

coal, loaded with arsenic, mercury, lead, and uranium, and often stored in lagoons which sometimes burst, just as you see in this picture, not only swamping this farmhouse but also poisoning rivers and ground water.

This should be a “never event.” This should be a “never event,” but it is not. It is all too frequent, and poor communities often take the hit. EPA regulations can eliminate these threats and produce carbon reduction cobenefits.

Nothing in the recent West Virginia v. EPA decision prevents EPA from requiring that coal-fired powerplants install carbon capture technology. And carbon capture technology can eliminate up to 95 percent of the carbon pollution. Add EPA’s authority under the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act to regulate fine particulate matter and coal ash, and you can make real progress.

That brings us, then, to gas-fired powerplants, the next category. They are big carbon polluters, and they are still being built. EPA regulations for new and existing gas-fired plants can limit their carbon pollution the same way. Carbon capture can be one option. Co-firing with zero carbon hydrogen could be another option.

Next on the list is heavy-duty vehicles, trucks, and buses. Now EPA has a proposed rule, and that proposed rule on trucks and buses does nothing to reduce carbon pollution. EPA and DOT have ample authority here, and they should use it. California has its own “advanced clean trucks rule” requiring increased zero emission heavy-duty vehicles. If EPA can’t do any better, then follow California’s lead.

Next comes methane, spewing from oil and gas facilities as leaks, vents, or flares. EPA has a proposed rule—no actual rule yet—but even the proposed rule has flaws. First, it doesn’t cover low-producing wells. A low-producing well can be a very high-leaking well.

So whether it is high or low producing should matter less than whether it is a big leaker.

Second, the rule does little for venting and flaring, which are major pollution sources. Now one development is that satellites can now very precisely locate methane leaks. So we can aggressively pursue and punish big methane polluters, and we should do that. Set up a task force. Have people go hunting for the big methane leaks. Find who is responsible and get after them.

If you do all that, it would cover more than half of gross carbon emissions in the United States. So let’s do it. No more complaining about not enough staff. EPA has more employees than all of Congress combined. If you don’t have enough staff, then detail folks in from the regional offices, borrow from your State counterparts. Do what it takes to get after this like you mean it, because we need to.

There is a list that I tweeted out of things that the administration could

be doing within its existing executive authorities. Within the White House, OMB, or the Office of Management and Budget, 18 months in, needs to finalize its social cost of carbon, the costs and the harms from each ton of carbon pollution emitted. That is the number that I mentioned earlier that Resources for the Future just calculated at \$185 per ton.

OMB needs to finalize the social cost of carbon, set the number, and require its use throughout government decision making. All the regulatory agencies should use it, even the quasi-independents.

And you can add in procurement decisions. The Federal Government contracts for over \$600 billion in goods and services every year. We buy buildings, vehicles, planes, cement, steel, appliances. You name it, the government buys it. Plug the social cost of carbon into procurement, as many private companies do, and you engage the power of government contracting against the climate threat.

And when you do that, that then drives economies of scale that make those low-carbon projects and products cheaper for everyone else, not just the government buyer.

The social cost of carbon should drive Department of Interior fossil fuel royalty rates for oil, gas, and coal produced on Federal lands and waters. Those rates right now are so low that we lose money on royalties compared to the costs that those fossil fuels impose on all of us. That is just dumb and also unfair. So let’s fix that flagrant imbalance by putting the social cost of carbon into the fees and royalties.

I would add that the Department of Justice has a role to play here. Years ago, under the Clinton administration, the Department of Justice sued Big Tobacco for decades of misrepresentations about the harms of its product. Well, DOJ won that lawsuit, and they won big, and they got a court order requiring Big Tobacco to quit lying.

Well, like Big Tobacco, Big Oil has spent decades misrepresenting the dangers associated with its product. The Department of Justice is way overdue to take a serious look at fossil fuel lies.

As they look around the country, they see States and municipalities and counties bringing lawsuits against the fossil fuel industry. It is happening out there. It is incumbent on the Department of Justice to advise the President on what the Department of Justice should be doing. To turn a blind eye to all that litigation, to ignore its own victory in the tobacco case, to refuse to recommend to the President any course of action or to take any course of action is just not an acceptable way of going forward. If the DOJ took an honest look, I bet they would find the case against Big Oil every bit as solid as the case they won against Big Tobacco.

