

Some say it is even cheaper to do nothing. Said a different way, they claim this is an entirely earthly cycle. Just wait and all will be well; our great Earth will correct it.

Some say we should wait until developing nations, such as China and India, take the lead. We heard the Republican leader say: Let them lead, not us. I say the United States, the greatest Nation in the history of the world, is obligated to lead, not to follow, on this most important issue of our time and perhaps of all time.

President Bush says: Let's bide our time until 2025. Is it cheaper to do nothing? Of course not. It is the opposite. The longer we wait, the more it will cost to solve this very difficult problem.

The Climate Security Act, the bill before us today, will cut taxes by \$800 billion and finance the transition to clean alternative fuels by making polluters pay.

Let me talk a little bit about the sponsors of this legislation. This is bipartisan legislation. This is not some wild idea somebody came up with that sounds good. It is an idea where the two sponsors, Lieberman-Warner, a Democrat and a Republican, members of the Environment and Public Works Committee, got together and said: We need to do something about this situation.

They both have records for integrity and advocacy that are in the best keeping of the Senate. I don't always agree with Senator LIEBERMAN. As everyone knows, I think he has been wrong on the war, and I have told him that. Senator WARNER and I have disagreed on issues in the past. But I have great respect for both these fine legislators. Senator WARNER is a man who has made a difference in his 29½ years in the Senate. His advocacy is making a difference. So I admire and respect Senators LIEBERMAN and WARNER for their work on this legislation.

I talked about this legislation cutting taxes by \$800 billion, and it finances the transition to clean alternative fuels by making polluters pay.

While we are investing in renewable fuels and renewing our environment, we will be investing in an entirely new industry—a high-tech, "green collar" economy—that will create jobs and develop the great companies of today and tomorrow.

Hundreds of thousands of new jobs in renewable energy have already been created by foresighted investors who see the need for clean energy that does not contribute to global warming. Millions more jobs can be created with the enactment of a strong cap-and-trade system that is in this legislation.

My State, Nevada, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of Alabama—those Senators present—are blessed with all kinds of good things in the environment. Specifically, though, Nevada, and most of our Nation, is blessed with an abundance of renewable energy resources that far exceed any-

thing we would ever hope to get from fossil fuels.

Take, for example, solar energy. In the West, it is tremendously abundant. In most all of our country, it is abundant. It is on the verge of tremendous cost and efficiency breakthroughs.

It is not as if it has not been done in other places. Look what some of the Scandinavian countries have done with wind. They don't have a lot of Sun, but they have lots of wind, and they are creating huge numbers of jobs and lots of energy with their windmills.

There are people in the Midwestern part of the United States today who are farmers who are making more money from their windmills on their farms than they are from the crops they grow.

Solar energy, abundant in Nevada and the West, is on the verge of tremendous cost and efficiency breakthroughs. Geothermal energy can be found in Nevada, California, New Mexico, and other parts of the West. Wells can be drilled that harness the steam coming from the ground and turn it into productive energy. Wind energy can be effectively harnessed all across America.

We can break down the last barriers to the success of solar by enacting an effective cap-and-trade system that will level the playing field with dirty, polluting energy. We have to win the battle against dirty, polluting energy. Should we, as some say, wait for China and India to act? Of course not. Since when does America let other countries lead the way? It is our responsibility to forge the path other nations will follow. But beyond our moral responsibility is a tremendous opportunity for the green gold rush to take place here at home.

Should we wait until 2025, as President Bush would have us do? I don't think so. By 2025, our window of opportunity may well be closed. That is what the scientists tell us. The tipping point the scientists fear—the time at which the environmental impact of global warming becomes severe and irreversible—may have been reached by then, and our chance to create millions of new jobs, catalyze technology development, and keep investment in America will surely be lost. We must move forward. The path of delay, the path of wait and see—the chosen path of Bush and Cheney—ends in certain failure.

Let's withdraw our focus from oil and focus instead on solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass energies. We must not settle for failure. For 7½ years of the Bush administration we have come to expect it. We need to do better.

The Boxer-Warner-Lieberman bill is bipartisan in the truest sense. What better opportunity than to show the American people and the world the Senate is ready to move beyond partisanship to do the right thing. A time will come not far from now when a future generation will look back on us today. They will know what we know—

that today global warming is real. Did we take the opportunity, did we accept the challenge to do something about it? That is what future generations are going to look back on. It is upon us to act now. We have to do it. The opportunity is here and we have to take it. That the future of our planet, our economy, and our security depend on choices we make now is without question.

I hope all my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, will make responsible decisions now to make future generations safe, secure, prosperous, and proud.

I will finally say, my friend, the distinguished Republican leader, in citing his authority for doing nothing, said to read Charles Krauthammer. Everyone knows Charles Krauthammer is one of the most conservative columnists in America. The Wall Street Journal is not a sufficient authority to overrule the vast majority of scientists in America today—in the world today.

We are behind. Other countries are ahead of us. Great Britain and other countries around the world have done much more than we have done. We have a responsibility. Our Earth, I repeat, has a fever. The fever is going up, not down, and we have to bring that fever down. This legislation is our start to making our Earth well.

---

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

---

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Alabama.

---

#### CLIMATE SECURITY ACT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I don't think, with all due respect to my good friend, the majority leader, who decided to bring up this bill, that discussing one of the most massive bills we have seen is a waste of time. I don't think 30 hours is too long. The Wall Street Journal, which he dismisses—I don't dismiss it—said:

This is easily the largest income redistribution scheme since the income tax.

That was today's Wall Street Journal editorial. I wish to say, this is not a matter that should be lightly dealt with. Thirty hours is not enough. We need to spend a lot of time talking about what the provisions are in this legislation, what we can do, as the majority leader says—and I agree, there are a lot of things we can do and we can do now—but what we ought not to.

I have to defend my friend, Senator MITCH MCCONNELL, the Republican