

the aisle—6 Republicans and 6 Democrats—who have been part of this process. We hope to be able to get this legislation on the floor this week because it is a good bill and it deserves to be passed.

When we have come to the floor before and we have talked about it, we have talked about the fact that it helps manufacturers in Ohio and around the country to take advantage of energy savings techniques and the best technology, allowing them to save more money so they can invest more in plants and equipment and in people, adding more jobs. That is why, by the way, over 270 businesses and business organizations—from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to the National Association of Manufacturers—and a lot of other trade groups on both sides of the political spectrum—have endorsed this legislation.

We have also come to the floor and talked about how provisions in this legislation will save the equivalent of taking 80 million homes off the grid by the year 2030—a cumulative energy savings, by the way, of up to \$100 billion. It is called the Energy Security and Industrial Competitiveness Act. Again, it makes a lot of sense.

We talk about how taxpayer dollars will be saved because we require the Federal Government to practice what it preaches; in other words, to make the Federal Government, the largest energy user in the United States, much more efficient in its own energy practices.

The time for talking about this legislation, however, has gone. It is now time to pass it. When we do, we can then work with the other body—the House of Representatives—because they have already passed significant parts of our legislation earlier this year. We can bring together the legislation we would pass here on the floor with the House legislation and send it to the President for signature.

At a time when people are understandably concerned about the partisan gridlock here in the Senate, and in Washington in general, this is an example of something we can actually get done. Again, it has been bipartisan from the start. It came out of the committee with a big vote—18 to 3. It is one to which we have added more bipartisan support over the last 6 months by adding more amendments.

Let's do something that will actually surprise the American people. Let's do something that will help move our country forward, create more jobs, help the environment be cleaner, also helping our energy security and therefore our national security, and saving taxpayers a lot of money.

Some of my colleagues on this side of the aisle are skeptical of any energy legislation they have seen in the past, that this Senate and the Congress have passed some proposals that are top-down proposals that impose mandates on the American people. They have also seen costly legislation that fun-

nels subsidies to preferred industries, companies, technologies, distorting the market and ending up in what have sometimes been some very expensive failures. That is not this legislation.

This legislation on energy efficiency contains no mandates. The bill is about giving people access to information they can use, not about making the American people or businesses do something.

Not only does it have no mandates, but it does not add to our deficits. Every authorization contained in this bill is fully offset by savings elsewhere in the budget. In fact, the reforms made in this legislation will save taxpayers a lot of money.

Some of it can be scored. There is a \$10 million savings, for instance, on the mandatory side by some of the legislative changes we are making. A lot of it won't get a score because it is additional savings we will see by having the Federal Government be much more energy efficient, which saves money for us all as taxpayers.

Unlike some of these previous energy initiatives which were costly and I think inappropriate, this legislation relies on the market and on the States—not the Federal Government—to drive efficiency improvements.

There is a reason this legislation received this strong vote out of the energy committee, 19 to 3. It has been improved since then with the addition of these 10 bipartisan amendments. It is going to create new jobs, it is going to save money for the taxpayers, and it is going to help with regard to the environment.

By the way, our economy is going to be helped because we rely on affordable and reliable energy in this country. It is our responsibility to do everything in our power to secure more affordable and more reliable energy by adopting what a lot of people talk about is an all-of-the-above energy strategy.

To me, that means producing more energy—yes, including oil and natural gas. In my own State of Ohio, we have a great opportunity there. It also includes being sure that we are using the coal resources we have, nuclear power, and renewables. We should be making it easier to take advantage of these resources and to bring more of these resources to market at lower costs.

But at the same time, we should be taking steps to reduce waste. This is complementary. This is not something that should be either you are for producing more energy or you are for more energy efficiency. We should be for both. We should be producing more and using less. That helps grow the economy, create jobs, and makes us more competitive in the global economy in which we find ourselves.

Energy efficiency, by the way, of all those energy sources, is the lowest-hanging fruit. Think about it. It is the least expensive form of energy—the energy we don't end up having to use.

I think this is a commonsense approach which should be able to be de-

bated on the floor in an honest way, with other energy-related amendments; and then, after that process, to pass it here in the Senate, get it over to the House, work on a compromise with the House with their legislation and our legislation, get it to the President for signature, and actually move on with an opportunity to truly begin the process of putting in place a national strategy that has this all-of-the-above approach—producing more and using less.

I look forward to working with my colleagues this week on engaging in this debate, passing this legislation, and helping the constituents whom we represent on issues that are important to them—jobs, saving taxpayer money, making the environment cleaner, ensuring that America has a secure energy future, which is important to our national security.

I thank the Presiding Officer for allowing me to speak, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO TERRY GAINER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Terry Gainer, the Senate's skilled and energetic Sergeant At Arms, is leaving the Senate family, after 8 years of devoted service to the Senate and the Nation in this vital role.

Overseeing the Senate's largest administrative office, Terry Gainer has led during a difficult time of change, as the Senate has continued to adjust to a wide range of challenges, from burgeoning technology, to budget squeezes, to the shadowy threat of terrorism. I have watched the way he has handled these duties, and I have admired not only his talent and ability but also the style of his leadership. He has been a credit to this body.

Terry Gainer is a decorated veteran of the Vietnam war. He was a captain in the U.S. Navy Reserve, and he went on to serve as an accomplished law enforcement officer.

Appointed to the post of Sergeant At Arms in 2006, Mr. Gainer came to the Senate with an admirable record of public service. He cut his teeth as a homicide detective on the streets of Chicago, and while working on the Chicago force he earned both a master's and a law degree. From there, he rose