

One day I went up to MIKE ENZI and I said: Well, how is it that you and Senator Kennedy, with such diametrically opposing views on what the Congress ought to do and how to solve these problems, can actually work productively together?

Senator ENZI said: That is easy. It is the 80-20 rule. The 80 percent we can agree on, we do. The 20 percent we cannot, we don't; we put off for another day.

That strikes me as eminently practical and a way for us to begin to get back to work again.

When I talk about the easy stuff we can do, I am referring to the bipartisan majority that supports things such as the Keystone XL Pipeline authorization, increasing our natural gas exports not only for the job creation and economic boost it gives us here in America but also because it changes the geopolitics of the world, where people such as Vladimir Putin cannot put a bootheel on the gas supply to Europe or Ukraine and use that for their own purposes.

I am confident we can find common-sense safeguards from an overreaching Federal bureaucracy. We can agree on things such as improving workforce training programs and do things that make it much easier to launch new infrastructure and construction projects. We can do things we should have done last year or this year, such as reforming our broken patent system to discourage abusive and costly litigation. We actually had a bipartisan bill in the Judiciary Committee, but it did not come to the floor because the majority leader would not bring it up because one of his constituencies simply objected to it. Well, no one should have a trump card when it comes to good, bipartisan legislation, and they will not next year. We will vote on patent reform.

Then there are things such as mitigating some of the burdens of ObamaCare, restoring the 40-hour workweek, and repealing the medical device tax, and there is strong bipartisan support for repealing that tax which has driven medical device manufacturers and their jobs overseas. I have constituents, for example, in Dallas in that business, and they say they are building their business in Costa Rica because of the impact of this medical device tax and its negative impact on medical innovation and job creation here.

I do know there is bipartisan support for abolishing the Independent Payment Advisory Board under Medicare. This is 15 bureaucrats who basically get to decide who gets medical care and who does not, with no real appeal or recourse. In the Judiciary Committee, on which I serve, we have had very impressive bipartisan support for things such as prison reform and even sentencing reform.

Those are important issues of substance the Senate ought to be discussing, debating, voting on, and try-

ing to find ways we can work together to achieve solutions. Each of the things I have mentioned has bipartisan support. If we can pass these measures with strong support on both sides of the aisle and send them to the President for his signature, it will be much easier to establish the trust and cooperation necessary to do the harder stuff. So starting with the easy stuff we have already identified that has bipartisan support—demonstrating we can actually do that—then I think we will have confidence in ourselves, and the American people will have confidence in us and their government to begin to tackle some of the more challenging issues.

Senator MCCONNELL, the Republican leader, mentioned this, but it bears repeating: that the President is still threatening to go around Congress and use an Executive order to implement a new, radical change in our Federal Government's immigration policy, and I think it is a terrible mistake.

At this same luncheon that the Senator from Kentucky mentioned, a number of us went down the line and said: Mr. President, please don't do this because if you do, it will make it even harder for us to take a step-by-step approach to immigration reform that enjoys bipartisan support. It will poison the well—not to mention the fact that what the President is proposing to do is unlawful and it will also make it harder for us to do the other things I have mentioned already that have bipartisan support. It will poison the well.

Why in the world would the President want to do that at the start of a new Congress in the last 2 years of his term in office? Don't you think he would want to have some legacy that he could point to in those last 2 years, saying: Well, I might have been dealt a tough political hand with Republican majorities in the House and the Senate, but we were actually able to be productive.

I think that is why most Senators have come here—to be productive.

So I would urge the President, as others have done, in the very strongest of terms to abandon his plan for this Executive amnesty and to heed the message—the very clear message—voters sent last Tuesday. After a 6-year experiment in unfettered liberalism and big-government policies, the American people are asking for a new direction. I am not under any illusion that all of a sudden they have fallen in love with my side of the aisle. That is not true. But what they are willing to do is put us on probation and give us all a chance to demonstrate that we can change our course, we can listen to the American people, and we can do things together that they want to see us do.

My constituents—6.5 million Texans—are sick and tired of watching the Federal Government waste their money, selectively enforce the law, and try to micromanage their lives as if the Federal Government knows better than

they do what is good for them and their families. It is not true, and they know it, but that has not stopped the efforts over the last 6 years.

What my constituents want, I believe—and I believe it because they have told me this—they want leaders who will respond to their practical day-to-day concerns, leaders who appreciate and will address the biggest threats to the American dream, leaders who will uphold the timeless principles of our Constitution.

I believe there is a nascent, bipartisan, emerging consensus here that we can actually do this. This is not too hard for us to do. Yes, I have read what some of the pundits have said. They said it is going to be even worse with Republicans in charge. Well, it better not be worse or there will be a heavy price to pay, and most of that will be paid by the American people, who will not be well-served if we simply refuse to change and if we refuse to listen. And that goes for the President, that goes for Republicans, and that goes for Democrats.

So for my part and I believe for our part on this side of the aisle, we are eager to work together to solve our country's problems, to help unleash this great American job-creating engine known as our economy, and to restore the rule of law and constitutional government. As for President Obama, we can only hope he decides to work with us rather than against us and against the best intentions and desires of the American people.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to speak for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I was hoping to catch the Senator before he left the floor because I wanted to ask him—and I am not sure he is going to slip back in here, but I was going to ask him if he thought maybe—because I agree with him that that new approach to bipartisanship could start today. I do not think we have to necessarily wait until January. There are some of us who have been ready, who have worked in a bipartisan way, literally for years, getting very important things done for our Nation. I am

sorry the Senator slipped away. I am sure he has some other pressing business. I wanted to ask him—and I absolutely agree with him on the priorities he just laid out. I think he just said the American people want us to act and to act together in their interests.

I think I heard him say that on the top of his list, what he is particularly anxious to work on is the Keystone XL Pipeline, the expedited export of natural gas. I think he said it was important for jobs in America, helping to strengthen the middle class, sending a very positive signal to them that we heard them in this election; that he was troubled about the falling median household income and wants to do something to raise it. And I think I heard him say he was concerned or that he was—how shall I say it?—he was thinking that some of these things would really push Putin back on his heels. I have been one of the ones sanctioned by President Putin, and there are a few others who are on that list, so I have been of that mind for a while.

I think he also referred to Ted Kennedy, one of our dear friends who mentored many of us—not just Democrats but Republicans as well—with his straightforwardness, his honesty, his passion, his capacity for extraordinary work, and his willingness to work across party lines. As the Senator from Texas pointed out, there was a great partnership between Senator Kennedy and Senator ENZI, and he talked about the 80-20 rule; let's agree on 80 percent. "We might not agree on everything, but let's move forward" I think were his words on the 80 percent on which we do agree.

So I want to come to the floor today to ask Senator CORNYN from Texas particularly and Senator MCCONNELL and Senator REID and others if they will join me in moving forward on the Keystone XL Pipeline.

This has been a project that has lingered far too long. It is clearly supported by 60 or more Members of this body. It is a piece of legislation that has been endorsed by the new-to-be majority leader, as a cosponsor and a leading cosponsor of the legislation.

