

by all the American workers, the men and women who rely on jobs in fossil fuel industries to provide for their families. We need to make sure they have the support and the training and the help to transition to work in the new industries. We need to make sure no worker in the fossil fuel world is left behind.

These are the basic elements of the 100-by-50 plan I will be introducing to move our country from fossil fuel to clean renewable energy:

One. Adopt a price on carbon to put our markets to work on this mission.

Two. Utilize energy conservation—virtually always the most cost-effective strategy.

Three. Convert all electricity generation from fossil fuel electrons to green electrons.

Four. Shift as many uses as possible from the fossil fuel energy world to the electric energy world, including various applications in transportation and home and business heating.

Five. Sustain substantial investments in research and development to improve current technologies and develop new ones.

Finally, for the most difficult challenges, we may consider utilizing carefully constructed carbon offsets to reach net zero fossil fuels.

Fellow citizens, colleagues here in the Chamber, we need a bold plan to save our beautiful, blue-green planet from the ravages of global warming. This 100-by-50 is that plan—completely overhauling our energy system over the next three and a half decades, eliminating carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels by 2050.

By leading this fight, America will benefit from all of the technological innovation it generates. By leading this fight, America will generate good-paying jobs. By leading this fight, America will have the moral standing to pull together the nations of the world onto a parallel path. America must lead this charge. We are the only Nation that can. We have the best scientific and technical minds in the world.

The American people have the courage to take on big challenges. By leading this fight, America will bring together the nations of the world. Working together, we will save our planet. The world needs to act, and to act now, to tackle the devastating impacts of climate change. It cannot wait. But they will need our example—a national commitment to revolutionizing our energy sector to spur them to action, to set an example, to work in cooperation.

Daniel Burnham, the great American architect, once said:

Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood and probably will themselves not be realized. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work.

We need to stir our blood and our hearts and our minds and our souls to this great challenge. We need to do everything in our power, utilizing every tool at our disposal. We are in a very real race against time, and it is a race

in which we are behind but a race we must not lose. That is our responsibility. That is our moral obligation to our children and their children and their children's children.

Some will say this can't be done, but I say to them and I say to you: Do not bet against America. We conquered the electron and harnessed electricity. We beat gravity to soar above the clouds. We cured diseases, invented the telephone, the television, and the Internet. When President Kennedy called us into action, we, America, traveled to the Moon. When we commit ourselves, there is nothing American ingenuity cannot accomplish. We will find the answers. We will achieve the impossible. At this moment, let's embrace the urgency of this mission and determine to act immediately and to act boldly.

Fellow Americans, colleagues, let's join together and set ourselves and our Nation and, through our leadership, the world's community of nations on a course to make this giant leap for mankind.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill 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.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the pending cloture motions with respect to H.R. 5325 not ripen until 2:15 p.m., on Tuesday, September 27; I further ask that if cloture is invoked on the substitute amendment, cloture be considered to have been invoked at 6 p.m., on Monday, September 26.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS, NORTHERN NEVADA CHAPTER AND SOUTHERN NEVADA CHAPTER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 100th anniversary of the American Red Cross, Northern and Southern Nevada Chapters.

The Northern and Southern Nevada Chapters of the American Red Cross were established during World War I, when a small group of women came to-

gether to knit sweaters, socks, and caps for troops overseas. Since then, the American Red Cross in Nevada has provided invaluable support and services to those in need. For instance, during the Great Depression, the American Red Cross provided temporary housing, nutritious meals, and clean drinking water. The American Red Cross also provided disaster relief after the 1999 Clark County flood that caused extensive property damage.

For 100 years, the American Red Cross in Nevada has served numerous people in our community, Nation, and throughout the world. Today 650 volunteers facilitate essential programs for Nevadans, including services for the Armed Forces, community preparedness training, youth services, and international programs to reconnect families. Through these programs, the American Red Cross transforms the lives of individuals and families across the Silver State.

The American Red Cross in Nevada has made many noteworthy contributions to our community. Its services ensure that Nevadans receive relief during their most difficult times. The American Red Cross's work is appreciated and admired, and I wish them continued success.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAS VEGAS NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Las Vegas Natural History Museum. For a quarter century, the museum has inspired curiosity, appreciation, and responsibility for the natural world and its resources. It is my great pleasure to recognize the institution, its employees, and its board members before the U.S. Senate today.

The Las Vegas Natural History Museum began as a culmination of efforts by dedicated Nevadans, including executive director and founder Marilyn Gillespie, to protect the State's collection of wildlife and prehistoric exhibits. Through cooperation with the Las Vegas City Council and partnerships within the Las Vegas area, the museum was soon able to officially open its doors to visitors in 1991. Since then, the museum has expanded to include a multibillion dollar collection of regional and global artifacts, as well as a variety of interactive scientific exhibits and educational resources. In 2002, the Smithsonian Institution granted affiliate membership to the Las Vegas Natural History Museum, further enhancing its exhibits and impact on visitors.

Early collaborations within the Las Vegas area provided the framework for a history of community engagement that continues to define the institution to this day. Last year, more than 23,000 educational tours were provided to students from Clark County, each of which were designed to meet State educational requirements. The museum

also continued its Open Doors Program, allowing more students from at-risk or economically disadvantaged schools to visit the museum.

At a time when environmental stewardship is more important than ever, I am proud to join my fellow Nevadans in celebrating this important milestone. As we look back on 25 years of scientific exploration and discovery, we look forward to many more in the future.

