

Terry Branstad's accomplishments and work ethic. It is gratifying to see those attributes get attention on a national scale and in the history books. He has earned his place in history.

Of course, First Lady Christine Branstad ought to be complimented too. We thank her for her public service and, most importantly, for sharing her family with all Iowans.

We are lucky to have had Governor Terry Branstad for these years as chief executive in Iowa, and, of course, I am lucky to call him a friend.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). The Senator from Maryland.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, it is my understanding that some of my colleagues want to talk about our visit to Paris, but I understand Senator HATCH will be on the floor at 2:45 p.m. and we are recessing at 3 o'clock.

Mr President, I ask unanimous consent that the following Members be recognized for up to 5 minutes between now and 2:45 p.m., but it may not be in this order: Senator CARDIN, Senator SCHATZ, Senator UDALL, Senator SHAHEEN, Senator MERKLEY, Senator MARKEY, and Senator COONS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PARIS CLIMATE CHANGE TALKS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I had the opportunity of heading a delegation this past weekend of 10 Senators who went to Paris for the COP21 talks, the climate change talks taking place in Paris. I was very proud of our delegation consisting of Senator WHITEHOUSE, Senator FRANKEN, Senator MARKEY, Senator MERKLEY, Senator UDALL, Senator SHAHEEN, Senator COONS, Senator BOOKER, and Senator SCHATZ. All of us participated in the meetings that took place in Paris. We were impressed that 150 leaders of the world were in Paris at one time to show their support for a successful outcome on climate change and to express their urgency for dealing with this issue. I think it was a strong followup to the challenge Pope Francis gave all of us as to the moral challenge of our time to protect our planet for future generations.

At the meeting in Paris, we recognized that our global health is at stake. Whether we are talking about our individual States—and I could talk about the people on Smith Island, as their island is disappearing, or the health of the Chesapeake Bay, and my colleagues in the western part of this country could talk about the wildfires and what is happening there. In Asia, we see climate migrants as a result of climate change. In Greenland, we see the glaciers disappearing. Every nation is at risk as a result of global climate change, and that is why 150 leaders went to Paris.

The objective is clear. We had a chance to talk to the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon. He made it clear that our goal at a minimum should be to reduce the increase in warming by 2 degrees Celsius. That is doable. The scientists tell us we can do it. And if we do, we will have a healthier planet, we will create more jobs, and not only America but the world will be more secure.

It was clear that U.S. leadership was critically important to that moment in Paris. President Obama, in getting China and other countries to submit action plans, encouraged over 180 countries that are participating in the Paris talks to submit their own action plans to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. That represents over 97 percent of the world's emitters.

As I mentioned, we met with the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon. We all met with former Vice President Al Gore. I think we all were inspired by his lifelong dedication to this issue. We had a chance to meet with U.S. lead negotiator Todd Stern, who updated us on what was happening.

We were particularly impressed with Secretary Moniz, our Secretary of Energy. He had earlier announced, with other world energy leaders, an innovation initiative showing how we can use U.S. technology to make it easier for the world to meet their goals in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and at the same time create more jobs in America. It was an impressive display.

We had a chance to meet with local leaders. Mayor Bloomberg convened a summit of mayors. I was proud that my mayor from Baltimore City, Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, was there.

My colleagues participated in bilateral meetings of other countries to encourage them to be aggressive in submitting their obligations and how we could follow up and make sure we achieve our goals.

It was clear that Paris is heading toward a successful agreement, and it will have U.S. support. We mentioned our commitment to carry not just our individual commitment but to be part of the global agreements in Paris.

We pointed out that in 1992, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was ratified by the U.S. Senate. This is the legal basis for moving forward. We also pointed out that our obligations to comply with our own commitments are controlled by the Clean Air Act, which is the law of our country. We pointed out the actions taken by the Obama administration. We also pointed out that 69 percent of Americans agree that we should have a multilateral commitment to reduce our carbon emissions.

It was clear to us that by working together, we can have a healthier planet for our children and our grandchildren.

Mr. President, I yield the floor to Senator UDALL, one of the great leaders on the environment and a very active member of our delegation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I wish to first say to Senator CARDIN, who led our delegation—Senator CARDIN is the ranking member on the Foreign Relations Committee. Foreign relations has a lot to do with this issue. He showed great leadership, and I believe he is passionate about this issue and finding solutions.

So we were somewhat disappointed, the 10 of us who went—all Democrats—that Republicans didn't join us. This is an issue that needs bipartisanship. We need to join—Republicans and Democrats—on an issue that threatens our national security, threatens our economy, and threatens our environment. It is an issue that is looming out there and needs attention. So we look forward to working with our friends on the other side of the aisle to move forward on this issue.

