

gallon standard of 25 miles today to 35 miles in a 10-year period, this would unquestionably be a great accomplishment.

Attached to this legislation is also very important consumer protection legislation that provides the Federal Trade Commission the tools it needs to protect consumers against price gouging. With our current statutes, the FTC has the ability to investigate certain cases on the basis of antitrust laws, which are based on whether we think oil companies are colluding to set prices. What we really have to question is whether the companies may be conducting activities that actually take supply offline and thereby decrease the supply, leading to shortages at the pump. Therefore we need to give the FTC the authority it needs through this legislation and make sure consumers are protected.

This legislation, as part of a package, was passed unanimously out of the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee yesterday. It was the result of a bipartisan effort, led by the work of the chairman, Senator INOUE, and the ranking member, Senator STEVENS. Unfortunately certain provision did not make it into the final version of this bill, however I firmly believe that it is a historic and important piece of bipartisan legislation that will come to the Senate floor for all of us to discuss.

Just recently, the Energy and Natural Resources Committee passed another very positive landmark legislation which relates to setting a higher mandate on biofuels. In the last Energy bill we were able to pass, we stipulated that we should have a goal of producing 7½ billion gallons of biofuel a year by 2012. Both the President and the Congress are trying to achieve a higher goal. In this legislation, that sets the goal that by 2022, we would actually have a mandate of having 36 billion gallons of alternative fuel produced in this country. I firmly believe that this is a realistic goal and an achievable mandate for us, and that it will aid in starting mass-production of alternative fuels in this country.

In addition, that legislation had money for what we call a biofuels infrastructure—how we do actually get this product out to the consumer and to the corridors of transportation so the public does not have to worry about where they can fill up their cars. Thanks in part to this legislation we will have the infrastructure to do that.

In the Commerce Committee, we also produced legislation focusing on flex-fuel cars so that, by 2015, 80 percent of the cars being driven on our roads will be flex-fueled. These are vehicles that could either use gasoline or an alternative fuel.

We have also passed legislation now for studying plug-in hybrids and making sure the plug-in hybrid research continues to move ahead.

In the Energy bill, we also included language about carbon sequestration,

making sure we move ahead so carbon sequestration becomes a reality. Again, this is an important issue and it is a very important bill to my colleagues in various parts of the country in which we have an ample supply of coal. I commend Senators DOMENICI and BINGAMAN for working so closely together. That legislation also was passed in a bipartisan effort. It is a great compliment to those two distinguished Senators who worked so closely on the last Energy bill to yet produce another Energy bill.

We are in a position to make a very positive impact on what I think is one of the biggest challenges we face, getting off our overdependence on foreign oil and providing sources of cleaner energy. We are well poised to take up that debate here on the Senate floor with this landmark bipartisan legislation out of two different committees.

We will have a lot of work to do across the aisle. We still have great opportunities to see legislation out of those other four committees I mentioned that will contribute to this energy package. But we should embrace the opportunity the President laid out in his State of the Union Address when he said that he wanted to make sure we had a higher fuel efficiency standard and that we also set a higher renewable fuel standard, and that is exactly what we are doing now.

I personally think we should also set a renewable standard for the amount of electricity we use from our electricity grid to further reduce our dependence on fossil fuel. These are topics that will be debated. I am sure later in the year we will have an important debate about climate change. But for now we are making great progress. I hope my colleagues will focus on the fact that this energy bill gives us another opportunity to work together here on the Senate floor and put real energy solutions before the American public.

Right now, with gas prices reaching \$4, Americans want to know we are going to have an aggressive policy, not only giving them consumer protections but better planning for the future so our economy can benefit from alternative sources of fuel.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG USER FEE AMENDMENTS OF 2007

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1082, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1082) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize and amend the prescription drug user fee provisions, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Brown (for Grassley) amendment No. 1039, to clarify the authority of the Office of Sur-

veillance and Epidemiology with respect to postmarket drug safety pursuant to recommendations by the Institute of Medicine.

Brown (for Grassley) amendment No. 998, to provide for the application of stronger civil penalties for violations of approved risk evaluation and mitigation strategies.

Brown (for Durbin/Bingaman) amendment No. 1034, to reduce financial conflict of interest in FDA Advisory Panels.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 60 minutes for debate currently on the bill and remaining amendments, with 10 minutes under the control of the Senator from Iowa, Mr. GRASSLEY or his designee, 5 minutes under the control of the Senator from Illinois, Mr. DURBIN or his designee, and the remaining time equally divided between the chairman and ranking member or their designees.

The Senator from Massachusetts is recognized.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I yield myself 6 minutes of our time.

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, we will see later this morning the successful conclusion of this legislation. We have some important matters to consider, which we will do in a very short period of time. But as we are coming into the closing time for this amendment, I think it is appropriate that we review very quickly what this legislation does and what it does not do.

I am a strong believer in this legislation, which has strong bipartisan support. I am enormously grateful to Senator ENZI and Members on our side of the aisle as well as those on the other side for all of their help and assistance in getting us to the point where we are ready to take final action on something that makes a major difference to families in America. We ensure the safety of our prescription drug system and also are making very important progress in the safety of our food supply.

This is, in an important way, breakthrough legislation. I will review quickly what this does and then come back to the amendments that are before the Senate and how we think the Senate should dispose of them; why this legislation is urgent, why it is extremely important, and why the American people deserve the best.

Very quickly, again, there is strong emphasis on safer food and safer medicines for families in this country. We spelled out at the earlier part of our presentations the effective systems we have supported to make sure we are going to have the safest prescription drug program in the world, using different kinds of modern technologies and also modern surveillance systems for monitoring postmarketing safety. This will ensure in the future we are going to have the safest prescription drug program in the world. We will have safer medicines.

We will also have safer food for families and pets. I think all Americans have been alarmed, as they should have