

file a detainer. When you are finished with the criminal, he is sent back, whether he is acquitted or whether he is convicted. This is basic law enforcement. It goes on in every jurisdiction in this country.

The Federal Government holds people for State jurisdictions and the State jurisdictions hold people for the Federal Government. I was a Federal prosecutor for 12 years. It is done all the time. It is shocking to me—absolutely shocking—that a great city of the United States of America would not honor a detainer by the U.S. Government.

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers should not second-guess why it is issued or not. It is up to that jurisdiction to try or acquit or treat responsibly the person they are now prepared to release to them. To ignore that is a breach of the most fundamental relationships between Federal law enforcement, and it is done for political reasons by political mayors, generally, and city councils to try to win votes, I suppose. It has no principle in fact.

I am also calling on Congress to move toward a series of measures, whether as stand-alone bills, in appropriations measures or in any other planned legislation, to establish immigration reforms that serve the interests of all lawful residents of the United States living here today. These are some things we need to do:

End the release of criminal aliens from Federal custody. We cannot just let them go after having been convicted of a crime. They need to be deported. The law says they shall be deported. It has been ignored.

Cut off visas to foreign countries that will not repatriate their aliens. It is an absolute outrage that countries like China refuse to take back people who are lawfully deported by the United States. Yet they want us to give visas to them. We should cut off funding. We should cut off their visas until they agree to promptly take back these individuals. That is the whole basis of international visa law. All nations know that. Most nations take their nationals back promptly. This refusal by these countries backs up our system, costs us millions of dollars in housing, and all kinds of other additional problems. It needs to end. We can end it just like that if the President would take action. The law requires it. The President doesn't really need a law to fix that one.

Suspend visas to countries with high overstaying rates. Some of these countries have this huge number that get a visa and never return home and they reach these higher rates. We don't have to keep giving visas to countries whose residents don't return like they are supposed to and at the time they are supposed to.

We need to close the asylum loopholes and eliminate fraud. This is a huge issue and can be greatly abused. We need to end the catch and release at

the border with mandatory detention and repatriation for illegal border crossers. This administration has ended Operation Streamline, which is a very effective policy. It started during the Bush administration and was continued for a while under President Obama. Now they have undermined that.

We need to protect the work site with E-Verify. If a person can't establish they are here lawfully with a lawful Social Security number, they don't need to be employed.

We need to curtail an oversupply of foreign work visas to protect American jobs first. The only immigration measures politicians should be discussing today are those that protect Americans, that protect American security and safety and American jobs and American communities. More than enough has been done for the special interests. They have had their day. They had their day too long.

Whether we are talking about employees at Walt Disney in Florida, unemployed construction workers in California or truck drivers in North Dakota, it is time for the needs of Americans who are out of work to come first. We don't have enough jobs for Americans. We don't need to bring in more foreign workers.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. SESSIONS. I am sorry, Mr. President. I ask unanimous consent for one additional minute to wrap up.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. There is no more basic need than ensuring that all Americans live in a safe, secure, and peaceful community. I believe the legislation I have offered will take us in that direction. It is sound. It is responsible. It is consistent with American law. It is well within all of the constitutional requirements. I hope my colleagues will be able to study it as time goes by and pass it into law.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 20 minutes in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I expect I will take less than the 20 minutes, just to reassure you, but I want to reserve that much time.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, this is the 105th time I have come to the Senate floor to urge my colleagues to wake up to the reality of climate change. I know the Presiding Officer is a veteran of several of these speeches. For far too long, far too many of us in this Chamber have simply dismissed the evidence of climate change. They

have ignored the sober warnings of scientists, generals, of doctors, of economists, even of big company CEOs that these risks are real. The warnings are clear: If we continue on our present path, we will leave our children and grandchildren with a world very different from our own and not for the better.

By denying the science, dismissing the risks or simply by their silence, Senate Republicans have effectively pledged allegiance to the fossil fuel companies—companies that make a lot of money polluting the atmosphere with carbon emissions and that spend big on politics.

Outside this Chamber, however, the American people want action. Americans overwhelmingly favor limits on greenhouse gases and getting more electricity from renewables. It is happening across the country. It is definitely true in Rhode Island, my home State, but it is not just Rhode Islanders.

Over this past recess, I went to Tennessee. I found that people in the Volunteer State see the effects, they see the risks, and they see the opportunities that come with climate change.

In Knoxville, I met with Mayor Madeline Rogero, and I heard about the great work she is doing. Knoxville is making their infrastructure more resilient to flooding and storms and working to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, partnering with local utilities and citizens groups. Greenhouse gas emissions from the city's operations were down 12 percent in 2014, compared to 2005. Their goal is to make it to 20 percent.

