

these events has been shocking, inexplicable, and, certainly, reprehensible.

This tragedy may be the worst of all. That this event occurred in a house of worship makes it all the more grotesque and despicable. Hymns of praise were silenced, and those led to cries for help.

The shooting in Sutherland Springs has been called the deadliest mass shooting in Texas history. It is perhaps better understood by the words of one man whose mother and father were both killed yesterday. He was sitting on the curb, outside the emergency room, at Connally Memorial Medical Center in Floresville, a town nearby. Shaken to the core, he called the events of yesterday "unimaginable." It is impossible to comprehend what it must have felt like to wake up this morning in Sutherland Springs—a small, tight-knit, rural community that is roughly 35 miles southeast of San Antonio—with so many neighbors lost and the sound of yesterday's gunfire and sirens still ringing in the air.

One of the people who lost her life was Crystal Holcombe, who died with her unborn child and several relatives. Another was Annabelle Pomeroy, a shy 14-year-old girl, whose uncle describes her as an "angel in the flesh."

We know, thankfully, that two Good Samaritans turned on and pursued the shooter and may have prevented this nightmare from lasting even longer. We are grateful for the heroism and the quick decisive action of these two men. We know that about 20 injured remain in hospitals, including a 5-year-old, Ryland Ward, who was shot multiple times.

Yesterday I spoke with Texas Governor Greg Abbott and Wilson County Sheriff Joe Tackitt, Jr., and offered not only my condolences but my unequivocal and complete support. Sheriff Tackitt said that the bloody scene inside First Baptist was horrific, but that the response to the tragedy was instantaneous. First responders from the surrounding area, as well as State and Federal officials, inundated Sutherland Springs with logistical resources and personnel, offering their love and compassion, as well—a proud display of what I often see, which is an attitude that being a Texan doesn't describe just where you are from. It describes who your family is.

Today I join the sheriff, as well as Governor Abbott, and my friend Representative HENRY CUELLAR, in whose congressional district this tragedy occurred, my colleague in the Senate, Senator CRUZ, and so many other Texans in asking God for healing and for understanding.

We know the investigation into exactly what happened and why is ongoing, and it is important that we allow this investigation to be completed so we can know what happened and exactly what we might be able to do to prevent tragedies like this from occurring in the future.

I hope that Texans who call Sutherland Springs and First Baptist Church

home will soon have some answers. I send my thoughts and prayers to those who lost parents, children, friends, and relatives in this outrageous and inhuman act. I hope each of us will pledge to be a light in the darkness. To the families whose lives are forever changed by this atrocity, let us provide a strong shoulder of support.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Ms. COLLINS and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO pertaining to the introduction of S. 2076 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. 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. DAINES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

TAX REFORM

Mr. DAINES. Madam President, today the U.S. House of Representatives begins marking up H.R. 1, the Tax Cut and Jobs Act, and as the U.S. Senate continues to debate tax cuts, I am reminded of a speech that former Democratic President John F. Kennedy delivered in New York City in 1962. In fact, it was in December of 1962, when he said:

In short, it is a paradoxical truth that tax rates are too high today and tax revenues are too low and the soundest way to raise the revenues in the long run is to cut the rates now. The experience of a number of European countries and Japan have borne this out. This country's own experience with tax reduction in 1954 has borne this out. And the reason is that only full employment can balance the budget, and tax reduction can pave the way to that employment. The purpose of cutting taxes now is not to incur a budget deficit, but to achieve the more prosperous, expanding economy which can bring a budget surplus.

President Kennedy went on to say:

I repeat: our practical choice is not between a tax-cut deficit and a budgetary surplus. It is between two kinds of deficits: a chronic deficit of inertia, as the unwanted result of inadequate revenues and a restricted economy; or a temporary deficit of transition, resulting from a tax cut designed to boost the economy, increase tax revenues, and achieve—and I believe this can be done—a budget surplus. The first type of deficit is a sign of waste and weakness; the second reflects an investment in the future.

