I am glad President Clinton said yes. I voted for the airstrikes. I think it was the appropriate response for NATO against Milosevic.

The third issue is one of values, values as to whether or not we stand for anything as Americans. God knows we have throughout our history. We do not get engaged in wars to pick up territory or to come back with loot and booty. We get engaged in wars for values. That is what it was all about in World War II; to make sure that Hitler and his genocide would come to an end once and for all, to make certain in the cold war that we stopped the spread of communism in Europe. Now, today, in this mission in Kosovo, we say we are standing again for values that are important, not only in the United States, but in Europe and around the world.

There are some who question this, and I understand it. I am not one who runs quickly to get involved in any military undertaking. I only wish those who have doubts about this would have been with me last Saturday afternoon, walking through this camp in Brazda, in Macedonia, or, frankly, in many other camps, where the 350,000 Kosovo refugees now in Albania are living in tents and under sheets of plastic—over 120,000 in Macedonia, over 30,000 in Montenegro. Honestly, these are the lucky refugees. They got out alive. They are under the protection of NATO.

The unluckiest are still left behind, those who are still hiding out as refugees in Kosovo, in the woods, hoping they can survive another day until this war comes to an end and it is safe to go home. Those who were brought in, conscripted as slave labor in the Serbian Army, those are the ones who were unlucky. Those are the ones we have to always remember are part of our mission.

Earlier this morning, we were visited by the Prime Minister of Great Britain, Tony Blair. I had never met him before. He is an impressive individual. I can understand why the people of that nation have decided to choose him as a leader. He said some things that were flattering, but I think well worth sharing as I speak to you today. He said the United States has a special place in this world. It is an example to the rest of the world so many times. He said, ''I can't tell you how many times we say thank God for America and its leadership.'' I am proud of that. And I am proud of the men and women who have made it possible,

Those pilots who put their lives on the line every night in the bombers, soon in the helicopters, to try to bring this war to a conclusion and peace to Yugoslavia.

I am proud, too, of the families back home who wait, hoping that they will return safely. I am proud of the families of the three POWs who have been captured there. I want to let them know we will never forget those prisoners. They are in our thoughts and our prayers every moment until they come home safely, as they will.

I think we have to stay this course. We have three difficult choices at this moment. We can leave, and if we leave, what have we left behind? This penny-ante dictator with his genocide and ethnic cleansing who will pick another helpless target?

Some say we should have a ground war. I am not for that. I do not think that will work. Or we can pursue this air campaign, a campaign which has gone on about 26 days, about which 13 or 14 days we have had good weather. If we pick up the intensity of this bombing, Mr. Milosevic will understand there is a price to pay for his horrible policy of ethnic cleansing.

If this ends as we want it to, we will close the 20th century with peace in Europe. We will be able to say to Europeans wherever they live that the United States, your partner, stood by your side during one of the bloodiest centuries in the history of Europe. When it was all over, the values we cherish, the values we fought for, prevailed. That is what is at stake here, and that is what I hope most Americans will recall.

Mr. President, I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. GRAMS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. GRAMS. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

EARTH DAY

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, today across our country, Americans are commemorating Earth Day, a day vitally important to all who serve in this Chamber as well.

As my colleagues know, Earth Day was first observed on April 22, 1970. Its purpose was, and it remains, to make people across the country and around the world reflect on the splendor of our planet, an opportunity to get the people to think about the Earth's many gifts we often take for granted.

Earth Day is a day for us to renew our commitment to protect our environment and recognize the respect we must give our natural resources, recycling and replenishing whenever possible.

The New York Times, on the original Earth Day, ran a story which in part read:

> Conservatives were for it. Liberals were for it. Democrats, Republicans and Independents were for it. So were the ins, the outs, the executive and the legislative branches of Government.

Mr. President, the goals of Earth Day 1970 were goals upon which all of us agree. They are goals still shared across the country, regardless of age, gender, race, economic status, or religious background, and they are shared by this Senator as well.

