

Let us look at what happens here. We have plants that have been grandfathered in. That means they are allowed to spew whatever they want. These plants are out here. You see the pictures of them. But where do the pollutants go from these 25 grandfathered plants? They move, of course, east. Many of the plants are in the Midwest or toward the West, but the pollutants move east.

If we are going to talk about what we do with the Clean Air Act, let us think of our children. My children are going to live most of their lives in the next century. But if we allow this to go on with no changes, those who live in this part of our country are going to be severely damaged and those children who are going to live most of their lives in the next century are going to feel the results of it.

I have talked about the high environmental standards we have in Vermont. Each State and community should take responsibility for controlling pollution within their borders. We have done this in Vermont, implementing some of the toughest environmental laws in the Nation. But, even though we have imposed high environmental standards on ourselves, we Vermonters are faced with an uphill battle when the pollution we are striving to control silently creeps into our State each night with the wind. We Vermonters are deeply concerned about what is being transported by air currents.

We Vermonters are deeply concerned about what comes with the wind at night when we are sleeping from other parts of this country. Acid rain taught us that our tough environmental standards were not enough to protect us. We saw some of our healthiest forests die off from pollution borne from outside our region. This is an experience from which everybody can learn. Increased power generation at these 25 dirtiest plants is going to affect air quality across the country. We learned from the acid rain debate that emissions from these plants could be transported more than 500 miles.

Let us look here. Here are the 25 top polluters. This is where the pollution is going. If you look at this, you can see from the 25 top polluters, our part of the country is being hit especially hard. My own State of Vermont, with the toughest environmental laws you are going to find anywhere, cannot protect ourselves by our own laws because these pollutants come across by every wind that comes over Vermont from the west, carrying those pollutants.

There is no fence, there is no law that we Vermonters can set up to protect us, but we in the Congress can protect all the people in this region.

I will also say, Mr. President, if we do not look at these grandfathered plans, it is not only the Northeast that is going to be affected, all parts of the country are going to see their air quality diminished.

In the case of acid rain, some areas are more vulnerable to damage than

others because of their geology. The rocky soils of Canada and much of the Northeast means that we have less ability to buffer the acids, so our lakes will die sooner. But in the case of ozone, we are dealing with children, not lakes or forests. As I said, my children will live most of their lives in the next century, and I think about that all the time. I also think children are the same, whether they are Canadians, Vermonters, or Ohioans. Children in Ohio, Missouri, West Virginia, and other States are just as vulnerable as those in Canada and Vermont.

I called on the administration a year ago to develop a mitigation program to address increased air pollution associated with utility restructuring. To date, nothing has been proposed. I do not think we can wait any longer. This train is leaving the station and, unfortunately, it is a polluting train.

More than 10 States are already developing restructuring legislation. Two States are implementing open competition. With more than \$50 billion in expected benefits from competition, we should be able to afford the costs of ensuring clean air for our children. A number of proposals have been addressed in the House, but none addresses this problem. The administration has not proposed a solution to it. I hope that proposal will come. I will see what provisions it makes.

Earth Day reminds us that we share the air, the water and our planet. There can be no greater legacy that we leave behind for our children and our grandchildren than a society that is secure in its commitment to a healthy and environmentally sound future.

On this Earth Day, I want all of us in Congress to stop thinking only in regional terms of the Clean Air Act and the potential benefits and costs from utility restructuring. We all share in the responsibility to leave behind for the next generations a healthy environment. The only way we are going to be successful is to look at the quality of our air, water, and ecosystems in wider terms. We have to address the loopholes that allow these dirty plants to churn out tons of pollutants for the last 20 years. We cannot afford them a free ride into the next century.

Let me point out once more, we are not in this alone. The plants are here, but the pollutants go across our country. I say this today because the President is going to North Dakota, actually a place where two of these plants are. He will go representing our whole country and grant aid to the people who have been badly hurt. Any one of us, from whatever State we come from, when we look at the pictures on television and read the news accounts of what those people in North Dakota have gone through, our hearts have to ache for them.

When a town is hit with both flood and fire, it is almost like a Biblical reference to devastation. We will, as a great nation, as we always do in matters of major disasters, come together

and we will help. Vermonters will help the people in North Dakota, as will Kansans and Californians and everybody else. But it is one thing when you see a disaster that happens all at once. Unfortunately, there is a disaster in air pollution that happens drip by drip, day by day, and if we allow these pollutants to continue to drift across our Nation, those of us who are in the East and Northeast also face a disaster, a disaster not of our making but a disaster of our Nation's making, a disaster that may not have a great effect on me, as I stand here in my fifties, but it will on the children of Vermont and it will on their children's children.

This country can be justifiably proud of the steps it has taken in environmental quality. When I look at the newly democratic nations of Eastern Europe and I see how they struggle with health costs and development costs based on their own ignoring of the environment for the last several generations, I think how fortunate we are that we have been way ahead of that in this country, but also know that we have a long, long way to go.

Let us look at this, not for those in my generation, necessarily, but those in my children's generation. Let us look for those who are going to live most of their lives in the next century. That is something this Congress can do. Democrats and Republicans alike should join together and that is a legacy we can leave.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

Mr. BUMPERS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas is recognized.

Mr. BUMPERS. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. BUMPERS pertaining to the introduction of S. 624 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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