There are a significant number of Democrats on that legislation. I believe with a significant push in the next few hours we could actually get the votes we need to pass the Keystone Pipeline. In an hour or so, at the request of the minority, I am going to wait for about an hour and then I am going to propose a unanimous consent to do exactly that—to set up 2 hours of debate tonight after the vote and then have a vote on the Keystone Pipeline tomorrow. I believe it is the time to act.

I believe we should take the new majority leader at his word and stop blocking legislation that is broadly supported by the American public and has been for quite some time. I want to say yes to the new majority leader MITCH MCCONNELL. The time to start is now. The public has clearly spoken. I

believe we can move forward on several important pieces of legislation.

Senator REID mentioned the Marketplace Fairness Act. That is another very important piece of legislation that I believe needs to be moved through. With a little push right now, it could get done. It would be a significant boost to businesses and retail that are being hurt every day by our inaction. My comments are going to be about the Keystone Pipeline because I am chair of the energy committee for the Senate. I am going to do everything in my power, here and at home on the campaign trail where I am still in a runoff, as you know, to get this project moving forward.

One of the extraordinary facts about the Keystone Pipeline is not what it is. I am going to talk about that in a minute and what it does. One of the most extraordinary pieces of argument for why we should pass it is the unprecedented coalition that supports it. There are other bills that have a longer list of supporters. There are bills that have pages and pages of lists. This particular bill has a relatively short list of organizations, but they are extremely powerful and diverse, which makes it compelling and I think it makes us—or should make us—want to understand and respond to this coalition.

I am going to read their names. I have some time to do this before I call for unanimous consent to pass the original Hoeven-Landrieu Keystone bill, which is a stand-alone Keystone bill as originally introduced with 45 Republican cosponsors. Every Member of the Republican caucus is already a cosponsor of this bill, and we have on that bill about 12 Democratic cosponsors. I am confident we have the additional votes necessary to pass it.

The American Chemistry Council, the American Concrete Pipe Association, the American Exploration and Production Council, the American Highway Users Alliance, the American Petroleum Institute, the American Road & Transportation Builders, American Truckers Association, Associated General Contractors of America, Association of Oil Pipelines, Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute, Distribution Contractors Association, Independent Petroleum Association of America, Industrial Minerals Association of North America, Institute for 21st Century Energy, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Laborers International Union of North America.

Let me stop there and make a point. Many bills passed here or attempted to pass here either have a list of all business organizations or all labor organizations or all environmental organizations or all highway contractors.

This bill has such an extraordinary, diverse group of some of the strongest business leaders in the country. I want to underscore to my Democratic colleagues who are supporting this piece of legislation, tremendous support from labor unions because labor unions, like business leaders, want

jobs. They want profits. They want success. They want more investment in business, creating good middle-class jobs. The difference between the oil and gas industry, which I have been pleased to be a strong advocate for in many different facets, is that industry does produce the kinds of jobs Americans truly want, not minimum wage jobs, not just slightly above minimum wage but jobs that in my State—the Senator knows this because he is well aware of this—start at \$60,000, \$70,000, \$85,000 for a young man or a young woman coming out of high school or trade school, let alone college.

These are very important jobs. That is why labor unions are represented here. Along with Portland Cement Association, the plastics industry, the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry, the Business Roundtable, American Supply Association, American Iron and Steel Institute, National Association of Manufacturers, National Electrical Contractors Association, National Roofing Contractors.

Why would roofing contractors be supporting the Keystone Pipeline? There are no roofs on a pipeline, but there are thousands of roofs over workers needed to build a pipeline. All along the route of this pipeline will be increases in populations of housing, industrial sites, retail, residential, supporting over 40,000 workers to build this pipeline. The North American Die Casting Association, the National Utility Contractors—again, associated businesses—the U.S. Oil & Gas Association and, finally, Steel Manufacturers Association and Western Alliance.

This is an extraordinary coalition that has come together to support the Hoeven-Landrieu bill. The bill I am going to call up in a few minutes for unanimous consent to pass because I believe what the new majority leader has said. I believe what Senator CORNYN has just said. I believe what the current majority leader said, soon to be minority leader in the next Congress, that we need to work together and that we can work together, and we need to begin to do that today—not tomorrow, not in January, not in February, not in March, not around the corner, not next week but today. That would send the most positive signal. I am not asking to have unanimous consent on 10 bills that are controversial. I am not asking us to do the impossible. I am not asking us to do something that just came up last week. I am asking us to move forward on a bill that has labor support, business support, general contractor support, and most importantly the American people. The latest polls on the Keystone Pipeline, not just in my state—I see my colleague from West Virginia—and not just in West Virginia but polls in this country from California to New York, to Michigan, to Pennsylvania, to Ohio,

to Florida, and to Texas. Overwhelmingly Democrats, Republicans—not everyone—but there is overwhelming support to build the Keystone Pipeline because Americans want jobs. American families deserve good-paying jobs. In addition, Americans are tired of bowing to Mideast powers or to Russian dictators about what our future is going to be. Americans are proud. We want to stand proud. We believe the Keystone Pipeline is an important first step. It is a signal. It is a symbol that represents American energy power. It is a symbol moving past gridlock. It is a deliverable on promises we have all made. Yes, we will work together. Yes, but that will start later. Yes, we will work together, but it will be next year. Yes, we will work together, but it will be in the spring. Yes, we will work together, but we can't pass Keystone unless we pass these 10 other things.

There is always going to be tomorrow. There is always going to be 10 other things. Let's act today, tomorrow. We can do this. We can pass the Keystone Pipeline and answer the frustrations of the American people so they can rest next week and say: Oh, my gosh. The Senators of the United States of America have ears. They have brains. They have hearts. They heard what we said and we can do this. We have a bill that is on the calendar.

I have also passed a similar bill through my committee, but I am not even asking you to pass the bill I passed through my committee, which I think is slightly better than the one on the calendar, but we can all compromise here. I am also the cosponsor of the bill, lead sponsor of the bill, that is on the Senate calendar. It doesn't have to go through a committee. It basically technically already has. It is ready for a vote. We have the 60 votes to pass it.

I am going to recognize in just a minute the Senator from West Virginia. I will ask the Senator a question because only the Chair can recognize, but I would like to ask the Senator from West Virginia, does any of this make sense to him. I don't know if he was down here. Although I am sure he was in his office listening to the comments of the majority leader, the soon-to-be majority leader, and the good Senator from Texas saying now is the time to work together. I don't know if the Senator heard that. Does the Senator think that maybe this bill would be the bill to start moving us from gridlock to doing the job for the American people?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator of West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. I thank the Chair.

My good friend, the Senator from Louisiana, has been working on this for many years—I think even before I came up. I have been here 4 years now. When I first came, I talked to Senator LANDRIEU, my friend from Louisiana, and asked her about this and basically I think she explained to me at the time that first of all the sovereign nation of

Canada, the country, was going to produce it so we had no say in the production of this product. It is going to be produced. Next of all, it is going to go somewhere because there is demand for the product in the marketplace. There is a demand for it.

