

the meaningful work that these companies are doing in Arkansas, and I commend them on leading on the issue.

The United States has the ability now to improve its waste management and recycling infrastructure and better leverage the economic and environmental benefits of recycling.

I look forward to continue my work with my cochair of the Recycling Caucus, Senator CARPER. Again, I thank him and his staff and my staff, who are doing such a tremendous job, and the other members of the caucus who develop meaningful, long-term solutions that address the challenges facing the industry.

I encourage all Americans to use America Recycles Day as an opportunity to reflect on the critical importance of recycling and to consider what we can do to support our environment through our own individual efforts.

Mr. CARPER. Would the Senator yield for a moment?

Mr. BOOZMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARPER. Thank you for sharing with us the terrific ideas of what businesses around Arkansas and the country are doing to recycle. They do it for a variety of reasons. It is the right thing to do, and a lot of them are committed to being good environmental stewards. It can also be to their economic advantage. Instead of having to pay to have stuff being carted away to a landfill, the ability to recycle materials is, I think, desirable.

We used to have a big Chrysler plant in Delaware, in Newark, close to the University of Delaware and close to the Maryland line. The plant was about 60 years old, and in the middle of the great recession, Chrysler went into bankruptcy, and we lost that plant. It closed, and about 3,000 jobs were gone. We had a GM plant as well about 15 miles from there, just outside of Wilmington, and the same thing happened. About 3,000 jobs were gone, which was just really, really tough.

Having said that—in your words again, in adversity lies opportunity—the folks at the University of Delaware called me. After Chrysler had gone into bankruptcy, they announced that they were selling the plant. They were looking to sell it, and the folks at the University of Delaware and the president of the university, Pat Harker, called me and said: Do you think the Chrysler people might be interested in selling that plant to the university?

It was just about a half mile south of the University of Delaware in Newark.

I called the people at Chrysler and said: You may have an interested buyer here.

They ended up coming to an agreement on the terms of the purchase, and that old Chrysler plant has been recycled. The plant was largely taken down—not entirely, but largely taken down. The money that the University of Delaware earned and generated from the sale of the recyclables—the construction stuff that the plant was made out of—more than paid for taking down and leveling the plant.

Now the University of Delaware has a site of several hundred acres, and they are redeveloping that as a science, technology, and manufacturing facility with a lot of tenants and more to come. So there really is opportunity in adversity.

The other thing I would say is that we got some shredding machines. I had a picture up there of an old shredding machine, and we bought a new one not long ago. So we ended up with a lot of shredded paper. As it turns out, the weekly recyclers, when they come through our neighborhood and collect, they are happy to take the paper, but they don't want to take the shredded paper. What they said that we ought to do is to put it in our compost.

My wife came up with this idea of composting 10 years ago. Somebody was nice enough to build a 4-by-6 and about 3-foot high bin and then lined it with materials, and we put grass in it, recyclables, leaves, and we ended up with this great mulch. We have, I think, taken what a lot of people have seen as waste product and ended up actually turning it into something to make our lawn and our trees and our shrubs even healthier.

It is all good. I am just thrilled to be on the floor with my friend and to be able to thank those who are recycling and remind others, if you are not, that you are missing out on the fun. Come and join us. You will be glad you did.

Mr. BOOZMAN. I think you make a great point in the sense that we do things for the right reasons. That is so important. Also, it is important, too, that not only can we do it for the right reasons and benefit our environment, but it also can be cost-effective to our businesses.

A good example of that is Walmart. Several years ago, they wanted to reduce their fuel cost and then also reduce the harm in the sense of the landfills and things like that. They looked and saw that on their trucks, the limiting factor was not weight. It was bulk. You know how you go to the store and you buy something and it has got this huge box or whatever and it has got the little bitty product in it. They said, you know, we don't need to be doing that.

So they told their vendors that they would like to go in that direction, and to their credit, the vendors cooperated. As a result, they were able to put more products on the truck, thus reducing fuel costs—again benefiting the economy—and having less bulk for consumers to deal with eventually. That was putting less pressure on the environment because, you know, some people don't do a good job of recycling.

These things can be so good for not only doing the right thing but also improving the bottom line and making sure that we really are putting less pressure on the environment.

We appreciate your leadership. You have been doing this for a long time, as Governor and now as Senator, helping to put these things together. We very much appreciate it.

Mr. CARPER. If the gentleman would yield the floor for a moment, I said earlier in my remarks, to paraphrase it again, that it is possible to do good and do well at the same time. It really is. I am just happy that more and more people are doing that.

While we are having this conversation, I just want to mention that when we showed up at the recycling event at Glasco High School last Saturday afternoon, they took a bunch of our stuff to recycle—papers, bottles, cans, paint thinners, a dehumidifier, and all kinds of stuff. One thing they wouldn't take was our Styrofoam. We have one place in Delaware—and we are not a big State; 100 miles long and 50 miles wide—we have one place in Delaware that will take Styrofoam.

What I would love to do in the months to come and in the new year is for us to start on recycling projects and focus on that because it is not a problem only in Delaware; there are a lot of places where it is hard to recycle Styrofoam. We can try to figure it out. Maybe somebody around the world or somebody in other States has figured this out and they are doing it. We need to learn from them, find out what works, and do more of that. In my State, we have a hard time dealing with it.

Mr. BOOZMAN. We look forward to having a robust bunch of programs.

It is so important to educate people on what is recyclable because not everyone knows. Different things are recyclable from one area to another area. So we need education on that, and that will make it much more efficient, with people putting in the correct things.

So we have some obstacles to overcome, but the good news is, there are people working together, and we are moving in the right direction.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I think I will yield back the time.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

REDUCING PANDEMIC RISK

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, we do not have to be reminded of the more than