

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina controls the floor.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous-consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3678

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous-consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 3678 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I also ask unanimous-consent that the substitute at the desk be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read the third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I ask unanimous-consent that the majority leader, with the concurrence of the Democratic leader, may at any time turn to the consideration of S. 3678; that it be considered under the following limitations: that the managers' amendment be withdrawn and a managers' amendment that has been agreed to by both managers and both leaders be agreed to for purposes of the original text; that the first-degree amendments deal with similar subject matter as contained in the text of the bill, except where noted; and that relevant second-degree amendments be in order thereto. The amendments are as follows: Durbin, single food agency; Conrad, national emergency telehealth task force; Lieberman, at-risk populations; Lautenberg, mass-transit preparedness; Wyden, FOIA; Leahy, compensation fund; Dorgan, one amendment; Leahy, two amendments; Obama, one amendment; Levin, one amendment; that in addition to any time limits on amendments, there be 6 hours of debate on the bill—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's unanimous-consent request is out of order by merely reserving the right to object. The Senator has to object to the pending unanimous-consent request by the Senator from North Carolina.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I ask unanimous-consent to modify the request of the Senator from North Carolina with another unanimous-consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. As the Chair understands it, the Senator from Washington would still have to object to the pending unanimous-consent request in order to make it a substitute.

Mrs. MURRAY. I believe the other Senator will have to object to my request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If the Senator would pause, is the Senator's second request to modify the pending

unanimous-consent request of the Senator from North Carolina?

Mrs. MURRAY. That is correct.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That would be in order.

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask consent to modify the unanimous-consent request of the Senator from North Carolina to the extent I just outlined, and also I add that there be 6 hours for debate on the bill to be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; and that upon the disposition of these amendments and the use or yielding back of time, the Senate bill be read a third time and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill.

I ask unanimous-consent that the Senator from North Carolina modify his request to include this consent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the motion?

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, as Members may have missed the over 30 minutes many of us have been in the Senate Chamber, a significant amount of time and effort has gone into this bill. A very general solicitation and at times a very specific solicitation for input has been sought from my colleagues, without a response.

Yesterday, a list of possible amendments was supplied. Most of those amendments were not even applicable to what is in the bill. We are not in a position right now to know what the specific modifications are that are being suggested, since we have not seen the actual amendments. Therefore, I object to the unanimous-consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mrs. MURRAY. Knowing they would object to our asking for a number of our Senators to be allowed to have amendments, I object to the Senator's request as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard to both the modification and the original unanimous-consent request.

The Senator from Louisiana is recognized for 10 minutes.

OFFSHORE ENERGY

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, we are trying to wrap up many important issues before we leave. One issue that has remained elusive at this point is the solution for our offshore energy bill. The House has passed a version; the Senate has passed a version. I am here to talk about the benefits of the Senate approach to this subject since there seems to be some real confusion on the part of some of the House members about the Senate approach. I have had many private conversations and many meetings, but I thought I might try to clarify a few things as we seek to understand each other a little better.

I have great respect for many Members on the House side. Chairman POMBO and others have worked very

hard. I know they are very sincere about trying to find new avenues for domestic production. It is most certainly a goal I share and that many Senators in the Senate share, Republicans and Democrats.

We have had our arguments, knock-down, drag-out arguments about ANWR. I am clearly on the side that supports production in ANWR. I happen to be in a minority of Democrats on that, and we could never pass that in the Senate, or have not to date. We have been debating it now for 30 years. But there is consensus—there is consensus—in the Senate about opening a significant area in the Gulf of Mexico to help bring much-needed oil and natural gas to this country.

I wish to put into the RECORD from the Consumer Alliance for Energy Security what they say about natural gas:

Natural gas is used to make fertilizer for ethanol.

For those who are arguing for more ethanol, ethanol needs sugarcane, ethanol needs corn. We need fertilizer to grow sugarcane and corn.

Natural gas is used as a substitute for diesel fuel in our buses and fleet vehicles.

Electric utilities use natural gas to generate clean power.

Natural gas is a raw material that goes into lightweight cars for fuel efficiency, wind power blades, solar panels, building insulation and other energy efficient materials.