With all that being said, it didn't take me too long to reply to the Senator, she will recall, 4 years ago, that in West Virginia we have common sense and we have good people like Louisiana and we felt if this product is going to be sold and we are buying this type of a product around the world, then why wouldn't we buy from our friends versus the enemies we have supplied resources to, to be used against us? That is the one that resonates with West Virginians. I know it resonates with Louisianians. The other thing is I understand there are 1,000 American companies in West Virginia—not to say what you have been able to do and help the people in Louisiana, all the jobs they have gotten from this, it would be a tremendous windfall for all of us if it is something we can count on.

I can't for the life of me understand why we haven't to date been able to move this piece of legislation forward. I did hear both the minority leader and the majority leader and the minority whip and majority whip talk about it is time for us to start working together.

There is not a better piece of legislation to show that we heard the results of Tuesday's election. We heard. If we heard nothing more from that roar of Americans, whether they voted or didn't vote, they basically told us do something. Start doing what we are supposed to do. Start governing. Do something. We may not agree with you, but we would like to see this open dialogue, this transparency, this beautiful body, the Senate, that the whole world watches. But when they see us doing nothing—it is not something we are very good at or look very good doing. That day is gone.

I would ask my Senate colleagues that if they would be so kind as to give us a chance to show me we are starting anew.

We are going to have a piece of legislation that is going to help us be more secure as a nation, and that is why I am here. I wish to hear the Senator's comments.

The security of our Nation—the Senator has been here. She has been seeing what has been going on, the demand we had for foreign oil, what it has done to us, the areas of the world it has taken us to, and the amount of resources we have spent in blood and treasure fighting for resources—whether people believe it or not. This is a chance for us to secure that. So if the Senator could talk to us about that.

Ms. LANDRIEU. The Senator from West Virginia is so right in focusing this debate at this moment on the subject of national security because Veterans Day was just celebrated by all of us yesterday. We all participated in Veterans Day events.

So it pains me to say this, but I am going to give us all of the facts—and the Senator knows this—that this country imports 340 million barrels today. Iraq exports 340,000 barrels of oil per day. That is Iraq—blood and treasure. We have left men and women—not left them on the battlefield—but they have died there, and we have many soldiers here at home.

Canada—which is a friendly country, an ally of ours—with the Keystone Pipeline, would bring in 870,000 barrels into the United States. So the American people sit here and think: OK, what is wrong with this picture? We could be taking oil from our friend, Canada, creating jobs in North America—good-paying jobs—not only building the pipeline but maintaining the pipeline.

This pipeline doesn't come to Louisiana. I fought for it like a tiger, and the pipeline doesn't even come to my State. It goes to Texas. Now, I have refineries in Louisiana, and Louisiana most certainly and the companies in Louisiana will benefit. This pipeline doesn't connect Canada and Louisiana; it connects Canada and Texas.

I am sorry that the majority leader and the Senator from Texas had to scamper off the floor. I am sure he had a meeting to go to. But this is really about refineries in Texas that are waiting for this oil and about moving this oil, as the Senator knows, through the most safe means possible to these refineries—off of the highways, off of the railroads, and supporting a relationship with Canada as opposed to countries in other parts of the world that don't always share our values and that we have to spend a lot of our defense money protecting.

So this makes no sense, and that is why I think this pipeline has such overwhelming bipartisan support across the country.

Mr. MANCHIN. I think that basically the Senator touched on something very important and we want to go back to that—transportation of the oil today. The oil is coming down into the refineries anyway. We have had some explosions by our rail carriers. It is coming by truck, and it is coming in so many different forms. We have been told this is the safest way to transport.

When people talk about safe transport, we know this was not the first pipeline we have in America. I think if you ever look at a map—the Senator has had the map on the floor—there is a crisscross. We have pipelines all across America, and I think that is the perfect map to see.

So the bottom line is it is something we have done. If we take it in the harshest environment in Alaska, the Alaskan pipeline—that means so much to us in America—it has been done in the harshest of environments and has been done safely. So I am concerned about that.

I am also concerned with—the Senator talked about it directly going to Texas, but you all benefit; everyone benefits.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Everyone benefits.

Mr. MANCHIN. The other thing I wanted to say is this. I know the Senator was in parades yesterday, and I can only imagine her schedule. It has to be unbelievable. But with all that said, people still want jobs. All they want is jobs and an opportunity to work with certainty. This gives Americans a lot of certainty about jobs and future economic growth in our country.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Absolutely.

This morning, to prepare for offering this unanimous consent request—which I will do in a very short period of time and ask for a couple of hours of debate tonight and then tomorrow—I spoke to the leader of the building trades council for the United States of America. He was very strong in his words to me about how disappointed he has been with some Members who have not stood up for building trades.

These are men and women who work in every State. All they want to do is go to work and have jobs. He was extremely disappointed in the gridlock over this piece of legislation, and that is exactly what he said to me. He said: Senator, we are about fed up with elections and politics because what my members want are jobs. That is what their families want, and they are tired of fooling around with some common-sense projects that would bring so much wealth to middle-class families.

I know that the majority leader on our side is concerned about the flat line of middle-class income in this country, and I know his heart is working toward increasing income for all families. This is the first step. Not only is the project itself going to generate huge amounts of jobs and economic activity—and I am going to put that amount in the record. It is estimated to be \$20 billion. It is slightly less than the size of the entire State of Vermont's GDP. This one project is like the output of one of our States—albeit a small State—but Vermont is an important State. I have never in my life seen a project with so much economic benefit.

I have never seen an infrastructure project supported from a broader base—from the left to the center to the right. I have never seen labor and business come together in my life as they have on this issue. I have never seen so many Senators cosponsor a bill and yet—because of something I can't quite put my finger on—we haven't yet passed. We can do that now, today or tomorrow, and that would send a very positive signal that we have heard the voters, that we do understand this cry for breaking the gridlock, moving forward together, and getting the job done.

I could not think of a better bill that symbolizes what we are trying to do in terms of jobs, economic security, energy security, and looking to the future in our country than this bill. It would build this pipeline, get this oil—which is going to be produced any-

way—off of the rails, off of our highways, and into refineries.

May I say, as the Senator from West Virginia knows, and the Senator from North Dakota, who is my right hand with the Senator from West Virginia, we have additional pipelines to build because we have to build these east-west. The real need for the supply is the west coast and the east coast.

As the Senator knows, you could produce all the oil and gas you want or all the energy, and produce and generate the power, but if you can't move it to the places where it needs to be, it is as if you haven't produced it.

I know something about this subject as chair of the energy committee. So after we do Keystone, which we are going to do tomorrow, we have to build some other pipelines that go east and west.

This is only to take 10 percent of North Dakota's supply. North Dakota has become the leading supplier of oil and gas in the country. I wish to talk about North Dakota for 1 minute. I can't do it justice, such as Senator HEITKAMP can do it, but I heard her give this speech enough to be able to repeat it, and it is worth repeating.

The Senator from Texas just came to the floor and lamented: Oh, my gosh, what can we do to lift the middle class? How can we lift their economic outlook?