And while we are at it, there is the bully pulpit. The administration should use the bully pulpit to call out

the dark money, the lies, the fake science, the phony front groups, the spin doctors, the co-opted lobby groups, the dirty political spending, the whole apparatus, the whole machinery that the fossil fuel industry has used to corrupt Congress and obstruct progress.

Calling out crooks is the right thing to do, and the public deserves to know that there is a villain here who has blocked progress on purpose and what that villain is up to.

There is a lot that the Biden administration can and should be doing. Yes, it is good to declare a climate emergency. It is better to act like it is a climate emergency and deploy your Executive authorities accordingly. That means the sort of regulatory surge I have just outlined—no waffling, no excuses.

A winning strategy ultimately includes regulation, litigation, legislation, acquisition, and communication. Across those five fronts, the Biden administration should have a plan to move forward in each and every one. It needs the kind of leadership that Eisenhower gave to the Normandy landing and the invasion that followed.

By the way, while you are organizing it that way, do it with gusto. This is a fight that is worth having. It is not just that the planet depends on it; it is not just that our international credibility depends on it; it is not just cleaning out this place from rotten fossil fuel industry depends on it; it is the right thing to do. The American public will stand behind a President who stands up against lies and dark money and the schemes to blockade climate safety.

So I will close by saying that whether there was ever a time for half-hearted, half-baked, and halfway measures, it is done. We need to build on the success of the Inflation Reduction Act. We need to take that as a launchpad, a first chapter, not a last chapter. And on this fight, it is all in or lose because our adversaries are determined. They are just wrong, but they are determined. So it is all in or lose.

By the way, if we lose this race, the laws of chemistry and physics are going to be unforgiving.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

LABOR DAY

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, earlier this week, we celebrated Labor Day, a day when Americans come together to honor the people who make this country work.

Whether you punch a clock, whether you swipe a badge, whether you earn a salary, whether you make tips, whether you are caring for children or an

aging parent, all labor has dignity. When work has dignity, hard work pays off for everyone, no matter who you are, where you live, what kind of work you do. Yet we know that for so many Americans, their work simply doesn't pay off like it should.

Look at what has happened in Minnesota, Ohio, and Rhode Island—and I know Senator GRASSLEY is coming out—and in Iowa. Look what has happened over the last 30, 40 years. Executive salaries have soared. CEO pay is up 1,300 percent since 1978—1,300 percent. Corporate profits have risen. Stock prices are up. Workers are more productive than ever before. But for decades—for decades—wages barely budged for most Americans. Their purchasing power has largely been flat for some five decades because Wall Street rewards corporations that raise prices without raising paychecks. Wall Street rewards stock buybacks. Wall Street rewards union busting. Wall Street really rewards shipping jobs overseas. Wall Street rewards automating jobs. Wall Street rewards outsourcing full-time, in-house work to contractors.

Wall Street analysts actually downgrade stock prices when American companies invest in American workers, in American production. If a company owns a new factory in Ohio, Wall Street might often downgrade its stock. If that same company instead buys back its own stock, sending 40 percent of the returns to foreign investors, Wall Street rewards it.

We work to change that. For the first time in far too long, we have a government on the side of workers. We have a dues-paying union member as Labor Secretary.

Contrast this Labor Secretary—a laborers' union activist who carried a union card before he came; I think he still does as Secretary of Labor—contrast that with the Trump Secretary of Labor, who worked for one of the major world leaders in union busting and who made millions of dollars a year by busting unions.

We took on Big Oil—I am sorry. We have a National Labor Relations Board actually looking out for workers and willing to go after union busting. We passed the most pro-worker infrastructure bill ever, the strongest “buy American” provisions ever in a piece of legislation. We have taken historic steps to put workers first, to invest in American workers, to make our economy work for every American, not just CEOs and not just Wall Street.

That is what you came to the Senate from Minnesota for, and that is what Senator WHITEHOUSE came from Rhode Island for—to make these fights.