Natural gas is used to make hydrogen fuel necessary for fuel cells.

They say:

In the face of declining natural gas production, consumers are hungry for a solution to our energy crisis.

The Senate has provided a solution. Democrats and Republicans agree—we need more natural gas. So we have carved out an area. Shown on this map, is an area that is under leasing moratoria right now and which has been under leasing for the last 15 or 20 years. It has been closed off to production—8 million acres.

But this Senate, in a historic vote, has decided that we need the natural gas. We believe in what the Consumer Alliance and thousands of organizations have stepped up to say. We need natural gas. We are prepared to open this section—8 million acres.

To put this in perspective, ANWR is only 2,000 acres. So when critics of our approach say the Senate bill does not do anything, then, why did we debate for 30 years over nothing? If we debated 30 years only 2,000 acres, why is 8 million acres nothing? I do not think that is true. It is obviously incorrect. Eight million acres is a great many more than 2,000 acres. The reserves here are thought to be substantial.

Shown on this map is the oil discovery that was announced 3 weeks or 4 weeks ago announced: the Jack well, as it is commonly known, discovered by a Chevron partnership. This one well, drilled 28,000 feet—10,000 feet of water and 18,000 feet of land—will double the reserves of oil and gas in the

United States of America. This one little square, right here.

So when people in the House of Representatives say, opening up 8 million acres here will do nothing, they are dead wrong. We might find four or five "Jack" wells in here. We could find 100. How would we know? Because no one will let us go look. And if we do not pass this bill, which the Presiding Officer helped to pass and helped to craft, we will never know, and our industries will continue to lose jobs and lose their competitive edge. We are losing thousands of jobs.

Experts estimate that there is enough gas in this section alone to run 1,000 chemical plants for 40 years. That lessens the need to go drilling in ANWR. But this bill is not about ANWR. And the good news about this is, the States of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas are all in agreement. Republicans and Democrats are in agreement. They understand the need. They want to step up and help America. This money generated by this bill will go to support these coastal communities and reduce the deficit.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 3 more minutes. I see my colleague from California.

Mrs. BOXER. No problem.

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

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I appreciate that.

Instead, the House of Representatives has proposed a bill that is breathtaking in its reach, and then wonders why we cannot pass it. In the House bill, the House committee decided to open up drilling along the entire Atlantic seaboard, and they took it upon themselves to redraw state boundary lines. Very few people have seen these state boundary lines, so I decided I would go ahead and show this map so people can see it.

These lines have not been approved by the Commerce Department. They have not been approved by the Interior Department. They have not been seen by the Defense Department. And MMS does not certify these lines. There are 200 years of maritime law that went into developing the original lines that looked like this, as shown on this official Interior Department map. The lines shown on this Interior Department map are the lines that we are all governed by now. But the House committee decided to go into a room and redraw the lines without talking to the Governors of these States, the Senators from these States, and I am not even sure the House Members from these States ever saw these lines.

They ask me why I can't pass this bill on the floor of the Senate. What is wrong with Senator DOMENICI and Senator LANDRIEU. They can't get this bill passed. I would suggest it is going to take a few hearings, a few public meetings, and a little bit of work over there before we can get something such as this passed. I will help them. I actually believe in what they want to do. I may

be in the minority over here. I will help. But I do not think I can get this done this weekend. But what I can get done this weekend—what we can get done this weekend—is to open up 8 million acres filled with the natural gas and oil this country desperately needs. We can send a positive signal and a necessary signal to the marketplace that America is serious about finding more domestic reserves for oil and gas. And we can send a hopeful signal—as the Saints did when they carried that ball across the goal line earlier this week several times; an extraordinary game—to the people of the gulf coast that we still know they are suffering, and we are going to pass a bill that helps to generate jobs in this region, saves their wetlands, builds their levees, and reduces the Federal deficit.

Our bill respects the coast of Florida, it reduces the deficit, it saves the wetlands, it builds levees, and it gives everybody in America natural gas—and there is a problem with this bill?

