

and for unity. Our bicameral, bipartisan talks have made great headway. It is time to give our public health experts and healthcare professionals the surge of resources they need at this challenging time.

S. 2657

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, in the meantime, the Senate will continue considering an important package of comprehensive energy legislation. For the first time in more than a decade, we are looking at a thorough update to the laws governing innovation, security, and workforce development all across the American energy sector.

As Chairman MURKOWSKI has noted, 12 years is a long time. The demands we face in researching, producing, refining, storing, and protecting our abundant domestic energy have evolved a great deal since 2007, so it is high time for relevant Federal policy to evolve as well. I am grateful the chairman was willing to take on this important task, and I am glad she and Senator MANCHIN led their colleagues on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee through an overwhelmingly bipartisan process to produce this bill.

As I mentioned yesterday, the legislation aggregates 50 individual bills. It contains input from more than 60 Senators. It covers an exhaustive range of energy-related challenges, from power storage and renewable technologies to carbon capture and electrical grid cyber security.

It has earned the support of a similarly broad range of industry, advocacy, and research organizations. In one joint letter, the Bipartisan Policy Center, the American Nuclear Society, the Nature Conservancy, and 36 other signatories endorsed it as “the culmination of extensive efforts to develop practical legislative solutions.” That is the American Nuclear Society and the Nature Conservancy—that ought to tell you what you need to know about this bill. This is a bipartisan piece of legislation done right. This is how you take practical steps to build consensus on issues that affect every American in every State.

Around this time last year, you will recall we saw a high-profile example of exactly what not to do. The far-left edge of the House Democratic caucus rolled out a massive scheme to forcibly remake much of our economy and our society according to their radical top-down designs.

We all remember the Green New Deal—categorical bans on the most affordable forms of American energy, a dim future for millions of energy jobs, unprecedented Washington mandates on every subject from building codes to personal transportation. We all remember what happened next: This socialist fantasy did not stay confined to ideological fringe; it quickly grew into a broader rallying cry. When the Senate had the opportunity to vote on this

wish list of central planning, only four—just four—of our Democratic colleagues could bring themselves to vote against it. That is quite a remarkable commentary on the state of our politics.

Experts estimated the Green New Deal could have cost our government more than the GDP of the entire world. The Green New Deal could have cost our government more than the GDP of the entire world. Instead, this bipartisan legislation will let us direct responsible and targeted investment in a smart way toward key energy priorities.

The Green New Deal sought to have Washington micromanage everyday life in this country to a degree that the 20th-century Socialists would have drooled over. Instead, this bipartisan legislation will create better policy and regulatory conditions for American workers, American innovators, and American job creators to actually thrive.

Speaking as the senior Senator from Kentucky, I know firsthand that many Americans in the middle of the country suffered badly during the Obama era because Washington bureaucrats decided American energy had to fit their ideological designs. The very last thing we want is to move backward and expand those errors exponentially with radical leftwing experiments that would make the last administration’s War on Coal look like child’s play.

What Kentuckians and all Americans deserve is for the Federal Government to make prosperity and domestic energy dominance easier—easier—not harder. They deserve investment and support to help the communities that have fueled this country for generations to prosper once again, and that is what this bipartisan bill will actually deliver.

I am proud to support this smart legislation. Clearly, I am not alone, since only three Senators voted against advancing the bill this week. So I would urge all of my colleagues to keep up their support, and let’s see this package through to the finish line.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

ADVANCED GEOTHERMAL INNOVATION LEADERSHIP ACT OF 2019—MOTION TO PROCEED—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will re-

sume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2657, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to S. 2657, a bill to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, today we vote to begin the consideration of S. 2657, which will serve as the vehicle for the American Energy Innovation Act. This is truly bipartisan energy policy. This innovative package will be the first comprehensive policy update in 13 years. It brings together the strong bipartisan work of the Energy Committee over the last year.

I would like to thank my friend and chairman of the committee, LISA MURKOWSKI, Republican from Alaska, for her leadership and partnership with me over the last 14 months to process these bills and form the basis of the energy package we will be turning to today.

Thanks to the members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee for their contributions to the development of this legislation.

The American Energy Innovation Act draws from 53 bills from Members from both sides of the aisle, and 39 of those were truly a bipartisan effort. And 63 Members of the Senate have either sponsored or cosponsored a piece of this package.

It truly is a bipartisan product and one that I believe will benefit this country greatly. So far, we have had over 150 amendments filed, several of which are bipartisan, and there is no controversial issue that I know of. I am hoping that we can work together to incorporate some of those amendments from both sides of the aisle.

As it stands, the American Energy Innovation Act will advance the abilities of Department of Energy and the National Laboratories to deliver the much needed technology that American workers can then produce and export across the global marketplace. Not only will it further our ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from energy, transportation, industry, and buildings, but it will also enhance our cyber and grid security and maintain our competitive edge and role as a global leader.

We talk a lot—all of us do—about global climate, and when you think about global climate, then you think about our responsibility and what we emit into the air. For some reason, most people have been led to believe that power generation—whether it be coal-fired powerplants, natural gas-fired powerplants, or anything that has to do with fossil—is contributing all of the greenhouse gas emissions in the United States. That is just not true.

Let me give you the breakdown. Power generation contributes 27.5 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions.