

purposely shutting down the plants to raise the price.

Last week it was reported that Duke Energy was attempting to negotiate with Governor Davis to settle similar allegations about Duke plants that were off line. Documents released last week reveal that in March, Duke approached the Governor's office to offer a discount on some of the \$110 million owed to the company in exchange for an assurance by the Governor that Duke would not be investigated for keeping plants off line. I think that is just dreadful. A major generator approaches the Governor and tries to make a settlement so that company will not be investigated. This evidence demonstrates that power has been intentionally withheld from the market.

This is not an issue about supply and demand. Vice President CHENEY, Secretary Abraham, and FERC Chairman Hebert argue if we try to regulate prices, companies will not build new plants. Traditionally, companies have earned 10 to 15 percent profit in the energy sector, but now we are seeing profits in the hundreds and thousands of percents. The administration says companies need these high profits to build new powerplants. But at what point does reasonable profit become price gouging?

Again, electricity isn't a luxury good, it is a staple of life. Again, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has found these prices unjust and unreasonable. But the FERC will do nothing about it. Californians are outraged.

Last week, the Lieutenant Governor of California sued Duke, Mirant, Reliant, Williams, and Dynegy in Los Angeles Superior Court accusing the firms of price fixing in violation of State antitrust and unlawful business practices laws.

Today, the California State Assembly speaker and State Senate president pro tempore will sue FERC for the Commission's failure to ensure that rates are just and reasonable as required under the Federal Power Act. I support their cases. Again, I call on FERC to cap wholesale prices until new plants can come on line in California.

The price gouging I have talked about today will have rippling effects that will affect everyone not only in California but likely the entire country. Already, Washington and Oregon are suffering from high electricity prices.

If the FERC and the Federal Government continue to offer piecemeal solutions, the world's sixth largest economy, California, and the Nation's economy may very well pay the price. Now is the time to act. That is why Senator GORDON SMITH and I have introduced comprehensive legislation to address the price and supply problems up to March of 2003, at which time it is estimated there will be enough power on

line to protect against the price gouging we are experiencing today.

Today, California may well experience the first rolling blackouts of the summer. As a matter of fact, we have just learned that the Major League baseball games are going to go on a rain delay should there be a rolling blackout. The games will stop until after the blackout ceases. This is clearly a problem for California and other States.

DOMESTIC DRUG UPDATE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, last month I held a hearing on the Ecstasy problem affecting today's youth. At that hearing the White House released a Pulse Check report on drug trends over the past year. I would like to draw my colleagues' attention to the information in this report.

Drug use in our nation is still increasing. The Pulse Check report found that for most drugs, the availability and usage has been getting worse. It is clear we must take further steps to combat this increase in availability.

The report included information collected from cities all over the country, both urban and rural. It found that heroin use is increasing relative to cocaine. The availability of heroin has been increasing. In fact, drug experts reported that heroin is readily available on our streets, and about half of these experts stated that access to heroin is getting easier. Heroin purity is also increasing, especially as Colombian white heroin is showing up on our door. One major trend found across the nation is that more and more young people are taking up heroin. This is a scourge that must be stopped.

There is another drug that's devastating our young people: Ecstasy and other so-called "club drugs." The report highlighted the dramatic increases in use, particularly among teenagers. Eighteen of twenty cities in the report found Ecstasy to be an emerging concern. Ninety percent of drug treatment and law enforcement experts attest that the availability of Ecstasy has increased in the past year, in spite of all the attention it's been given. It's time we stop just talking about this problem that's destroying our youth, and start taking real action to educate our children and stop the easy availability of this drug at parties and clubs and increasingly in our schoolyards.

Use of other drugs remain at high levels. Marijuana is still widely available, and law enforcement officials regard marijuana as a major threat to our cities. Cocaine, crack, methamphetamine, and other drugs are also increasing in availability and presenting a growing threat to our law enforcement personnel and to all Americans. The Pulse Check report found that the one trend that transcended all

drugs was that the users were increasingly likely to be younger people. The age of onset of use is dropping. This heightened assault on our young people cannot be allowed to continue. We must stop the drug trafficking in our schools and near our children.

There were a few positive signs in the report, however. Crack and marijuana use seem to be leveling off, and it appears our efforts are beginning to work in these areas. More effort should be placed in these areas so we do not lose any momentum in fighting these drugs.

I received another report, from the Pew Research Center, that discusses the American people's feelings on the drug war. Pew reports that 74 percent of Americans feel that we are losing the drug war. Drugs also ranked as the number one concern for rural areas, such as my home state of Iowa. This is an issue that clearly affects everyone; there is no place left to hide from this scourge. Americans are worried about this problem, and with good cause.

I wish I had more good news to report, but unfortunately the drug problem remains serious. Drug use is up sharply among our youth, and availability of most drugs is increasing as traffickers are increasing the flow of drugs into our country and into our schools. Bold steps must be taken to let our children know the risks of these drugs, while also stopping the pushers before they reach young people.

THE NEED FOR CONTROL OF GREENHOUSE GASES

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss an issue that is very important to a large number of Americans. It is the issue of global climate change and the control of greenhouse gases.

One of the most profound challenges we face in the 21st century is the problem of global climate change. Global climate change has the potential to cause widespread damage to large parts of our planet. An increasing body of scientific evidence indicates that human activities are altering the chemical composition of the atmosphere through the buildup of greenhouse gases, primarily carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide. The heat trapping property of these greenhouse gases is undisputed. Scientists and public policy experts are convinced that we need to address this problem.

We cannot wait longer for even more scientific proof of when and how climate change will begin. One Pacific leader summarized our dilemma best when he said "We do not have the luxury of waiting for conclusive proof of global warming. The proof, we fear, will kill us."

Prudence dictates that we start addressing this issue immediately. Solutions may not be easy, quick, or cheap;