OPENING OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this weekend the doors will open on a new American treasure. The National Museum of African American History and Culture tells the story of a people whose toil and genius helped create America and whose contributions in every walk of life have enriched our Nation beyond measure.

The museum stands majestically on the National Mall, at the foot of the Washington Monument.

If you stand at the museum's entrance and look in one direction you see the Lincoln Memorial, where Marian Anderson sang and Dr. King spoke of his dream for America.

Look in the other direction and you can see a plot of land where, just several generations ago, men, women and children were sold like chattel—close enough to this Capitol that members of Congress could hear their anguished cries.

Those stories and many, many more, are chronicled within the walls of this ambitious and long overdue museum.

The National Museum of African American History and Culture represents America's first official attempt to tell the story of African Americans—a story that spans 600 years and stretches from the indignity and inhumanity of slavery to the long and still ongoing march for freedom that changed our Nation and our world.

As one writer described it, the museum is “a shifting mix of sadness and celebration.” It is a record of brutal subjugation, racial violence, and discrimination—and it is the story of a resilient people who survived those horrors and created a rich and vibrant culture.

The new museum is the 19th in the priceless portfolio of the Smithsonian Institution.

If you ask African Americans about the significance of the new museum, you are likely to hear many answers. One answer you will hear over and over is: “Now our ancestors can rest.”

At long last, the stories of struggle, perseverance, and achievement that have been passed down, generation after generation, in African-American families finally have an official and honored repository in America.

Speakers at the museum's opening on Saturday will include President Barack Obama and former President George W.

Bush—two Presidents, one Republican and one Democrat, a White man and our Nation's first African-American President. Imagine the ancestors' delight at that line-up.

As many as 100,000 people from all over America are expected to visit the museum on this opening weekend—like one giant, proud family reunion.

The National Museum of African American History and Culture tells the harrowing story of slavery, Jim Crow, and segregation. It also documents the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s—the template for the women's movement, the disability rights movement, and other modern human rights struggles in America and around the world.

But the Museum of African American History and Culture is more than a story of suffering and struggle. It is a celebration of resilience and triumph—of faith in America and in a better future.

It showcases the countless ways in which African Americans have enriched and enlivened American culture and society—in sports, music, literature, and art—in commerce and business, and in scientific discovery.

While it focuses on African Americans, it is a museum for all Americans—because you cannot truly understand American history without understanding African-American history and the difficult, often inspirational, and always central role that African Americans have played in our history.

Lonnie Bunch III is a brilliant historian and educator. He is also the founding director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture.

As he says, the history of African Americans is “the quintessential American story,” a story of measured progress and remarkable achievement after an ugly period of painful oppression.

From 2001 to 2005, Lonnie Bunch served as president of the Chicago Historical Society, now called the Chicago History Museum. That is where I came to know and respect him.

During his short tenure, Lonnie Bunch oversaw a hugely successful expansion of the Chicago History Museum, and he helped broaden community support for the museum dramatically.

He became almost as much of a cultural treasure as the museum itself, and we hated to see him leave Chicago.

But the chance to help create the National Museum of African American History and Culture—literally, from the ground up—was the challenge of a lifetime.

It was also, as Lonnie Bunch will tell you, something he felt he needed to do for his ancestors, to honor their struggle and perseverance.

When he signed on to head it in 2005, the National Museum of African American History and Culture had no staff, no collection, and no building—not even a blueprint.

No Smithsonian museum had ever started life without a collection.

What is more, the museum's initial, very modest acquisitions budget meant that many of the most valuable artifacts of African-American history sell at traditional auctions were beyond the financial reach of the new museum.

So Lonnie Bunch conceived of a brilliant strategy to build the museum's collection.

He and his staff conducted “Antiques Roadshow”-style programs in 15 cities called “Save Our African American Treasures.”

Their hunt for African-American treasures kicked off in January 2008 at the Harold Washington Public Library in Chicago. Hundreds of people brought family heirlooms to be inspected and appraised.

Many of the nearly 40,000 artifacts in the new museum's collection came from these shows. In city after city, people brought treasured objects that had been in their families for years and generations and said: “We've cared for this until now. We trust the Smithsonian to keep it safe from now on.”

Among the treasures is Harriet Tubman's prayer shawl, given to her by Queen Victoria, and the great abolitionist's personal hymnal.

As the endpoint in the great migration of African Americans from the Deep South to the North, Chicago holds a special place in African-American history and that is reflected in the new museum.

One of the most powerful exhibits is the original glass casket that held the battered body of Emmett Till, the 14-year-old boy from Chicago who was viciously murdered by two White men in Mississippi in 1955. Emmett Till was kidnapped, beaten to a bloody pulp, and shot in the head. His broken body was then weighted down and thrown into a river.

His grieving mother, Mamie Till Moseley, insisted that the casket remain open during her son's funeral so the world could see what racial hatred and violence had done to her only child.

The images of Emmett's mangled body shocked the Nation's conscience and fueled the modern civil rights movement.

Rosa Parks said she was thinking of those images 3 months later when she refused to give up her seat and move to the back of the bus.

Other treasures from Chicago and Illinois include objects from the Pullman Car Company and from famed African-American publications including *Ebony* and *Jet* magazines and the Chicago Defender newspaper.

There are photographs from fair housing marches led by Dr. Martin Luther King in Marquette Park, a neighborhood in southwest Chicago in 1966. Dr. King was struck in the head by a brick thrown from an angry mob. Those marches showed America that racial animus and violence was not simply a Southern problem, it was an American problem.