

A special message to the women: Let's suit up. Let's square our shoulders. Let's put our lipstick on and fight for equal pay that won't be stopped. We are going to do it. We are going to fight today, and we are going to fight tomorrow, and I am combat ready.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### TESLA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, a week ago last Thursday, Tesla, a major company in America, announced that Nevada would be the new home to its gigafactory, which would produce lithium batteries for Tesla's electric cars. Just a few days later, Nevada's State legislature unanimously approved the incentive package to finalize a new economic boost for Nevada.

Tesla's gigafactory will spur economic development in Nevada. All told, the state-of-the-art manufacturing center is expected to pump \$100 billion into Nevada's economy and create up to 22,000 jobs.

This development is good news for Nevada, but it didn't happen by accident. It is the direct result of public-private partnerships and smart Federal and State policies. It is the result of Nevada being seen as a hub for renewable energy and innovative technologies. This project, as big as it is, will be powered with solar and geothermal. Nothing else will power this big project.

I have worked here in the Senate to promote legislation that encourages investment in clean energy and transportation innovation at all levels. In 2007, we passed the Energy Independence and Security Act, which created the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Program. Under this program, the Department of Energy awarded a \$465 million loan guarantee to Tesla for the construction of a manufacturing facility in California. The question everyone has is: Was that loan a successful investment in Tesla?

The facts speak for themselves. Tesla repaid the loan in full 9 years early. Tesla is the company it is today because of this loan.

The availability of lithium, which ultimately helped attract Tesla to Nevada, also has its roots in Federal legislation. In 2009, with the economy in a deep recession and thousands of Nevadans losing their jobs, we passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act—better known as the stimulus. There were many good things for Nevada and the country in that stimulus legislation. For example, millions for education, millions for renewable energy development, and tax breaks for the middle class.

Also in the stimulus was a program to incentivize advanced battery manufacturing. Through this program, a \$28.4 million grant was awarded to Rockwood Lithium of Nevada, which would help to expand and improve the only operating domestic lithium facility in the country. It is located near the historic mining town of Goldfield, a place called Silver Peak. Nevada only has 17 counties. Esmeralda County, where this is located, has less than 1,000 people. So this mine is really important for our country. We are the only lithium mining facility in America.

Because of the stimulus, Tesla will have access to lithium mined in Nevada, as I indicated, for production of these batteries. But in order to truly promote innovation, we must as a Congress create opportunities for consumers to invest in new, advanced technologies, and we haven't done that. We need more tax incentives for that.

In 2008, we encouraged Americans to invest in the growth of the electric car industry through a tax credit of up to \$7,500 for the purchase of qualified electric vehicles. We expanded that credit in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in 2009 to ensure that while Americans recovered from the recession, we did so by investing in new technology that would produce lasting economic growth.

Tesla's investment in Nevada shows what is possible when public-private partnerships and smart Federal and State policies are encouraged. In the 21st century, this is how public-private partnerships should work, and it is so important to realize that through these grants, loans, and the private sector, working with States such as Nevada and California and the Federal Government, we were able to accomplish this.

This is a blueprint for success. Federal, State, and local leaders must clear obstacles that stymie innovation and incentivize cleaner technologies. We must make it easier for industry to invest in our communities, not just in Nevada but all across America.

As Elon Musk, the genius who has done SpaceX, PayPal, Tesla, and so many other things, said just the other day:

What the people of Nevada created is a state where you can; where you are very agile, where you can do things quickly and get things done. It's a real get-things-done state.

I want the RECORD to be spread with my public appreciation on behalf of all Nevadans to Governor Sandoval. His patience and diligence made this possible. I congratulate him because the work he did here was terrific.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. 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. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, and that during this period of time Senators be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### UNLV'S TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 21st annual Take Back the Night event at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, UNLV.

The event is one of UNLV's oldest traditions. Hosted by the wonderful Jean Nidetch Women's Center, this event has done an amazing job of raising awareness about sexual assault and other forms of interpersonal violence including dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. Take Back the Night is a worldwide event, and UNLV's branch has received numerous awards over the years. For instance, 2 years ago, as well as this year, the UNLV branch won the "Outstanding Collaborative Program" award; and in 2008, it won the "Outstanding Annual Program/Tradition" award.

Research has shown that college age women are at the highest risk for all forms of violence. According to the recent report released by the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault, the risk of sexual assault is 4 times higher for women ages 16 to 24 than any other population group. One assessment showed that more than one-half of the campus population knows at least two people who have been victims of sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, or stalking. Programs and events such as Take Back the Night importantly help provide survivors and victims with information about the services and options available to them.

The Jean Nidetch Women's Center has made Take Back the Night a capstone annual event at UNLV to give victims and survivors a place to seek advocacy and assistance. The center hosts public events in hopes of engaging students who may not otherwise seek help. It is an exceptional resource for a crucial issue that harms our society and campuses not only in Nevada, but around the country.

I commend the Jean Nidetch Women's Center and the entire UNLV campus for their commitment and dedication, and I look forward to learning about their future contributions to this important issue.

#### APPRENTICESHIP AND JOBS TRAINING ACT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I wish to speak in support of the Apprenticeship and Jobs Training Act, legislation