As I looked over there and saw what was happening, I remembered many of the briefings we have had. Everyone who has looked at this challenge of global warming and climate change says that we need to do two things. First, we need to drive capital to new energy sources, to clean energy sources. We need to innovate is what they are talking about. If you get the capital there and you get the private sector working, you can come up with the solutions. Secondly, we need to put a signal in the marketplace to invest in clean energy and renewable energy.

I was so proud of what happened over there in terms of the world joining together. More than 184 countries came together, and we are going to see the conclusion of their action this week. They have stepped forward and said: We are going to have targets, we are going to have goals, and we are going to be transparent. We are going to let people know we are moving in the direction of solutions and doing something about this immense problem.

So it was a major step forward to see those 184 countries step up and decide to do something.

In addition, Bill Gates led a group of entrepreneurs over to Paris to announce and to challenge the world about energy research and development. As everyone knows, Bill Gates is one of our great entrepreneurs. He and his wife are also philanthropists. He stepped up with 27 other billionaires to say: We are going to put billions into research and development, and we are going to put it into innovation. They called this project Mission Innovation, and they challenged other countries around the world to do the same thing—double their energy research and budget.

So seeing 184 countries step up to the plate and say “We are going to do this”—and I think we will see those announcements in the next couple of days—and seeing these entrepreneurs step forward I think was a signal—and a bold signal—to the marketplace that we are changing and moving in a new

direction and that we are going to get this done.

I am very proud of my State of New Mexico because we have all sorts of energy—uranium, coal, oil, gas—and we have many renewable sources—wind, biomass, solar, geothermal, but we have taken a strong step in New Mexico to push for renewable resources. In our State statutes, we pushed for a renewable electricity standard of 10 percent by 2010. We met that early, so we put another standard in place of 20 percent by 2020.

We are really in the bull's-eye in terms of climate change in New Mexico because of what we see and what we know happens in the Southwest. The temperatures are twice as high. We have seen those temperatures increase over the last 50 years. So we know there is a crisis, we know there is an issue, we know we need to do something about this, and we are very willing to step forward.

Mr. President, according to a study at Los Alamos National Laboratory, by 2050—not far away—we may not have any forests left in my State. It will be as if New Mexico were dragged 300 miles to the south. Our climate will resemble land that is now in the middle of the Chihuahuan desert.

Now, I am not a scientist. Neither are my colleagues. But the experts at LANL—and scientists all over the world—are clear. If we do nothing, global warming will only get worse.

The nations of the world know this. That is why over 190 nations are in Paris: To meet the challenge of climate change, and to do it together.

The Paris agreement will not solve the problem of global warming by itself, but it is a major step forward. It is what we need to ensure every country does its part, and does its fair share on climate change.

The largest emitters in the developing world—China and India—are making serious commitments. They understand, they have to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels.

This is about their economy, and it is about a commitment to future generations.

Opponents of U.S. climate action have argued that other nations—especially China—would never act to limit their emissions. Well, now they are. This is encouraging—and something we need to encourage further. That is what the world's scientists tell us. That is what our own Department of Defense tells us. We can make progress now—or face ever greater instability later.

More than 180 nations are on board with individual commitments. They will take concrete steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This is historic. This will slow global warming—and it must be done now, not later. The world cannot afford to wait.

These nations see the threat. They see the mounting danger. A representative from Bangladesh told me that in his country every day, they face the threat of rising sea levels.

These countries came to Paris with a commitment to succeed.

And the work began before Paris—such as when the U.S. and China announced major mitigation commitments last year.

Our task now is to keep up the momentum, to keep moving forward—both at home and abroad. I believe there are two things we can do right now:

No. 1, work to drive capital to new energy efficient technologies. We need to renew the Production Tax Credit for renewables. Tax incentives have been in place for decades for oil and gas.

Wind, solar and biofuels need that investment as well.

No. 2, send a positive signal to the markets. That means keeping our own climate goals on track, and stopping efforts that would turn back progress. That means encouraging capital investment in sustainable energy—not just in the U.S. but, throughout the world.

We are seeing a growing investment in new technologies with public and private resources. Last week, 28 of the world's billionaires committed to investing in energy research and innovation.

And we are seeing a major market signal that there is demand for those technologies—here in the U.S. through the Clean Power Plan and other measures, and across the globe, especially in developing countries, that have demonstrated a commitment to grow their economies in a cleaner, more sustainable way.

Now is the time for action. America must lead, because we cannot ignore the danger—to our planet, to our economy, and to our security. The science is clear, the threat is growing, and time is running out.

This is not news to people in my State. In New Mexico, temperatures are rising 50 percent faster than the global average—not just this year or last year, but for decades.

