

will help curb global warming, improve air quality, save consumers at the gas pump, and reduce our reliance on imported oil.

Stronger fuel efficiency standards alone will not solve the global warming problem, but they are a very good place to start. I am pleased to say that a bipartisan group of 22 Senators have already signed the letter to the President, and I am hopeful that more will sign soon.

I also urge all of my colleagues—especially those who may remain skeptical about the existence of global warming—to attend a briefing that I am hosting on May 11 with scientists from the University of California, including Nobel Laureate Sherwood Rowland. These scientists will discuss recent satellite measurements concerning global climate change; disturbing new evidence that climate change may be occurring more abruptly than scientists had earlier forecast; and possible solutions to the problem.

Global warming is an extremely complicated issue, and I understand that a number of policy alternatives are currently on the table—from the Kyoto Protocol supported by President Clinton, to the “Credit for Early Action” bill sponsored by Senator CHAFEE, to the bill currently being drafted by Senator MURKOWSKI. I do not presume to stand here today with a master plan for how to stop global warming.

But I do feel strongly that global warming’s existence cannot be disputed. It is real. It could cause the greatest environmental crisis of our time. I hope that we can at least recognize the threat, and begin working together to address it.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Colorado, Senator CAMPBELL, be recognized on his own time, and that his speech not appear as part of the 30 minutes dedicated to Senators BOXER and REID, and that his speech appear separate in the RECORD. After that, I tell the Chair that the final approximately 10 minutes that is left for Senators BOXER and REID would be given to the Senator from New Jersey, Mr. LAUTENBERG.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey is recognized for 10 minutes.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, our mission this morning is to discuss the environment, and to celebrate the birth of Earth Day, which takes place tomorrow. I will use my time for that purpose.

But I want to take just a minute, because I, like everyone else in this country, am heartbroken by what we saw take place yesterday. In my conversation with the Senator from Colorado, I

expressed my sympathies. But I want to point out something. Those children were killed by deranged young people of their own class. But they used guns, and they used weapons that are, frankly, I think out of control in our society. This isn’t just happening in Colorado. It is a terrible happening in Colorado. But look at the other days. It happened in Utah. It has happened in Arkansas, Mississippi, Kentucky, Oregon, and Illinois. Just search your mind and you can find almost every State having had a problem. It is a plague in our society. It is a blight across our country.

There is a bit of a paradox as we talk about Earth Day and the positive aspects of what Earth Day can mean so that children can bathe in the waters, fish in the streams, play on the Earth, and breathe the air—all positive things looking toward an improvement in their health—just under the shadow of the murderous rampage that took place yesterday.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Lisa Haage, a detailee in my office, be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of the 106th Congress.

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

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleagues to discuss the Democratic environmental agenda on the eve of Earth Day.

We have an ambitious agenda to protect open spaces, reduce sprawl and relieve congestion.

While Congressional Democrats have an excellent agenda for the future, we also have a proud history of accomplishment since the first Earth Day in 1970. Our nation’s major environmental laws were written and passed under Democratic leadership.

Democrats passed the first Clean Water Act. Democrats wrote the first Superfund law. Democrats authored the Clean Air Act.

And the Clinton Administration has an impressive record of enforcing these laws. The EPA has an outstanding record of cleaning up toxic waste sites under the Superfund program.

For example, by the end of this Fiscal Year, September 30, 95 percent of all Superfund sites will have remedies selected and cleanups beginning or underway.

Overall, the Clinton Administration has cleaned up more Superfund sites in the past two years than in the first 12 years of program.

Administrator Browner has also had success protecting our nation’s drinking water, reducing smog so that children breathe healthier air, and cleaning up our lakes and rivers for swimming and fishing.

Mr. President, today, I would specifically like to talk about my brownfields bill and its promise to reduce sprawl and protect our environment.

My common sense brownfields bill, S. 20, will help accomplish all of these goals.

My bill will help turn a contaminated, abandoned parcel of land into a new school, a new business or a new playing field. And the benefits will multiply from there. Cleaning up brownfields protects open spaces by keeping commercial development inside our cities, where it creates jobs and can lower property taxes.