The Senators, all three of them, came and asked that question. I gave them an answer: Build the Keystone Pipeline. Do they know what is happening in North Dakota? It might be a sparsely populated State, but it has now surpassed every State in the production of oil.

The other thing they do is they took their energy production, No. 36 on a scale of 1 to 50—they were the poorest State. The Senator from West Virginia would know where they are today. Do we know where they are in 4 years? They have moved from 36 to 6. Think about that. I want to let that sink in for just 1 minute. North Dakota moved their number from 36 out of 50 to 6 out of 50 in 4 years.

Now, I challenge any Senator from any part of this country or any political leaning to come down to this floor in the next 24 hours and show me one piece of legislation, one tax cut, one jobs bill that could move a State in 4 years or a group of States from 36 to 6. That is the power of this industry, and we are standing in its way.

It is shameful, it is wrong, and it must stop today. If people want to hide, they are going to have a hard time.

I want everybody to hear clearly this is not a time to hide, not a time to sit down, and not a time to play games. It is a time to stand. We already have enough votes to pass this bill. We have 45—we have every single Republican, none of whom are on the floor now. Every single Republican of this Chamber is a cosponsor of this bill on which I am going to ask unanimous consent.

So I would think very carefully before anyone objects because they are all cosponsors on the bill. Think hard before you do.

Mr. MANCHIN. Senator, if I could just touch on one thing because we have here our good friend Senator TESTER of Montana, who also knows a thing or two about an energy-producing State.

I think on the environment, you touched on that. Most people believe that people who come from energy States throw caution to the wind on environmental issues. There is no one in this body—I don't believe on either side of the aisle—who doesn't want the best for themselves, their children, families, and future generations.

With that being said, I think this pipeline has passed every hurdle the environmental community—rightfully so—has put out so that we should make sure we were protecting the environment and trying to find a balance between the environment and the economics, if you will. The economy is so vitally important. I don't know if there is any environmental impact study standing in the way that would prevent this.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I agree with the Senator. I think he is absolutely correct. The Senator from Montana knows this as well. The Senator from Montana also has an issue that I will ask him to explain in just a moment—he knows it better than I do—about private property rights, because he negotiated the language in the bill.

But responding to the question of the Senator from West Virginia about the environment, that is what is so exciting about this project, so compelling for us to move forward. Not only did the international study that was done say it is in our international interests, of course, to trade with our best and most friendly trading partner closest to us that enjoys the same high quality standard of life that we do and even higher environmental standards, but the environmental study that came in, conducted by the President's own administration—this wasn't done previously—came back and concluded this is the safest way to move it and it is the most environmentally friendly way to move it, and that is the record.

So the Senator is right. Not only does it have a compelling economic argument, but it has a compelling environmental argument from that perspective.

I would ask the Senator from Montana if he could explain the very important language that is in the Landrieu-Hoeven bill that is cosponsored by every single Republican and this chairman and that is about the language he negotiated on private property rights, because this is a very important principle for many Republicans but also for many Democrats, particularly in Louisiana, where we have a lot of private property. In West Virginia you have a lot of private property. In Montana you have a lot of private but also some public lands.

Would the Senator answer that question if he would.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. I thank the Senator from Louisiana and the Senator from West Virginia. I have a few things to say, and I will do so very quickly. But since this is the first time we have been on the floor since the election, I think the American people are frustrated with the ways things work in Washington—enough political games.

They told us that Americans want lawmakers to compromise, to work together, and to get things done.

Americans told us they want a stronger economy with good-paying jobs. It shouldn't have taken an election to get this message through, but it did. Nationwide, including my State of Montana, it is fair to say the unemployment rate is down, but it is also fair to say wages are not where they need to be. Too many Americans and too many Montanans are struggling to make ends meet.

The Keystone XL Pipeline can help address some of those issues. But now we have another attempt to block consideration of this bipartisan bill written here by Senators LANDRIEU and HOEVEN. The votes are there. We know that. If there is one way we can create good-paying jobs right away, it is by approving and building this Keystone XL Pipeline. Building the pipeline would tell the American public that Washington is ready to turn the page. It will tell them we heard them, that their voices matter, and that Washington is reacting appropriately.

Building the pipeline will strengthen our economy and our infrastructure. First, according to the State Department, building the pipeline will create 16,000 jobs and support another 26,000 more. Those are jobs that will help working-class Americans provide for their families.

Secondly, the pipeline will include an on ramp for oil from the Bakken region of Montana and North Dakota, and let more energy go from our country to the marketplace, which is where it needs to go. With production in the Bakken continuing to boom, we need more options to get that American oil where it needs to be, and the XL Pipeline is where that needs to be.

Third, shipping oil by pipeline is the safest way to ship it. That is a fact. And the safety of American families and communities must come first.

Fourth, building the pipeline means more business with Canada, our friend to the north, and less business with the Middle East—folks who don't like us. Our country continues to be involved in conflicts in the Middle East. By continuing to do more business with our neighbors to the north, as opposed to countries that don't share our world view, we can help cut off the funds to those who work against us. I think the Keystone Pipeline is a big step toward creating that energy security.

The pipeline must be built right. I will get to the point Senator LANDRIEU

talked about. It must be constructed with respect to private property rights. We cannot have foreign corporations using eminent domain to run roughshod over the fields of a farmer in Montana or a business owner in Nebraska or over sacred tribal lands. The respect for private property rights is in the Landrieu-Hoeven bill. It is not in the House bill. It is a critical component. It has to be, otherwise we are making a huge mistake.

This pipeline also must be built to the highest safety standards. There can be no corners cut. Leaks and spills don't make anybody any money. They are unacceptable. The most modern safety systems must be employed, including double piping, if necessary. That is a fundamental difference between the Landrieu-Hoeven bill—what they have drafted in the House and the good work we have done in the Senate. The House bill contains no protections for landowners. None. Zip.

The House bill says: Good luck, landowners. You are subject to eminent domain by a foreign corporation. You have no spill prevention protections. The Landrieu-Hoeven bill, on the other hand, protects rural America, protects private property rights.

Senator LANDRIEU has been working on this effort for years. This bill will give the pipeline the Senate's seal of approval and it will send a signal to all Americans that Congress is working together creating good jobs, supporting our economy, and that we are able to make responsible decisions.

But as this debate moves forward, I will continue to push to make sure the oil shipped through this pipeline stays in America. I have heard the arguments on all sides, but North America's oil should stay in North America. It will make our country more energy secure. It will lead to cheaper energy that will be more affordable for our homes, for our businesses, and for our working families. That will lead to more good manufacturing jobs in this country. Because of our energy costs, we will be able to recruit that manufacturing base back to our country that we gave up some 20 or 30 years ago.

There are a lot of reasons to approve and build the Keystone XL Pipeline. It will support our middle class—and we need to support our middle class—it will make us more energy secure; and it will strengthen our transportation and infrastructure system.

But America needs a sign. It needs a reason to trust that Congress and Washington as a whole are listening. Approving the pipeline with the needed protections and with respect to private property rights is that sign. I, like the American people, am tired of the gridlock and tired of kicking the can down the road. I didn't come here to delay and push our problems to the future. I came here to work for commonsense solutions we can enact today and move this country forward today. The Keystone XL Pipeline is one of those solutions.