Mayor Rogero told me about the risks climate change poses in Eastern Tennessee: changes in the Smoky Mountains parks nearby, programs like Round It Up that help people with utility bills getting hammered by earlier, hotter summer weather. She told me Knoxville wasn't alone. Even little Ducktown, TN, built a 28-kilowatt solar array.

I visited Oak Ridge National Laboratory, which is researching how climate change will affect Tennessee and the United States and the rest of the world. Let me tell you, they are not doubting climate change at Oak Ridge. They are planning for it. They are modeling warming up to 18 degrees Fahrenheit in the vast boreal forest regions of the Northern Hemisphere.

They are concerned about the phony science being propagated by the fossil fuel industry front groups—what I have called the parallel science designed to look like science without actually being peer-reviewed or meeting the standards—and they are saddened to see the public taken in and Congress stalled. They have a brilliant animation of industrial-era carbon emissions climate. If I could use a monitor instead of this piece of cardboard I would show it to you, but I can't. So you will have to find it. You can go to my website where I have a link: whitehouse.senate.gov/climatechange.

One employee at Oak Ridge, a Tennessean who had grown up nearby, told me about the recent trouble with fire ants. The fire ant is an invasive species from South America that can deliver a nasty sting. She said growing up she had never seen them—not a worry. Now she has to worry about a swarm of them getting on her children. Normally, cold nights and winter freezes limit the range of the fire ant. But this invasive species has moved north into Tennessee with the warming temperatures.

For those colleagues who believe the only values that matter are those that can be monetized, the USDA estimates that U.S. losses to the invasive fire ant are almost \$6 billion a year.

Fire ants aren't the only invasive pests that benefit from warmer nights and winters. The threat of the invading emerald ash borer and the Asian longhorned beetle means that campers visiting Tennessee can't bring their own firewood into the Great Smoky Mountains National Park anymore. As of March 1, only heat-treated firewood is allowed, certified by the USDA or the State.

Climate change threatens the Great Smoky Mountains with much more than invasive species. The national park may lose up to 17 percent of the mammals that presently live there as climate change shifts their habitat and changes the composition of the forest.

The Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency says that "Tennessee's wildlife and natural resources face a serious threat from climate change." The agency did a comprehensive assessment of the potential effects climate change would have on the State's wildlife. These are some of its key findings:

Tennessee's forests are expected to undergo changes in forest growth and composition. . . . [S]ome high elevation forest types will be dramatically impacted or lost entirely; brook trout populations are expected to decline; migratory songbirds may alter their ranges, with some species disappearing from Tennessee altogether; and larger floods and longer droughts could cause increased erosion, reduced water supply, and the spread of invasive species.

Meeting with local environmental leaders and advocates at the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, I learned that air quality is another significant problem for the Volunteer State, especially in Eastern Tennessee.

Here is a map I got from them showing the counties that still get a D or an F for air quality: Sullivan County, D; Knox County, D; Loudon County, D; Jefferson County, D; Sevier County, F; Blount County, F; Hamilton County, which has Chattanooga in it, F; Cannon County, D; Wilson County, F; Williamson County, F; Shelby County, F.

If you fix the carbon pollution from the coal plants, you will fix a lot of these air quality problems, too, and these air quality problems in the famous Great Smoky Mountains. They were smoky enough, I guess, to begin with. This is not helping.

I also learned of the threats posed by flooding from storms. In May 2010, a massive storm rolled over Tennessee and caused \$1.5 billion damage in Nashville alone. FEMA declared disaster areas in 30 counties and more than 60,000 families received Federal aid. Precipitation has measurably increased in parts of Tennessee during the last century, and as climate change continues, heavy rains and extreme weather are expected to increase. For fishermen, in addition to the warming of the stream water, streams that are blown out by extreme rains are bad for trout fishing.

In Tennessee I also saw great hope for climate action. Mayor Rogero is working with Oak Ridge National Laboratory to design a climate change sustainability plan for Knoxville and the area around it, including the lab campus. The laboratory is also a leading research center for advanced nuclear technology, including small modular reactors that could help unlock low-carbon energy with reduced risk of accidents or proliferation.

Tennessee is ripe with wind and solar potential, and the famous Tennessee Valley Authority, after a slow start, is getting around to renewables investments and supporting distributed generation. The TVA has learned from things such as having to derate powerplants on the Tennessee River because the river grew too warm to cool the thermal load of the plant and seeing giant demand sways from 12,000 to 35,000 megawatts.

