

can now be expressed are key to making us a stronger nation.

Having independent sources of news helps citizens to take opinions, not just locally but nationally and even globally. That is why I am glad we stopped the FCC from moving forward on their media consolidation proposal.

I remind my colleagues of the history here because I have a feeling this issue may come up again. Back in 2002, the FCC initiated its biennial review process, announcing the agency would fulfill and review the full range of broadcast ownership rules, but the announcement of the review was the only thing that was truly conducted in public.

On June 23, 2003, on a 3-to-2 party line vote, the FCC issued its new rules on media consolidation. Then-Chairman Powell did not issue the proposed rule for public comment prior to the vote.

The reason I am bringing this up is because what ensued is millions of people sent e-mails and weighed in with postcards and petitions to oppose the rule. In fact, the Senate sent a very clear message to the FCC at the time invalidating that proposed media consolidation proposal.

The Third Circuit Court of Appeals reviewed the FCC decision from 2003 and they determined it was "not supported by reasonable analysis."

What happened after that? Obviously there were a lot of people in loud chorus saying they disapproved of the FCC's action to further concentrate the media in this country. In 2007 the FCC passed the new media ownership rule, barely a month after it was proposed, allowing for little public comment and for even less time for consideration of the comments that came in. I know Chairman Martin likes to talk about allowing public comment for over 120 days and 6 hearings around the country, but all of that was done before the rule was even out there in public, what the actual changes would be.

In one example, they came to Seattle on November 9 and I think we had a mere 1-week notice for that. They had the meeting on a Friday afternoon. I think it was a 3-day weekend. Maybe they thought no one would show up, but it does not take a lot of notice in Seattle to get people to show up for a hearing about media consolidation, so 800 people showed up and spent 9 hours letting the Commission know their thoughts on what they thought the impact of increased media concentration would be.

It would hurt competition. It would lessen diversity. It would impact localism and was not in the broader public interest. I know Chairman Martin received an earful in Seattle, but clearly he didn't pay much attention to what we said, because a few days later he proposed new media ownership rules. They were released in a November 13 op-ed piece, I think in the New York Times, in a Commission press release.

So what we are saying is we do not like the process which the FCC pursued

in not having the broadest public comment in this, and also when it looks at some of the issues that were discussed in trying to validate why the Commission continues to try to push for media consolidation.

I think it is very important. We have seen a pattern emerge. We see economic studies from the Commission where they cannot hold up to peer review, where data are not supportive of the predetermined conclusions that the FCC had, and that maybe they were "checking the box" when it comes to these public hearings and maybe giving mere lip service to localism and to women and minority ownership issues.

So all of those issues are going to continue to be duly noted by the Commerce Committee, and certainly we are going to continue to fight on this issue. The FCC media ownership rules were created decades ago to foster these longstanding goals that our country has to promote competition, to promote localism, to have diversity of voices.

The courts and industry experts and elected officials of all ranks across America have come together in an overwhelming chorus saying "no" to the FCC move to try to further consolidate the media.

I am glad my colleagues tonight as well disapproved of their action so we can continue to have the diversity of voices in America that I believe my constituents and Americans all across this country deserve.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I want to say a few words on the 100th anniversary of the National Governors Association.

I especially want to thank my friend and colleague Senator DURBIN for yielding to me to speak first this evening.

It was 100 years ago today that the first meeting of our Nation's Governors took place. In recognition of the National Governors Association's Centennial today, I, along with a number of my colleagues, including Senator VOINOVICH of Ohio and Senator ALEXANDER of Tennessee, have submitted a resolution commemorating the 100th anniversary of the National Governors Association.

It is my hope we will be able to clear this resolution honoring the 100th anniversary this evening. As former Governors currently serving in the Senate,

Senators BAYH, BOND, GREGG, and BEN NELSON will also be joining myself and Senator ALEXANDER, along with Senator ROCKEFELLER, in sponsoring this resolution.

If you think about it, that is all of the former Governors who now serve in the Senate and who were at one time members of the National Governors Association. I was privileged to serve, along with Senators VOINOVICH and ALEXANDER, as chairman of the National Governors Association at one time.

It is a special privilege for me to take a moment to reflect on the organization's growth and its accomplishments over the last 100 years. On May 15, 1908, 100 years ago today, President Teddy Roosevelt hosted the first meeting of our Nation's Governors at the White House. They gathered to discuss conserving America's natural resources.

Now, 100 years later, the Federal Government is still working with our Nation's Governors in an ongoing effort to protect America's natural resources through conservation provisions such as the farm bill that we adopted here today or addressing climate change or protecting our air through legislation such as the Clean Air Planning Act.

Today, 100 years later, the National Governors Association serves as the collective voice of our Nation's Governors and remains one of Washington, DC's most respected public policy organizations.

Through this bipartisan organization, Governors are able to identify and discuss a broad range of issues relating to public policy and to governance. I have long said the 50 States are laboratories of democracy, and we should use them as such, and we do.

Today we do that. From the redwood forests to the gulf stream waters, initiatives and policy recommendations that have come from the Governors often serve as catalysts for change both in the States and at the national level.

I was Governor of Delaware back in 1995 when Congress was actively debating how to reform a failing Federal welfare program, trying to decide how do we make work pay more than welfare. Without solutions coming from the Congress, the States had already begun taking reform efforts into their own hands. Over half the States, including my own State of Delaware, and I believe the State of Vermont, had made significant changes to their own welfare programs by seeking waivers from the Federal rules.

