

CREATING LONG-TERM ENERGY ALTERNATIVES FOR THE NATION ACT OF 2007—MOTION TO PROCEED

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to H.R. 6, and I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 9, H.R. 6, comprehensive energy legislation.

Jeff Bingaman, Dick Durbin, S. Whitehouse, Blanch L. Lincoln, Jon Tester, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Patty Murray, Daniel K. Akaka, Jack Reed, Mary Landrieu, Max Baucus, Mark Pryor, Ron Wyden, Joe Biden, Pat Leahy, Claire McCaskill, Amy Klobuchar, Ken Salazar.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I withdraw my motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is withdrawn.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I had alerted the distinguished Republican leader I was going to do this. I had to do it because we had to do it before the night's business ends.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM ACT OF 2007—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado still has, I think, 1 minute 10 seconds.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry in terms of the time available with respect to the Inhofe amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has the remaining 45 seconds.

Mr. INHOFE. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. INHOFE. Yes, I understand that. Parliamentary inquiry: Since we are talking about two amendments, the Salazar amendment and the Inhofe amendment, then I would assume there would be another 10 minutes equally divided later on this evening if it is the desire of the offerors; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. INHOFE. I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If they wanted to use the time, obviously it would be respected.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry again: Just to be clear, then, on the Salazar amendment No. 1384, there will be 10 minutes for debate equally divided between the majority and the minority.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. SALAZAR. And with respect to the Inhofe amendment, the minority

time has expired, and there is 43 seconds left on the majority side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I conclude by urging my colleagues to vote no on the Inhofe amendment. At the end of the day, what the Inhofe amendment is proposing to do is to undo executive orders that have been signed by both the Clinton administration and the Bush administration. Those executive orders were created in order to be able to have people understand what is happening with respect to the courts, with respect to domestic violence, and with respect to other issues that our government provides services for where they need to be able to understand what is happening with respect to the communication they are receiving.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on the Inhofe amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 1374

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside, and I call up amendment No. 1374.

Mr. President, this bill does a laudable job in setting up a new merit-based system for the future. That is the right thing to do for our country, but the bill misses the mark.

Our country needs an immigration system that recognizes we want to attract the best and the brightest from around the world. We have been doing that for many years because we recognize that people who are smart, who are talented, when they come to this country they actually create jobs in this country. They create opportunities for other people in this country.

The current bill unfortunately misses the mark on this merit system. The current bill is actually worse than current law. This bill today is worse than current law, and that is why the high-tech community across the country has come out in opposition to the provisions of the merit-based system in this bill. I want to tell a small anecdote that will illustrate the problems with our current system on attracting talent.

In my office today, a gentleman by the name of Bill Watkins from Seagate Corporation out of California just opened a new branch in Singapore and hired U.S. graduates, foreign students who graduated from MIT and other universities. The reason he hired them to go to Singapore, where he will pay them less money than he would have paid them in the United States, the reason he sent those jobs overseas is because of our immigration policy that basically will educate you in the United States, but then after we educate you, we will send you home.

The amendment I offer today says we are going to actually value people who are educated here, especially in the science and mathematics and engineering fields—we call those the stem fields—in the health sciences fields, we

are going to give you even more points than the current bill does so that into the future we will attract the best and the brightest from around the world. It is the idea of being a brain drain to the rest of the world. People from all over the world want to come to America. We want the best and the brightest to come to America because of this fact—whether it is low-skilled or high-skilled workers, 4 percent of the jobs, 4 percent of the people who have jobs in the future will create the jobs for the other 96 percent of Americans. Those are the talented people we want to attract.

Over half of the start-ups in Silicon Valley in the last 10 years have come from immigrants. Those people, when they start up companies, create jobs in America. They create opportunities, some high skilled, some low skilled, but they are creating opportunities for people to pursue the American dream. So while the current bill is going in the right direction, it misses the mark.

So my amendment says we are going to reward those in the sciences, those in the technical fields, those who have a Ph.D. in electrical engineering. We are going to give you enough points to virtually guarantee entrance into this country. It is a good thing. It is why the high-tech community is supporting my amendment.

We also put in this amendment, if you are an immigrant, if you are one of these Z visa holders, we actually want you to be rewarded for doing military service. So we are going to offer another amendment to make sure they can do military service, and then when they do that, we want to reward them to come into this country. To serve in our military should be the greatest honor, and we should reward people with legal permanent status, the ability to get legal permanent status.

We have a shortage of nurses in this country. We give more rewards for people in the health sciences as well in our amendment.

I think this is a critical amendment to improve this bill. If we are going to do a comprehensive immigration reform bill, we certainly shouldn't make it worse than current law, and this bill is worse than current law when it comes to high-tech workers coming into this country. So I would urge all of our colleagues to support this amendment. I know it is a delicate balance that we have between the various people who have brought this bill together, but I truly believe this is an improvement on not only current law, but it is also a great improvement on the current bill.

I reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

The Senator from Texas is recognized.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, is there anyone who is going to speak on the other side on the amendment?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator could be recognized, and the person is free under the agreement to