

to repeal and replace this health care law and replace it with something that works for the American people. This law we have passed and is now on the books is one I believe is unconstitutional and one that the Save our States Act will help our States deal with. This is a way that I think will help the health care of Americans who are struggling at this time to deal with the onerous requirements they see coming at them under the President's new health care law.

With that, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for the period of morning business to be extended until 3 p.m., with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

SBIR/STTR

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I appreciate everyone's cooperation in trying to help us move the SBIR bill through the Senate this week. It is a very important bill. Hopefully, we can get back on that bill officially this afternoon as the leaders are negotiating about the amendments that are pending or those amendments filed against the bill. I see, at this time, the Senator from Maryland who is on the floor and wants to speak for just 1 minute about the bill and then Senator BOXER came down to speak about an amendment. Senator VITTER is also here, and I know he would like to be recognized in just a few minutes as well. Then we will alternate back and forth through morning business. There is no consent agreement at this point, but we will try to be fair to the Members, to move back and forth through the afternoon until 3 o'clock.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask the Senator if she will yield for a question.

Ms. LANDRIEU. The Senator would go after Senator CARDIN.

Mrs. BOXER. I wanted to clarify that.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Then Senator VITTER, if that is OK.

Mrs. BOXER. Because I have a pressing event after, I wanted to be sure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland is recognized.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to go back to the SBIR bill itself and

compliment Senator LANDRIEU, the chairman, and Senator SNOWE, the ranking Republican member. This bill is an important one. I think it is important we get back to it and that we deal with amendments relevant to this legislation and move it forward. We have been on this bill for a period of time. It is time to move on. I urge my colleagues, let's take up the amendments that are relevant to the legislation and move it forward.

This is bipartisan legislation, passed out of committee by an overwhelming vote of Democrats and Republicans. It is a bill that will help create jobs in our community. We are talking about how America, as the President said, can outeducate, outinnovate and outbuild our competitors. We have to outinnovate. The SBIR bill makes it easier for small companies to innovate for America, to help this Nation grow, to help our economy grow. It is about jobs and innovation.

The SBIR Program provides funds for small-tech firms to innovate and grow and create jobs and for America to continue to lead the world in innovation. That is what this bill is about. It provides predictability so if you are going to go into a business, you know the program is going to be here to give the permanency of reauthorization. It provides a greater share of the pie for our smaller companies. Why? Because that is where we are going to get the job growth in America and that is where innovation is going to come from.

This is commonsense legislation we need to move forward. I know everybody has their particular amendment they want to get on that is not related at all to this bill. Let's do our small businesses a favor, let's do the American economy a favor, let's do something that can help not only create jobs but move America forward in innovation and let's get this bill moving for the sake of our economy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I need to tell the American people and my colleagues who have not been following this important debate on a very good bill, I am so grateful to the Senator from Louisiana, Ms. LANDRIEU, for this bill. Unfortunately, there has been an amendment that was attached to this bill on the very first day which would stop the Environmental Protection Agency forever from enforcing the Clean Air Act as it relates to carbon pollution.

This is a first of a kind. It has never been done. It is essentially a repeal of the Clean Air Act as it involves one particular pollutant, carbon, which has been found to be an endangerment to our people. The EPA did not wake up one day and say: We think carbon is dangerous. No; the scientists in both the Bush administration and Obama administration found out carbon is a dangerous pollutant, dangerous to the health of our families. So EPA, in what

is I think a very solid way, has started to prepare to regulate carbon. They have done it in a way that has said they are not going after farms, they are not going after small business, they are going after the biggest polluters in the country.

Guess what. The friends of those polluters, right in this Senate Chamber, have decided—and they already did it in the House, the new Republican majority—they are going to stop EPA in its tracks. That is why I will ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a very good letter from the American Lung Association, the American Public Health Association, the Trust for America's Health, the Physicians for Social Responsibility, and Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America. I ask unanimous consent to have that printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MARCH 30, 2011.

DEAR SENATOR: Our organizations have written to you recently on legislation impacting the Clean Air Act. Today we write to express our opposition to the amendments that will come before the full U.S. Senate in the very near future.

We oppose:

1. Amendment No. 183 by Senator McConnell;
2. Amendment No. 215 by Senator Rockefeller;
3. Amendment No. 236 by Senator Baucus; and,
4. Amendment No. 265 by Senator Stabenow.

By blocking the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) authority to update clean air standards, each of the above amendments, in its own way, will weaken the Clean Air Act.

If passed by Congress, these amendments would interfere with EPA's ability to implement the Clean Air Act; a law that protects public health and reduces health care costs for all by preventing thousands of adverse health outcomes, including: cancer, asthma attacks, heart attacks, strokes, emergency department visits, hospitalizations and premature deaths.

Additionally, the public strongly opposes Congress blocking EPA's efforts to implement the Clean Air Act. A recent bipartisan survey, which was conducted for the American Lung Association by the Republican firm Ayres, McHenry & Associates and the Democratic polling firm Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research, indicates the overwhelming view of voters:

69 percent think the EPA should update Clean Air Act standards with stricter limits on air pollution;

64 percent feel that Congress should not stop the EPA from updating carbon dioxide emission standards;

69 percent believe that EPA scientists, rather than Congress, should set pollution standards.

The above amendments would strip away sensible Clean Air Act protections that safeguard Americans and their families from air pollution. We strongly urge the Senate to support the continued implementation of this vital law.

Sincerely,

CHARLES CONNOR,
President and Chief
Executive Officer,
American Lung Association.