

This bill is, to my knowledge, the only bipartisan, bicameral solution that has been offered. It is bicameral. My friend and colleague in the House, HENRY CUELLAR, from Laredo, TX, and I have cosponsored this bill—bipartisan, bicameral.

As we consider this and other legislative proposals, I hope our colleagues on the other side of the aisle will finally get serious about taking the required action.

Chairman GRAHAM of the Judiciary Committee tried to organize a bipartisan trip to the border, believing that would be an important step in helping us witness together the facts on the ground and then hopefully work together to try to solve the problem.

I am disappointed that none of our Democratic colleagues accepted his invitation. I hope this is not an indication of what our immigration reform discussions will look like moving forward: no desire to help, no desire to solve the problem, no desire to work together on a bipartisan basis. I hope that is not where we are, but I am fearful that is exactly where we are.

I appreciate the Vice President taking the time to visit Texas once again and getting a chance to see the front-line challenges our officers and agents are facing. I would thank Mrs. Pence as well for accompanying the Vice President.

Despite the challenges this humanitarian crisis has brought, the Rio Grande Valley remains a wonderful region, characterized by a thriving economy and a vibrant culture. You would be hard-pressed to find more generous people. They have been extraordinarily generous to the migrants who found their way to our front doorstep and are trying to take care of them in a compassionate sort of way, but, frankly, they are overwhelmed too.

I thank the men and women of the Border Patrol, as well as local officials, businesses, and members of the border communities who continue to assist with this humanitarian crisis. It would be nice if Congress, on a bipartisan basis, would lift a finger to help.

ENERGY INNOVATION

Mr. President, on another matter, this morning, the Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing to consider numerous bills introduced to promote energy innovation in the United States. Breakneck changes in technology have fueled our economy, propelled our communications sector, and completely transformed each of our daily lives. Just this alone has done that. It is time to harness this ingenuity to revolutionize our energy sector. Smart policies can't prioritize only conservation, productivity, or economic power. We obviously need to strike the proper balance. You are not going to achieve that balance by imposing heavy-handed regulations and driving up costs for consumers.

To put it another way, the Green New Deal will bankrupt our country and crush our innovation economy. In-

stead, we have to harness the power of the private sector and build partnerships to create real solutions.

The NET Power plant in La Porte, TX, is a shining example of how public-private partnerships can drive next-generation energy solutions. NET Power has developed the first-of-its-kind power system that generates affordable, zero-emissions electricity from natural gas. Using their unique carbon capture technology, they have taken natural gas and made it emission-free.

This technology is relatively young, and it is not ready to be scaled up yet at the national level. By investing in this type of research, I believe we can take serious strides to decreasing our carbon emissions.

While renewable energy sources like wind, solar, hydropower, and biomass have come a long way in recent years, they are not alone sufficient to fuel our economy. As one witness said, the Sun doesn't always shine, and the wind doesn't always blow. So you need a baseload of electricity that has to be provided by other sources like natural gas powerplants like the one I saw.

Last year, renewables accounted for 17 percent of our total energy sources. In Texas, as the Presiding Officer knows, we produced more electricity from wind turbines than any other State in the Nation. Yes, we are an oil and gas State, but we truly believe in the all-of-the-above approach. Some people say that and don't really mean it, but we do it every day in Texas.

While renewables account for 17 percent of our total energy sources, natural gas alone accounts for double that. Imagine if we could take natural gas, a plentiful energy source, inexpensive, and bring more projects like NET Power online. That is precisely why I introduced the LEADING Act with my colleagues, Senator COONS, Cassidy, and Sinema. This bill would incentivize research and development of carbon capture technology for natural gas and support energy innovation.

This legislation was crafted with the understanding that reliable, affordable, and environmentally sound energy supplies are not mutually exclusive. You wouldn't know that sometimes by the rhetoric here in Washington.

By incentivizing research into the development of new technologies, we can keep costs low for taxpayers, for seniors, for people on fixed incomes, while securing our place as a global leader in energy innovation. The goal of this legislation is to accelerate development and commercial application of natural gas carbon capture technologies. We should do this by requiring the Department of Energy to establish a program to develop cost-effective carbon capture technologies for natural gas power facilities.

