

Here in Congress we are focused on doing everything we can to support the fight against substance use disorder. In 2016, we passed the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, which authorized a variety of grants to States to boost their efforts to reduce opioid deaths and help individuals overcome opioid addiction. That same year, we also passed the 21st Century Cures Act, which provided \$1 billion in State grants over 2 years to combat the opioid epidemic.

In March of this year, Congress passed an appropriations bill that provided \$4.7 billion to address the opioid crisis. Today, we voted on an appropriations bill that will provide another \$3.8 billion to fight this epidemic. Overall, Federal funding to address the opioid crisis has increased by nearly 1,300 percent over the past 4 years.

Then there is the bill we passed last night. The Opioid Crisis Response Act, which passed the Senate yesterday evening, is the product of months of work by five Senate committees. It contains more than 70 proposals from Senators of both parties and represents the serious efforts Congress has made to address opioid addiction on a number of fronts.

This legislation will support critical treatment and recovery efforts. It will help babies born in opioid withdrawal. It will help support family-focused residential treatment programs, and more. Just as importantly, it will also take steps to address what I see as the supply side of the opioid epidemic. It will help stop the movement of illegal drugs across our borders through the mail—the work of the Senator from Ohio, ROB PORTMAN. It will promote research into and fast-track approval of new nonaddictive pain management alternatives. It will help stop the practice of “doctor shopping” by improving State prescription drug monitoring programs.

The bill also provides grants for law enforcement agencies to help protect law enforcement officers from accidental exposure to deadly drugs in the course of their duties.

I am proud that this legislation includes a bill that I introduced, the Expanding Telehealth Response to Ensure Addiction Treatment Act, which will help expand access to substance use disorder treatment for Medicare recipients by using telehealth technology.

The Opioid Crisis Response Act also includes my legislation to close a safety gap in railroad drug and alcohol testing regulations and require the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Transportation to include fentanyl in the drug-testing panel.

Opioid addiction destroys lives, not just the lives of the addicted but the lives of their children, their parents, their siblings, their spouses, their relatives and friends. The Opioid Crisis Response Act and the funding that we passed today will help move us forward in the fight against this deadly epi-

demio. We will continue to make combating opioid addiction a top priority here in the Congress.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I close, I want to mention the good economic news that continues to pour in. The economy created more than 200,000 jobs in August, beating expectations, and the unemployment rate was yet again below 4 percent.

Economic growth in the second quarter was even stronger than we thought—a robust 4.2 percent. Average hourly earnings for workers are rising at the fastest rate since 2009. Middle-class income hit its highest level ever last year.

In 2017, U.S. job openings have hit a record high of 6.94 million jobs. In fact, the number of job openings has exceeded the number of unemployed in this country for the past 5 months. Think about that. The number of job openings—the number of jobs available to people in this country—has exceeded the number of people who are unemployed in this country for the past 5 months. That has never happened before in the history of tracking those two statistics.

Consumer confidence is at an 18-year high. Small business optimism shattered its previous record high to reach a record high in August. The poverty rate has dropped to its lowest level since 2006. The percentage of Americans listing economic issues as the most important problem in the United States dropped to a record low, and the list continues.

These are all facts. These are indisputable facts, and they are the results of policies that are put in place with an eye toward growing this economy at a faster rate and creating better paying jobs and higher wages for people in our economy.

Since President Trump took office, Republicans have focused on fixing those things that have been holding the economy back. We removed burdensome regulations. We passed historic comprehensive reform in our Tax Code to put more money in Americans' pockets and to remove barriers to job creation and economic growth. Now we are seeing the results: strong economic growth—as I mentioned, 4.2 percent in the second quarter of this year—thriving small businesses, with optimism and investing confidence unlike anything we have seen in history, more money in families' paychecks, new jobs, better paying jobs, better benefits, and more opportunities for American workers.

Mr. President, America is back in business, and it is American families and American workers who are benefiting from that. We intend to continue to work on an agenda that creates policies that will drive and fuel economic growth in this country and provide more opportunities, a better standard of living, and a higher quality of life for all Americans.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, as I rise for my 220th “Time to Wake Up” climate speech, there is abundant evidence that meaningful action on climate change in the United States is unlikely. We have a President who, against all the evidence, claims that climate change is a Chinese hoax. This is the same President who announced last year that he was pulling the United States out of the international Paris Agreement.

