

and wind—less than one-tenth of one percent currently. If we project it, solar and wind alone will not get the job done. We are going to need coal, oil, natural gas, nuclear and other sources of energy to meet the demands of the United States of America.

Another important issue we must address is infrastructure. As we develop these new energy sources, we must make sure we can get them to where the people need them. We saw this firsthand 2 years ago when prices for gasoline in the Midwest spiked. The freak combination of a shuttered refinery and a temporarily downed pipeline created a bottleneck that midwesterners paid for all summer long. Low-income Americans were hit especially hard at the pump, and trucking companies and airlines took a big beating.

That is why I introduced legislation last year to help streamline the permitting process for new energy facilities. I hope my legislation, S. 1590, can be added to this bill because I think it would enhance it and make it better.

The problem of distribution is especially critical to the northeastern States as they try to get additional natural gas supplies into their homes and businesses to meet a growing demand.

I encourage my colleagues from that part of the country to take a close look at my provision because I think it is something they should get behind.

The same technology which is helping to drive the demand for more energy has also equipped us with tools to provide that energy. Advanced slant drilling, super-efficient power plants, hyper-accurate seismic research, we have all of these because of our innovative high-tech research.

Technology has also given us new tools to protect our environment and public health, and we must take full advantage of these opportunities because we must be good stewards of what we have been given. I reject the arguments from those on either side of the debate who say we have to choose between the environment and the economy. We now know the success of each is linked. As I have said before, we have to harmonize our energy needs and our environmental needs if we are going to have an energy policy. Only with a thriving economy can we fund the research that will find new ways to protect the environment—the cradle for every living thing on this planet—and the world's ecosystems cannot sustain us if we do not have clean air and clean water.

A growing American economic capability is the only way we can do such things as fight our war on terrorism, provide a prescription drug benefit for seniors, save Social Security from bankruptcy, eliminate our national debt, and meet other financial challenges facing our country. We need to have a growing economy. We know the challenge. We must provide more energy to keep America going. We know we cannot keep relying on unstable foreign sources to do this. We know we have the resources domestically to meet our needs. We also know that doing this in an environmentally responsible way is critical. We know we have the technological know-how to meet these challenges.

The question that remains is whether or not Congress is going to stand in the way of this country's future success or whether we are we going to be part of the solution. As we seek to provide our country the power to succeed, does this

body have the power to resist the temptation of partisanship and prove wrong those who say this debate will not end in the successful passage of a good bill? Do we have the courage to work together and do something good for our country and leave the partisan jabs and the hollow victories on the table?

I do not think it is going to be easy, but I think we can do that. I ask my colleagues to join in the constructive work of this body. Let us make it happen. I pray that the Holy Spirit inspires us to do it, for ourselves, for our children, our grandchildren and, yes, the world.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until the hour of 10 a.m. tomorrow.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:13 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, March 6, 2002, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 5, 2002:

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

Don V. Cogman, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2006.

Katharine DeWitt, of Ohio, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2006.

Teresa Lozano Long, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2006.