I consider myself a conservationist and an environmentalist, and I think everyone who serves in the Senate also does. No one among us is willing to accept the proposition that our children or grandchildren will ever have to endure dirty water or filthy skies. Our children deserve to live in a world that affords them the same environmental opportunities that their parents enjoy today.

When speaking about the Earth and our environment, however, it is becoming increasingly difficult to highlight the consensus that exists in Congress on protecting the environment, because the environmental debate is now so focused on the margins.

The proliferation of special interest groups has forced our debate away from our common concerns and left the American people with the idea that an individual is either for the environment or against it, and that determination is made not by the voters or by one's record, but by the scorecard or the rhetoric of a particular organization.

I would like to take a moment this Earth Day to remind my constituents and the American people of the tremendous progress we have made on a bipartisan basis towards protecting the Earth and its inhabitants and, at the same time, improving and conserving our precious natural resources.

In the 104th Congress, we passed several major pieces of legislation to improve the environment. They include the Safe Drinking Water Act, the conservation title to the farm bill, the Coastal Zone Management Act, the Invasive Species Act, the Everglades Protection Amendments, the Food Quality Protection Act, the Water Resources Development Act, the Battery Recycling Act, and the Parks and Public Lands Management Act, just to name a few.

Those public laws are now at work helping Americans protect the environment by including billions of dollars to improve the safety of our Nation's drinking water and billions more on conservation efforts on more than 37 million acres of sensitive land.

Those programs will help improve our cities' waterfronts, control invasive species in our lakes, and increase visitor enjoyment and natural resource protection in our Nation's parks and in our visitors' enjoyment.

Unfortunately, if a Member's constituents did not take the time to review the complete record of their Member of Congress, they would not know the truth.

While the accomplishments of the 104th Congress are impressive, the 105th Congress did not rest on its laurels over the past 2 years. The environmental accomplishments of the 105th Congress include the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, the Dolphin Conservation Act, the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act, the National Park System Restoration Act, the National Wildlife Refuge System Volunteers and Community Partnership Act, the Tropical Forest Conservation Act, the African and Asian Elephant Conservation

Acts, and a host of programs contained within the provisions of the appropriations legislation.

Again, these programs will provide even more money, billions of dollars across the spectrum of environmental protection. These programs were passed only through bipartisan cooperation and were largely supported by most Members of Congress.

In the 106th Congress, we are off to another good start. I have focused my efforts on looking at legislation which improves our Nation's energy efficiency and security and promotes the use of alternative renewable sources of energy.

I am a cosponsor of legislation to extend the wind energy tax credit and to provide a tax credit for the production of energy from poultry litter.

I have also cosponsored legislation with Senators COVERDELL, BREAUX, and DEWINE which would force Federal facilities to comply with the provisions of the Clean Water Act, something they are currently able to avoid by claiming sovereign immunity.

I will soon be joining Senators MURKOWSKI and HAGEL as an original cosponsor of the Energy and Climate Policy Act which, through tax credits and public-private partnerships, will promote research and development of technologies which reduce or sequester greenhouse gas emissions.

We have had tremendous accomplishments in Congress over the past 4 years, and I make this point not to illustrate a difference between Republican and Democratic Congresses, but to highlight our shared commitments to protecting the environment, improving our wildlife habitats, making our water supply safer, increasing visitor enjoyment in our Nation's parks, and also strengthening our dedication to leaving a proud legacy of natural resource protection for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.

Mr. President, I make these points because they are often not properly presented to the American public, because many proenvironmental initiatives are passed by unanimous consent or by voice vote. They often do not appear on our voting records. Instead, Americans are left with the five or six votes over an entire year that a special interest group portrays as the complete environmental record of Members of Congress.

Anyone who closely monitors Congress knows that these issues are not as simple as some make them out to be, and a Member's record is not accurately reflected by five or six selective votes, votes which are many times procedural votes and not votes on final passage. That is why I have long believed we can do a better job of promoting our shared commitment to both environmental protection and economic growth by highlighting our many common beliefs, rather than taking a microscope to those beliefs upon which differences arise.