Passing this bill and building this pipeline is one of those very important things we need to do for our infrastructure, for our energy security, and for the country as a whole. I encourage my colleagues to support and help us rebuild our trust with the American people.

With that, I turn it back to the good Senator from West Virginia, Mr. MANCHIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Let me say the Senator from Montana, and all of us—there are quite a few of us—are on this bill for a reason. It is about the opportunities for jobs that we have. And it doesn't have an environmental detriment to our country. That has already been proven. So with all of this, what is the hangup? Why can't we get this vote we are hoping to get by tomorrow at the latest?

I can only talk about the jobs with the thousand American companies that are providing the goods it takes to build this pipeline. I have a chance in West Virginia—we are doing an awful lot of the work right now because we come from an energy State that does an awful lot of the support work for any type of energy throughout the country and around the world. But the bottom line is, again, if you are going to have a secure nation, you have to have control of your own destiny. This gives us the control we don't have, it gives us the ability to say, listen, we may not have to go around the world and engage in the different conflicts we see going on right now. That is what we are talking about.

So the security of the Nation, I think, is the most important thing Keystone does, is it helps us be more secure with the greatest trading partner we have. Canada is the best and the largest trading partner for 35 States out of the 50. People take jaunts all over the world trying to develop a market here and there. But when it comes down to it, the No. 1 trading partner for 35 States is Canada. And Canada is working with us.

I know Canada has pressure from around the world to go somewhere else. So if we have the best partner—the best outlook we have ever had or can imagine—working with us to help develop this product the whole world seems to need and want and we need in America, why not have control?

The Senator from Louisiana talked about this. Why shouldn't we bring that oil into America and do all the heavy lifting and then ship it somewhere else? It is supply and demand. When you have control of supply, when you have the supply in your own back yard—and there might be demand, but you have a need also within our country—that gives a pretty good hand to play. That is what we are saying. Why would we let any of these advantages be turned to a disadvantage?

The only thing I can do is hope we can get this vote. And I would say to

my good friends on the other side of the aisle, my Republican colleagues, this would be the best gesture to move the ball forward. This would be the best gesture they could make, coming off of the changes, the shift we saw from Tuesday's election. People are speaking. They want us to work. It is the same for the Senator from Montana, the same for the Presiding Officer. They want us to do something. They want us to work.

We are not going to agree all the time with people. The best we can do is try. We had a football game we played the other day at WVU. We played TCU. We were ahead. We should have won the game. Going into the last half of the fourth quarter, for some reason the play calling wasn't as aggressive as it had been the first three quarters. We sat on the ball and we got beat 31 to 30. People don't want us to sit on the ball in the Senate.

It is time for us to do something. It is time for us to move forward. After Tuesday's election, we can work together. We have heard you loud and clear. We are willing to take a vote. We know the environment will be protected. We know we can find a balance between the environment and the economy. We know we can reap thousands and thousands and thousands of jobs and put millions and millions of dollars into the economy. That is what we do know.

There will still be some people who don't support this piece of legislation, and they have all their reasons to speak about that. But give us a reason to vote for something that will help America and help our States individually. That is what we are asking for. That is what the good Senator has been fighting for since the day I have been here.

Senator LANDRIEU being the chairman of the energy committee has made a difference from my standpoint, looking at our energy policy as a whole. But how do we keep the United States of America secure and out of troubled spots in the world? I appreciate her efforts on this, and I look forward to working with her on this. I endorsed the bill, I am a cosponsor, and I will definitely proudly vote for this piece of legislation as soon as we can get it on the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I see the Senator from North Dakota has arrived, and of course she wants to speak and can do so beautifully because this pipeline comes through her State, as I said. But I do want to respond to a few things and thank the Senator from West Virginia.

I have heard colleagues, particularly my colleague from California, say this often, and she says it in committee and on the floor. And even though she and I are on opposite sides of this debate, we have worked together on some important legislation for our country, and I have such respect for her leader-

ship on the RESTORE Act, which was an amazing piece of environmental legislation for our gulf coast States. Without her leadership it would not have happened. But I have heard her say over and over and over again that elections have consequences, and this one does, just as they all do. And one of the consequences of this election is that a clear path for Keystone has been opened up.

The reporters following this legislation, which they have followed very carefully, know exactly what I am talking about when I say a path for passage has been cleared. In my view, that path will never, ever be clearer than it is today. Now in order for the path to stay clear, and it is crystal clear today, politics must be set aside. Gamesmanship has to be set aside. We must come together to do what is right for the country, for the American people, and to vote.

There are strong feelings, I know, against this bill. There have been for many years. But the overwhelming majority of this body—60-plus Members—has indicated support for this legislation. And the Senate bill, from the perspective we just heard—from private property rights, for clarity, for simplicity—is far superior to the House bill that has been passed.

The House is very agile—very agile. They can do lots of things quickly that the Senate can't do. So the House may decide to take the language of this bill, pass it, and call it something else. I understand that. I don't know if that is what they will do, but there is a clear path for victory on Keystone. Whoever's name is on the bill does not matter to me as long as it gets done. I want to say that again. The name on the bill does not matter to me as long as this gets done. And it needs to get done right now—not in January, not in February, not in March.

It doesn't need to be combined with anything else. It needs to get done on its own, because it is standing alone. It will go to the President's desk as a stand-alone. I believe the President will have to make an important decision. I am hoping he will sign it. But if he doesn't, that is the process. I hope he will, and I will be urging him to do so because his administration—his State Department, his EPA, and his Transportation Department—has urged him to support this piece of legislation for the strength of our economy, a signal to our allies, and to strengthen America here and abroad. I would strongly urge him to sign it.

We have a job to do in the Senate, the President has a job to do, and the House has a job to do. But if everybody would stop playing games with this bill and think about what the American people said on election day and stop trying to push one philosophy or one person ahead of the other, we can get this done.

My name is not even first on this bill. Senator HOEVEN's name is first. It is a Hoeven bill. I am the lead Demo-

cratic sponsor because I am the chair of the energy committee, and I will be until January 2. If my voters send me back, I will be here for 6 more years. That is why my name is on the bill, because I chair the committee. But if they want to take my name off, put somebody's else name on it and pass it, so be it. I didn't come here to see my name in lights. I came here to create jobs for my State and for this country, and I believe I have done an excellent job in the 18 years I have been here, through very difficult circumstances, and will continue should the voters want me to.

Today we need to talk about the Keystone Pipeline, and nobody can speak better of this than the Senator from North Dakota. I wish to line this up before she speaks, because she was traveling and she just landed. She might not have heard what all three leaders said when they came to the floor. Senator REID, Senator CORNYN, and Senator MCCONNELL said their No. 1 goal was to break gridlock, and they wanted to start now. Their second goal was to expand middle-class job opportunities and create wealth in America.

