

Investments in an educated workforce, our public infrastructure, and critical funding for research and development will be the keys to both short-term economic recovery and long-term growth. These investments must coincide with efforts to make it easier for Americans to start and expand small businesses and for multinational companies to locate advanced manufacturing here in America.

As we embark on this renewed effort, we must continue, though, to safeguard the important workplace safety, labor, and environmental protections we have put in place over the past decades. Our manufacturing growth must be a function of innovation, not a turning-back of the clock.

That is why I strongly support policies such as extending the research and development tax credit, a manufacturing tax credit tied to research and development done here, in and the extension of the Build America Bonds program for public infrastructure improvements.

We have unfinished work to do to change the focus of our tax and trade policies. We must stop providing incentives to move productive work offshore. Instead, we should reward those companies that reinvest in America—in both inventing a new generation of products and manufacturing them here.

We will also need to focus more of our attention on clean-energy manufacturing. Government investment in clean energy technologies has been a core factor in our competitors' growth. We need to help our businesses compete with theirs.

I was disappointed, frankly, that the Senate was unable to reach an agreement to include the advanced energy manufacturing tax credit in the bipartisan tax relief package we passed last December. That credit is an example of the kinds of policies that will help spur the innovation, manufacturing, and new deployment that will generate clean-energy jobs. I am encouraged, though, that it included funding for the treasury grant program, which leverages private investment in clean-energy projects, for which I pushed along with a number of my colleagues to be included in the package.

Additionally, if we wish to remain on the cutting edge of new clean-energy manufacturing technologies and retain our place as the global leader in scientific innovation, we need to pass more legislation like the America COMPETES Act. In addition to creating ARPA-E, which makes strategic investments through the Federal Department of Energy in game-changing technologies, it also focuses resources on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education.

I am proud to have been a cosponsor of the America COMPETES Act, which was so actively championed by my predecessor, Senator Ted Kaufman, who served Delaware so well. This is just the type of legislation that I came here to support.

We need to find additional ways to expand educational opportunities for more of our students, especially in these fields essential to future competitiveness. There is vital work to be done in ensuring that our business leaders are at the table as we renew America's education policy, helping make certain that our schools are educating our children for the demands of the modern workplace.

This is especially critical in light of recent international standardized test scores that once again showed American students falling behind their competitors from Asia and Europe in reading, science, and mathematics.

A strong educational foundation is the launching pad for new ideas, which will soar to become tomorrow's products and industries.

To achieve this, we must have a strong Federal investment in great teachers and strong schools, set high standards matched with the resources to achieve them, and engage parents, communities, and employers.

We should never settle for just recovery. We must reach for the prosperity and growth I know we can together achieve. We can do it if we make these critical investments and changes in direction today.

That is why I am excited to get to work with my colleagues on a number of important legislative projects. Because I believe we need to redouble our efforts to protect the fruits of that innovation through stronger protections for our intellectual property, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Patent Reform Act and look forward to working with Chairman LEAHY on the Judiciary Committee toward its passage.

Likewise, I found out this week that I will be serving on the Foreign Relations Committee, and I will be pushing for us to be tougher on our trading partners to ensure fairness and a level playing field for American exports, as well as new efforts to expand the range of our overseas markets.

I am honored as well to be a new member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and I am eager to work with Chairman BINGAMAN, Senator MURKOWSKI, and the other members on finding ways to spur clean-energy manufacturing here in America.

My other assignment will be as a member of the Budget Committee, and I look forward to working with my colleagues there to identify ways to address the deficit comprehensively and in line with our necessary priorities of simplifying the Tax Code, investing in our workforce, and incentivizing manufacturing job growth.

Outside of my committee assignments, I am excited to get to work reinvigorating the Senate Manufacturing Caucus with many of my colleagues, including Senators STABENOW of Michigan, BROWN of Ohio and GRAHAM of South Carolina. We are going to renew this Chamber's focus on what voters sent us here to do: restoring our econ-

omy by getting our neighbors back to work.

The American people have at times grown frustrated with the Senate because it seems as if this body has not realized the scale of our Nation's challenges; that legislators have taken a piecemeal approach to important policies and have failed to address our most difficult problems comprehensively.

Why are we not looking at tax policy, education policy, and job growth strategy collectively? Our problems are interrelated, and the solutions must be as well.

Likewise, our budget deficit should not be treated merely as a talking point or a source of partisan advantage but instead as the serious threat that it is. And real deficit reduction will only come with a careful approach, and a willingness to share in the sacrifice will see us toward real deficit reduction.

Working together, we can change how we get things done here, and we can find a way to do it without jeopardizing the Senate's vital role in our political system.

Even more importantly, at a time when many worry about the tone of our politics, we as Senators must do all we can to return this body to its founding mission as a stabilizing force in our political system.

The Senate must lead by example and for this Nation be a source of civility, a beacon of cooperative spirit, and a place where we come together to address our greatest challenges.

That is how we will move forward together to solve our problems. That is how we will boost our manufacturing sector and get millions back to work. And that is how we will build a strong, prosperous, and sustainable future for America's middle class.

Those who have lost their jobs are doing the very best they can to find new ones. We owe it to them to do our best—to be determined and deliberate, to focus on progress not partisanship, to be true to our principles, but not so unyielding in our positions that we make more news than progress.

These are serious times, and our Nation—our people—face tough challenges. I look forward to working with each and every one of my new colleagues to bear down and work together to find innovative solutions, real solutions, that will build a brighter future for all Americans.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

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

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

FILIBUSTER RULE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, while Senator MERKLEY and Senator

UDALL are still on the floor, I wish to extend a word of appreciation to both of them for the work they put into trying to solve the problem of the filibuster—more particularly, the problem of the abuse of the filibuster rule in this body.

We have come to a resolution that is not the rules change many of us hoped for. Experience will be the test of whether the understanding that has been reached between the leaders has any meaning or impact in the way this Chamber conducts its business. I hope that experience shows this was a productive agreement. If not, we will have to come back and revisit the rule.

I very much doubt the agreement that was reached between the two leaders and expressed on the floor today would have happened had it not been for the efforts of a great number of Senators who argued very hard for this change but most particularly Senator TOM UDALL and Senator JEFF MERKLEY. I am very pleased to stand and give them a word of recognition for the enormous amount of effort and energy and persistence and argument and conviction that all went into this effort.

I will close with one point that I think bears remembering as we evaluate whether the test of experience is met in the future, and that is what the filibuster changed into, what was really going on on the floor as we all sat in the Chamber.

We remember the glory days of the filibuster when you had Senators on the floor reading from the phonebook, standing here as long as they could. The famous example of it from Hollywood, of course, was Jefferson Smith in the famous movie by Frank Capra, "Mr. SMITH Goes to Washington." There is that wonderful scene in the movie where the reporter is upstairs in the gallery, and he is covering what Jimmy Stewart is doing down here. He describes the filibuster. He is talking into his microphone. He says: The filibuster is going on down there. It is democracy's finest show—the right to talk your head off. The American privilege of free speech in its most dramatic form. One lone and single American holding the greatest floor in the land, bleary-eyed, voice gone. You can hear the drama of it. That was the filibuster of old, and that is the filibuster Americans understand. It made it very hard for Americans to understand when we said: Oh, there is a filibuster going on in the Senate, and they turned on C-SPAN and there was nobody here. The Senate floor was silent, except for the quiet voice of the clerk slowly droning through the names of Senators in a tedious, ineffectual quorum call.

The quorum call became the emblem of the modern filibuster. Why is that? That is because the filibuster rule requires a 30-hour debate period when cloture is invoked to stop a filibuster. If you are the minority party and you can force the majority leader to invoke cloture, what have you just done? You

have accomplished a very valuable prize: You have taken 30 hours of the time of this Senate and you have dedicated it to debate on a proposition and you do not actually have to debate the proposition. You just let the quorum calls roll, and you burn 30 hours of the Senate's time.

