

As a Senate and as Senators, we do tend to look at things in a broader perspective. We have been Members of the House, most of us here. We tend to take a broader perspective. That is what this bill does, it is broader based. It is for all of the country.

The House bill doesn't do enough for conservation. There is no energy title in it. This is a bill we ought to be proud of. We have an energy title for the first time ever in a farm bill, we have an energy title to promote ethanol and soy diesel and biomass and wind, all of the different forms of energy—methane. That is in this bill. It is not in the House bill. So we just throw that out the window, too.

Farmers want different markets. They want an energy provision. They want to know that we are going to start promoting ethanol more than we ever have in the past. If you vote for the House bill, kiss it goodbye.

I say to my friends who are thinking of voting for the House bill, they ought to think again. Take a look—I say to every Senator here—add up, look at it first economically. Add up what happens to your State in the next 5 years under the committee-passed bill and under the House bill. I will wager that every single State represented in this Chamber will do better overall under the committee bill than under the House-passed bill economically, in terms of commodities and everything else. Add them all up, conservation payments, energy payments, all those things, add them all up.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's 10 minutes have expired.

Mr. HARKIN. Hope springs eternal. I will not give up. I will not quit. I will never give up in trying to get the best deal possible for all the farmers of this country. I don't care how long we have to stay here, how late we have to stay here. I will fight to the last day, to the last breath to get this bill out of here and get it out of the Senate because it is best for America and it is best for our farmers.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if I could say to Senators here assembled, we have some matters we need to take care of to wrap up for tonight. I see Senator GRASSLEY is here, Senator HUTCHINSON, and Senator SESSIONS. If I could ask through the Chair to each of them, if they wish to speak in morning business before we adjourn tonight, I will try to get some time for each of them to do that.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. REID. I am happy to yield for a question.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I have to assume that after listening to you and after listening to Senator HARKIN, you don't want to hear another point of view on this issue in conformity.

Mr. REID. I didn't say that.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I would like to speak before you speak.

Mr. REID. What I would do, to inform the Senator, I will go through the wrap-up and then just indicate how much time each of you wish to speak tonight.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Then let's leave it this way. You are doing exactly what I said. I won't say anything, but I resent your saying that we are stalling on this side when I was here to offer an amendment even at this late date. You told me less than an hour ago, no more amendments. So have the record show that the Senator from Iowa, the senior Senator from Iowa, was ready to offer an amendment and go through a time.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I say to my friend, who is the senior Senator from Iowa—and I have the greatest respect for him—we have been on this bill for a long time. People can go through all the machinations they want, saying they were ready to offer amendments. The fact is, we voted on cloture on two separate occasions. It has been opposed. We are going to do it again tomorrow. The fact is, we had other votes to do tonight.

I actually was contacted by the assistant minority leader, and he asked that we not have another vote. I agreed with that. I felt it was time to wrap things up. It was about 22-to-9 then.

As I told the Senator from Iowa, when we were not speaking publicly, but I will say this publicly, no one has ever questioned the work ethic of the Senator from Iowa. He has been, since I have been here, one of the first to get here and always one of the last to leave. No one questions the work ethic of the Senator from Iowa. I want to make sure the record is clear in that regard.

Does the Senator from Arkansas wish to speak tonight?

Mr. HUTCHINSON. If I could have 5 minutes.

Mr. REID. And the Senator from Alabama?

Mr. SESSIONS. Ten minutes.

SMALL BUSINESS PAPERWORK RELIEF ACT

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I speak today in support of Senator VOINOVICH's legislation, S. 1271, the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2001, as well as my amendment to improve the legislation for the benefit of America's small businesses.

While legislation such as the Regulatory Flexibility Act, and the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act have made great strides in helping to ease the regulatory burden on our small businesses, more work remains to be done.

In the report prepared by the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy on the recommendations of the White House Conference on Small Business in 1995, the Office of Advocacy stated that, "Federal, State and local

governments impose numerous requirements on the operation of businesses. The burdens associated with these requirements are often exacerbated by substantial paperwork and record-keeping requirements. In addition to the cost and administrative burdens, small and growing businesses have difficulty simply keeping abreast of the various regulatory and paperwork requirements." Six years later, this statement is still true.

While I support the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act, I think it is important to point out that I objected to an original request to pass this legislation by unanimous consent because the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, which I Chair, has jurisdiction over some of the issues included in this legislation. Additionally, the expertise of the Committee on issues of importance to small businesses can only serve to enhance any legislation designed to help our nation's small businesses. That being said, Senator VOINOVICH and I have addressed my questions about the legislation and agreed to an amendment. I believe the bill is better because of our work.

The legislation originally called for the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, OMB, to appoint members to the "Task Force" created in the legislation from the various agencies listed in the bill. Although I had no objection to the Task Force being led by the OMB Director, I did have reservations about the OMB Director selecting the participants, a function that should be vested with each agency head. The amendment makes this change.

Additionally, my amendment has a provision stating that in any report issued by the Task Force, minority views must be included. This provision has been added as a result of my consultations with SBA's Office of Advocacy, who were concerned that reports issued on small business issues may not reflect the views of small business advocates. By allowing minority opinions, any report issued by the Task Force will at the very least contain concerns raised by the small business community.

My amendment also adds the National Ombudsman to the list of recipients receiving bi-annual reporting on the number of enforcement actions taken by agencies. The National Ombudsman, located at the SBA, serves as a confidential resource to field complaints and comments from small businesses about the regulatory process and actions taken by regulatory agencies. Additionally, the National Ombudsman rates Federal regulatory agencies on their treatment of small businesses and issues a report card. Therefore, I felt it appropriate that agency information regarding regulatory enforcement be shared with the National Ombudsman.

Finally, my amendment makes a technical change in the legislation to