U.S. Air Force has been diverse and impressive, and it has included service as a combat control team officer, an F-15C fighter pilot, an F-4 instructor pilot, a chief of flight safety, a Civil Air Patrol commander, an Air Force One advance agent responsible for logistical and security support for Presidential travel, and most recently as a UV-18B instructor pilot, director of operations and cofounder of the Wings of Blue Association at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Within just a few years of his graduation from the Air Force Academy, while serving as a combat control team officer and squadron commander during Haiti's "Uphold Democracy," he led a special operations team in providing communications and air traffic control in non-permissive environments, specializing in parachute insertion techniques. Shortly thereafter, he won accolades as

the top Air Force graduate in undergraduate pilot training at Columbus Air Force Base in Mississippi. His many accomplishments since then include Distinguished Graduate of the Air Force's Squadron Officer School, Top-Wingman Awards in Singapore and Alaska as an F-15C Pilot, a Chief of Staff of the Air Force Safety Award in May 2007, Outstanding Graduate in the top 1 percent of his class from the U.S. Air Force Air War College, a Civil Air Pilot Meritorious Service Award, and a Big Brothers Big Sisters Big Brother of the Year Award in Fairbanks, AK.

Colonel Rytting's many accomplishments serve as a representation of his strong sense of duty and commitment to our great Nation. I am particularly impressed by Colonel Rytting's commitment to enhancing the capabilities of our Nation's airmen, both through investigating catastrophic aircraft mishaps in order to prevent future losses and through devoting years of service to the instruction of students and airmen in employing their aircraft and supporting joint, coalition and multinational forces. As recently as 2013, as a safety officer and a BD-700 instructor pilot in Afghanistan, Colonel Rytting trained pilots on how to provide the needed airborne communication bridges to ground forces entrenched in enemy areas, ultimately saving American lives. He also instructed German Luftwaffe students in F-4 basic flight and air-to-air combat at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico, led successful safety programs for 250 aircrew at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska, established a facility to train combat aircrews in advanced techniques at Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska, and directed 19,000 skydives and 2,400 accident-free flight hours annually for the U.S. Air Force's parachute team Wings of Blue. Throughout his time in the Air Force, Colonel Rytting set a wonderful example for his family and for the men and women who served with him in the Air Force. His commitment to the United States and his leadership within the Air Force is truly commendable.

Colonel Rytting was proud to serve our country, and today I am proud to thank Colonel Rytting for his service to this Nation. I congratulate him on his well-earned retirement.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR OBJECTION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I intend to object to any unanimous consent request at the present time relating to the nomination of Nani Coloretto to be Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

I have been conducting an inquiry regarding allegations of questionable hiring practices at the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, FinCEN. As part of that inquiry, I have requested documents from the Treasury Department that could resolve my concerns and questions. I encourage the administration to provide those documents to me as soon as possible.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MAHASKA COUNTY, IOWA

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State, and it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Mahaska County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Mahaska County worth over \$1.2 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$64 million to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memory of working together has to be working with people like Deb Philpot, executive director of the South Central Iowa Center for Independent Living, who helps to promote independent living for people with disabilities. There is no substitute for being able to live at home, close to your friends and family, and not in an institutional setting. I look forward to hearing about the kind of progress that has been made in Oskaloosa.

Among the highlights:

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in