We have seen historic droughts. When it does rain we have seen terrible flooding. And we have seen the worst wildfires in New Mexico's history. What we have not seen—what we have waited for—is for Congress to act.

It has not been for lack of trying. There have been many attempts—including bipartisan ones. But each and every time Congress failed to make it to the finish line, failed to pass comprehensive legislation—in both Houses—to curb our greenhouse gas emissions.

Just this week, the Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Science held a hearing focused on whether climate change is real. This is settled science. The world has moved on. The United States Congress should, too.

So the President and the EPA have used their authority under the Clean Air Act to lead. They have done what needs to be done, with the support of many of us here in Congress—and of the American people.

The Clean Power Plan is reasonable, and it will make a difference to restrict emissions from new and existing power plants.

Mr. President, I hope that going forward Congress will work on solutions—rather than wasting time on Resolutions of Disapproval, rather than wasting time on questioning science.

The American people do not want a science debate. They want action. The world has come together in Paris. Nations are moving forward. The very real question now is—how do we keep that going?

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I will continue to fight against dangerous environmental riders.

I am encouraged by the conference in Paris, and I am confident that the United States will continue to lead—even if our Republican colleagues continue to block.

With increased U.S. leadership over the last 5 years we have made great international progress. The Paris conference is evidence of that.

Another sign of progress—the world's largest oil and gas companies are supporting a climate agreement.

BP, Shell—and the massive state oil companies of Saudi Arabia and Mexico—are among the ten major oil companies making commitments.

The United States can help lead this effort—not only at the negotiating table in Paris, but on the front lines in New Mexico and every other State.

Because in this great challenge, there is also great opportunity. Our country can lead the world in a clean energy economy. We have the technology, we have the resources. We need the commitment.

That means finding solutions, developing technology, and not denying scientific reality; not wasting time on empty resolutions that come from nowhere and go nowhere.

There are now more solar jobs in the United States than coal jobs.

My state has every kind of energy resource: Coal, oil, gas, uranium, solar, wind, algae biofuel and more. We are doing all we can to diversify—and reduce carbon emissions. A clean energy economy protects our communities and creates jobs.

A renewable electricity standard—which I have long fought for—would create 300,000 jobs. Most of these jobs are high-paying, they are local, and they cannot be shipped overseas.

Support for renewable energy is strong. Nearly half of the U.S. Senate supported my amendment in January for a Renewable Electricity Standard that would mandate that 30 percent of our energy come from renewable resources by 2030. Over half the States already have renewable energy portfolios. Many of them are being met and exceeded.

In New Mexico, we are blessed with great natural resources and with great human resources as well. Researchers at Sandia and Los Alamos national

labs are studying climate change—not with an agenda, but with a commitment—to tackling the problem, with real science and with real innovation.

Together, we can meet this challenge. We can find a path forward that works. We can work with the global community. We can protect our planet. But, America must lead and help drive progress across the world.

Mr. President, 48 national security and foreign policy leaders—Democrats and Republicans alike—have sounded the alarm. From Chuck Hagel to William Cohen, from Madeleine Albright to George Schultz, in a joint statement they urge us to fight climate change. They urge us to “think past tomorrow.”

The Paris agreement is a starting point and a historic opening for a global effort to address climate change. It is an opportunity, it is an obligation, and it is something that history will show was the right thing to do.

Mr. President, I see my colleagues have joined me on the floor. Senator SCHATZ, Senator SHAHEEN, and Senator CORY BOOKER are down here, and they have done excellent work. I yield at this time to Senator SCHATZ. I would just say by the way of introduction that I am so impressed with his State and the leadership in his State. Hawaii is going to be a 100-percent renewable State in 2040. A lot of that is due to his leadership and his legislature and Governor stepping up to the plate.

With that, Senator SCHATZ.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I thank the senior Senator from New Mexico for his longtime leadership on climate and conservation issues.

I have been working on this for a long time, as many of us on the floor have been working on this for a long time, and I have not been so hopeful in a very long time. I am reminded of the essential elements of success when it comes to an international agreement, and that is American leadership. We still remain the indispensable Nation, and we finally reasserted ourselves and reclaimed the moral high ground and the political high ground that put us in a position to stitch together an international agreement.

One observation I will offer from the Paris climate talks is how positive the response was. I think we anticipated that we were going to have to do perhaps more troubleshooting, more allaying of concerns about America's commitment to climate action than we ended up having to do. That is because people understand that the President is committed, and people understand that the Clean Power Plan is going forward, and we are making progress and there is no turning back.