So I am hoping the Senator from the State that has created the most wealth in the shortest period of time of any State of the Union might express to the rest of us actually how that happened and why she thinks this Keystone Pipeline and other pipelines—because she and I agree, this is just the first of several we are going to have to lay down to make America a superenergy power. We don't become a superenergy power by just wishing it; we become a superenergy power by putting in the infrastructure that makes it possible. Even kids in second grade understand this. We have to put up windmills, we have to put up solar panels, we have to put in pipelines, we have to put in highways.

The Senator from North Dakota, who has a very sparsely populated State, understands the issue of this infrastructure I think better than any Senator in this body. So I am going to ask her if she would respond to that and maybe elaborate on the question: How did her State get so wealthy in the last few years?

My State is doing well. I am not here complaining. My State is doing beautifully. Our unemployment in south Louisiana is 3 percent, so we are blessed because we are an energy State. We are proud of it. We are creating jobs hand over fist. But there are places such as Detroit, there are places in Ohio, there are places in Pennsylvania and New York and New Mexico and other places where people are unemployed, begging for work, willing to work. Three leaders came to the floor and said: It is time to break gridlock. Here is a project that can do it. So I hope to see them sometime before close of business tonight.

Would the Senator expound on that? The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). The Senator from North Dakota.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I stand with my great colleague and a great champion of this energy renaissance—probably the greatest champion of the energy renaissance here in the Senate, the Senator from Louisiana.

I wish to speak first about the election. I think all of us have had some time now to reflect, and I think the clearest message this entire body, as well as the entire U.S. Congress, received is: Stop fighting. Get your work done. I don't think it could have been any clearer.

We have an opportunity today to demonstrate we got that message, not in a partisan way, but in a bipartisan way—in a nonpartisan way—to say: We heard you loud and clear. It is time to do the job we were sent here to do, and that is to move legislation which moves this country forward.

Senator LANDRIEU has expounded on the great opportunity of this energy renaissance, not just for this country but for the entire world. So let's start with what is happening in North Dakota.

We have had an explosion of oil and gas production. In fact, we have rapidly moved to second place in this country in oil production. We produce oil from oil shale.

What does that mean? It means nothing if we can't move the oil. It means nothing if we can't get this product to the refineries and this product to market. We can produce all the oil we want, but part of what we need to address as we look at an energy infrastructure is how we move energy products.

Today in America, and actually in Canada, how we are moving this product is by rail, which has created tremendous stress on our agricultural infrastructure. It has created tremendous stress on manufacturers who need to use those rails to haul their finished products. It has created tremendous stress for the railroads. Are they glad for the business? You bet. And has that created and opened up new markets for the oil production in my State? You bet. But the bottom line is, the best way we know how to move oil and move this product is in a pipe, and that is essential to building all this energy infrastructure.

Why is it important? Let's start first with the fact that we now are moving toward North American energy self-sufficiency. A lot of people talk about America, and that is a great goal. But if we include our friends to the north—the people I grew up with, the people I know—I have been to the oil sands, I have been all over Alberta, I have been all over Saskatchewan. This is a very friendly country which has the longest contiguous border with which there has never been a conflict. We celebrate this in North Dakota with Peace Garden, which is a lovely park on both sides of the border where one can easily cross. We celebrate that. These are our friends. And if we are going to continue to build out this energy renaissance in

North America, we had better be prepared to move this product.

We all know some of the opposition to this has very little to do with the pipeline. It has to do with a concern about the increased availability of fossil fuels. This is still an economy that runs on fossil fuels. We have done tremendous work with fuel efficiency. We have done tremendous work with energy efficiency. But we are going to continue to use gasoline in our cars, we are going to continue to use diesel in our heavy equipment, and we are going to continue to use this product.

Who do we want to buy this product from? If we ask any American person: Would you rather buy this product from Venezuela or would you rather buy this product from our friends to the north, Canada, I am pretty sure what their answer will be.

So let's talk a little bit about why the United States, at a time when we are seeing a global slowdown in economic progress for many of the other countries throughout the world—why is the United States seeming to go farther? Why are we producing and generating more wealth in our country than other places? I would tell you, it is because of this energy renaissance. We are doing something no one else is doing—we are producing our own oil and gas, we are developing the techniques to get this oil and gas out of the ground, and we are taking that as a raw material which is providing a renaissance, not just in the oil area but also in natural gas as a feedstock for many of our manufacturing processes. So we have a real opportunity here. But all of that goes away if we don't move the product, if we don't figure out a way to make sure our product gets to market.

I will talk a little bit also about what this development in our country means to the world, when we are confronting great challenges in dealing with Russia, in looking at what is happening in the Middle East. We are confronting all of these challenges throughout the world. We know we can not only deploy our humanitarian efforts, our efforts by supporting through air strikes some of the work that is being done on the ground, but perhaps the single most important thing we can do is help provide oil and gas to Europe and to those countries dependent on people or on countries that are not our friends.

We look at what our opportunities are today, and we know those opportunities are in the energy renaissance.

So how do we move this product? How do we send a signal that we are ready to take advantage, both globally and domestically, of this product, of this renaissance in North America? We approve the Keystone Pipeline.

A lot of people talk about what the Keystone Pipeline means to my State. It doesn't exactly go into my State, but the Governor of Montana made sure when he was providing the permits that there wasn't what I call an on-ramp. There is a place where we can in

fact access the Keystone Pipeline. We anticipate about 100,000 barrels a day of North Dakota crude will be able to be placed into the Keystone Pipeline and sent down to refineries in Louisiana. That may sound like a lot, but it is less than 10 percent of our current production.

For me, the Keystone is so much more than this particular pipeline. It is a national discussion about our failing energy transportation infrastructure. That is what this is. And if we do not move this project forward, if we say no, what is the next thing? What is the next project that is essential? A 22-mile pipeline in Massachusetts that would provide huge stability for the northeast in terms of their heat production. Twenty-two miles could be a huge benefit to our friends in Maine in terms of stabilizing their home heating costs this winter, but yet we fight the pipeline.

Keystone is a huge advantage we have in this country because we are an oil and gas producer, and could potentially be an oil exporter, providing that source of soft power across the world. What do we do? We turn our back on the infrastructure that moves this product. So we have got to do everything we can to get this approved.

I wish to turn briefly to the politics. A lot of people come here and talk politics. I believe this is the place to talk policy, and that is what I try to do. But for a moment, I wish to talk about the respect we should have for voters. I wish to talk about elections, and elections have consequences. One of the things we can do to begin to restore the public faith in our democracy and in the institution of the U.S. Congress is to do something bold to begin with: Actually move legislation that people have been waiting for for a long time, and actually respond to concerns.

Maybe we get the votes, maybe we don't. But let's take a vote. Take a vote and get it done. Show the American public we are willing to come to this body, debate the great issues of the time, and bring things to a vote so they actually see us doing something; they actually get results. They pay our salary. We came here to vote. We came here to work. We came here to do something for the American public.

We don't all agree; there is no doubt about that. But the thing we should all agree on is it is essential in terms of providing certainty to the American public, confidence that the American public has in this body—that they see us on this floor, not 2 years or 2 months from now, not 3 months from now, not 4 months from now, but today—the first day we are back in session after an election, a hard-fought election with pretty dire consequences for our side of the aisle, but a hard election. It is essential we send a message that we got the message and we take a vote.