This legislation would also encourage partnerships with the National Laboratories, as well as universities and other research facilities to improve and strengthen our efforts. I am proud the

LEADING Act passed the Energy and Natural Resources Committee this morning, and I hope we will have the opportunity to vote on this and other similar and related bills before the full Senate soon.

We need smart energy policies that will strengthen our economy without bankrupting American families or turning the keys over to the central government to regulate our lives, to micromanage our lives. We don't need the Federal Government to tell us what to do. We need to follow the private sector and innovate our way to solve these problems, and that is exactly what the LEADING Act would do.

When you implement policies that get government out of the way and let the experts do their job, you can be pro-energy, pro-innovation, pro-growth, and pro-environment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF APOLLO 11

Mr. JONES. Mr. President, today I rise in absolute awe—remain in awe—of what happened in this country and in this world 50 years ago this week, and I am still inspired by the events of our space program 50 years ago.

Fifty years ago today, Americans of all ages, in every corner of this great Nation and, in fact, all over the world, stopped what they were doing to watch in complete awe as Apollo 11 launched from Cape Kennedy, headed toward the Moon. It is unbelievable what we saw, what we witnessed, that entire week.

It would be the first time that humans would set foot on a celestial body other than the Earth. We would step foot on the Moon, which had captured the imagination of the world since time began, trying to reach that big, round object in the sky. It was a remarkable feat, made possible by the sheer determination and grit of the American space program and all of those who participated in it.

I was just a kid growing up in Alabama at the time. I lived just 2 or 3 hours south of what was known as Rocket City in Huntsville, AL. It is still known as Rocket City because of all of the work at NASA and in our space program today. It was a thriving metropolis then and even more so today. That is where all of the rockets were built. That is where the engines, the powerful engines that drove the rockets into space, were built. They were tested in Huntsville, AL. If you go there today, most of those stands are still there. Some of them are about to be used again. Those Saturn V rockets, the most powerful rocket engines man had ever created, were built in Huntsville, AL. They were the engines that would propel man to the Moon.

I was absolutely mesmerized—absolutely mesmerized—by all things involving the space program. I still am. I can remember so many times when my maternal grandfather, Oliver Wesson, whom I called Paw-Paw, and I would just sit for hours and watch and listen

to the commentaries. We would watch the liftoffs. We would watch the splash-downs. Some of my best memories as a kid were literally sitting in front of a TV set with my granddad, watching the heroes I saw, the heroes I wanted to be, and the heroes America wrapped their arms around. At the time, there was nothing—nothing—and maybe to some extent today—more that I wanted to do than to be an astronaut and to go into space. It sounds corny for an old man like me to say that, but it is absolutely true.

Those astronauts, the original Mercury Seven astronauts, were heroes in every sense of the word. I admire their courage, not having a clue when they blasted off from Florida whether they would return safely. And we did lose astronauts along the way.

I did so many things. I read. I studied. I watched. I read papers. A lot of papers in my grammar, junior high, and high schools were all written about the space program.

I am a memorabilia collector, as many of you may know, including of autographed baseballs. I have a few autographed baseballs by some of the astronauts, but the ones I like most are the newspapers. From that time, I could see that everybody could sense something was special. From the time Apollo 11 took off from Cape Kennedy, and the headlines in the Birmingham News read “Man Sets Foot in Heavens,” to the time they splashed down, I collected and saved every one of those newspapers. They are still at home, and they are prized possessions.

We watched every single launch. We knew every single name of every astronaut. We stood there with intense, mesmerizing attention to every moment of those launches.

It was something that captivated this entire country. It was a unifying time. It was a unifying force at a time when America needed it—the 1960s. For Apollo 11 in 1969, it was a time when we needed that sense of collective pride. We needed that sense of unification. We had gone through tough times during the civil rights era. We had gone through and we were still in the midst of the Vietnam war and all that tore this country asunder. We saw all that happened in 1968. We saw the deaths of John Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, and Martin Luther King, but the space program was that one sense of pride.

It didn’t take a tragedy to unify America at that time. It took success. It took a build of what we do. It took our determination. It took knowing that we were the most patriotic, and, doggone, we were going to beat those Russians to the Moon. It sounds so corny these days, but it is absolutely the case. We were going to do it. It was going to be the United States of America, and, doggone, we did it.