I will offer seven very quick observations about the Paris climate talks. The first is this: It is already a success. If you had told any knowledgeable observer that they were going to get 185 countries—representing 97 percent of

countries and 98 percent of emissions—and 150 heads of State in the same place at the same time—the most in history—if you had said that 2 years ago, that would have sounded wildly optimistic. We really are making progress.

No. 2, this is not going to require Senate approval. There have been more than 18,000 such agreements that our President and Presidents in the past have entered into over time not requiring Senate approval.

No. 3—and this is important and can't be overstated—it is not enough. If we want to hit the 2-degree Celsius target, this only gets us about 40 percent there. But 40 percent there is 40 percent there. We were at zero 3 weeks ago. So I think getting 40 percent there is very important.

I think the other thing we have learned from other states and other countries and even in the private sector is that once you unleash the power of clean energy on the private sector, there is no turning back. So we anticipate being able to ratchet up these agreements every 3 to 5 years on an international basis.

No. 4, it is way more than expected and way more than ever before.

No. 5, I think we need to know that there are some pretty good accountability and transparency mechanisms in there. This was a key element of the negotiations that Secretary Kerry and the President himself have insisted upon. We need to know—the United States has a robust reporting mechanism. At the public utilities commission level, at the regional level, we know exactly what our energy portfolio is. That is a little bit more of a challenge in the developing world, so we had to develop a matrix so we know that countries aren't cheating or they are not getting their own data wrong. I feel satisfied that it is likely to hit those marks.

No. 6, it is wildly popular in the United States. Two-thirds of Americans support an international climate agreement. A bare majority of Republicans, a decisive majority of young Republicans, and decisive majorities of Democrats and Independents support international climate action.

No. 7 is this: People are going to try to undo this. They are going to do it through the Congressional Review Act. They are going to try to do it through the appropriations process. They are going to try to do it through the electoral process. That is the democratic process, and that is OK. But there is no turning back either legislatively, politically, or in terms of the momentum we have in the private sector.

I would like to introduce someone who has come at climate from a different perspective, as he always does, who has become a leader on these issues, and who was an incredible asset during the weekend we were in Paris, and that is the junior Senator from New Jersey, Mr. CORY BOOKER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, just a brief moment. First and foremost, I want to thank the group of Senators who went over to Paris on the codel. It was very important that the United States of America was well represented there and that this body was well represented there.

I especially thank Senator CARDIN for leading that codel. His leadership was critical. As the ranking member of Foreign Relations, to have him lead and understand that this is a critical issue not just in regard to the climate in general but also to our national defense, to our strength as a Nation, and to our economy—it was good to have him leading and understanding the breadth of these issues.

When I was over there, I was moved to see virtually all of the globe represented by leaders, heads of state, members of Parliament, NGOs, corporations—major, global, dominant corporations. Everyone was there. There was an array of the planet coming together, focused on this issue of the impacts of climate change. Conversations ranged from focusing on us being innovative and how we are dealing with renewable technology so that technology can be a great pathway toward sustainability in the future, all the way to resiliency and making sure we were doing the things to protect populations from the effect of climate change, especially when it comes to poor populations who are disproportionately affected.

I had the chance, the honor while I was there of leading a bilateral conversation with Bangladesh, talking to peer leaders—the United States sitting down at a table with and across the table from Ministry and Parliamentary members from Bangladesh.

By many estimates, Bangladesh is the most vulnerable country on the globe to climate change—the most vulnerable large country to climate change. It is about the size of Iowa. It faces serious challenges with melting off the Himalayas as well as rising sea levels.

Due to climate change, right now Bangladesh is losing 1 percent of its arable land each year, and it is projected over the next decade or so—leading into 2030—to lose a large percentage of its land, displacing millions of Bangladeshis, literally creating climate refugees. The sea level rising is predicted to inundate about 15 percent of the land area and create refugees, making it a reality for them that is so urgent that they went there with a large degree of mission to join with other global actors.

I was proud to be able to sit with them and talk to them about New Jersey—not only a State that has 75,000 people who are Bangladeshis but also a State that knows that our economy and our strength as a State will be affected by climate change as well. We are already seeing what is happening with the warming of our oceans, the acidification of our oceans, how it is affecting the many jobs related to our

fishing industry. We are already seeing the challenges with our climate in terms of increased weather activity and severe storms.

This is an issue that affects America that we cannot solve without joining with the rest of the globe. We know that the injustices that are happening to our Nation in terms of increased fires, in terms of despoliation of our seas, the challenges being faced with weather activity internally in our country—we know these issues cannot be solved locally unless we deal with them globally. That is why I am grateful for all of those who understand that American leadership is incredibly needed.