I am so proud of my colleague from Louisiana for coming back when, arguably, she should be back in her State

doing a little campaigning. But she is back here fighting for what she believes in and what she has always believed in, which is an energy infrastructure which makes a difference for North America, makes a difference for not just States such as mine but consumers of energy.

I thank the Senator from Louisiana for her tremendous leadership on this and her willingness to basically come here and say: I don't care who gets the credit. I don't care if my name is on it or not. Let's get the Keystone Pipeline approved.

Now I want to make one final point and then I will close. If you have driven the route of the Keystone Pipeline, what you will see stockpiled every so many miles is thousands and thousands and thousands of dollars of pipe waiting—6 years waiting—infrastructure that needs to go today. So when people say we can wait to take this vote, you are wrong. The sooner the better. The sooner we take this vote and get it approved, the sooner we are going to see those resources deployed and we will not yet miss another construction season in the North Country.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and express great gratitude for the opportunity to speak.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I know the Senator from Tennessee is on the floor and I would like to take 2 or 3 minutes. I know we can go back and forth but I want to conclude a little bit of this debate we have had.

First, I want to submit for the RECORD—because I am going to remain on the floor and speak after the Senator from Tennessee—but I want to put into the RECORD the list of Republican cosponsors of S. 2280, the date they became cosponsors, and the name of every single Member, including the Senator from Tennessee, who is a cosponsor of the Hoeven-Landrieu bill that is pending on the Senate Calendar, S. 2280. I ask unanimous consent that the list be printed in the RECORD.

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

LIST OF REPUBLICAN CO-SPONSORS OF S. 2280
AND THE DATE THEY BECAME CO-SPONSORS

Sen Alexander, Lamar [R-TN]—5/1/2014
Sen Ayotte, Kelly [R-NH]—5/1/2014
Sen Barrasso, John [R-WY]—5/1/2014
Sen Blunt, Roy [R-MO]—5/1/2014
Sen Boozman, John [R-AR]—5/1/2014
Sen Burr, Richard [R-NC]—5/1/2014
Sen Chambliss, Saxby [R-GA]—5/1/2014
Sen Coats, Daniel [R-IN]—5/1/2014
Sen Coburn, Tom [R-OK]—5/1/2014
Sen Cochran, Thad [R-TX]—5/1/2014
Sen Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]—5/1/2014
Sen Corker, Bob [R-TN]—5/1/2014
Sen Cornyn, John [R-TX]—5/1/2014
Sen Crapo, Mike [R-ID]—5/1/2014
Sen Cruz, Ted [R-TX]—5/1/2014
Sen Enzi, Michael B. [R-WY]—5/1/2014
Sen Fischer, Deb [R-NE]—5/1/2014
Sen Flake, Jeff [R-AZ]—5/1/2014
Sen Graham, Lindsey [R-SC]—5/1/2014
Sen Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]—5/1/2014
Sen Hatch, Orrin G. [R-UT]—5/1/2014

Sen Heller, Dean [R-NV]—5/1/2014
Sen Inhofe, James M. [R-OK]—5/1/2014
Sen Isakson, Johnny [R-GA]—5/1/2014
Sen Johanns, Mike [R-NE]—5/1/2014
Sen Johnson, Ron [R-WI]—5/1/2014
Sen Kirk, Mark Steven [R-IL]—5/1/2014
Sen Lee, Mike [R-UT]—5/1/2014
Sen McCain, John [R-AZ]—5/1/2014
Sen McConnell, Mitch [R-KY]—5/1/2014
Sen Moran, Jerry [R-KS]—5/1/2014
Sen Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]—5/1/2014
Sen Paul, Rand [R-KY]—5/1/2014
Sen Portman, Rob [R-OH]—5/1/2014
Sen Risch, James E. [R-ID]—5/1/2014
Sen Roberts, Pat [R-KS]—5/1/2014
Sen Rubio, Marco [R-FL]—5/1/2014
Sen Scott, Tim [R-SC]—5/1/2014
Sen Sessions, Jeff [R-AL]—5/1/2014
Sen Shelby, Richard C. [R-AL]—5/1/2014
Sen Thune, John [R-SD]—5/1/2014
Sen Toomey, Pat [R-PA]—5/1/2014
Sen Vitter, David [R-LA]—5/1/2014
Sen Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]—5/1/2014

Ms. LANDRIEU. I also want to put into the RECORD the 35-plus very powerful organizations that range from business to labor to manufacturers that have been a strong and powerful and vocal coalition for over 5 years in their efforts to bring us together. They have come together. The question is whether the Members of Congress will come together. These groups have come together. It is not often that you see the laborers, pipefitters, boiler-makers, and builders and trades all together sitting down with the Chamber of Commerce and the American Petroleum Institute, but they managed to find common ground at a common table, and America will be best served when the Members of this body and the House do the same.

I also want to put into the RECORD two short statements, and this is directed to those who are on the other side of this issue and who are wavering or are not sure. I want to put into the RECORD that the environmental review process has been conducted over 5½ years. The review process has been thorough. Five studies have been conducted, as required by law, and are complete.

I want to repeat that. The five environmental studies that are required by law have been conducted. They are completed. I ask unanimous consent that material be printed in the RECORD.

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

SUPPORT FOR KEYSTONE XL

American Chemistry Council, American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association, American Exploration & Production Council, American Highway Users Alliance, American Petroleum Institute, American Road & Transportation Builders Association, American Trucking Association, Associated General Contractors of America, Association of Oil Pipe Lines, Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute.

Distribution Contractors Association, Independent Petroleum Association of America, Industrial Minerals Association-North America, Institute for 21st Century Energy, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Laborers' International Union of North America, National Asphalt Pavement Association, National Association of Whole-

salers-Distributors, National Ready Mixed Concrete Association, National Stone, Sand, and Gravel Association.

North America's Building Trades Unions, Petroleum Equipment Suppliers Association, Portland Cement Association, SPI: The Plastic Industry Trade Association, The United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada, American Concrete Pavement Association, American Council of Engineering Companies.

American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers, American Iron and Steel Institute, American Rental Association, American Supply Association, Associated Equipment Distributors, Association of Equipment Manufacturers, Business Roundtable, Consumer Energy Alliance, Energy Equipment & Infrastructure Alliance, Industrial Fasteners Institute.

Industrial Union of Operating Engineers, Institute of Makers of Explosives, International Union of Operating Engineers, Manufacturers Alliance for Productivity and Innovation, National Association of Manufacturers, National Electrical Contractors Association, National Roofing Contractors Association, National Utility Contractors Association, North American Die Casting Association, Petroleum Marketers Association of America, Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council, Steel Manufacturers Association, US Oil & Gas Association, Western Energy Alliance.

BACKGROUND INFO

Review Process: Five and a half years since it was first proposed in 2008, we are still reviewing it. The review process has been thorough. The five studies that have been conducted, as required by law, are complete.

1. April 16, 2010—Department of State issues its Draft Environmental Impact Statement. It opens a 45-day comment period, which it extends for additional days.