This is the same President who installed the theatrically corrupt Scott Pruitt, who owed his entire political career to the fossil fuel industry, to lead, of all things, the Environmental Protection Agency. When Pruitt's endless string of scandals finally proved too much even for this epically swampy administration, President Trump then made a coal industry lobbyist the Acting EPA Administrator.

The fundamentally rotten bargain at the heart of today's Trump politics is that his party is essentially bankrolled by the fossil fuel industry. This is why you see Republicans seeking to freeze voluntary fuel economy and greenhouse gas emissions standards for cars. If consumers pay more at the pump to fill up, fine—what matters is that the oil companies get to keep pumping.

This is why the Republican Clean Power Plan doesn't really reduce carbon emissions. In fact, the EPA's own numbers show that the replacement plan will result in poorer health for Americans, including 1,400 additional deaths a year, but what matters is that the coal companies sell coal.

Republicans even plan to weaken standards on methane leaks. It doesn't matter that methane is an extremely potent greenhouse gas. What matters is that the oil and gas industry doesn't have to spend any money to prevent those leaks.

So there is lots of evidence that meaningful action on climate change in this country is unlikely. Yet on Friday I attended the Global Climate Action Summit, organized by California Governor Brown, to keep up progress reducing carbon emissions and fighting the effects of climate change.

At the summit, States, cities, Provinces, and companies from around the world—indeed, foreign nations—made new announcements about climate change and to reduce carbon emissions. Governor Brown himself signed a law requiring 100 percent of California's electricity to be carbon-free by 2045 and committed that California would be carbon-neutral by the same year. Plus, there is that satellite to measure carbon emissions.

New Jersey announced plans to install more than 3,000 megawatts of offshore wind.

States and cities in India announced plans for thousands of electric buses,

cool roofs, and solar-equipped public buildings.

IKEA, the furniture store, announced that all of its delivery services will be zero emissions by 2025.

That is just a small sample of the new commitments—evidence of the determination of Governors, mayors, CEOs, investors, and NGOs to combat climate change despite the failure of Republican leadership in Washington.

But if we are to have any hope of keeping global warming under 2 degrees Celsius—or better yet, 1.5 degrees—we are going to need leadership here. We are going to need a Federal price on carbon. That is why last week's announcement from the Climate Leadership Council was so important. The CLC has been working with former Republican Secretaries of State George Shultz and James Baker and former Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson for a \$40-per-ton carbon fee and return all of the money raised by that carbon fee to American families in the form of a dividend. This plan shares a lot of similarities with the American Opportunity Carbon Fee Act, which I introduced with Senator SCHATZ of Hawaii. The CLC plan is supported by many corporations, business leaders, and former Republican officials.

Last week, the CLC announced that its \$40-per-ton carbon fee would result in emissions reductions substantially better than our present national targets. The CLC also found that 56 percent of Americans—including majorities of Democrats, Independents, and Republicans—support it. Seventy-one percent of millennials support a carbon fee, which shows that carbon pricing is coming. The only question is how soon. Americans intuitively understand that it makes sense to impose a fee on something we want less of, whether it is carbon emissions or cigarettes. When the revenues from those fees are returned to the American people, it is better still.

Last week's climate summit featured a discussion on carbon pricing organized by the business community. The fossil fuel industry and its array of front groups will, of course, attack any effort to put a price on carbon emissions. So having companies like Gap, Exelon, Pacific Gas and Electric, and Steelcase speak out in favor of carbon pricing was a good start. When the business community shows broad-based support for carbon pricing, it will be very difficult to argue that it is bad for business, but let's remember that the fossil fuel companies bring heavy artillery to this fight.

Washington State has a carbon fee ballot initiative right now, which has provoked Big Oil to spend \$20 million to defeat that initiative, including companies that claim they support a carbon price. Among the donors are BP, Phillips 66, and others that have contributed over \$3 million each to oppose the carbon price initiative. So against that Big Oil blowback, it would sure be nice if Washington State's corporate leaders stood up on this.

