talking about Alzheimer's is it truly
a terrible condition that affects pa-
tients, their families, and communities
across the Nation. I learned firsthand
about Alzheimer's disease when my
mother was robbed of many of her
Golden Years and it was a relatively early age,
in her seventies.

Currently, more than 5 million Amer-
icans are living with Alzheimer's, in-
cluding an estimated 160,000 in my own
State of North Carolina. Estimates project
that the number of Alzheimer's pa-
tients to grow to 16 million by 2050,
with an annual cost of more than $1
trillion to the healthcare system.

Alzheimer's disease is the sixth lead-
ing cause of death in the United States.
It is a current and growing problem.
It is the only top 10 disease for causes
of death that cannot be prevented. It
can't be cured. We can't even slow the
pace of the disease. Simply put, we
need a war on Alzheimer's disease like
we have on cancer.

As a country, we must take the fight
to this awful disease. This should be
one of our highest priorities, to support
the discovery and development of new
medicines for millions of patients who
currently have Alzheimer's and the
millions more who may develop it
in the future. We need medicines to
slow the progression of the disease. We
need medicines to reverse its affects.
We need medicines to cure Alzheimer's
disease. One day, we need medicines
to prevent it in the first place.

That is where the FDA comes in. The
new Commissioner must make Alz-
heimer's central to his mission. I know
that the science of developing new medi-
cines and technologies is complicated
under any circumstances. Those chal-
lenges are only compounded by the fact
that we still do not fully understand
the disease. But there is hope. If we
innovate in this space?

The FDA cannot do this alone. This
is an all-hands-on-deck kind of battle,
but FDA will play a critical role in
tackling this vital public health prior-
ity. I was pleased to vote for Dr.
Gottlieb's confirmation yesterday. I
look forward to him ensuring that we
are doing everything we can to
cure Alzheimer's. For those of us
who have been and will continue to
be Alzheimer's caretakers, I hope we
will see a cure in our lifetime.

With the right focus by the FDA and
this Congress, I am absolutely con-
vinced this is a disease we can take
the war to and win the war in our lifetime
in the near future.

I encourage the FDA and all of my
Members to stand in battling this ter-
rrible disease so we can end it once and
for all.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Sen-
ator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, it
is perhaps a providential happenstance
that I should be giving this particular
speech while the Senator from Lou-
siana is presiding because we are both
from coastal States. I am sure he will
find things that are familiar in my
Rhode Island remarks, particularly
given that his Governor has declared
the Louisiana coast a state of emer-
gency due to sea level rise.

As the Presiding Officer knows, one
place where the effects of climate
change are most evident is in our
oceans and along our coasts. Rhode Is-
land is the Ocean State, and we have
almost 400 miles of beautiful coastline.
Everyone in Rhode Island lives less
than a half hour from the shore. We
count on a healthy ocean and vibrant
coast. Our ocean economy, including
fishing, tourism, and shipbuilding,
amounts to more than $2.5 billion every
year—perhaps not what Louisiana's
eastern coastline is but pretty good for
our small State.

It employs over 42,000 Rhode Island-
landers. Warming, acidifying, and rising
oceans are a clear and present danger
to many aspects of our Rhode Island
way of life. Sea level rise now threat-
ens to remake our Rhode Island coast,
swallowing low-lying land, widening
existing inlets, eroding beaches, and
stranding higher shorefronts as new
islands.

For my 166th “Time to Wake Up"
speech, I want to show the Senate what
this new island chain, the new Rhode
Island Archipelago, would look like.
I assume that this graphic that
overlays that new island chain on our
oceans and along our coasts will give
us all a sense of how much sea level
rise will affect us. These are the things
that we need to be thinking about,
which began changing our climate.

Climate change causes sea levels to
rise. As oceans warm, they expand. As
the world warms, ice sheets melt and
pour water into the oceans. We meas-
ure these things happening. This is not
a guess or a projection.

