

Alaska's North Slope to the rest of the country.

Senator DOMENICI's amendment is not all about natural gas. For electricity, about which many of my colleagues have spent a great deal of time talking on the floor, the amendment ensures reliable and affordable electricity for America.

We all recognize that we in Congress must address the issue of reliability. The amendment would prohibit onerous Federal manipulation of energy trading markets that cost consumers money, and it would increase the penalties for market manipulation and enhance consumer protections.

To those of my colleagues who have called on the Senate to address the electricity issue, the reliability issue, I say support Senator DOMENICI's proposal.

For coal, which is used to produce 50 percent of our Nation's electricity, the amendment authorizes \$2 billion to fund the Clean Coal Power Initiative. The development of clean coal technology will help our Nation use its abundant coal resources in an environmentally responsible manner.

In Alaska, we are working to find new ways to use our very abundant reserves while mitigating the impact on our environment. We have a little place called Healy, AK, where we have a small experimental clean coal plant. This clean coal plant is currently sitting dormant. It just barely missed its emissions requirement. We were attempting to utilize new technology to again provide very necessary energy to an area that was very limited in what it could receive and what it could generate. Once the Healy clean coal plant and other clean coal technologies demonstrate better ways for us to generate electricity from coal, we can utilize our Nation's vast coal resources in an environmentally responsible manner for many years to come, as well as provide high-paying jobs and much needed electricity.

There is also renewable energy. For renewable energy, the amendment reauthorizes the Renewable Energy Production Incentive Program to promote the use of clean renewable energy. The amendment would also encourage exploration and development of geothermal energy, including a call for rulemaking on a new royalty structure that encourages new production.

I could go further in detailing all those very important matters contained in the energy amendment, but I think these four examples—authorizing the Alaska natural gas pipeline, improving our Nation's electricity grid, providing research on clean coal technology, and promoting the use of clean renewable energy—illustrate the immense benefits of a comprehensive energy policy. They are great, but they are meaningless to us unless we enact them.

A comprehensive national energy policy, as envisioned in Senator DOMENICI's amendment, will generate

thousands of jobs throughout the country. As I said on many occasions, the Energy bill is a jobs bill. So is this amendment.

I commend the Senator from New Mexico for offering this amendment. I know my constituents in Alaska don't care whether this bill is enacted as an amendment or as a stand-alone bill. My constituents want to see the jobs. My constituents want to see the energy, they want to see the natural gas, and they want to see movement on an energy policy. I think most Americans want the same thing. They want high-paying jobs. They want decreased volatility in the energy market. They want increased use of renewable energy and improved electricity grids. I think we have that within this amendment.

I urge my colleagues as we move forward to support the amendment of the Senator from New Mexico.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor. 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. MCCAIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent at this time the Senate proceed as if in morning business until 2:55, and the Senate will recess for approximately 1 hour because Secretary Rumsfeld will be briefing Members in room 407. I amend my unanimous consent request that the Senate reconvene at 4 p.m. today.

Mr. REID. If the Senator would modify his request, at that time we come back on the bill.

Mr. MCCAIN. Return to consideration of the McCain substitute.

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, I appreciate very much the request of the Senator from Arizona. It is appropriate. By 4 o'clock we will know what position we are in on both sides.

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

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

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

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent I be allowed to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has that right.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I understand the President pro tempore may be coming to the Senate floor. If he appears, I will yield to him and pick back up when he

finishes. In fact, the President pro tempore has arrived.

I yield the floor to the Senator from Alaska until he finishes.

PRAISE FOR MILITARY MEDICAL COMMUNITY

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, the Senator is very kind, and I thank the Senator from Tennessee.

Madam President, I come to the floor today to inform the Senate of the outstanding commitment, courage, and professionalism of our military medical community. This morning, the Senator from Hawaii and I cochaired a hearing with the Surgeons General and the chiefs of the Nursing Corps from each branch of the Armed Forces. We were joined by Army Surgeon General James Peake, Navy Surgeon General Michael Cowan, and Air Force Surgeon General George Taylor. From the Service Nursing Corps, we heard from Army COL Deborah Gustke, Navy ADM Nancy Lescavage, and Air Force GEN Barbara Brannon.

I want the Senate to note and personally thank each of our witnesses today for the outstanding leadership they provided to our military medical community. Their individual accomplishments are numerous.

I offer a special recognition to Surgeons General Peake and Cowan, who will be retiring from Active Duty this year. We greatly appreciate their service in military medicine, to our Nation, and especially their assistance to the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense. The insight they provided to the subcommittee is invaluable. I congratulate each one of them on a successful and distinguished career.

During today's hearing, the members of the committee and I were told of outstanding accomplishments by our military medical leaders. I have come to the Senate to share some of what we learned today with my colleagues.

Over the last year, our thoughts have never been far from the battlefields, or from the soldiers and families who have sacrificed so much for our Nation. I salute our brave soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines for their efforts in the war on terrorism. I join the families of our lost sons and daughters in mourning and remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of freedom.

I have seen many headlines about the casualties of the war, but the accomplishments of our military doctors, nurses, and corpsmen are seldom mentioned. These health care professionals were among the first to rush to the battlefield, and they are still on the front lines providing care in some of the most dangerous and difficult conditions.

Today our combat medics regularly perform miracles. They use transformational technology to successfully expand the "golden hour" of trauma care, the critical hour of opportunity from when a trauma is sustained and the lives can be most often saved.