I am proud to stand here with colleagues of mine and continue to send a strong message to the rest of the globe that we are here in the United States strongly supporting the ambitious commitments of President Obama, the ones that he is making, and that we will defend those communities that are facing this crisis in the immediate and long term. We will be leaders.

One of my colleagues and someone whom I have come to respect quite a bit was an incredibly strong voice in Paris, someone who is committed to these issues not only in her home State but, as an American, across our country. I wish to now engage and acknowledge Senator JEANNE SHAHEEN.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** The Senator from New Hampshire.

**Mrs. SHAHEEN.** Mr. President, I am pleased to be here on the floor with my colleagues—those of us who went to Paris, led by Senator CARDIN, for this climate summit.

At the conference in Paris, more than 180 countries accounting for over 90 percent of global emissions were there. They all submitted their plans for how they are going to reduce emissions, with the goal of keeping global warming below 2 degrees Centigrade by the end of this century.

One of the things I was impressed with in Paris was that the countries that were there represented everybody from China to the Marshall Islands, and all of them understood that climate change is real, that it is a threat to our planet, and that we have to do something about it. They understand that because they have seen it. They have seen it in their home countries. They have seen rising sea levels, extreme weather events, environmental changes—all linked to global warming.

Here in the United States, we see it too. According to a recent Pew poll, two-thirds of all Americans recognize that climate change is real and that action must be taken to address it. We see it in my home State of New Hampshire, where we are seeing a change in our wildlife population, a change in our snowpacks that affects our ski season, our foliage season is affected, and it has an economic impact on our State. But the exciting thing is—and we saw this very clearly in Paris—that at the local level, mayors, Governors, local

leaders around the world understand that we have to take action to address it, and they were there in Paris urging the negotiators to come to some sort of an agreement.

In New Hampshire, we have taken action. With nine other Northeastern States, we have been part of a regional cap-and-trade program called the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. As a result of that and other actions that we have taken, we are going to meet the goals of the Clean Power Plan 10 years early.

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative has generated \$1.6 billion in net economic value. It has created more than 16,000 jobs across the region. That is one of the benefits of the action we can take to address climate change. As we all know here, it doesn't matter what we do in New Hampshire. It doesn't matter what we do in this country. Unless we get a global agreement in Paris so we are all going to move forward together to address the harmful impacts of climate change, we are going to see the continued sea level rise, the continued extreme weather events, all of the continued negative impacts of that global warming.

Finally, I want to say that for me one of the most exciting things about meeting with people when we were in Paris was hearing that they were cautiously optimistic that we will get an agreement, that we will take action, and we will be able to make a difference for our planet and for future generations.

I was pleased to have Senator CHRIS COONS from Delaware with us on this trip. I know he is going to talk about what he observed when we were in Paris.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** The Senator from Delaware.

**Mr. COONS.** Mr. President, I wish to express my gratitude to Senator CARDIN for leading this great delegation of 10 Senators to the Paris Conference of Parties—the COP21, the global climate change conference in Paris—and to Senator SHAHEEN of New Hampshire for her tireless leadership on energy efficiency. The least expensive, most powerful way we can reduce our energy consumption is by investing in new technologies and new approaches that help create jobs and manufacturing in the United States and reduce our total energy consumption and footprint.

I think the Paris conference has already been a success from the outset. As we heard directly from the head of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon, 150 heads of state gathered at the very outset of that conference, and 184 countries made voluntary national commitments to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions, to reducing their carbon footprint, and to working together to find sustainable solutions to this very real challenge.

The other thing I found most encouraging about the many conversations we had with governmental leaders, with

advocates, with nonprofit leaders was a commitment to bring together developed countries such as the United States and European and Asian allies of ours and the developing world—the very large countries such as India and China which have become major emitters of greenhouse gases—to bring them all together in one common agreement.

One other comment I wish to make that comes out of what we saw going through an Innovation Fair that was hosted by Secretary Ernest Moniz of our Department of Energy was that governments alone can't solve climate change. Global conferences, such as the one we attended, are important—they are critical—but making real and sustained impact on fighting climate change is also going to require new and innovative approaches, and that requires investment by the private sector and by the Federal Government in clean energy and energy efficiency research and development.

Commitments made in Paris, such as the announced new mission innovation and the breakthrough energy coalition, which are public-private partnerships to ramp up and accelerate our investment in research and development are more important than ever.

We also had a chance to attend a meeting of some national leaders, of mayors and county executives, of Governors, and folks who lead regions and provinces around the world where remarkable progress has been made. At the same time that we are moving forward through this global conference as a group of nations, it is also important to recognize what subnational groups have done.