The New York Times reported that Democrats have been forced to break 275 filibusters in the past two Congresses. If we had to burn the 30 hours for cloture in every one of those filibusters, the math on that is 8,250 hours lost to the Senate, lost to silence and ineffectual, droning quorum calls. If you count 8-hour days, that is more than 1,000 days of time wasted, of work undone, of the authority of the Senate and of this branch of the U.S. Government stripped away and consigned to the dustbin of wasted time.

The test as we go forward is going to be how often that strategy of just burning the time of the Senate is used. One important measure is, will we see these filibusters and forced cloture motions on things that end up being not very contentious? The people would ask me: Why are they filibustering this? They don't really object to this.

This is not like civil rights in the old days when people were violently opposed to it. They would come to the floor, and they would filibuster their heads off. This is a different strategy. Under the modern strategy, you do not just filibuster the bills you hate; you filibuster everything because that is more of those 30-hour blocks of time burned, chucked in the dustbin, unavailable for the work of this body and this country.

I hope very much that the spirit of this shows itself in experience on the floor. I applaud Senator ALEXANDER and Senator SCHUMER for having reached that agreement. I applaud the two leaders for having formalized it in their colloquy on the Senate floor earlier today. But, as Ronald Reagan used to say, trust but verify. And we will have the chance to verify in the coming weeks and months whether, in fact, the abuse of this rule is done with and we get back to being the Senate of which we can be proud or whether the abuse continues and we continue to be a Senate frustrated by endless quorum calls and delay and obstruction and a continued inability to do the basic business of this country. I hope we turn out much for the better.

I yield the floor.

NEVADA NATIONAL SECURITY SITE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the 60th anniversary of the Nevada National Security Site, N2S2. The Nevada National Security Site, formerly known as the Nevada Test Site, has played an important role in keeping our Nation safe and will continue to do so as we face new security challenges.

On January 27, 1951, a half kiloton nuclear weapon called "Able" was

dropped on N2S2, launching a 40-year era. In that instant, N2S2 became the Nation's most important nuclear weapons proving grounds. I am thankful for the work done by the men and women at the site who dedicated their careers and sacrificed their health to keeping America safe. Nearly 20 years after our Nation's last nuclear test, I am proud to say that N2S2 is still helping secure America with a new mission tailored to 21st century threats and making us energy independent.

Mr. President, 928 atmospheric and underground tests were performed at the N2S2 before the United States established a moratorium on nuclear weapons testing in 1992. The vast majority of testing in this period took place underground in a network of tunnels and shafts. Even though these tunnels were designed to contain radiation from the explosions, thousands of N2S2 workers still experienced radiation exposure from most of the underground detonations.

In 2000, after a number of my colleagues and I had begun to hear disturbing stories about illnesses our Cold War veterans had gotten from their nuclear weapons work and their inability to get any financial compensation from the government, we passed the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act. This legislation was designed to allow thousands of America's Cold War veterans receive compensation that would help pay their medical bills and honor the sacrifices they and their families had made for our country.

Unfortunately, it soon became clear that even with this new law, it would not be easy for many workers to get the compensation they deserved. In 2005, I again began to hear from workers and survivors—this time complaining that they were being put through an endless stream of bureaucratic red tape only to be denied in the end. I was enraged that these workers were denied compensation, so I worked for the next 5 years before successfully securing automatic compensation for most of Nevada's Cold War veterans and their families.

On August 23, 2010, I joined Tom D'Agostino, the administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration, and officials from the State Department, Department of Homeland Security, and Department of Defense to recognize the continued importance of one of our Nation's vital national security sites. We established not only a new name, but a new mission for N2S2. Changing the site's name from the Nevada Test Site to Nevada National Security Site reflects the unique opportunities to use the site for detecting dangerous weapons, treaty verification, fighting terrorism and nuclear smuggling, and training first responders.

The Nevada National Security Site is the ideal laboratory for this work. It is uniquely secure, and close to Nevadans who are eager to get back to work as soon as they can find a good job. And it