A lot has changed. Today, we are building on this legacy. We are still building on this legacy in space. We are building it in Huntsville, AL, and elsewhere with NASA, and we are going to

continue to inspire a new generation—and more generations to come—of Alabamans and Americans, people all across this country, to help us reach even loftier heights.

Yes, a lot has changed since 1969—50 years ago—but there is a reason that space flight and exploration of other worlds continue to capture our attention and to capture our imagination. It is because, at the end of the day, we are all dreamers. We always dream of those loftier heights. We always want to achieve. We always want to make this country great—consistently make this country great. We always want to reach for the stars, whether it is in our personal lives or whether it is collectively as a country. That is what we do. We are dreamers.

Today, 50 years after the launch of Apollo—and on Saturday, we will celebrate 50 years of the actual steps on the lunar surface—we celebrate the achievement of a dream five decades ago, but a dream that started long, long before that, long before President Kennedy challenged America to put a man on the Moon.

Looking back, 50 years ago was really just the beginning. It showed us that a true moonshot was possible, and, quite literally, it opened our world to new possibilities.

Today, we are reaching for human spaceflight back to the Moon and to Mars. It is not just us; other countries are doing the same. We are looking for a return flight to the Moon for deeper exploration. We are receiving pictures from the farthest reaches of the galaxy, things we have never seen before. We have seen the surface. We have landed rovers on the Moon surface and have seen the pictures and have done the tests. It is just unbelievable. Who would have ever thought of this some 50, 60 years ago when I was a kid?

Today, we have a greater understanding of the universe around us and how we apply that knowledge to our own lives. We continue to reach for the stars.

Yes, a lot has changed, but a lot hasn’t. We still have divisions in this country. We still need that unifying voice. We still need that sense of pride that we can all—everybody—wrap our arms around.

Today, we seem to be divided more than we were during the height of the Vietnam war. We seem to be divided over the very issues that my friend Senator CORNYN was talking about a moment ago with regard to immigration. We are divided over politics—a partisan divide. We are divided over gun violence. You name it; we are divided. So we need that unifying voice. We need something positive that we can all wrap our arms around.

It is not just a holiday—and sometimes now, in today’s world, unfortunately, even our holidays get divided. Even on our holidays, people go to their corners for political reasons, on both sides of the aisle. Make no mistake, folks, I am not casting a stone

one way or another. I am casting it across this land. People are divided.

We have to honor the visionaries of long ago, as well as the visionaries of today who think big, dream big, and give our Nation a collective sense of purpose and unity—a collective sense of unity and purpose—not a divisive sense of purpose for their own benefit but a collective sense of unity and purpose.

We can honor those folks by setting aside all of the differences we see. We can honor those folks by not going to our corners every time a hot-button issue is mentioned either here on the floor of the Senate or in a tweet or in a Facebook post or in the national news. We can set that aside. We can set it aside by setting aside our differences.

We honor folks by setting aside our differences today. We can honor those folks by remembering our collective pride and who we are as Americans, by making sure that all men and women are created equal and living up to the creed that we so proudly point to in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. We can do that again. We can honor these visionaries by coming together, reaching across the aisle and also reaching within our aisles to bring people together to talk about those things we can do together and with a sense of pride. We can do it by, once again, being the leader of the world and not trying to do everything alone but bringing our friends and allies to join us in these collective efforts to make us stronger.

Yes, we owe those folks a great debt of gratitude for making America a leader in space, a leader in the world, and giving us all something to dream about. Let us now meet that challenge in a different way.

Let us continue to explore space. Let us continue to reach for the stars, but let us dedicate ourselves to becoming that unified voice so that something we can all dream about is one America—one America—not a house divided but one America for everyone.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, since it is getting close to shutting-down time, I ask unanimous consent to finish my entire remarks. I promise the Presiding Officer I will not be too long.

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

EB-5 REGULATIONS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I come to talk to my colleagues today about the deeply flawed EB-5 green card program.

Several weeks ago, we learned that the Office of Management and Budget at the White House had completed its review of the new rules to update and reform the EB-5 Program. I have been an advocate for reforming this program for a long, long period of time. Several times I have even talked to the White