Rhode Island's Coastal Resources
Management Council has developed
STORMTOOLS, which is an online sim-
ulator that models sea level rise and
storm surge so we can see what is com-
ing at us. Once again, science gives us
the headlines to look forward and see
what is coming at us. This is what
Rhode Island can expect.

Here is the high water scenario. This
is the upper part of Narragansett Bay
in Rhode Island, including Providence,
up here, Warwick, and Warwick Neck
and Greenwich Bay over here to the
west. Bristol and Warren here, with
Mount Hope Bay to the east.

This graphic shows the same image
overlaying that previous scenario with
the scenario that Rhode Island's CRMC
now predicts for our State. This bright
color depicts land that gets covered up
with 10 feet of sea level rise. This
color is what we get when the
sea level rise hits 12 feet. Over
here, Bristol gets two new islands, and
Bristol and Warren become an island
themselves. If you cross over the bay to
Warwick Neck, which is now part of our
new coastline, that becomes a new island,
Warwick Neck Island. Much of Barr-
ington, which is a well-developed and
prosperous bedroom community, just disappears under the water. As I said, Warren and Bristol become their own island.

Now we move down the bay to historic Newport, RI, and the historic waterfront area completely encroached. This historic Point section here floods, down here the western part of Newport becomes a new island. Again, all of this is now land that we lose to rising seas.

Not only does Western Newport become Western Newport Island, but it gains its own Castle Hill Island off to the side of it. Up here, the existing Goat Island virtually disappears.

This story is repeated all along Rhode Island’s coast. The tip of Little Compton breaks off to become its own tiny little archipelago of new islands. This is Tiverton, which is just north of Little Compton. On the other side, here, is the shore of Portsmouth on Aquidneck Island. What you see is that the sea level rise turns Nonquod Pond into a marsh and makes an island of this section of Tiverton here near Fogland Point, another new island.

Here we see the point on the other side of the opening into Narragansett Bay from Little Compton. You have Little Compton, Aquidneck Island, now comes down in the middle, and on the other side you have Point Judith. Point Judith also begins to break up into little islands.

If you go up here, Galilee is our fishing port. It is where most of the fishing trawlers have their home port and the entrance runs right up here into the protected harbor area. As you can see, Galilee is now pretty much underwater.

So for folks who like to go to Champlin’s Seafood, you will probably have to row there, and it might not even be there. For those who like Aunt Carrie’s better, it is here, and it is not in great shape for surviving storms.

So here we have offshore to Block Island, which has been designated by The Nature Conservancy as one of the world’s last 10 great places. Well, it is no longer one of the world’s last 10 great places, it is now two of the world’s last—I guess it would have to be 11 great places because it breaks into two separate islands. Block Island becomes Block Islands.

The beautiful town of Jamestown, which is its own island between Aquidneck Island and our mainland shore, breaks up into three separate islands. It is now one. Jamestown goes up a little bit further, that part stays intact, but the upper part breaks away from downtown Jamestown, here, and the Beaver Tail area breaks off into, I guess it would become Beaver Tail Island.

Now let’s go up to our capital city. We started with the first map showing Providence. This series of images will show what happens to Providence at sea levels rise. Just to orient people who are seeing this, this is the Providence River coming in. This is the Woonasquatucket River. This is the circle at Waterplace Park and the Woonasquatucket River goes out over the Providence Place Mall, and it goes on from there.

This is Providence’s downtown business district. That is 3 feet of sea level rise—very manageable. Now you get up to 6 feet of sea level rise, and you see the encroachment of the ocean into our business center. Seven feet used to be our worst-case scenario, but as the evidence comes in and we are seeing things happen faster and the sea level rise occurring greater than had been expected, we have been raising our expectations.

So here is the new worst-case scenario—10 feet of sea level rise. As you can see, the business section of downtown Providence is entirely overwhelmed. Twelve feet of sea level rise is a natural consequence once you get to 10 feet of sea level rise because if you have 10 feet of sea level rise, then what you get is a regular and recurring example call astronomical tides or king tides, when celestial bodies line up so you have a higher than usual tide. For sure people from Florida know about it because those are the days when the street in front of their house or apartment building, which is filled with saltwater because the tide has washed in over it. If you go at king high tide time along the Boston wharf, you see parking areas and walking areas already flooded. So it is not unreasonable to likely or you are experiencing a baseline, what they call bathtub level of 10 feet.