We passed the CHIPS Act to bring our supply chains home, to bring down prices for American families, and to create thousands—tens of thousands of good-paying union jobs in Ohio and across the country.

This groundbreaking that President Biden and I and Congressman RYAN and others are going to do this Friday in

Licking County, OH, will mean, at a minimum, 5,000 good-paid, union, building trades jobs—carpenters, electricians, pipefitters, laborers, ultimately millwrights, so many others—at least 5,000 over the next 2 or 3 years that will last at least for 10 years.

Passing the CHIPS Act brings our supply chains home to bring down prices for American families. We passed the Inflation Reduction Act, taking on three of the most powerful special interests in Washington. We took on the big drug companies, Big Pharma, to bring down drug prices. We took on Big Oil to lower energy prices and create jobs, union jobs, in the industries of the future. We took on Wall Street, finally taxing stock buybacks that reward CEOs and executives at the expense—always at the expense—of workers and jobs.

These are big wins for workers—together, the biggest steps we have taken in decades to create an industrial policy that puts our most valuable resource—American workers—first. It counters the business model where corporations hopscotch the globe in search of lower wages and lower wages and lower wages.

From the infrastructure bill, the CHIPS Act, the Inflation Reduction Act, we have laid down a new marker. The technology of the future, from semiconductors to batteries, to electric vehicles, will be developed in America, made in America by American workers.

It hasn't been easy. Our work is far from finished, but I am optimistic. I see more momentum behind the labor movement than at any time in my career. All over the country, more and more workers are seeing that unions are the best way to have a voice, from Starbucks to Amazon. Seventy percent of Americans—I don't ever remember it being that high—70 percent of Americans approve of unions; for sure, the highest level of support in 50 years.

More people than ever want to join a union. They know that carrying a union card means higher wages. It means better benefits. It means better working conditions. It means more control—particularly for young families or families taking care of an aging parent—more control over your schedule.

We know what workers are up against when they organize. Corporations unleash all their power to fight their own workers—too often, illegally. It is why I will never stop fighting to pass the PRO Act to finally level the playing field between workers and corporations in union organizing.

This week, we honor the workers who built this country. We recommit ourselves to the fights ahead because when work has dignity, every American is paid the living wage they have earned. When workers have dignity, all workers can afford childcare and healthcare and housing. When workers have dignity, American workers have retirement security and paid leave and power over their schedules and their lives—

because when you love this country, you fight every day for the people who make it work. That is what the labor movement has done for a century; it is what I will continue to do.

REMEMBERING DAVID KISKA

Madam President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ohioan David Kiska, a Korean war vet, a tank commander, and a decorated war hero.

Mr. Kiska served our country by enlisting in the Army and fighting in Korea. He fought bravely in the Battle of Outpost Harry and many other battles—that battle, one of the most devastating of the war. After 8 days, he and his fellow soldiers prevailed, securing a strategic military route despite being significantly outnumbered. The Battle of Outpost Harry is remembered as an outstanding military feat of the Korean war.

When David returned home to Ohio, he worked at the Thew Shovel Company in Lorain and raised a family. His service to our State and to fellow veterans never ended. He became a director of the Lorain County Veterans Services, where he worked for 20 years as head service officer.

Ohio is blessed in our 88 counties that each of our 88 counties has a veterans service officer. Cuyahoga and Franklin have dozens of people serving. In small counties like Vinton and Noble, there is maybe only one veterans service officer, but they are always there every day to serve veterans.

David wanted to make sure in that job that every veteran received his or her full benefits, regardless of when and where they served their country. He helped with paperwork. He supported veterans through career transitions.

For David, the job never ended there. He took veterans out to lunch, paying out of his own pocket often. He visited sick and injured vets just to keep them company—a friendly face to help through hard times. Every Memorial Day, he volunteered to put American flags on the graves of veterans.

That was how David Kiska lived his life. He fought with bravery; he gave back selflessly. He fought with bravery; he gave back selflessly.

Our thoughts are with his family. We recommit ourselves, as we did with the Heath Robinson PACT Act, to following his example of serving those who have sacrificed so much for our country.

Madam President, I know that Senator GRASSLEY will speak in a moment.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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