

"In the future, there will be several \$50 million to \$100 million exits here," Mr. Lane said, "along with other larger ones mixed in."

He credits Vermont's community and socially conscious spirit with his success. "We didn't buy the philosophy that we had to be in a hot spot," said Mr. Lane, who returned to Vermont after working in Cambridge, Mass. "Even Zuckerberg realized that he could have been anywhere to build Facebook."

That can-do spirit also inspired Marguerite Dibble, 26, who began her firm GameTheory while she was still a student at Champlaine College. Its mission is to use gaming to inspire behavior changes, such as teaching teens financial literacy.

"In Burlington, I can call anyone and learn from their experience," said Ms. Dibble, who was born in a small Vermont town with no ZIP code. "The degrees of separation are lessened here. There's a shared Vermontiness."

The energy to power GameTheory's innovation comes from Burlington's green grid, which is owned by the city. The state has long been one of the country's greenest. But in 2014, Burlington upped the ante by turning only to wind, water and biomass to power the city—one of the first cities in the nation to do so. There are also incentives for reducing energy. Landlords, for example, can choose to have free energy audits, and more than 100 have done so.

Other Burlington businesses also work hard to save energy on their own. Seventh Generation, which makes environmentally conscious household products and was founded in Burlington, gives its employees bonuses for helping reduce greenhouse gases. Like many other companies in Burlington, Seventh Generation also aims to be socially responsible and was formed as a B Corp, which means it has to meet social, environmental, accountability and transparency standards.

With this focus on energy efficiency, the city's electricity rates have not risen in eight years, said Neale Lunderville, general manager of the Burlington Electric Department. "And there are no rate increases on the horizon," he said, "since we're not chasing the next kilowatt-hour."

Electric cars even have their own parking spaces with chargers.

Burlington will eventually become a net-zero city, said the mayor, Miro Weinberger. "Our isolation promotes a commitment to pride and place," he said.

The city that helped propel Senator Bernie Sanders also has its own nonprofit urban farm called the Intervale Center. The land was once an abandoned dumping ground with old tires and cars. That space now contains 350 acres with bee hives, commercial farms, greenhouses and other projects. Through its food hub, local foods are delivered to area businesses and individuals.

Intervale's farm incubator, a five-year program, even teaches new farmers the ropes, said Travis Marcotte, executive director of Intervale Center. "They then transition out of the Intervale," he said, "So we're spinning off whole farms."

It is a hopeful message, Mr. Marcotte said.

MAKE THE LAW WORK FOR EVERYONE WITH DISABILITIES

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, the constituencies in North Carolina are as varied as any in America. I am honored to represent America's largest Army Post—Fort Bragg—as well as 45 percent of the U.S. Marine Corps at Camp

Lejeune and Cherry Point. Because of their presence and our proud military tradition, by 2020, one in every nine North Carolinians will be a veteran. We are also home to outstanding companies that serve our disabled citizens like the Winston-Salem Industries for the Blind. The confluence of these two communities—veterans and services for the disabled—and how each is treated by the Federal Government is of particular concern to me.

For decades, both the general disabled community and the disabled veterans' community have existed in a harmonious balance when it came to securing jobs and competitive contracts with the Federal Government. The Javits Wagner O'Day Act of 1938, the AbilityOne Program, and the Veterans Benefits, Health Insurance, and Information Technology Act of 2006 assist Americans who are blind, citizens with severe disabilities, and our U.S. military veterans through leveraging the procurement power of the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. Unfortunately, the recent Kingdomware Technologies, Inc. v. United States Supreme Court ruling reinterpreted these acts to preclude certain disabled groups from bidding for jobs and business with the Department of Veterans Affairs. These are not laws designed to build barriers to stop disabled veterans from bidding for work outside of the Veterans Administration or the blind for bidding for work within the VA, but that is what has happened.

I am asking my colleagues in Congress to take another look at this situation. Level the playing field. These laws should continue their mutual co-existence by maintaining set-aside opportunities that create sustainable employment opportunities for the 70 percent of blind or severely disabled Americans who are seeking jobs, in addition to competitive contract opportunities for veterans who take the initiative to start their own small businesses. Let's get this right.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING MARION COUNTY'S COMMITMENT TO VETERANS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Marion County, AR, on becoming the first Purple Heart County in Arkansas on November 15, 2015.

Created by George Washington in 1782, the Purple Heart is our Nation's oldest military medal. The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the Armed Forces who are wounded or killed in combat. These men and women are some of the finest heroes that our Nation has to offer.

Last year, Marion County chose to honor the service and sacrifice of our Purple Heart heroes in Arkansas by becoming the first Purple Heart County in Arkansas. Marion County's unwavering support of the heroic actions of

our Purple Heart recipients stands as a reflection of the appreciation and gratitude of its residents.

Marion County recently held a celebration of its designation as Arkansas' first Purple Heart County that brought the community together to honor Purple Heart recipients. Showing our admiration for those who have served and sacrificed so much for our freedom is such a worthy endeavor, and this recognition is well deserved.

On behalf of all Arkansans, I echo the sentiments of the citizens of Marion County in saying how grateful we are for our veterans and their willingness to serve their country. There truly is no greater display of service and sacrifice than that.

I would like to take this opportunity to applaud Marion County for publicly recognizing our veterans and Purple Heart recipients by becoming Arkansas' first Purple Heart County. Arkansas is proud that our local communities are paying respect to our veterans and standing behind them.●

RECOGNIZING CRAWFORD COUNTY ADULT EDUCATION CENTER

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Crawford County Adult Education Center as it celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

Founded in 1966, the Crawford County Adult Education Center offers ongoing learning opportunities and helps prepare students for career advancement, postsecondary education, technological innovation, and life enrichment. Among many other services, the center offers classes in computer literacy, English as a Second Language, and citizenship, as well as courses that allow adult learners to earn their GED. It also provides students the opportunity to take college-level classes through Vincennes University.

While we strive to give our children the best educational opportunities available, it is important to recognize that some people in our communities are forced to put their educations on hold for various reasons. Adult education programs are an important resource in helping these individuals to better themselves, continue their educational development, seek out tools to help them advance in their careers, or learn new skills.

The Crawford County Adult Education Center lives up to those responsibilities and then some. It has helped many Crawford County residents realize their full potential and pursue their dreams.

It is never too late for anybody to set new goals or invest in themselves through continued education. As many who have benefitted from the services of the adult education center in Crawford County have attested, the excellent staff and volunteers play such a vital role in providing opportunities to citizens in all stages of life. Additionally, the results of the center's high-quality services and programs speak for themselves.