I met with University of Tennessee professors who are helping the TVA make the move. The University of Tennessee has entire programs on climate change. They are not denying it. They have professors such as Dean Rivkin at the College of Law, Mary English at the Howard Baker Center, and John Nolt, recently the head of the faculty senate, who has written on the moral importance of counting climate casualties. By the way, Professor Nolt cites studies showing global deaths from the consequences of climate change every year in the range of 140,000, 300,000 and 400,000. But why should we care?

Private companies get it in Tennessee. I heard a lot about Wampler's Farm Sausage, headquartered in Lenoir City, which has invested in solar and biomass energy production to cut down on energy bills and provide stability to its business. For them it is about business and the environment. The company sees consumer demand ahead for sustainably produced products. In the words of company president Ted Wampler, Jr., "being green is going to sell sausage."

I had a nice dinner with lovely people from the Knoxville Garden Club. Some had come to Congress for the annual garden club trip to urge Congress to take action. They see in their garden the changes that are reflected in the USDA plant hardiness zone for Knoxville shifting in their very lifetimes.

A highlight of the trip was the annual meeting of the Outdoor Writers

Association of America. I was invited by the executive director, Tom Sadler, and joined a panel with Dr. Cameron Wake from the University of New Hampshire, Hal Herring from Field & Stream magazine, and Todd Tanner, the president of Conservation Hawks. I urge anybody who is listening to this to take 10 minutes and look at the fly fishing clip "Cold Waters" on the Conservation Hawk's Web site. It is called co2ldwaters.org, but the trick is there is a "2" in the middle. The Web site is co2ldwaters.org. One thing was crystal clear from our panel and from the discussion that followed, and that is this: Real outdoorsmen don't deny climate change. If you don't believe me, believe legendary outdoorsman Yvon Chouinard. Look at the clip at co2ldwaters.org.

If we in this Chamber could wake up and stop denying this problem, we could do a lot to help. Real legislative action, such as a price on carbon, could unlock energy innovation and it could make the fat-cat, politician-buying polluters actually compete fair and square on a level playing field with clean energy. Of course they would rather not. They would rather pollute the world and rig the politics to rig the competition so they can keep polluting for free.

If you think from my comments that I am mad about the disgraceful political conduct of the oil and coal barons, well, you are right; I am. It is sickening. It is a disgrace. And no, it is not good enough to say just enough good things about climate change to get through a cocktail party at Davos, while you keep your corporate money flowing to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the American Petroleum Institute, and other denial front groups to stop progress at all costs. You can't have it both ways. I will know the Big Oil CEOs are serious when they publicly tell the Wall Street Journal editorial page that it is OK to knock off the climate denial.

What I would like is to take their high-priced lobbyists, to take their slippery lawyers, to take their paid-for bogus scientists and put them all up in the high country for a week with Yvon Chouinard or someone like him who really loves and knows the country they are wrecking. It just might be good for their souls.

Senator SCHATZ and I have a bill to level the energy playing field by levying a carbon fee on fossil fuel emissions. In our bill every nickel collected goes back to the American people, and most of it goes back through cutting taxes. When it is time for Republicans to break free of this filthy grip the fossil fuel industry has, we will be there. We will be there, and we will be waiting. Take a look at our bill. It would be a win-win-win for the American people, and it aligns with what so many Republicans outside of Congress are saying about the correct solution to the climate problem.

I hope my Republican colleagues, particularly my friends from Tennessee, take a close look at it. Both Senators from Tennessee recognize human-caused climate change. The senior Senator, our friend who has just done such a masterful job of bringing this elementary and secondary education bill to the floor and steering it so far through this process, is a renowned champion of clean energy research and of electric vehicles.

Tennessee's junior Senator said in 2009, when cap-and-trade ideas were swirling:

I wish we would just talk about a carbon tax, 100 percent of which would be returned to the American people. So there's no net dollars that would come out of the American people's pockets.

Gentlemen, that is our bill. I am open to this discussion any time, but let's please not wait too long. As they know at Oak Ridge, as they know in the mayor's offices in Knoxville and Ducktown, as they know at the University of Tennessee, and as the rangers know up in the Great Smoky Mountains, time's a wasting, and we need to wake up.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MILLENNIUM COMPACTS FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION ACT

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to speak about the successes of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, or MCC, which is one of the U.S. Government's newest and most potent resources in the war against global poverty.