2. April 15, 2011—Department of State issues a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement and opens another 45-day comment period. More than 280,000 comments are received.

3. August 26, 2011—Department of State issues its Final Environmental Impact Statement and opens up a 90-day review period. The agency continues accepting public comments.

4. March 1, 2013—The U.S. State Department issued its Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Keystone XL Presidential Permit application, which includes the proposed new route through Nebraska. The SEIS findings are similar to the Department's FEIS issued last August, which found the pipeline will have limited adverse environmental impacts.

5. January 31, 2014—The U.S. State Department issued its Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the permit application, confirming the project is safe and will have limited environmental impacts. The report reflects that TransCanada has agreed to incorporate 59 special safety conditions.

Ms. LANDRIEU. In addition, the only other requirement is from the State Department, and I want to put this into the RECORD. But the bottom line is the last statement of the State Department finds "there will be no significant impact on the environment from the [Keystone XL] project." I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

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

LATEST ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY FROM
STATE DEPARTMENT

The EIS finds that there will be no significant impact on the environment from the project.

State Department finds that crude oil from the pipeline is unlikely to be exported, because the transport cost of getting it to the U.S. combined with transport overseas would be uneconomical.

The study also finds that the failure to construct the pipeline will not negatively affect the rate at which oil is extracted from the oil sands—that is, State Department predicts that rail transport expansion will be able to support additional production.

Ms. LANDRIEU. The path today is crystal clear. Today it is crystal clear. There is no guarantee that next week or next month or when the Republicans take the majority that the path could be as clear as it is today. Let us not miss this opportunity. Let us get our work done on the Keystone XL Pipeline, an important project in this country, and send a message that we have heard the voters and show that trust with us begins today on their behalf.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I thank the Presiding Officer and the Senator from Louisiana.

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT

Mr. ALEXANDER. Tomorrow at 2:15 we will have a vote on the Child Care and Development Block Grant of 2014.

I want to take a few minutes and explain why it is important to end the debate on the Child Care and Development Block Grant and vote on whether we want to turn it into a law.

When I talk about why it is important, I think of a young woman from Memphis who attended LeMoyne College. This woman had a young child and was able to qualify for a child care voucher from the State of Tennessee. There are about 900,000 families across the country that take advantage of this Federal voucher program. She was able to get \$500 or \$600 a month in order to provide daycare for her child while she pursued a business degree from LeMoyne-Owen College. With the help of this program she graduated with her degree and earned a position as an assistant manager at Walmart. With her new position, she is now able to pay for the child care for her second child without help from the Federal Government. This is exactly the kind of legislating we should be doing at the Federal level.

What is the appropriate role of the Federal Government on an issue such as childcare? The answer this bill gives is that we should enable this young mother and 21,000 other families in Tennessee to take a Federal voucher, choose their own childcare center, and help them to financial independence through work or continued education or training programs. It has been an enormously successful program. The

program has worked for over 20 years and was inaugurated in the administration of George H.W. Bush and was a bipartisan product of Congress. It follows the example of other successful Federal programs by enabling American families to help themselves.

We follow the same model when we deal with Federal Pell grants and loans that help students pay for college. Last year the Presiding Officer will remember we had an agreement in this body on huge changes to the student loan program. President Obama became involved and Secretary Arne Duncan led a bipartisan working group to develop a solution. The Republican House of Representatives came along, and we created new rules for the \$100 billion of loans the Federal Government makes to students every year. The result was a market-based system that is revenue-neutral for the taxpayers, and lowered the interest rates on student loans to undergraduates by about one-half that year. We first used the idea of Federal vouchers for education with the passage of the GI bill in 1944. Recipients can take a voucher and then choose among educational institutions of their choice, such as the University of Notre Dame, University of New Mexico, University of Tennessee, Vanderbilt University, Yeshiva College, or whichever accredited college they so choose. This idea has worked very well and the GI bill may be the most successful piece of social legislation ever passed.

The Child Care and Development Block Grant is a good example of the government working as an enabler rather than simply prescribing mandates. The program provides \$5.3 billion for childcare services for children under the age of 13, with plenty of flexibility. While it has broad bipartisan support, Republican particularly appreciate the flexibility the act provides to States through block grants. States are then able to provide parents with vouchers so that they can select a provider that best meets their needs. It is a model that has proven successful since 1944 and one I hope we continue.

Now we have the chance to move this bill forward by voting to end debate. The cloture vote that we will have tomorrow will reflect that we debated the bill fully and that at least 60 of us believe it is time to move forward and vote yes or no.

Have we all had our say? I believe so. Senator HARKIN, Senator MIKULSKI, and Senator BURR, have worked on this for several years as well as several others of us. It was approved 1 year ago by the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee on a bipartisan basis. Then in March of this year, 2014, the bill was debated and discussed in this very chamber over a 2-day period.

We have had a lot of discussion in the Senate about whether we get to offer amendments. That concern has come from the Senator who is presiding today, that concern has come from me, it has come from the Senator from

Oklahoma, who is here. It is not easy to be elected to the Senate and it is not easy to stay in office. And once elected, senators want their voices to be heard, whether it is on the Keystone Pipeline or the Child Care and Development Block Grant. The Child Care and Development Block Grant went through a model process that began with the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, then to the Senate floor on March 12 through unanimous consent. There was no motion for cloture, no filling of the tree, and anyone who offered a relevant amendment was able to share and debate that amendment.

Senators offered 50 different amendments. Then we considered and agreed to 18 of those amendments. This body approved 4 by recorded vote and 14 by voice vote. Senators ENZI, LANDRIEU, FRANKEN, COBURN, BOXER, LEE, PORTMAN, TESTER, SCOTT, THUNE, BENNET, WARREN, VITTER, and SANDERS all had amendments to this bill. They were allowed to offer them, speak on them, and they were either voted on or accepted, and then the bill was passed by the Senate.

The bill then went to the House of Representatives, was amended and approved and then sent back to us. Again, here we have an example of a good process.

I think part of the reason for the quality of the process is the bipartisan appreciation for early childhood education. I think it is time to stop talking and vote on the Child Care and Development Block Grant.

I ask our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote for it.

I think all of us can support the idea of early childhood education. I am the product of one of the first early learning programs in the State of Tennessee. When I was a child, my mother started one of the two early preschool education programs in our county. She held class in a converted garage in our back yard with 24 3-year-olds in the morning and 25 5-year-olds in the afternoon. It is hard to imagine a single mother dealing with that many children all at one time, but she did. As her son, I was able to experience kindergarten for 5 years. I may be the only U.S. Senator who can say that.

I had an appreciation for early childhood education instilled in me by both my mother and father. Many of us in this chamber have a very similar appreciation. We may have different ways of trying to get to that goal, but this legislation, the Child Care and Development Block Grant, provides \$5.3 billion to families across the country, namely mothers, who are going to school so they can get a job, or who are working so like the young woman in Memphis I mentioned earlier, can stand on their own two feet. This program helps them get started.

It is an important bill. I congratulate Senators HARKIN and BURR and MIKULSKI for their hard work on this. I urge my colleagues tomorrow afternoon to