As you can see, downtown Providence, our business district is more or less completely inundated. So this is Climate Central. Climate Central has allowed us to get these images of what downtown Providence looks like up close, with various levels of sea level rise, and this is something they run off of Google Earth. This, again, is downtown Providence.

This is Providence City Hall. This is Kennedy Plaza, you will be pleased to know, Senator. It is named after an other John Kennedy because he gave his last speech in his campaign for President before he went home to take in the election results and find out that he had been elected—he last speech was right here to a huge crowd that had come out to see him in downtown Providence.

This is the famous Biltmore Hotel. This used to be the train station. Now the offices of the Rhode Island Foundation are there. As you can see, most of these historic buildings are up to their second floor. If you look at old pictures from the hurricane in 1938 and the hurricane in 1954, you see buildings where the water got that high, but that was at a peak of a hurricane surge. This becomes the baseline. This is what it looks like every day.

Here is Federal Providence City Hall. Instead of coming along the sidewalk and walking up the steps, you would have to come over in one of our gondolas in order to get in the front entrance, and the first floor of City Hall is lost.

If you look at all of this, it represents a loss of billions of dollars in property value to Rhode Islanders.

Let me grab the original. All of these areas that are occupied by people’s homes, people’s businesses are there, and if they disappear below rising seas, all that value is lost. It is actually worse than that because if this is the new coastline, then behind that coastline is going to be a new set of flood zones and a new set of velocity zones. For those who are not familiar with what a velocity zone is, that is the part of the flood zone in which it is deep enough and exposed enough that you actually get wave action against structures. So you get the physical force of waves damaging structures rather than just tides rising. Between the V-zones and flood zones, there is much larger area in which structures become uninhabitable, they become un-mortgageable, and as a result they become un-insurable. So the economic harm from this potential sea level rise inundation of Rhode Island is virtually incalculable, and we are not the only ones who are looking at this.

Looking ahead at this coastal threat also is the massive government-backed home loan mortgage corporation Freddie Mac. Freddie Mac has predicted “the economic losses and social disruption may happen gradually, but they are likely to be greater in total than those experienced in the housing crisis and Great Recession.”

Think about that. Think about the economic damage that this country sustained and the pain the families experienced after the 2008 Wall Street meltdown in that housing crisis, the great recession. Here is Freddie Mac saying this problem is going to be greater in total than the harm from the housing crisis and great recession. You would have to trust the government about this stuff. You have to trust the private sector. The government doesn’t know what it is talking about.

Here is a quote from a recent article in the trade publication Risk & Insurance, an insurance trade publication. The editor of that publication wrote that this was what he called “a growing and alarming threat.” He went on to say: “Continually rising seas will change the coastal real estate and commercial property values to the point that property owners will flee those markets in droves, thus precipitating a mortgage value collapse that could equal or exceed the mortgage crisis that rocked the global economy in 2008.”

For anybody who wonders why I come and give these speeches every week, for anybody who wonders why I am up to No. 166, it is about seeing the coastline of my home State of Rhode Island being whittled away into this chain of islands—this new Rhode Island archipelago. If this were your State, you would be up here too.
We have a responsibility here in Congress to all Americans to face up to what is happening. This is not just a Rhode Island circumstance. It is going to be Louisiana. It is going to be North and South Carolina. It is going to be Massachusetts and Maine and California. It is going to be the Gulf coast. We are all going to have to face up to this and help communities prepare. The carbon dioxide that we have already pumped into the atmosphere will make some of this sea level rise inevitable. It is baked in now, and we just have to wait for it to happen. We can still avoid these worst case scenarios if we act promptly and if we will, for one minute, say to the fossil fuel industry: You have had enough. You have fed enough at this trough. You have silenced Congress enough. Your power and your greed will no longer prevail here. We are going to solve this problem for the people of our States.