MCC was founded by a bipartisan act of Congress in 2004 as a new way to deliver foreign assistance. While the U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID, remains a critical tool for working with countries in need, MCC was given a very specific and focused goal: to reduce poverty through economic growth. The countries receiving MCC grants would be partners with a strong say in how their money would be spent. And, countries would need to compete for MCC dollars—only the best governed countries that performed better than their peers on matters of economic freedom, ruling justly, and investing in their people, would be worthy of MCC funding.

The MCC model is working. Countries are taking a hard look at their problems and poring over their performance scorecards so that they can become MCC-eligible. Academics have confirmed that the so-called “MCC Effect”—MCC's ability to incentivize sig-

nificant policy reforms from countries seeking a compact—is real and meaningful.

MCC countries are reforming in vital ways to be part of MCC. Ghana, for example, is reforming its entire power sector in order to receive MCC assistance. In Lesotho, women were fundamentally unequal citizens, unable to open a bank account without a man's permission. MCC made the Lesotho partnership contingent upon removing those barriers, and women now enjoy economic freedoms unavailable to them before.

With 11 years under its belt and a proven record of success, the MCC is looking towards the future and assessing how it can amplify its already significant effects on fighting poverty. One way we can do that is to give MCC the flexibility to coordinate its work on a regional basis. That is why I introduced S. 1605, the Millennium Compacts for Regional Economic Integration Act, or the M-CORE Act, along with Senators FLAKE, COONS, and ISAKSON on June 18, 2015. The M-CORE Act would enable MCC to establish concurrent compacts in eligible developing countries, enhancing their ability to promote economic growth and cross-border engagement between and among nations. Through the greater regional economic collaboration that MCC regional compacts will achieve, countries can address deficiencies in communications, transportation, and energy networks. MCC's bilateral compacts have increased access to reliable power, built highway corridors, and improved business climates, thereby promoting economic growth and cross-border engagement within MCC partner countries.

Regional investments can have an even greater rate of return. In Central America, for example, MCC's work on road infrastructure could have had an even greater impact if the roads connected across borders. And in Africa, neighboring countries could collaborate on a regional power pool, connect land-locked countries to transportation infrastructure, or address other policy, institutional, and logistical challenges that hamper economic growth and development.

MCC has, by mandate, always focused on economic analysis and rigorous data; and its approach to regional investments has been no exception. MCC's extensive analysis has concluded that a regional approach to poverty reduction, under the right circumstances, can present opportunities to take advantage of higher rates of return on investment and larger scale reductions in poverty.

In short, MCC regional investments have the potential to greatly enhance economic growth in well-governed regions of the developing world. I urge my Senate colleagues to join me in supporting this commonsense legislation.

REMEMBERING LINDA NORRIS

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of Linda Norris, a beloved former member of both my State and Washington, DC, staff who passed away recently. Linda was the very first member of Team Crapo and has left a lasting legacy in my office as well as in her adopted State of Idaho.

Linda retired from the Senate nearly 7 years ago after providing 18 years of service to Idahoans. Linda was the first staff member to join my congressional campaign as a member of my first House campaign staff. She was prominent and pivotal in my campaign and quickly became one of the most reliable and intuitive staff members. Linda then became my first regional director in Twin Falls, ID, serving throughout my service in the U.S. House of Representatives and into my service in the U.S. Senate. As State Director of Constituent Services, she established high constituent service standards, ones that are still used in my office, and she advocated strongly for military families and veterans. Her friendly nature, southern charm, and quick intellect helped defuse potential conflicts, and she represented the House and Senate offices with the utmost professionalism.

Whether she was working in Idaho or Washington, DC, her priority was to serve the people of Idaho, which she carried out with the utmost care and diligence. Her lasting legacy will be her influence over domestic violence awareness and prevention. More than 20 years ago, she arranged for me to visit a local shelter for abused children. The visit inspired an immovable commitment to increase awareness of domestic violence and to advocate for solutions and assistance for victims in every possible circumstance. Her interest and advocacy in this matter also spurred her into action when she recognized the need for training public servants who worked on public lands in how to handle domestic violence situations that arise when people are on public lands, not in their homes. With my strong support, she worked with the appropriate individuals within the U.S. Forest Service to initiate programs to train employees on domestic violence prevention. This remarkable achievement might be enough to most people, but Linda was a force that continued to search for ways to improve the lives of others.

She touched the lives of many Idaho military families and youth. As an Army wife herself, Linda had a personal understanding of military families. This experience gave her empathy to advocate effectively and attentively on behalf of Idaho military members, veterans, and their families. Linda also instituted and guided my military academy nomination process, helping countless Idaho youth on their path to success.

She was observant, inspired, tactful, and hard-working. Linda helped highlight the unrecognized good deeds of