Many of the welfare policies and practices tested by States were ultimately adopted by the Federal Government in the sweeping 1996 welfare reform legislation passed by the Congress and signed by President Clinton, which the Governors helped to write.

As with welfare reform, the National Governors Association has played and continues to play a key role in developing national policies ranging from

transportation to education, to environmental protection and health care, to name a few.

In the 1950s, President Eisenhower enlisted the Governors' help to help build our very first interstate highway system. The State-Federal partnership forever changed the face of transportation in America and underscored how critical States' participation has been to realizing national goals.

The same is true of Medicaid and the SCHIP program, the State Children's Health Insurance Program. The same is true of the implementation of the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, and as we fight wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the National Guard units of all 50 States.

Over the past century, the National Governors Association has played a key role in shaping public policy and addressing America's most pressing challenges. On behalf of each of the former Governors who are privileged to serve today here in the Senate, it is my honor to acknowledge the leadership of Governors both past and present, to celebrate what they have achieved over the last 100 years by working together, and to look toward with anticipation of what lies ahead for our Nation's National Governors Association and for the Governors who will help to lead it in this century and beyond.

If I could just add a footnote, I always think of the States as laboratories of democracy. We can test policies or programs to see if they work at the State level, and if they do, maybe see if they would work on a national level.

One of the things I especially liked about being part of the National Governors Association was that every even-numbered year, right after the election in mid-November, the National Governors Association would host a school for new Governors and spouses. For 3 days, a different Governor would host in his or her State the NGA's school for new Governors and spouses. The students were the newly elected Governors who had been elected 2 weeks earlier. They were Democrats and Republicans, in some cases an Independent. The faculty were the current Governors and their spouses. We would spend 3 days together. Usually, it was as many as 20 Governors and spouses on faculty.

We would spend those 3 days together in different places around the country—no press, very little staff. The idea was for the grizzled veterans to really bare our souls to the new guys and gals, incoming Governors, and tell them the mistakes we made and to say to them: Learn from our mistakes. Don't make the same ones we did, whether it is putting together your team, developing your communications plan, working with the legislature, deciding where you are going to live and trying to be a chief executive and still be a good parent, a good spouse. But during those 3 days we spent together, a remarkable bonding occurred be-

tween the old Governors, the veterans, and the new Governors, and across party lines. I am convinced one of the reasons why the Nation's Governors tend to be less partisan is what happens in new Governor school.

Among my closest friends are Governor Mark Racicot, former Governor of Montana, who later went on to be national committee chair and general campaign manager for President Bush's reelection; Mike Leavitt, former Governor of Utah, who succeeded me as chair and who serves today as a Cabinet secretary in this administration. What we have tried to do in the Senate, those of us who used to be Governors who serve here today but went through new Governors school, is take that idea and transplant it here. I call it Senators school. It is really orientation.

This fall, in November, 2 weeks after the election, we will have new Senators, newly elected Senators, their spouses will come. They will spend 3 days together; some sessions with spouses, others not with spouses. The faculty will be current Senators and our spouses. We will have 3 days to get to know each other, to try to teach the new guys and gals the ropes and to begin to develop new personal relationships that really are needed here to make this place work. I look forward to being a part of doing that this November. But the idea was one of those ideas that came from the National Governors Association.

Again, the NGA and the States are laboratories of democracy. Taking that lesson and applying it here on the national level will have good effect.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 568 submitted earlier today by yours truly.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 568) commemorating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the National Governors Association.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CARPER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 568) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 568

Whereas, in 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt invited the Nation's Governors to the White House to discuss conserving America's natural resources;

Whereas the Governors decided to form an association through which they could con-

tinue to come together on a bipartisan basis to discuss mutual concerns and share State practices;

Whereas, 100 years later, the National Governors Association serves as the collective voice of the 55 Governors of States, commonwealths, and territories;

Whereas, for the past century, Governors have utilized the organization to explore issues, develop solutions, and build consensus on diverse national policies;

Whereas the National Governors Association has played a key role in shaping public policy and addressing America's most pressing challenges; and

Whereas the National Governors Association is celebrating 100 years of gubernatorial leadership—honoring the past, celebrating the present, and embracing the future: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the leadership of the Nation's Governors and honors their contributions to American politics and society; and

(2) commemorates the 100th anniversary of the founding of the National Governors Association.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

ARMED FORCES DAY

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, tomorrow we celebrate Armed Forces Day. Communities across my State, from Van Wert to St. Clairsville, from Sandusky to Ironton, will pause to honor the service and sacrifice of the men and women in all branches of the military service as they and we celebrate Armed Forces Day.

I have held close to 100 roundtables around my State where, in many of them, I had the opportunity to speak with dozens of these honorable men and women. Those conversations reinforced my profound respect for their unstinting bravery, their unshakable sense of duty, and their unwavering commitment to our national security.

Not long ago, at Walter Reed I visited two Ohio marines recovering from wounds suffered in Iraq. I asked each of them what was the first thing they thought about when they realized they were wounded. Both marines, independently of one another, said: "Can I stay in the Marines." That simple statement speaks volumes about our men and women in uniform.

Armed Forces Day is an opportunity to honor our troops, an opportunity to honor the sacrifices they and, equally importantly, their families have made to protect our Nation, and an opportunity to honor the promises our Nation has made to repay their services and sacrifices. That is so important. We are stewards of those promises. We have a responsibility to work every day, against opposition sometimes, to ensure that our Armed Forces receive the wages and benefits and services they have earned. Honoring our troops should be more than sentiment. It should be action. When we make promises to our troops, we should keep them. They most certainly have kept their promises to us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.