

from Dunbar High School and worked four jobs to put himself through Morgan State University. After graduation, Ken went to work for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Maryland and began his professional life in the corporate world, including Comcast Cable. For many, professional achievement and financial security are enough. But not for Ken.

Concerned about his children's school and his neighborhood, Ken soon became a community leader serving as president of the Leith Walk Elementary School PTA and the Glen Oaks Community Improvement Association. Encouraged by his ability to make a positive change, Ken ran for office and was elected to two terms in the Baltimore City Council, representing the 4th District, an elected office he would, no doubt, continue to hold today had he not decided to run for president of the city council.

While in the city council, Ken championed the rights of his neighbors. He sponsored legislation to stop landlords from throwing tenants' belongings out on the street—saving many tenants from homelessness and cleaning up the streets. He pushed for remedial programs in the public schools, such as the Baltimore Truancy Assessment Center, to encourage students to stay in school. He took the police to task for not having enough real community policing but too many reckless warrants, arrests. Last month, when the new Hilton Hotel opened in downtown Baltimore, it was remembered that it was Ken Harris who insisted that if the city was going to financially ensure the development of the hotel, the city and the developer also had to ensure financial support for college students and afterschool recreational opportunities for schoolchildren.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Ken's family, his wife Annette, his daughter Nicol, and his son Kenneth, Jr., for sharing her husband and their father with our city and the State of Maryland. His life, which ended all too soon, made a difference in the lives of many others, and his contributions will not be forgotten.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be concluded.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2008

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.R. 6049, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6049) to amend the Internal Revenue Service Code of 1986 to provide incentives for energy production and conservation, to extend certain expiring provisions, to provide individual income tax relief, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 5633

Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, on behalf of Senator GRASSLEY and myself, I call up amendment No. 5633, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Montana [Mr. BAUCUS], for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. REID, proposes an amendment numbered 5633.

Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, this amendment would extend and improve tax incentives for clean, renewable energy. It is a good energy amendment and energy policy for America.

Here is the bottom line: This amendment would create thousands of new American jobs—jobs that would pay good wages. This amendment would begin the end of America's dependence on foreign oil. And this amendment gives us a chance to show America, before we go home in October, that Congress can actually work for them.

This amendment would extend and improve tax credits for wind and solar power. It would extend and improve tax incentives for building and appliance efficiency. And it would extend and improve incentives for clean coal and biofuels.

And this amendment would create new incentives for clean energy. It includes a credit of up to \$7,500 to help consumers purchase plug-in hybrid cars. It includes a breakthrough credit for the capture and storage of carbon dioxide.

And it includes a new tax incentive for what people are calling "smart meters." Smart meters provide real-time information on electricity use. And thus smart meters have proven to reduce electricity use.

This amendment would allow my home State of Montana to further develop its vast energy resources, from wind power to biofuels, from clean coal to solar power.

I have been trying to pass a version of this amendment for most of the last couple years. And I am very pleased that passage may well be at hand.

Mr. President, the last bill that extended energy tax provisions was the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006. The ink was hardly dry on that law before I set out to extend and modify the energy incentives that it included.

The Finance Committee undertook a series of hearings on energy-tax policy at the beginning of last year. Our hearing topics ranged from renewable electricity to biofuels, from electric vehicles to carbon sequestration, from energy efficiency to clean coal technology. We heard from a wide range of experts on the need for reliable, long-term tax incentives for clean energy, and how best to invest in these incentives.

We used this input to develop a far-ranging clean-energy bill. It would have invested roughly \$30 billion over 10 years.

Our bill included long-term extensions for the wind and solar tax credits. It included long-term extensions and modifications of incentives for improved building efficiency. It included new incentives, such as favorable tax treatment for transmission lines, so we can get renewable power to the market. And it included a credit for cellulosic biofuels, which I am proud to have helped pass a couple months ago in the farm bill.

In keeping with the philosophy of paying-as-you-go, the Finance Committee offset the cost of that package. The offsets largely scaled back or repealed tax breaks for the long-established oil and gas industry.

We scaled back tax incentives for oil and gas companies in order to increase tax support for clean energy. Our rationale was twofold.

First, we argued that as America moves to address global warming, we should begin to provide Federal support for energy that is less carbon-intensive, not more.

Second, we argued that with oil and gas prices on the rise, the oil and gas industry did not need tax incentives that it may have needed in the past. Indeed, in 2005, President Bush said, "I will tell you with \$55 oil we don't need incentives to oil and gas companies to explore." When the Finance Committee reported our bill on June 19, 2007, oil traded at more than \$69 a barrel.

We needed 60 votes to pass the bill. And the oil and gas industry lobbied hard to prevent us from reaching that threshold. We had a strong Senate majority for the Finance Committee product. But we fell 3 votes shy of the 60 needed to break a filibuster.

So we went back to the drawing board. We listened to the concerns from the other side that the oil and gas tax offsets were too big. We scaled back our bill. We worked with the House Ways and Means Committee to produce a package with a roughly \$20 billion pricetag—about a third smaller than our committee-reported bill.