

We need to follow through with action. We must listen to the American people and amplify their voices as they call for action to preserve our health, our economy, and our way of life.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). The Senator from Louisiana.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I was on the floor earlier today. I have been on the floor since we convened back into session—our first session since the election—and I am very heartened by what I have heard from colleagues such as the Senator from Hawaii, who just spoke, our colleague from Montana, who just spoke, our colleague from Tennessee, who spoke; as well as the leadership particularly, including Leader REID, majority leader-to-be MITCH MCCONNELL, and the Senator from Texas, Mr. CORNYN, all of whom came to the floor and said they heard the message of the American people. The message is that now is the time to stop the bickering, stop the fighting, stop the gridlock, and take action on issues the American people know are the right answers for our country, focusing on building jobs and economic hope for the middle class, in large measure because of this extraordinary opportunity for an energy renaissance that is underway as we speak—energy jobs, petrochemical jobs, manufacturing jobs.

Our unemployment rate in south Louisiana is 3.5 percent. Our general unemployment rate is much lower than the national average and has been for many years. But even in my State, with these very positive numbers, middle-class families are seeing their incomes stagnate, their way of life not progressing, and their economic progress not moving forward as it should.

So while people are happy and doing well in some parts of the country—every leader came to the floor and said, we heard the American people. We want jobs. We want economic opportunity. We want the middle class put first. We want gridlock put last, and we want you all to roll up your sleeves and get the job done. That was the message.

So I came to the floor at 2 o'clock, the first minute we opened, to claim the floor to say let's begin with trusting each other, moving forward, and passing the Keystone Pipeline which is a bill that has enjoyed bipartisan support and has the 60 votes on this floor for passage.

There is strong objection from the 40 Members who have been opposed. Of course they have a right to be opposed. We debated this for 5 years, but the process is let's vote and let the process move forward. I am very encouraged that in the 2 hours 15 minutes I have been on the floor that the House of Representatives has actually heard this call and has decided to introduce—

the Rules Committee will be meeting tonight. I understand they want to introduce the identical bill to the Hoeven-Landrieu bill which will give a clear path. It is a stand-alone Keystone only with private property rights language that is very important to the Republican base but it is also very important to Democratic Members, for me, personally, and my State, but for many rural States on the Democratic side. We cannot allow international companies to expropriate our properties here without due process. It cannot happen. I am the strongest advocate of building pipelines everywhere, but there are private property rights that have to be followed.

The language carefully drafted by Senator HOEVEN and myself respects the private property rights of American citizens. I understand the House is going to take that language and the straight-up, no attachments, no riders, no anything—except for the Keystone language as it is written in this file that is pending and pass that out of the House.

We have already made some progress in getting the Keystone project built or moving forward. I want to put into the record a couple of headlines of magazines and articles that I think help to underline or underscore what I am trying to say.

The "Science" magazine editor-in-chief says, "Time to move forward on Keystone Pipeline."

LABI: "Twenty Louisiana Chambers of Commerce support Keystone Pipeline." This is the Louisiana Association of Business Industry. It is a recent headline.

The Washington Post: "On the Keystone XL pipeline, put policy ahead of politics." That is what we are doing today.

Illinois Review—this is one of the most important. "AFL-CIO says Keystone XL is not just a pipeline but a life line."

The largest labor unions in our country have rolled up their sleeves. They are in this fight. They are telling us, Democrats and Republicans, but mostly to the Democratic Caucus, because they are part of our base, vote for the pipeline. This is jobs for average middle-class working people that we need. We deserve them, they say, in States such as yours, Mr. President, Ohio, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and in States such as Colorado, New Mexico, New York. I could go on and on. In West Virginia.

Remember, my State—not that we don't need good jobs but our unemployment rate is very low. We have jobs and opportunities pouring into Louisiana and Texas, the energy coast of America. We are proud of it.

We are proud not only to produce these jobs and this energy but we are helping to fuel a renaissance of manufacturing in the Midwest. We are exceedingly proud of this. We are not just creating jobs for ourselves, we are creating jobs for the Midwest, for the manufacturing renaissance of America.

We are allowing for the expansion of the economy on the east coast and providing help for the west coast. It is what we do. It is what America's energy coast does. No coast does it better than we do.

We are connecting to a partner, Canada, which is better for us in many ways than Venezuela or even some of our friends in the Mideast, and we don't—not every friend is our friend in the Mideast. We are getting oil from our best friend, our best trading partner, our best ally, that has equal economic standards as we do and even some higher environmental standards than we do to create economic opportunity for our country.

I wanted to submit this for the record. There are no other Senators to speak. I am going to yield the floor in a minute.

We are still in a time of morning business until votes at 5:30.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be able to show a device in the course of my presentation about exploding airbags.

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

AIRBAGS

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, there has been quite a bit in the press about defective exploding airbags. This is a part of a steering wheel with the airbag deployed. In the steering wheel, the driver would be like this with their hands on the steering wheel. When the impact occurs and the airbag is deployed, instantly, if you have seen that kind of impact on the airbag, because of the chemicals inside of the steering wheel, it causes an explosion that comes out of already existing holes in the metal that contains the airbag and it deploys the airbag like this so that the—in this case, the driver—in the case of the passenger, the same, but it is not a steering wheel like this. That protects and has saved countless, thousands and thousands of lives. The fact is that we now know there are four people in this country who are dead. There are a hundred who are injured. That is not including the international office, because of the defective airbag that has been manufactured by a Japanese manufacturer. What its defect is is that instead of the chemicals exploding to inflate the airbag, it explodes with such force for all of this that is contained within the steering wheel before it explodes. There is metal.

When the chemical explosion occurs, it is supposed to go through the airholes and fill the bag. Instead, what