With more reuse and redevelopment in our cities, there will be less pressure to develop farmland and parkland outside our cities.

How do we make this happen? By making grant money available for States and cities to start the redevelopment of brownfields, and using their own zoning codes and no Federal regulations with that so that they can make sure people who are interested in buying and developing these sites aren’t sued for the contamination that was never their fault.

Brownfields need not be a blight on our communities but an opportunity for smart growth.

Mr. President, fortunately, brownfields is not a partisan issue. In fact, many Republican Senators have supported the thrust of my legislation. This means, on this Earth Day, we have a chance to do something that will protect our environment and open spaces, and leave a better world for our children and grandchildren.

We should not miss the opportunity to do so.

Mr. President, we have pending before us the reauthorization of Superfund. It is now 2 years since the Superfund bill expired, and we still continue to operate. But we don’t derive any of the revenues that were supposed to be part of the bill. We can’t get a Superfund bill that is decent that doesn’t protect the polluters, which is what Superfund was all about. It says, let the responsible parties pay for their damage. It has worked pretty well.

I was at a site in New Jersey that was the No. 1 Superfund site in the country. A company there agreed, finally, to pay \$100 million toward the restoration of this site. I was there on Saturday to commemorate this new development. It was a spectacular day. I was there with the Little League. They even let me throw out the first pitch. That is the only first pitch I have thrown out. I haven’t been invited by the Yankees, or otherwise. But to be able to throw out a pitch to the Little League, to see a softball field next to that, a hardball, a regular baseball field next to that, a soccer field next to that, all developed out of what was a horrible toxic waste site. The lake is clean. Before, there were signs for the children to avoid getting too near the lake because there was poisonous material in there. No fish could live—nothing.

When he celebrated the cleanup of that lake 2 years ago, the mayor of Pitman, NJ, a fellow named Bruce Ware, stood next to me, and, he said, “I am going to fulfill a promise that I made years ago that if this lake ever got

cleaned up I am going in it." With that, he turned, fully dressed, with his tie and his jacket and his suit, and he jumped in the lake. He was so ecstatic about the fact that this community was going to be rid of this blighted parcel of land—about 100 acres, a big piece of land.

It is fantastic. I believe it will result in not only more revenues for the community but also a lifting of the spirit in that community.

That is what we ought to be doing. We ought not tinker with Superfund, to reduce it, to emasculate it such that it has no power and no strength.

I hope we are going to be able to do that in the next few days. I hope the American people will insist that as we attempt to clean up our land and avoid the sprawl that we are living with that we will pay attention to what we have as a society in terms of an obligation to future generations.

Mr. President, I thank the Chair for the opportunity to have the floor.

I yield the floor.

TRAGEDY IN LITTLETON, COLORADO

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I want to say a few words about the tragedy in Colorado. I want to express my sincere sympathies for the families and victims of yesterday's events.

Once again, we have witnessed a deadly school shooting in America's heartland. Yesterday's events, although greater in magnitude than other shootings in recent years, have, it seems, become part of a growing trend in this country, and particularly among young people, and that is to solve everyday problems with deadly violence.

Now, some of us have heard firsthand the gruesome effects of gun violence. But we can't imagine what the classmates and families of those Colorado children must be going through today. The senseless loss, the graphic memories, the fear of violence, the lack of explanation.

Who among us can imagine how we would feel if two dozen of our friends and classmates were gunned down in a matter of minutes? Who among us knows what we would say to our own children if something like this happened at their school? And who among us wants to imagine what it would be like to receive that phone call telling us that our child is no more.

Mr. President, this is a time for grieving, but it is also a time for sincere reflection on the direction of this country and the nature of child on child violence. Sadly, this nation has experienced an ever increasing number of these incidents in the last two years. We saw it happen in Pearl, Mississippi where two students were killed. We saw it happen in West Paducah, Kentucky where three students were killed. We saw it in Jonesboro, Arkansas where five were killed and in Springfield, Oregon where two were killed.