Senator SHAHEEN referenced the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, which New Hampshire and my home State of Delaware participate in. It has been a remarkable and effective way for a whole group of Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern States to work together. The nine participating States have reduced our emissions by nearly 20 percent while also seeing stronger economic growth than the rest of the country, I think, suggesting it is possible for us to both reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and continue to grow a strong economy.

In fact, my home State of Delaware has reduced its GHG emissions more than any other State in the last 6 years. That is partly due to the great leadership of my Governor, Jack Markell, and partly due to the deployment of a lot of new solar systems and a lot of investment in energy efficiency.

If I might, let me mention one important piece of bipartisan legislation that I think is part of solving this challenge of how do we achieve an “all of the above” energy future that has sustained long-term investments in clean energy and energy efficiency research and deployment; that is, the Master Limited Partnerships Parity Act. This is a very bipartisan bill that has long

had the support of Republican Senators MURKOWSKI, MORAN, COLLINS, and GARDNER. Even Congressman TED POE, of Houston, TX, who represents a great deal of oil and gas in his district, is an advocate for this bill. I have been leading it, along with Senator STABENOW, Senator BENNET, Senator KING, and others in this Chamber. It is an important way that we can allow master limited partnerships, long available to the oil and gas industry, to be opened up to all forms of energy to make it a level playing field and to provide opportunities going forward to finance renewable energy products and energy efficiency projects. This small tweak to our Tax Code could make a cumulative big difference going forward.

In conclusion, let me renew my point that government alone can't solve climate change, but it has a central role to play in bringing together the people who can. Let's pass the MLP Parity Act, and let's make long-term, sustained investments in Federal R&D. Let's bring together public, private, and nonprofit leaders because there is no limit to what we can accomplish when our brightest scientific minds, business leaders, and our diplomats working for us in Paris come together to lay out a positive, sustained goal.

I wish to yield the floor to my colleague, the junior Senator from the State of Rhode Island, who has been a tremendous and tireless champion for conservation and in particular for our oceans, which are such a vital part of our climate future.

I yield the floor to Mr. WHITEHOUSE of Rhode Island.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, one of the features of our trip to Paris was the presence of America's corporate leaders there urging us on. We not only met with significant corporate leaders like people from Citigroup, PG&E, VF Industries, and others, but they were cheering us on publicly in advertisements like this one taken out by the food and beverage industry, calling on a strong Paris climate agreement. The companies who signed this include Mars—if you like M&Ms, you like Mars—General Mills, Coca-Cola and PepsiCo, Hershey and Nestle, Kellogg, Unilever, and others.

The food and beverage industry was joined by an advertisement from some of America's apparel leaders: VF Corporation, based in North Carolina, which produces North Face, Timberland, and a whole variety of other very well-known and popular brands—Adidas, the shoe manufacturer; Levis, if you know jeans you know Levis; Gap, which has stores all over the country; and others from the apparel industry. Perhaps the biggest advertisement that the American business community took out was this one: Companies like not only Johnson & Johnson, the bandaid people, but Johnson Controls, Colgate-Palmolive, Owens Corning, Procter & Gamble, Du-

pont, and utilities like National Grid and PG&E. So corporate America made a very strong statement in support of a strong Paris climate deal.

The last one I will show is this one, which was taken out by America's financial leaders—Bank of America, Citi, Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase, Morgan Stanley, and Wells Fargo. There was a strong, powerful message from America's corporate leadership that I very much hope our colleagues on the other side will begin to listen to; that Paris is a good thing, a strong agreement is a good thing, and we need to make progress together.

With that, I will turn over the floor to my terrific colleague Senator MERKLEY from Oregon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, a huge thanks to my colleagues who have been presenting so many important dimensions of this battle against a major threat to the health of our planet. Indeed, Henry David Thoreau asked, “What's the use of a fine house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on?” That was an excellent question decades ago but an even more important one today, when we have a significant threat that endangers our forests, our farming, our fishing, and human civilization on this planet. This is the challenge of our generation, to bring human civilization together to address carbon pollution and its impacts.

While in Paris something very exciting was going on—150 world leaders came together to kick off the final negotiations. That is unprecedented in human history. Why were so many leaders there? They were there because they are seeing the impacts in their own individual nations that are coming from the rising temperatures. They came together not just with their voice but with their pledges. In fact, more than 180 countries put forward pledges about how they were going to reduce the trajectory of their carbon pollution footprints. They know what is at stake.

