

this time. Rather, I think the appropriate place for coal-to-liquids technology will be in the Energy bill and there will be an Energy bill, of that I am positive. There is a question of what will be contained in that energy bill, but there will be one, I am sure, brought up on the floor of this body to help make this country more secure in its national energy position so we are less reliant on foreign countries to produce energy.

#### MONTANA DISASTERS

Mr. BAUCUS. I also rise to call attention to a pair of disasters that recently struck Montana and pledge my support for the recovery effort. Last week the Big Sandy Creek spilled over its banks and flooded into the Lower Box Elder Road and the surrounding area. The flooding displaced 30 families at the Rocky Point Boy's Indian Reservation in north central Montana.

As is the tradition in our States, folks with the Chippewa Creek Tribe are pulling together to help one another. The Vo-Tech Center in Box Elder has been converted to a makeshift home for those left homeless by the flooding. The American Red Cross of Montana is providing beds and other services at that center. The area is still under a stage two flood advisory. I just talked to the chairman of the Rocky Boy's about half an hour ago, who told me there have been about 7 inches of rain there and he had an extremely difficult time with the water problems and sewage problems. Homes have been displaced. He has never seen anything like it.

Initial estimates exceed \$1 million at this point. I will work with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Service to see that Rocky Boy's receives the assistance they need. I might add I will work with any agency that is relevant to make sure the people at Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation receive the assistance they need.

Just as folks at Rocky Boy's began assessing damage yesterday afternoon, another disaster beset Montana. A tornado with wind speeds between 111 and 135 miles an hour crashed into our State's largest city—Billings. Folks in Yellowstone County have not seen such a destructive twister since 1958.

The tornado hurled hail the size of golf balls, ripped the roof off our sports arena, the Metrapark—that is the largest facility, I might add, in Billings, MT. After striking it, it tore through a number of nearby small businesses. The tornado left a path of destruction in its wake—power outages, flooding in some places up to 2 feet of water. The winds damaged at least 10 businesses in Billings: the Main Street Casino, a laundromat, a dance studio, Reiter's Marina. The tornado also ripped the roof from Fast-Break Auto Glass. The roof was later found in a nearby creek. Witnesses saw big pieces of metal hanging from power lines near the arena. Insulation and metal debris was

thrown far across town. One look at these photos gives one a sense of the size of the destruction.

I might add, if you look at the photo to my right, that is what is left of the Metra arena, Billings' largest facility. You can see the Metra almost entirely destroyed, roof completely gone, walls collapsing. I talked to two county commissioners and the mayor today and they explained the deep problems they have with reconstructing this facility, to say nothing about all the bookings that have been made about 2 years in advance that have to be dealt with because of this destruction.

The Metra sports arena is part of the fabric of life in Billings. Montanans gathered at the Metra to cheer on the Billings Outlaws, for example, an indoor football team. Fans say their home field advantage is recognized around the league. The arena also houses the Chase Hawks Memorial Rough Stock Rodeo. Lots of events take place in this arena. I was there a couple of months ago for a high school graduation. Event after event occurs, it seems, around the clock at this arena. It is totally destroyed by the tornado.

The Metra was also visited by American Presidents—President Kennedy, President Reagan, President Clinton, and President Bush. It is part of our State's history. In Montana we work together to solve problems and we will work together through this disaster as well. Yesterday, utility crews worked to shut off a gas leak at a commercial strip mall near Main Street. Crews were also working to repair downed power lines.

Yellowstone County requested a state of emergency, requested that declaration from our Governor last night. They were given an oral declaration and clearly will receive a written declaration today.

The Montana National Guard has deployed to the area to help keep security around the crumbling arena. I am committed to working with local officials, the Governor, as well as Senator TESTER and Congressman REHBERG to coordinate any and all possible Federal assistance, coordinating with all Federal agencies to make sure all resources are available when requested. I have sent my staff to work with local and State officials on the ground to assess the extent of the damage and I will be there every step of the way during the recovery and rebuilding process.

My thoughts and prayers are with the people of Billings, particularly those injured during the storm and those whose property and homes were damaged by the winds.

Today, business owners are returning to the rubble that once was their place of business, their livelihood. Many homeowners are drying out as floodwaters recede. They will work hard in the coming days and months to make sure every Federal resource is made available to help folks in Billings as well as the Rocky Boy's Reservation as

they recover from these twin disasters. Our officials have done this before and nobody can handle this better than the great team we have in Montana.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. I ask unanimous consent Senator CARDIN and I be allowed to engage in a colloquy for 20 minutes.

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

#### INTERNATIONAL DUE PROCESS RIGHTS

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I am appreciative that I am able to join today with my friend and colleague, Senator CARDIN. I appreciate his joining me today to discuss an issue of great concern to both of us and to human rights advocates around the world. That is the ongoing trial in Russia of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and his business partner Platon Lebedev. In June of last year, Senator CARDIN joined me in introducing a resolution urging the Senate to recognize that Khodorkovsky and Lebedev have been denied basic due process rights under international law for political reasons. It is particularly appropriate, I think, that Senator CARDIN and I be talking about this this afternoon because in a matter of days, Russian President Medvedev will be coming to the United States and meeting with President Obama. I think this would be a very appropriate topic for the President of the United States to bring up to the President of the Russian Federation.

I can think of no greater statement that the Russian President could make on behalf of the rule of law and a movement back toward human rights in Russia than to end the show trial of these two individuals and dismiss the false charges against them.

Since his conviction, Khodorkovsky has spent his time either in a Siberian prison camp or a Moscow jail cell. Currently, he spends his days sitting in a glass cage enduring a daily farce of a trial that could send him back to Siberia for more than 20 years. Amazingly, Mikhail Khodorkovsky remains unbroken.

I think it appropriate that President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton have committed to resetting relations with the country. I support them in this worthwhile goal. Clearly, our foreign relations can always stand to be improved. I support strengthening our relations, particularly with Russia. However, this strengthening must not be at the expense of progress on the issue of the rule of law and an independent judiciary. The United States cannot publicly extol the virtues of rule of law and an independent judiciary and at the same time turn a blind eye to what has happened to Khodorkovsky and Lebedev.

I urge President Obama and Secretary Clinton to put the release of these two men high on the agenda as