I do not know what the problem is. We had 72 Senators who worked all year on it. I respect the House of Representatives. I understand what they want to do. But it is too broad of a reach.

The Senator from California is on the floor, and she has been very gracious, and I will only take 1 more minute. I did not have time to go get the model they have for the west coast, of which their bill wants to open up west coast drilling. With all due respect to Congressman POMBO, he does not even have the support of his own Governor in his own party. And he wonders why Senator DOMENICI cannot get his bill passed? He cannot get it past his California legislature. How am I supposed to get it past the Senate?

So I am asking the House colleagues, please be reasonable. Take this a step at a time. Some people object to drilling on the Atlantic coast. I do not happen to be one of them. I will help them, but we cannot get that done this weekend. And it may never happen because you have to get political support from these States.

But I will conclude with this: We have a great coalition in the gulf coast. The people of the gulf coast know how to drill for oil and gas. The technology is superb. We minimize the environmental footprint. We know where the gas is. Let us go get it. Then we can use that money to continue to help us restore our coast.

So I am pleading with my colleagues. I will work with you. I will continue to work with you. So will Senator DOMENICI. And I think I can speak for the Senators from Florida, as well as the Senators from Mississippi, Alabama, and Texas. We will put our shoulders to the wheel to do what we can, but let us go forward.

In the Senate, the Gulf Coast States came together and created a formula that is fair to all. Each coastal-producing State shares in the revenues received according to the length of their

coastline, their proximity to oil and gas development—and the likely impacts from that development.

Also, the Senate formula recognizes that some of the Gulf States have provided oil and natural gas to the country for decades, receiving the brunt of the impacts, and few of the benefits. For that reason, States that have hosted the industry for the longest would have secured marginally more of the revenues by way of compensation.

The Senate bill also recognizes that the minerals of the Outer Continental Shelf are a national resource—belonging to the Nation as a whole. That is why every State receives the majority share of the revenues: 50 percent would go directly to the Federal Treasury; 12.5 percent would go into the Land and Water Conservation Fund—a conservation royalty that benefits all 50 States.

Arriving at a formula that was fair and equitable was not easy: each of the Senators from the four gulf-producing States met on a daily basis over a series of weeks.

Ultimately, the gulf coast was able to stand united: all ten Senators from the Gulf States voted in favor of the Senate bill. But it was not an easy feat.

Agreement among neighboring States is critical—and difficult to achieve. What is at stake are billions of dollars and the Nation's energy security.

The House bill creates State boundary lines that would divide the Federal OCS into zones controlled by the closest State. Under the House proposal, States have the power to authorize or halt energy development activities within this zone. They also have claim to the lion's share of the revenues generated within this zone.

The Senate and the House take fundamentally different approaches to two key issues:

The Domenici-Landrieu bill would open 8.3 million acres in the Gulf of Mexico—a region that has continuously been one of the most productive oil and natural gas basins in North America.

Since the world's first offshore oil well was drilled near Creole, LA, in 1933, the Gulf of Mexico has provided the Nation with more than 15 billion barrels of oil and 165 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

Each year, offshore production from the Gulf of Mexico offshore accounts for more than 560 million barrels of oil and 4 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. If you add in the onshore production from the neighboring Gulf States, this region produces more than 1 billion barrels of oil each year. That is more than the imports from Saudi Arabia and Venezuela combined.

Conservative estimates show that the Senate bill will increase the Nation's supply of affordable, domestically produced energy by 1.3 billion barrels of oil and 5.8 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

That much crude oil will produce enough gasoline to drive 1.7 billion cars

from DC to New York—with plenty left over to heat 1.2 million homes for more than a decade.

These lines were drawn without any input from the coastal States, without input from the Minerals Management Service, the Coast Guard, or other stewards of America's oceans.

In fact, the Minerals Management Service had painstakingly crafted "State Administrative Boundaries" in an effort to clarify which State has the most interest in the area seaward of its coastline because of the increasing number of commercial activities on the Federal OCS.

These boundary lines—which were crafted in consultation with the MMS, the National Ocean Service, the Department of State, as well as in accordance with past Federal and Supreme Court decisions, and significant public input—were disregarded in the House bill.