If someone had just tuned in, they might think I was quoting, perhaps, President Reagan or perhaps some

other Republican leader. This was President John F. Kennedy in 1962.

We need to cut taxes once again and put money back into the pockets of the American people. I can state that Montanans need more jobs, but, importantly, we need better paying jobs. Most importantly, they need bigger paychecks. The best way to give Montanans a pay raise—how about cutting their taxes? We need tax cuts.

TEXAS CHURCH MASS SHOOTING

Madam President, separately, I just want to express my sincere and heartfelt sympathies to the people of Sutherland Springs, TX. What a devastating turn of events there—men, women, and children showing up for worship on a Sunday in a church. This was an act of pure evil.

My wife Cindy and I are praying for the victims, their families, and the community that has been changed forever.

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.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATURAL GAS LIQUID STORAGE

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I would like to talk about an issue in my State of West Virginia—really my region—that is becoming very important, I think, to this country's energy security and prosperity.

As we know, West Virginia has extensive natural gas liquid resources. Nearly a century ago, when these resources were discovered, the rapid growth that followed turned Central West Virginia into a national hub for the petrochemical industry. You know what, we have never looked back.

Today, chemistry remains our State's second largest industry and directly impacts other major sectors like energy, biomedical engineering, and manufacturing. West Virginia is home to 140 different chemical companies that employ nearly 13,000 workers. West Virginia's share of GDP from the chemical industry is the sixth largest in the country, and these products are about one-quarter of our State's major international exports. We still have one of the highest concentrations of chemical, polymer, and resin manufacturers in the world.

The sector is sort of a microcosm of the challenges and opportunities facing this important American industry during a time of fierce international competition. Estimates show, more than 100,000 workers in West Virginia already have the industrial skills to fill jobs in this sector, and there are thousands more who could easily be retrained to fill these jobs in this important industry. With our region's abundance of natural gas from Marcellus

and Utica shale, West Virginia is perfectly positioned for a massive increase of economic growth and new jobs.

Natural gas liquids provide the building blocks for many of the products used by our consumers every single day—products ranging from the dashboard in your car or the water bottle that many of us use. Right now, we don't have the right infrastructure in place to store and distribute the building blocks that make up these products. As a result, these valuable resources are being used to generate heat and electricity, instead of being made into consumer products. As Energy Secretary Perry put it, that's like cooking your breakfast over a fire of hundred dollar bills. This represents a huge opportunity to act on this administration's "America First" energy policy. It is an opportunity to grow an industry here at home with an American workforce and America's natural resources.

To elevate these issues in Congress, I am proud to serve as the cochair of the bipartisan Senate Chemistry Caucus. We host briefings about the importance of this industry to America's economy and national security. States that may not have robust petrochemical sectors, nonetheless, rely on its products for manufacturing, agriculture, and several other key industries.

For months—I would say more than months, years—I have been advancing the development of an Appalachian natural gas liquids market to improve our storage and distribution capabilities. New drilling technologies have unlocked access to trillions upon trillions of cubic feet of natural gas and their associated liquids in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Kentucky. Some of our most downtrodden economic areas have this valuable asset right there.

Unpredicted just a decade ago, this asset can create a renaissance in the region's petrochemical industry, but this can only happen if policymakers and the private sector seize this once-in-a-generation opportunity. To do that, we need to create a natural gas liquid storage hub in Central Appalachia. The concept of this new hub is simple. Right now, because we don't have a way to store these liquids, we are unable to fully maximize this resource. That hurts producers, refiners, and our manufacturers in the State of West Virginia, and Ohio, and beyond.

A storage hub and the necessary pipeline infrastructure would create a robust Appalachian market for natural gas liquids. This would have major national benefits, and here is why. Let's think about the hurricane that just occurred and devastated our friends in Texas. The gulf—and particularly Houston and the storage hub at Mont Belvieu, TX—dominate the domestic market there. Hurricane Harvey knocked out as much as 60 percent of that supply. It knocked it offline, and it took a month to get the hub back up and running. By establishing an Appa-

lachian storage hub away from Hurricane Alley, we would add redundancy that protects our economy and our national security. Having all this storage capacity in only one region of the country only drives up production costs for American manufacturers. I would also add that this resource is in Appalachia. Appalachia should have this storage hub to be able to capitalize and create the jobs right in our own neighborhood.