Starbucks, after all, has a whole web page about climate change and has committed to purchasing 100 percent renewable energy. Amazon has a web page on its efforts to reduce its carbon footprint, and it, too, is aiming to go to 100 percent renewable.

Jeff Bezos, one of the world's richest people, is investing in clean energy, along with another corporate icon of Washington State, Microsoft's Bill Gates. In fact, Microsoft is hard at work reducing carbon emissions in its operations. It even has an internal carbon price to encourage reductions in carbon pollution.

Boeing has a web page cataloging its efforts to combat climate change by making its airplanes more efficient.

So where are they when it comes to their own home State's plan to actually do something about climate change? As we have seen so often here in Washington, DC, as well, it is radio silence. The interesting thing is that Big Oil is actually tiny compared to Microsoft, Amazon, Starbucks, Boeing, and the rest of the tech companies, Wall Street banks, insurance companies, consumer goods companies, retailers, and food and beverage companies that all claim to care about climate change—tiny.

The difference is that Big Oil shows up. It shows up here in Congress. It funds its armada of front groups and trade associations and phony think tanks to steer Republicans here in Congress away from anything limiting carbon pollution, just like it is showing up right now in Washington State to kill an initiative that would limit carbon pollution.

Here is the problem: The good guys aren't showing up. They don't show up here in Congress, and they are letting Big Oil outgun them even in Washington State. In my experience, if you don't show up to the game, you don't win. It is as simple as that.

That is the message I took to last week's summit. I truly appreciate business leaders who talk about the dangers of climate change and the value of carbon pricing. I truly appreciate business leaders who work on reducing carbon emissions within their corporate footprint. But it also matters what you do in the public arena. Show up to fight for the policy you already espouse. Show up here in Congress and in Washington State. Challenge Big Oil rather than forfeit the game before it even begins. This is a fight. There are hydraulics in politics. If no one pushes back, the only team on the field will win.

Well, we can't keep having the fossil fuel industry win this fight because we will all be losers in their win. We have to win, but to do that, we will need companies talking a good game to actually show up on game day.

It is not just time to wake up. It is time to show up.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

(The remarks of Mr. JONES pertaining to the introduction of S. 3467 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). The Senator from Alaska.

TRIBUTE TO STANLEY RILEY

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, it is Tuesday, and normally I come to the Senate floor on Thursdays, and I do what is the favorite part of the week for me. I do our series called the "Alaskan of the Week." So we are going to talk about the Alaskan of the week, which is a great opportunity for me to talk about somebody in the great State of Alaska who has done something good for their community, their town, their State, or maybe their country, and I get to brag a little bit about what I think makes my State the best State in the country. It is the people. It is the community. It is people who are doing wonderful things and are an inspiration.

Today I want to transport you to a village called Anaktuvuk Pass in Alaska's North Slope Borough. It is about 500 miles north of Anchorage, way up north, beyond the Arctic Circle. It is smack-dab in the Brooks Range, surrounded by beautiful, rugged, majestic mountains. It is Alaska's real-life version of the mythical Shangri-La. Anaktuvuk Pass is the place that Stanley Riley, an amazing young Alaskan, calls home.

Stanley made his village proud recently by bringing home a gold and two second place finishes from his first World Eskimo-Indian Olympics. Let me spend a minute or two talking about the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics, another Alaskan institution. The games began in 1961. They test the skills, strength, ability, agility, and endurance of Alaskan Natives, who for millennia have needed to be able to survive in some of the harshest conditions in the world.

The games leave no part of the body untested. There is the seal hop, the four-man carry, the ear pull—that one is really popular—the high kicks, and the muktuk eating contest, which is whale blubber. They also reflect what is very unique about the great State of Alaska. Stanley won a gold for the head pull. It is another competition at these incredible World Eskimo-Indian Olympics.

Let me describe the head pull. You lie down on the ground, facing your competitor. Both of you are up on your hands, and you share a strap looped around each other's necks. Whoever is able to use enough neck and shoulder strength to pull the other over wins. That is the head pull.

He almost won the four-man carry, where you walk for as long as you can with four people clinging to all sides of you. That is the four-man carry. He spent all summer training for it, climbing up the mountains that surround his