States that were deemed more likely to drill off their coasts seem to have been granted more territory. States that have made their opposition to OCS activity well known, seem to have had their territories trimmed down significantly.

Virginia's gain was Maryland's and North Carolina's loss. Georgia's gain was Florida's loss.

I support increased access to the Nation's offshore energy resources. I believe strongly that we need to make this Nation more energy independent and less reliant on foreign sources of oil.

But I am also a pragmatist and know that we cannot overturn 30 years of poor energy management policy overnight—without consulting the States, without consulting our Federal natural resource managers.

I encourage our neighbors on the east and west coasts to re-examine their failed policy on moratoria on developing energy resources from the Federal Outer Continental Shelf. But I cannot force them to do so. Instead, we need to have an open dialogue on this issue and work to improve U.S. policy in this critical arena.

That much natural gas will sustain 1,000 chemical plants for 40 years—and those plants would provide jobs for about 400,000 Americans.

The potential of future drilling in the Gulf was recently underscored by a massive oil discovery miles off the coast of Louisiana.

Some analysts believe that this single find in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico could produce more than 15 billion barrels of oil.

By 2012, daily production from this single prospect could total 800,000 barrels of oil per day of light, and more than 1 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas.

This discovery effectively increased the total proven oil reserves of the United States by 50 percent.

While the "Jack" discovery is not directly adjacent to the 181 and 181 South area, some geologists have speculated

that these mineral-rich ridges could extend eastward into the 181 and 181 South area.

This find shows that the Gulf of Mexico remains one of the most promising oil and natural gas regions in North America and the world.

It is likely that major finds such as the "Jack" prospect will spur an increase in exploration and production activity in the ultradeep waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

It is highly likely that this discovery—and other major finds in the Gulf of Mexico—will cause bonus bids to escalate at future lease sales, and increase revenues flowing to the Federal Treasury.

In contrast to the bounty available in the Gulf of Mexico, the MMS anticipates that the total production off Virginia will be about 560 million barrels of oil and 327 billion cubic feet of natural gas.

Compare this to the resources opened by the Senate's Domenici-Landrieu bill in the Gulf of Mexico which the MMS estimates will total 1.3 billion barrels of oil and 5.7 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. The Virginia proposal has 4.7 million acres.

Domenici-Landrieu is adjacent to existing infrastructure—pipelines, ports, and refineries. The area off Virginia is not adjacent to industrial infrastructure.

Virginians may want to open their shores to offshore oil and gas production—a goal that I share and support—but Virginia's waters are quite close to the shores of North Carolina, Maryland, and Delaware.

Why is this a problem? In 1990, the State of North Carolina successfully forced several oil companies to cease all activity and relinquish their rights to drill more than 50 miles from shore, far out of sight from shore.

Similarly, California, Maine, and Florida have repeatedly proven that they can shut down production, even when it is far from their shores.

Today, the President has acquiesced to his brother's request that no new drilling be allowed within 100 miles of Florida. As a result, no new leases are allowed off Alabama—despite the fact that their oil and gas has been safely produced in that region for more than 30 years.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that excerpts of document from the Consumer Alliance for Energy Security and other relevant material be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Consumer Alliance for Energy Security]

VOTE ON AN OCS ENERGY BILL
WHY?

A vote for an Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) energy bill is a vote for clean, alternative energy. America must develop alternative and clean sources of energy. But it can't happen without natural gas. Congress can make it happen by safely accessing the

abundant supplies of American natural gas on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).

Natural gas is used to make fertilizer for ethanol.

Natural gas is used as a substitute for diesel fuel in our buses and fleet vehicles.

Electric utilities use natural gas to generate clean power.

Natural gas is a raw material that goes into lightweight cars for fuel efficiency, wind power blades, solar panels, building insulation and other energy efficient materials.

Natural gas is used to make hydrogen fuel necessary for fuel cells.

If Congress is serious about pursuing alternative energies, then it must get serious about safely accessing America's own natural gas supplies. We urge you to send an OCS bill to President Bush this month. Doing so, Congress can reverse a more than 25-year 'Just Say No' energy policy. Congress holds the key to ending the current energy crisis in the U.S.