As Appalachia has become a robust producer of natural gas liquids, pipelines that used to flow from the gulf to the Northeast have been reversed. They are now sent to the gulf for storage and refining. It is sent back as ethylene to the interior of the country—often Appalachia itself—and to the Midwest for manufacturing. This back-and-forth obviously drives up prices for the goods you buy every day, from furniture to toys, to cars.

To be clear, development of an Appalachian hub would not come at the expense of the gulf's market. It is a comparative advantage. The Appalachian hub can more efficiently serve many of the domestic manufacturers, while the gulf can expand its export capacity. Besides making the national market more efficient and resilient, an Appalachian market will drive significant development in a region that desperately needs a boost.

A recent study found that the Appalachian States of West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky would see as much as \$35.8 million in new capital investment, creating more than 100,000 jobs by 2025 with this new hub.

When Secretary Perry accepted my invitation and visited West Virginia in July, the development of an Appalachian natural gas liquid storage hub and market was a great topic of emphasis. The Secretary met with several business leaders as part of a roundtable discussion to discuss paths forward in developing a regional ethane market. Needless to say, the Secretary saw the obvious benefits of such a project and that the hub could play a key role in the administration's related goals of rejuvenating the Appalachian economy and achieving an "America First" energy policy.

The Secretary and I have discussed how best to bring this public-private partnership to life since his visit to West Virginia. I think all of my colleagues—particularly those representing Appalachia—should be as excited about this concept as the Secretary and I are. Several private entities are undertaking that initial development work right now, with interest coming from both domestic and foreign investors.

I have been engaging frequently with Secretary Perry and with Commerce Secretary Ross about making this storage hub a reality. The Trump administration understands the importance of this project to the economies of West Virginia and the region. I appreciate their efforts to help move our State

forward beyond the economic disasters we have had over the last several years. I will continue my advocacy for this enormous economic development opportunity and encourage my colleagues—not just from the States I mentioned but all around the country—to join as partners in this effort.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

NOMINATION OF PETER ROBB

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, this morning I drove from Cleveland to Youngstown. I was in Youngstown, OH—Mahoning Valley—at Teamsters Local 377 talking to workers. There were maybe 200 of them in the room, mostly retirees who are in danger of having their pensions cut—pensions they earned over a lifetime of hard work.

To understand how that happens, when workers are at the bargaining table, whether it is Teamsters, electricians, Steelworkers or SCIU, they so often are willing to give up wages today in order to have a secure retirement in 5 years, 10 years, 20 years, 30 years.

That is what these workers chose to do. They chose to give up wages. Whether they worked for Schwebel's in Youngstown, whether they worked for Roadway, over the road, whether they were working for any number of companies, they were willing, at the bargaining table, to give up higher wages today to have money to set aside that was then invested often in Wall Street. We will get to that in a minute. It is bad enough Wall Street squandered those workers' money. It is worse that the government that is supposed to look out for these workers simply isn't doing it. One of the retired workers, Ed Barker, told us: We did our part. Now it is time for Members of Congress to cross party lines and do theirs.

We talk a good game in this body about how we respect workers and respect their work, but I am not sure we always live that. If we really value a hard day's work in this country, we start by keeping our promise to these hard-working Ohioans, Virginians, Montanans, and all over this country. We keep our promise to those hard-working people in our country, but we can't end there. That is just the beginning of what we need to do to ensure that hard work pays off for ordinary Americans.

During his campaign, Candidate Trump made a lot of big promises to workers in Ohio. He ran some of his big rallies across our State. He made big promises to workers in Ohio and across the country. He told them he would put American workers first. Well, the White House today looks like a retreat for Wall Street executives, and many of the people the President has put in charge have a record of doing the opposite of putting American workers first.

That is certainly true of Peter Robb, the nominee to serve as the general