

Public Works Committee. During that time, I had the chance to write the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, to revise the Clean Air Act, and to improve the Endangered Species Act, Superfund, and the Clean Water Act. In each case, I advocated for laws that not only protect the environment but that are flexible, take advantage of market mechanisms, and reflect the unique needs and circumstances of the West.

I was always pleased that I was able to work in a bipartisan manner with my colleagues on the Environment and Public Works Committee. Republicans, Democrats, and Independents all understood that protecting the environment did not have to be a partisan issue, and I was glad that various presidents joined in our efforts. That is why it is so distressing today to see the current administration's policies pursued in such a manner because environmental issues could and should be bipartisan.

Each year, our understanding grows about how important it is to conserve and protect our land and its rich resources. While the current administration's environmental rollbacks are far too numerous to count, it started with attempts to loosen arsenic standards for drinking water and centers today around their total unwillingness to work together on a plan that will first stabilize and then reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Global warming and climate change is the single greatest environmental challenge that will confront current and future generations. We have a moral obligation to address this issue and choosing to ignore this problem is madness and a luxury we do not have the time for. I once again urge my colleagues not to fall for the temptation of the administration's voluntary "technology-only" strategy. That strategy has only increased emissions and the risks associated with global warming.

The negative impacts that have been linked to global warming and climate change are also far too numerous to mention, but I am continually concerned about the impacts that climate change will have on water in Nevada. Most recently, the National Resources Conservation Service recorded that snowpack throughout the Sierra Nevada Mountains is only at 40 to 50 percent or normal. In eastern Nevada, due to decreases in the snowpack, the stream flow for the Humboldt River is expected to only be at 34 percent and the lower Colorado River at 19 percent of its average. A recent study published in *Science* said all but one of the 19 major climate models project that the Southwest is at the beginning of a deepening drought largely due to greenhouse gas concentration increases and global warming.

The challenge of eliminating our Nation's overdependence on oil and other greenhouse gas emitting fossil fuels will be a great test for our country and for the world. I believe that America

can lead the way in developing new technologies to meet and pass this test. We can and must become more energy independent through the rapid development and diversification of clean, alternative, and renewable sources of energy. They will provide a steady, reliable energy supply, bolster our national security, protect the environment, and create new jobs and whole new industries. We must tap into our Nation's spirit of innovation and bring a new environmental ethic to our energy policy.

Every day, not just on Earth Day, we have to work together to protect our environment from threats so our children and our grandchildren and so on can drink clean water, breath clean air, and enjoy the vast open spaces and the natural beauty of Nevada, America, and the world. That much is for certain, and I look forward to bringing that commitment to everything that I and this Senate undertake.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN L. KIRKWOOD

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today I honor the distinguished career of John L. Kirkwood and to congratulate him on his upcoming retirement. John Kirkwood is the current president and chief executive officer of the American Lung Association.

Mr. Kirkwood graduated from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. Since then, his life has been dedicated to improving the health of our country.

Mr. Kirkwood served as executive director of the American Lung Association of Metropolitan Chicago from 1975 to 2001. During his tenure, he was instrumental in organizing the American Lung Association Asthma Clinical Research Network, the International Tuberculosis Foundation, the Illinois Coalition against Tobacco, the Chicago Asthma Consortium and the Combined Health Appeal of Illinois. His efforts have made it possible for more Illinoisans in the Chicago metropolitan area to breathe better today.

Luckily for the rest of the country, Mr. Kirkwood decided to expand his commitment beyond the Chicago area to improving the health of the entire Nation. As president and CEO of the American Lung Association, Mr. Kirkwood has expanded the ALA's commitment to research nationwide, strengthened the organization's advocacy programs, and improved knowledge and information transfer systems to assist patients suffering from lung disease.

As the leader of America's oldest national voluntary health organization, Mr. Kirkwood has shown an exemplary commitment to the health and social well-being of all Americans. Thanks to his work and his heartfelt dedication to the public's health, individuals in my State of Illinois and the Nation as a whole will breathe cleaner air and lead healthier, happier lives. We are fortunate for his years of dedication to the American Lung Association, and his leadership will be deeply missed.

Mr. President, I congratulate Mr. Kirkwood on his many accomplishments throughout a long and successful career. As he concludes this chapter of his professional life, I wish him many more years of happiness and accomplishment.

VOTE EXPLANATIONS

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I regret that on April 16, I was unable to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on S. 372, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007. I wish to address this vote, so that the people of the great State of Kansas, who elected me to serve them as U.S. Senator, may know my position.

Regarding vote No. 130, on the motion to invoke cloture on S. 372, I would not have voted to invoke cloture. My vote would not have altered the result of this motion.

Mr. President, I regret that on April 17, I was unable to vote, upon reconsideration, on the motion to invoke cloture on S. 372, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007. I wish to address this vote, so that the people of the great State of Kansas, who elected me to serve them as U.S. Senator, may know my position.

Regarding vote No. 131, on the motion to invoke cloture on S. 372, I would not have voted to invoke cloture. My vote would not have altered the result of this motion.

Mr. President, I regret that on April 18, I was unable to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 3, the Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act of 2007. I wish to address this vote, so that the people of the great State of Kansas, who elected me to serve them as U.S. Senator, may know my position.

Regarding vote No. 132, on the motion to invoke cloture on S. 3, I would not have voted to invoke cloture. My vote would not have altered the result of this motion.

Mr. President, I regret that on April 18, I was unable to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 378, the Court Security Improvement Act of 2007. I wish to address this vote, so that the people of the great State of Kansas, who elected me to serve them as U.S. Senator, may know my position.

Regarding vote No. 133, on the motion to invoke cloture on S. 378, I would have voted to invoke cloture. My vote would not have altered the result of this motion.

CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, today I wish to discuss an issue that has held a special place in my life for many years, the preservation of our Nation's civil war battlefields. Our historic battlefields—outdoor classrooms where visitors may walk in the very footsteps of heroes from past generations—are