In the face of declining natural gas production, consumers are hungry for a solution to our energy crisis. Both H.R. 4761 and S. 3711 break new ground. Time is running out. We strongly urge you to get the job done.

American consumers are counting on your action.

BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE,
Washington, DC, July 24, 2006.

TO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE: . . . S. 3711 represents a crucial building block for our long-term vision of greater energy security and economic vitality. As you know, our country is blessed with abundant supplies of deep-water oil and natural gas in the Gulf of Mexico, much of which is currently off-limits to development. S. 3711, which reflects a strong bipartisan consensus, would open more than eight million acres of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) to leasing within one year. Estimates suggest that such action would make nearly six trillion cubic feet of natural gas and 1.25 billion barrels of oil newly available for production. The availability of new supplies of natural gas, in particular, would be a boon for industrial companies who rely on natural gas as a critical raw material, and I consumers, who depend on natural gas for home heating and electricity. . . .

Sincerely,

MICHAEL G. MORRIS,
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, American Electric Power, Chairman, Energy Task Force, Business Roundtable.

ATLANTIC COAST GOVERNORS PLEDGE TO
OPPOSE OFFSHORE DRILLING

"Energy independence is something we're all after, but we think it makes more sense in the long run to pursue that goal through focusing on alternative forms of energy rather than fossil fuels. Tourism is our state's number one industry, and we don't think it makes sense to undertake something that could potentially damage our coast."—South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford (R).

"While it is clear that the United States must become more energy independent, such independence must not come at the cost of the fragile ecosystems and vital tourism economy of our coast."—North Carolina Governor Mike Easley (D).

"Drilling in our ocean waters should be a last resort, not a first step toward achieving energy independence. Before we sanction further exploration and drilling off our shores, we need to aggressively pursue strategies to reduce our dependence on oil and natural gas, regardless of where it is produced."—Delaware Governor Ruth Ann Miner (D).

"We urge the United States Congress not to take any action that would have the effect of undermining or undoing the legislative and administrative moratoria that have protected our shore from the risk of drilling for 25 years."—Connecticut Governor M. Jodi Rell (R).

"Any pollution associated with offshore drilling incidents could easily spread from one state to adjacent states that have chosen to ban exploration and production. This would expose Maine's coastal ecosystem and economy to unacceptable levels of risk from potential drilling and associated accidents over which we would have no control."—Maine Governor John E. Baldacci (D).

"New Jersey and its elected officials—at the federal, state and local levels—have demonstrated their leadership on coastal protection, whether by enacting land use laws to preserve our shoreline, working for sustainable management of our fishery resources, protecting endangered marine and other species, or leading the fight to end ocean dumping of human and other wastes. We must, once again, stand united against this latest threat to our shore ecosystem."—New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine (D).

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to add 5 minutes to the time I was allocated, so it would be 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I say to my colleague, Senator LANDRIEU—

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, if I could ask unanimous consent that following the Senator from Idaho—I believe right now the Senator from California is to be followed by the Senator from Idaho—I ask unanimous consent that following the Senator from Massachusetts be allocated 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. BOXER. Thank you, Mr. President. I trust my 15 minutes will start at this point.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mrs. BOXER. Thank you so much.

Mr. President, I say to my colleague Senator LANDRIEU, I think she made a very clear statement about where we stand on oil drilling in this country. And she is so right. A narrow bill passed here that is going to help her State. It is going to help the country. It stays away from the hot-button issues. It stays away from the California coastline, which Republicans and Democrats in our State are united in saying we need that coastline protected for our economy. It is quite different than my friend's. We respect each other, and we understand it.

So what she is simply saying to the House is: We want to do something. We do not want to be a do-nothing Congress. Let's do something. Let's do the bill the Senate crafted, which again, I say to the Presiding Officer, you were involved in.

Just before she left the Chamber, I wanted to say how strongly I appreciate her explanation of where we are.