Clearly, partisanship will always be present in congressional debates, but no American is well served when issues as important as environmental protection are dominated by the flagrant distortion of the truth.

Mr. President, I suggest that on this Earth Day, we pledge to come together to improve our environment and strengthen our natural resources. I suggest that we recognize both our failures and also our successes of the past. We must recognize that today compliance with regulations is the rule and that blatant attempts to pollute and circumvent regulations are the exception. With this in mind, I believe we must renew our Nation's commitment to pragmatism.

Government on all levels must do its part as watchdog while empowering those being regulated to develop unique and innovative means of compliance. At the same time, we must promote ideas that create public-private partnerships and encourage companies and individuals to take voluntary steps to protect our natural resources. Through education and awareness, we will be able to approach environmental issues in a way that fosters compromise and in a way that ensures public policy is pursued in the best interest of all.

It is time we commit ourselves to achieving real results through environmental initiatives. We must make sure that Superfund dollars go to clean up the Superfund sites, not go into the pockets of lawyers. We must base our decisions on clear science with stated goals and flexible solutions. We must give our job creators more flexibility in meeting national standards as a means of eliminating the pervasive ''command and control'' approach that has infected so many of our Federal programs.

And finally, the Federal Government needs to promote a better partnership between all levels of Government, with job providers, environmental interest groups, and with the taxpayers. Moving forward together in eliminating the inflammatory rhetoric which sometimes consumes the entire environmental debate will not be easy, but if we are going to work together to ensure the splendor of our natural resources far into the future, I believe it is a step that we are going to have to take.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

THE 29TH ANNUAL EARTH DAY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today marks the 29th annual Earth Day —a day to evaluate our environment—a day to celebrate. Along with all Americans, I too want to live in a clean environment, and like most Americans, I fully believe efforts are needed to ''protect the environment.'' However, I question how ''protecting the environment'' is defined and bureaucratically implemented, especially when it begins to truly hurt Americans.

Mr. President, I hope my colleagues will look at each environmental policy—new and old—carefully, to make sure the benefits are both real and achievable. Congress should make sure the costs are tolerable and properly allocated, and Congress needs to ensure that the standards and time tables make sense. Most importantly, the Congress needs to make sure that the science is legitimate.

There are some who advance an agenda under the guise of environmental concern. This is not only wrong, but harmful. There are some who do not provide accurate costs and who inflate benefits. This too is wrong. There are some who have no concern about those who will really be affected by the new policy. This is also very wrong—Congress should never lose sight of the constituents.

Mr. President, the Senate needs to continue to ''protect the environment'' while ''protecting the people'' who live in that environment. The Senate must examine the costs inflicted upon our society, as it relates to the environmental protection, to make sure it is acceptable.

This Earth Day anniversary is a good anniversary. There are many things of which to be proud, and many people and organizations which should be proud. Many can rightly take credit. Yes, the federal government stepped in. However, over the past three decades I've seen states and local governments also step up to the plate and act responsibly. After 30 years states should be given more responsibility, because of their effectiveness in environmental matters.

Mr. President, this Earth Day anniversary is a good anniversary, because the corporate world has invested billions and billions of dollars more than thirty years to clean the environment—the air, the soil, and the water. Everyone has benefited. The initial federal rules worked, but over the past 30 years industry has learned how to take environmental action in a more effective way. The federal government, not known for its efficiency, should do a better job of asking for these environmental solutions, because the same results at lower costs are good for America. Industry wants to be a partner in this effort.

Mr. President, today the new environmental enemy is urban sprawl. This is unfortunate because Congress does not need to find a new evil enemy to pursue to make environmental policy work. Suburbs, backyards, and shopping centers are not our enemy. Mr. President, the family living in the suburbs is not the enemy. I hope my colleagues will take a more balanced approach, and look for ways to legislate that avoid the adversarial approach. For thirty years industry was blamed for our environmental problems, now it's the family living in the suburbs. This is counter productive. This is a terribly destructive way to ''protect the environment.''

Mr. President, nearly 30 years of Earth Days has heightened everyone's awareness—yours and mine. I truly believe everyone is now a better steward