We saw a five-year-old Memphis, Tennessee kindergartner last year bring a gun to school because the teacher had given him "timeout" the day before. Now Littleton, Colorado joins that tragic list.

We are still learning the specifics of this latest tragedy. But while this most recent incident may have been executed with more deadly results, it is all too familiar. We must struggle to learn why these incidents are happening with ever increasing frequency. Are children more troubled than they have been in the past? Do parents need to pay more attention to danger signals within their own homes? Do parents even have the ability to recognize danger signs? And do they know what to do when they see the signs of trouble?

I am certain that we will all continue to ask these questions in the coming days and weeks. I hope we don't stop asking until we find some answers.

One area in which I have been working for many years is the problem of gun access. I realize that bringing up gun control at this time might be viewed by some as trying to capitalize on yesterday's tragedy. I am sure the NRA will criticize those of us who connect this violence with the easy access of guns in America. But sadly, times of tragedy like this are often the only times people pay attention to the problems plaguing our society. If we do not speak up now, we may not prevent future Littletons from occurring.

Children have easy access to guns of every sort and every caliber—including assault weapons and high capacity clips that make it all too simple to strike fellow students down in mere seconds. Whereas in the past a grievance might be settled in a brief fistfight, today our children often turn to firearms.

Yesterday, two masked gunmen killed as many as 25 people with semi-automatic gunfire and explosive devices. Other students hid under desks and in rooms throughout the school, watching the gruesome scene develop on televisions within the classrooms, and in some cases calling the media to report crying, gunfire, and the sound of running feet from within the school walls. One student reported to police that he saw two of his classmates carrying shotguns, automatic weapons, and pipe bombs.

We may never be able to stop children from feeling alone and wanting to strike out. But we can certainly stop them from gaining the use of high capacity weapons with which to strike. And we should.

In 1994, we passed a ban on assault weapons and high capacity ammunition clips, with the intent to get these guns off the streets, out of the hands of criminals, and away from our kids. But because of strong NRA opposition, we were forced to allow pre-existing guns and clips to remain on the shelves of stores across this country. And although the President has stopped the

importation of most assault weapons to this country, millions of high capacity ammunition magazines continue to flow onto our shores and into the hands of criminals and, indeed, our children.

In fact, between March and August of last year alone, BATF approved more than 8 million large-capacity clips for importation into America. The clips approved during this one short period accounted for almost 128 million rounds of ammunition—and every round represents the potential for taking one human life.

Mr. President, 75, 90, and even 250-round clips have no sporting purpose. They are not used for self defense. They have only one use—the purposeful killing of other men, women and children.

I have introduced legislation, supported by the President, that will stop the flow of these clips into this country. I know that we cannot eliminate these clips from existence. But we must—we must—do our best to make it harder and harder for children to find these clips and to use these guns.

It is both illogical and irresponsible to permit foreign companies to sell items to the American public—particularly items that are so often used for deadly purposes—that U.S. companies are prohibited from selling. It is time to plug this loophole and close our borders to these tools of death and destruction. Our domestic manufacturers are complying with the law, and we must now force foreign manufacturers to comply as well.

In closing our borders to these high capacity clips, we will not put an end to all incidents of gun violence. But we will limit the destructive power of that violence. We will not stop every troubled child who decides to commit an act of violence from doing so, but we can limit the tools that a child can find to carry out that act.

Each of us has been touched in some way by the devastating effects of gun violence. Each of our states has faced unnecessary tragedy and senseless destruction as a result of the high-powered, high-capacity weapons falling into the hands of gangs, drive-by shooters, cop killers, grievance killers, and yes, even children. My own state of California has too often been the subject of national attention due to incidents of gun violence.

We must work to console the victims of this crime and the families of those who have been injured. My thoughts and prayers go out to those who have been affected by yesterday's events. We must now rededicate our efforts to prevent future tragedies from developing. I for one want to stop the easy access juveniles have to weapons of war, reduce this violence we see every night on TV, and help strengthen and nurture a new family ethic that says "enough" to this kind of violence.

TRAGEDY IN COLORADO

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I thank my friends, the Senator from