AGRICULTURAL EMERGENCY

Mrs. BOXER. Well, Mr. President, we have a very narrow bill before us, the border fence bill, which we cannot broaden; and that is why I opposed cloture on that bill. I do not oppose building a fence where you need to do it, where the border is porous. I do not have a problem with that. What I have a problem with is this narrow approach to the immigration issue which precludes us from truly fixing our problems.

We are ignoring a lot of problems in this Congress, but I will tell you what is emerging as an enormous problem, and that is, the problem that farms are having all across this country because we have neglected to take care of the issue of farm labor.

In California, our farm community is in serious trouble. I sat with my dairy folks, my ranchers, my farmers. We grow over 80 crops in our State. Senator FEINSTEIN was eloquent in laying out how huge an industry it is. These are folks who never come to me with fear in their eyes. They are frightened because their crops are dying on the vine and in the fields across the State of California, and from what I have heard, in other States as well.

This is tragic for us. We could lose these farmers. We could lose agriculture. And we have a chance—Senator CRAIG, Senator FEINSTEIN, and I, and others, have teamed up and said: Let's use this opportunity to broaden our approach. Senator KENNEDY, of course, was the first to craft a comprehensive piece of legislation, which we voted out of here.

Now, I do not understand—I spoke with Senator FRIST, and he seemed to acknowledge there is a problem—why we cannot permit as part of this fence bill a very simple emergency piece of legislation that will sunset but just says let's make sure our agriculture community can survive, can continue.

Let me show you a photograph of one of my constituents looking at her crop of pears, which is rotting on the ground. You look at her face, and you see what this means to her.

Let me tell you what it means to the people of our Nation. We export these fruits and vegetables all throughout the Nation and, of course, throughout the world. It is going to mean higher prices, that decreased availability of products. But this Congress will not let us address this issue.

To the Republican leadership, I beg you one more time—and even some in your own party are begging you—we have to do more than one thing at a time. You have to take the problem and solve it. So this whole notion of we will take care of the fence first, and in a few years we will take care of something else—let me tell you, these farmers cannot last. They are facing economic disaster.

As I said before, this is not a Democratic or Republican issue. I can assure you that the people who have come to see me are part of the Republican base. They are perplexed. They do not understand it. They are the owners, entrepreneurs, the family farmers, the large farmers, and they have come together with labor. It was intense to get the two sides together. It started in the late nineties.

I remember when Senators CRAIG and KENNEDY came with great excitement and said that we have a deal between labor and management, everyone supports AgJobs. We went out to the floor and we have more than 60 votes for this. Yet because of the maneuvers on the floor by the Republican leadership, we cannot offer the AgJobs bill. No one can explain it to me.

Republicans are facing the charge of being a do-nothing Congress. We want to do something for our farmers. We want to help you. Let's please take care of our farmers. Take care of this woman who is looking at her whole life disappear in front of her because she doesn't have enough labor to pick these pears.

The United Fresh Produce Association wrote Senator FRIST a letter. It has a headline that I have never seen in a letter:

Farmers to Congress: Support a Safe and Secure American Food Supply, Pass an Immigration Fix Before the Election of 2006.

These are people who don't really get that involved in politics, but they get it. They know an election is coming, and they are sending us a message to fix this. Further, they say:

A safe and domestic food supply is a national priority at risk. With real labor shortages emerging, agriculture needs legislative relief now. The choice is simple: Import needed labor, or import our food.

What they are saying is, at the end of the day, we will not have a safe, secure, and healthy food supply. This is not the time, it seems to me, that we want to lose that. With all of the talk about terrorism—and we all fear it—we want a safe food supply. We don't want to have to depend on food coming in from other places. We want to depend on our farmers and their great history and their great legacy.

We also will lose three to four American jobs for every farm worker job. Mr. President, I will say that again. We will lose three to four American jobs for every farm worker job.

They say:

Any solution must recognize agriculture's uniqueness—perishable crops and products, rural nature, significant seasonality, and nature of the work.

Building a fence is not going to help our people. I am not against it; I voted for it. It is not a problem to me to build a fence. But don't come out here and say: Aren't we great and doing something; we are building a fence and now everything is fine. That is hogwash.

We must pass an AgJOBS bill, and we can do it today. Our farmers and our