

I conclude by saying that I believe it is my obligation as a Senator—and I hope the obligation of everyone else—to keep relentless, unending pressure on this President to come to grips with reality, to continually push every single day to say: Mr. President, stop; stop this policy of yours.

It is my hope, even though he is likely to veto this bill, that we will keep the pressure on and ultimately convince at least a dozen of our Republican colleagues it is time to stop backing the President and start backing the troops. It is time, Mr. President, to begin to responsibly bring this war to an end.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

AMERICA COMPETES ACT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 761, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 761) to invest in innovation and education to improve the competitiveness of the United States in the global economy.

Pending:

Bingaman amendment No. 908, to make certain improvements to the bill.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I am waiting on the Democratic manager of the bill, Senator BINGAMAN, who should be here right away. Following that, we hope to go to the Senator from South Carolina, who has some amendments to offer, but it is not appropriate for me to do that until Senator BINGAMAN is here. That will take a moment. Then we will go forward, if that is all right with the Senator from South Carolina.

We had a good discussion yesterday on the America COMPETES Act. To remind all Senators, this is the Reid-McConnell legislation, with 56 cosponsors, which seeks to help our country keep our brainpower advantage so we can keep our jobs. It is the result of 2 years of work within this body through three committees principally but really five or six.

We asked the National Academy of Sciences to tell us exactly what we need to do to keep our competitive advantage in the world in competition with China and India so our jobs don't go there, so we can keep this remarkable situation we have of producing 30 percent of all the money each year for 5 percent of the people, with at least half of that based on our technological advantage. The National Academy of Sciences gave us a list of recommendations in priority order. The Council on Competitiveness formed the basis of a Lieberman-Ensign bill, the President

made his own recommendations, and all that now has been worked through into this legislation.

I see Senator BINGAMAN. If I may, I would like to finish 3 or 4 minutes of remarks and then go to Senator BINGAMAN.

Yesterday, Senator INOUE, Senator STEVENS, Senator DOMENICI, all of whom have been leaders on this legislation, spoke on the floor. Senator CHAMBLISS as well spoke on the floor. Senator BINGAMAN, of course, has been a leader from the very beginning, asking the questions that helped produce this result. So we have before us a leadership bill on a subject that is as important as any.

Almost all Members of the Senate over the last 2 years have had plenty of opportunity to influence this bill, and most have in one way or the other. It has been a remarkable exercise. But there still is time today and tomorrow for us to consider more options.

The President, last night by e-mail—someone in the White House—sent a Statement of Administration Policy to Capitol Hill which outlines the administration's views on the pending legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the President's remarks on January 31, 2006, from his State of the Union Address in which he spoke about the importance of the competitiveness initiative.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. ALEXANDER. As a courtesy to the administration, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the administration's Statement of Administration Policy following my remarks.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 2.)

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I know how important the President believes this is. I have talked with him about it at least a half dozen times personally, usually in bipartisan sessions with a number of Senators, sometimes individually. I know the Vice President has been deeply involved.

When there is some more time on the floor this afternoon, if we have a lull in the debate, I will go through the Statement of Administration Policy and talk about it a little bit. Basically, it is very helpful to us. It points out that there is not much difference between the amount of money the President proposes to spend over the next 4 years and the amount we would propose to authorize to spend in this bill. As one might expect, the President likes his new programs but doesn't like some other new programs, and there are some other suggestions that are well taken that we can talk about, perhaps accept amendments, at least discuss with the Democratic majority those

amendments, and there will be some amendments that are offered on the Senate floor.

I will reserve my comments on the President's Statement of Administration Policy. It is good to have it. We will make it part of the debate—and taking the President at his word—given the President's statement and the administration policy statement that “The administration looks forward to working with Congress to address these various policy concerns as the legislative process moves forward.”

I defer to Senator BINGAMAN, if I may. Senator DEMINT is ready to offer amendments and speak about them whenever that is appropriate.

EXHIBIT 1

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT, JAN. 31, 2006

“And to keep America competitive, one commitment is necessary above all: We must continue to lead the world in human talent and creativity. Our greatest advantage in the world has always been our educated, hardworking, ambitious people—and we're going to keep that edge. Tonight I announce an American Competitiveness Initiative, to encourage innovation throughout our economy, and to give our Nation's children a firm grounding in math and science.

First, I propose to double the federal commitment to the most critical basic research programs in the physical sciences over the next 10 years. This funding will support the work of America's most creative minds as they explore promising areas such as nanotechnology, supercomputing, and alternative energy sources.

Second, I propose to make permanent the research and development tax credit—to encourage bolder private-sector initiatives in technology. With more research in both the public and private sectors, we will improve our quality of life—and ensure that America will lead the world in opportunity and innovation for decades to come.

Third, we need to encourage children to take more math and science, and to make sure those courses are rigorous enough to compete with other nations. We've made a good start in the early grades with the No Child Left Behind Act, which is raising standards and lifting test scores across our country. Tonight I propose to train 70,000 high school teachers to lead advanced-placement courses in math and science, bring 30,000 math and science professionals to teach in classrooms, and give early help to students who struggle with math, so they have a better chance at good, high-wage jobs. If we ensure that America's children succeed in life, they will ensure that America succeeds in the world.

Preparing our Nation to compete in the world is a goal that all of us can share. I urge you to support the American Competitiveness Initiative, and together we will show the world what the American people can achieve.”

EXHIBIT 2

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET,

Washington, DC, April 23, 2007.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

S. 761 AMERICA CREATING OPPORTUNITIES TO MEANINGFULLY PROMOTE EXCELLENCE IN TECHNOLOGY, EDUCATION, AND SCIENCE ACT (Sen. Reid (D) Nevada and 55 cosponsors)

One of the more important domestic priorities of the Administration over the last two