We can still do that, but we do have to act promptly. With regard to the stuff that we cannot avoid, we also have an obligation to help our coastal communities prepare for this, to make this transition. All of these islands are going to need bridges to get to where they are now roads. Where things are falling into the ocean and you can shore them up again, do it. The science is out. The laws of physics, the laws of chemistry, the laws of biology do not wait for our politics to sort themselves out. There is a lot of work we need to do with this coming at us.

This is not funny. Nature will not wait for our politics to sort themselves out. The laws of physics, the laws of chemistry, the laws of biology do not give a hoot about the laws in the Senate. They are going to do their thing, and we need to get ahead of them. When this happens, that big, old fossil fuel industry, with all of its lies and its long, dishonest campaign of calculated disinformation and phony front groups—so that you do not see its hands—and deliberate political mischief to prevent us from acting, is not going to be around to help us. It will be no help when this flooding comes, so it is up to us. That is why we have to wake up.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:13 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, May 11, 2017, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION
J. CHRISTOPHER GLANCARLO, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION, VICE TIMOTHY G. MASSAD, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ADAM J. SULLIVAN, OF IOWA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, VICE DANA G. Gresham.

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
ROBERT L. SUMWALT III, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2018. (RE-APPOINTMENT)

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEIL CHATTERJE, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2021. VICE ANTHONY T. LAY, RESIGNED.

ROBERT F. POWELSON, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2020. VICE PHILIP D. MOELLER, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
ANDREW K. MALONEY, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE A DIPUTY SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, VICE ANNE ELIZABETH WALL.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MARK ANDREWS GREEN, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, VICE GAVRYL SMITH.

JAY PATRICK MURRAY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED NATIONS. WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

JAY PATRICK MURRAY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED STATES TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS. DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED NATIONS.

IN THE AIR FORCE
THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 31:

JOHANNA K. BRAM

PAUL R. AGUIRRE
MICHAEL D. ARNOLD, JR.
NICHOLAS BRIAN BAHR
JERRY B. RANCOPT, JR.
DAVID GEORGE BERUBE
JAMES KEVIN BLANTON
JOHN JOSEPH CAMPO
DAVID GEORGE BERUBE
EDWARD D. CASEY
MARK K. CASEY
TIMOTHY MARK CATHEY
ROBIN LERANDA CILATKA
PATRICIA N. CHAVEZ
PETER S. CHIOI
CHAD S. CHRISMAN
MICHAEL S. CLAY
JOHN A. CONLEY
JEAN FREDERICK CONROY
LISA M. CUNNINGHAM
JULIE PETRINA CURIN
WILLIAM RAY CUSICK
JOSEPH M. DECKEN
JASON DEBRE DICKINSON
ROBERT EDWIN DONALDSON
JUSTIN R. DUNCAN
CHARLES ALAN DURPHR
JUNE A. DYESTE
PAUL WILLIAM FRITZENBORG
CRUSO JAY DAVIS FRYE
PAMELA LEE FOUNT
FREDERICK H. T. FROTE
DANIEL R. FOWLER
PAUL EDWARD FRANK
MATTHEW JOHNSON FRENCH
TRIVOR JOHN FULMER
SUSAN ELAINE GABRETT
JOHN C. GIBBS
JAMIES D. GLOBER
BREHONA A. GRAY
CHRISTOPHER L. GREEN
STEPHEN R. GWIN
RAEL G. GYERS
MELISSA A. HAGEN
DAREEN B. HAMILTON
FRANK A. HARRIS III
GILBERT THOMAS HARVEY
BARRY TODD RINGLING
BRADLEY GENE HINKE
TODD A. HOFFORD
LANCE A. HOPPER
JAMIE PATRICK BOYE
CATHARINE ANNE HUTSON
DAVID MARK JAFFE
DOUGLAS MARC JENSEN
MCCARTHY C. JENSEN