We certainly know in Oregon what is at stake. We see the pine beetle devastating forests, creating a red zone of dying trees. We see the longer forest fire season having a big impact, with more intense blazes and more of them over more months. We see the impact of the loss of snowpack in the Cascades impacting our streams and impacting the water supply for agriculture. The Klamath Basin, along with California, is locked into a deep drought with devastating consequences. We see it over on our coast, where the more acidic Pacific Ocean is creating problems for our shellfish industry because the baby oysters have trouble making their shells. How is this connected? Because the carbon pollution in the air is absorbed into the ocean via waves and creates carbonic acid, and that more acidic water is eroding the ability of our shellfish to operate as they have for a millennium in making shells.

We know this is not just something in Oregon, not just something in Mary-

land, and not just something in this State or that State but worldwide, where 2014 was the warmest year on record. In fact, 14 of the 15 warmest years on record have happened in this century. Now we see 2015 on the trajectory, and it is going to be warmer than 2014.

There is nothing disputable about the facts: rising carbon dioxide and methane pollution, rising consequences for our States across America, rising consequences for the world. Scientists tell us it will get worse. We have only had a 0.9-degree centigrade increase. If we get to 2 degrees, it is catastrophic. It is pretty bad now. We must come together as an international community and address that.

In Paris we know we need to have a more ambitious agenda than the one we have laid out, even with these wonderful pledges, and we need to come back every 5 years and keep driving the process forward. We know we have to lower the costs for renewable energy so we can come back together and increase the pace at which we pivot from a fossil fuel energy economy to a renewable energy economy.

We know we need to invest in solar deployment, and there is the International Solar Initiative that India is going to host a secretariat for and work to deploy a trillion dollars in solar panels. We know innovation matters, and mission innovation with the United States and other nations doubling their investment over the next 5 years will do a lot more to lower costs and increase the efficiency of technologies in clean power and clean power storage.

Well, it is a big challenge, and I am so delighted to be able to be part of a community of legislators. One of those legislators who has led on this in the House for decades, brought his expertise to the Senate, is my colleague from Massachusetts Senator MARKEY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Oregon for his leadership, bringing the message of the harm being done to our natural world, I thank Senator CARDIN for taking this delegation of 10 Members to Paris, and I thank the Senator for having this session on the floor.

We are at an inflection point. We are at a point where the danger to the planet is clear.

Mr. President, 2014 was the warmest year ever recorded. This past November was the warmest November ever recorded. October was the warmest October ever recorded. There is now a warming of our planet that is intensifying dangerously, and we have to act in order to avoid the most catastrophic consequences, and that is what is happening in Paris right now. The United States is leading the way. The rest of the world is coming together, and we have a chance to have a very good agreement.

We are going to have the President's back because the 1992 treaty, under

which he is negotiating, was ratified by this body. The Clean Air Act that he is operating under was passed by this body. The clean power rules and increase in fuel economy standards—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for an additional 1 minute to speak.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, this afternoon—and I think it will continue over the next week—the Republicans and the American petroleum industry are going to try to lift the ban on the exportation of American oil, which could lead to more drilling for millions of barrels of oil on our soil, while at the same time not giving a simultaneous, equal extension of wind and solar tax breaks so that we can continue this revolution that we are bragging about in Paris right now to the rest of the world. These two things do not go together.

You cannot simultaneously drill for more oil that is not drilled for today and then have an ending of the wind and solar tax breaks as they are kicking in. You cannot preach temperance from a barstool. You cannot preach temperance as you are putting up new oil rigs and simultaneously say that the wind and solar tax breaks are going to end and end soon. We have to have both if there is going to be a deal, and right now that is in question in this Chamber. It is important for the American people to know that answer because in Paris they are waiting for this answer. There are 190 nations that want to know that we are actually going to do what we are saying we are going to do in this agreement that we are trying to reach—the most important agreement for this century in terms of the well-being of the planet.

I thank the Presiding Officer for allowing me that courtesy, and I thank the Senator from Utah for his forbearance.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

#### LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 116, H.R. 2250.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2250) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Appropriations, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

*That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury and otherwise appropriated, for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, namely:*

#### TITLE I LEGISLATIVE BRANCH SENATE EXPENSE ALLOWANCES

*For expense allowances of the Vice President, \$18,760; the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, \$37,520; Majority Leader of the Senate, \$39,920; Minority Leader of the Senate, \$39,920; Majority Whip of the Senate, \$9,980; Minority Whip of the Senate, \$9,980; Chairmen of the Majority and Minority Conference Committees, \$4,690 for each Chairman; and Chairmen of the Majority and Minority Policy Committees, \$4,690 for each Chairman; in all, \$174,840.*

#### REPRESENTATION ALLOWANCES FOR THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY LEADERS

*For representation allowances of the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate, \$14,070 for each such Leader; in all, \$28,140.*

#### SALARIES, OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

*For compensation of officers, employees, and others as authorized by law, including agency contributions, \$179,185,311, which shall be paid from this appropriation without regard to the following limitations:*

##### OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

*For the Office of the Vice President, \$2,417,248.*

##### OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

*For the Office of the President Pro Tempore, \$723,466.*

##### OFFICES OF THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY LEADERS

*For Offices of the Majority and Minority Leaders, \$5,255,576.*

##### OFFICES OF THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY WHIPS

*For Offices of the Majority and Minority Whips, \$3,359,424.*

##### COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

*For salaries of the Committee on Appropriations, \$15,142,000.*

##### CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

*For the Conference of the Majority and the Conference of the Minority, at rates of compensation to be fixed by the Chairman of each such committee, \$1,658,000 for each such committee; in all, \$3,316,000.*

##### OFFICES OF THE SECRETARIES OF THE CON- FERENCES OF THE MAJORITY AND THE CON- FERENCES OF THE MINORITY

*For Offices of the Secretaries of the Conference of the Majority and the Conference of the Minority, \$817,402.*

##### POLICY COMMITTEES

*For salaries of the Majority Policy Committee and the Minority Policy Committee, \$1,692,905 for each such committee; in all, \$3,385,810.*

##### OFFICE OF THE CHAPLAIN

*For Office of the Chaplain, \$436,886.*

##### OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

*For Office of the Secretary, \$24,772,000.*

##### OFFICE OF THE SERGEANT AT ARMS AND DOORKEEPER

*For Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, \$69,000,000.*

##### OFFICES OF THE SECRETARIES FOR THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY

*For Offices of the Secretary for the Majority and the Secretary for the Minority, \$1,762,000.*

##### AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS AND RELATED EXPENSES

*For agency contributions for employee benefits, as authorized by law, and related expenses, \$48,797,499.*

##### OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL OF THE SENATE

*For salaries and expenses of the Office of the Legislative Counsel of the Senate, \$5,408,500.*

#### OFFICE OF SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL

*For salaries and expenses of the Office of Senate Legal Counsel, \$1,120,000.*

#### EXPENSE ALLOWANCES OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE, SERGEANT AT ARMS AND DOOR- KEEPER OF THE SENATE, AND SECRETARIES FOR THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY OF THE SENATE

*For expense allowances of the Secretary of the Senate, \$7,110; Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate, \$7,110; Secretary for the Majority of the Senate, \$7,110; Secretary for the Minority of the Senate, \$7,110; in all, \$28,440.*

#### CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE SENATE

##### INQUIRIES AND INVESTIGATIONS

*For expenses of inquiries and investigations ordered by the Senate, or conducted under paragraph 1 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, section 112 of the Supplemental Appropriations and Rescission Act, 1980 (Public Law 96-304), and Senate Resolution 281, 96th Congress, agreed to March 11, 1980, \$133,265,000, of which \$26,650,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2018.*

#### EXPENSES OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE CAUCUS ON INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL

*For expenses of the United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control, \$508,000.*

#### SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

*For expenses of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, \$8,750,000 of which \$4,350,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2020 and of which \$2,500,000 shall remain available until expended.*

#### SERGEANT AT ARMS AND DOORKEEPER OF THE SENATE

*For expenses of the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate, \$130,000,000, which shall remain available until September 30, 2020.*

#### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

*For miscellaneous items, \$21,390,270 which shall remain available until September 30, 2018.*

#### SENATORS' OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNT

*For Senators' Official Personnel and Office Expense Account, \$390,000,000 of which \$19,121,212 shall remain available until September 30, 2018.*

#### OFFICIAL MAIL COSTS

*For expenses necessary for official mail costs of the Senate, \$300,000.*

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

##### REQUIRING AMOUNTS REMAINING IN SENATORS' OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE AC- COUNT TO BE USED FOR DEFICIT REDUCTION OR TO REDUCE THE FEDERAL DEBT

SEC. 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any amounts appropriated under this Act under the heading "SENATE" under the heading "CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE SENATE" under the heading "SENATORS' OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNT" shall be available for obligation only during the fiscal year or fiscal years for which such amounts are made available. Any unexpended balances under such allowances remaining after the end of the period of availability shall be returned to the Treasury in accordance with the undesignated paragraph under the center heading "GENERAL PROVISION" under chapter XI of the Third Supplemental Appropriation Act, 1957 (2 U.S.C. 4107) and used for deficit reduction (or, if there is no Federal budget deficit after all such payments have been made, for reducing the Federal debt, in such manner as the Secretary of the Treasury considers appropriate).

#### AUTHORITY FOR TRANSFER OF FUNDS

SEC. 2. Section 1 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1991 (2 U.S.C. 6153) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively;