

the University of Wisconsin does. So it is leading a USDA-funded effort to identify practices that minimize greenhouse gases from milk production and make dairies more resilient to Wisconsin's changing climate. Some Wisconsin dairy farmers, for instance, are burning excess methane in enormous manure digesters to generate their own renewable electricity.

It is not just the farmers. Wisconsin has sportsmen. Wisconsin's sportsmen treasure Wisconsin's 10,000 miles of trout streams—some of the best trout fishing in the country. Trout Unlimited found that fishing in the Driftless Area of southwest Wisconsin and parts of Illinois, Minnesota, and Iowa adds over \$1 billion per year to the surrounding economy. But the cold-water fish such as the brook trout are highly sensitive to temperature increases in streams.

Under the worst cases analyzed by the researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, "brook trout are projected to be completely lost from Wisconsin streams." Even the best case scenarios see losses of as much as 44 percent of the Wisconsin brookies' current range by midcentury. That is Wisconsin's own Department of Natural Resources. Other cold water species such as the brown trout are not much better off than the brookies.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is not alone. It is not alone. The American Fly Fishing Trade Association said this in a recent public statement:

Climate change is no longer a potential threat; it demands our attention now. . . . We call on our elected officials to put partisan politics aside and work quickly to enact federal policy to address the threats presented by global climate change.

On to Wisconsin's loggers, Wisconsin has a significant logging industry, and the loggers are having trouble getting to the timber when hard, frozen winter ground becomes too thawed and too soggy to hold up logging equipment. According to a study out of the University of Wisconsin, that frozen period for loggers to work has decreased by 2 to 3 weeks since 1948, shortening the working window for loggers before their gear bogs down.

In every corner of the State, Wisconsin's own scientists are seeing dramatic climate changes. Wisconsin's businesses and communities are already taking a hard hit. How does their Governor respond? You can probably see this coming: "I am not a scientist"—the classic denier dodge.

Governor Walker, we know you are not a scientist, but it is OK because you have some of the top scientists right there at your own University of Wisconsin. You have teams of scientists working for you at your State agencies right in Wisconsin.

But do we expect that Scott Walker will listen to a scientist? No. No. He has a different plan—to eliminate more

than 60 positions at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, including dozens of scientific staff. That is one way to not have to listen to them.

Whom does Scott Walker listen to? Well, the Koch Brothers political network has said it plans on spending \$900 million in the 2016 election cycle—\$900 million. The President of one of the biggest Koch Brothers-backed organizations, Tim Phillips of a group called Americans for Prosperity, has threatened publicly that any Republican candidate in the 2016 Presidential campaign who supported climate action "would be at a severe disadvantage in the Republican nomination process." So they are going to throw \$900 million at the election, and they have a "severe disadvantage" threat floating around. Nice little campaign you got here; be a shame if it was severely disadvantaged.

Well, it did not take Governor Walker long to sign that same Americans for Prosperity organization's no climate tax pledge—what do you know—vowing to oppose any legislation on climate change without an equivalent amount of tax cuts. It is amazing what waving around \$900 million will do.

Whom else does Scott Walker listen to? Well, the majority leader recently called on all Governors to rebel against the EPA's Clean Power Plan. So far, only six took up the majority leader's call. One of them is—guess who—Scott Walker. In December he wrote to the EPA that their plan would be "a blow to Wisconsin residents and business owners." In January he announced that he was planning to sue the Agency instead.

Maybe Governor Walker would think differently if he listened to Wisconsin's business owners. Lori Compass, executive director of the Wisconsin Business Alliance, endorsed the EPA's Clean Power Plan proposal as a boon, a benefit to the Wisconsin economy. Here is what she said:

Encouraging renewable energy development will result in business growth, job creation, cleaner air, and a quicker path to energy independence.

That is what she wrote.

I will continue. She said:

Our society does not have to decide whether our policies should favor jobs or the environment. We should look for opportunities for us to promote jobs and the environment and the Clean Power Plan is a great way to do that.

That is the Wisconsin Business Alliance speaking. Those Wisconsin businesses are not alone. They are not alone. Yesterday 13 of the largest corporations in America joined in President Obama's American Business Act on Climate Pledge, committing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, invest in renewable energy sources, and promote sustainable practices across their respective markets and up their supply chains. These are some pretty big-time nameplate Americans companies: Alcoa, Apple, Bank of America, Berkshire Hathaway Energy, Cargill, Coca-

Cola, General Motors, Goldman Sachs, Google, Microsoft, PepsiCo, UPS, and Walmart. That is a pretty broad spectrum of America's corporate hierarchy. Is it the Republican majority's position that they are all also in on the hoax?

The Republican majority has accused NASA's scientists, whose just flew a craft by Pluto and who are driving a rover around on the surface of Mars, of being in on a hoax; that climate change is a hoax and that NASA scientists are in on it. Is Walmart in on the hoax too? Do the Senators from Arkansas want to go home and tell the Walmart executives that they are in on a hoax? Do the Senators from Georgia want to go home and tell the CEO of Coca-Cola that they are in on a hoax? I don't think so. It is an untenable argument.

We have to move on. These leaders of American commerce declare, in a voice that Republicans should listen to:

We recognize that delaying action on climate change will be costly in economic and human terms, while accelerating the transition to a low-carbon economy will produce multiple benefits with regard to sustainable economic growth, public health, resilience to natural disasters and the health of the global environment.

That is quite a crowd who signed off on that statement. More will come because other companies, such as VF Industries and Mars and Unilever, agree with them.

Our good Earth is sending us a clear message. The message our good Earth is sending us is that carbon pollution is driving unprecedented change. It is showing the change happening in the Earth around us. Voters too are sending us a clear message. They are speaking up to say that climate change is a problem and they want their leaders to take action and that it is time we got our heads out of the sand.

Unfortunately, there is a problem. The big polluters have a powerful political megaphone. They do not hesitate to use it. They back it up with big, dark money campaign spending that is distorting our democracy in disgraceful ways.

The result is that, like so many Republican candidates for the Presidency, Scott Walker of Wisconsin has no plan, will not listen to his home State scientists at his home State university, and ignores what his loggers and trout fishermen and businesses are all seeing and saying. But, oh my, does he listen to the big polluters.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business,

with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL THOMAS L'ESPERANCE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I want to recognize and commend Colonel Thomas L'Esperance for his noteworthy career with the Vermont State Police, which will conclude next month with his retirement. One of the strongest voices in Vermont law enforcement for the past 28 years, Colonel L'Esperance has dutifully served the public and sought to protect his fellow Vermonters as an invaluable member and leader in Vermont. He rose through the ranks of the Vermont State Police after beginning his career as a detective trooper with the Brattleboro barracks in 1987, and has since assumed new and challenging roles within the force. He has contributed to Vermont's public safety and helped to combat crime by serving as a detective trooper, the Southern Vermont Drug Task Force field supervisor, director of the Bureau of Criminal Investigations, and, since 2009, as the director of the Vermont State Police. Colonel L'Esperance has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues throughout his career for his unwavering dedication and ability to empathize with those whom he serves and protects.

In recent years, Vermont has faced immeasurable challenges in combating the cycle of heroin and opioid abuse. In 2014, I called on Colonel L'Esperance to testify at a Senate Judiciary Committee field hearing in Rutland, VT, about this very challenge. Colonel L'Esperance graciously and with expertise provided testimony on the harmful effects of addiction in the State of Vermont, and on the challenges facing Vermont's law enforcement community in combating such abuse. His testimony was exemplary, not only because of his firsthand experience with this critical policing and public health issue, but also because of the colonel's personal commitment to eliminating this destructive epidemic from our State. I thank Colonel L'Esperance for his powerful testimony and for the great work he has done throughout his career in fighting criminal activity in our State.

While his retirement from the position of Vermont State Police director will be a loss for the force and for the State of Vermont, I am confident that Colonel L'Esperance will bring the same level of excellence to the next chapter of his career. Colonel L'Esperance will no doubt continue to serve others with integrity and with the highest regard for the public's safety. I am proud of Colonel L'Esperance for his exceptional work with the Vermont State Police, and I am grateful for all of his efforts in improving the safety and wellbeing of Vermonters.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, the Senate is being asked to approve the Intelligence authorization bill for fiscal year 2016 by unanimous consent. When this bill was reported by the Senate Intelligence Committee, I and other colleagues noted that it contained one provision that required further debate.

This provision, section 603, would require Internet and communications companies to make reports to the government if they become aware of "terrorist activity." Over the past 3 weeks a number of Internet companies have raised very valid concerns about this provision. In particular, they note that this provision is quite vague, and does not specify how these companies should know what is and is not terrorist activity.

The Internet Association, which is comprised of dozens of leading technology companies, has warned that uncertainty about the meaning of this vague language will create "an impossible compliance problem" and lead to "massive reporting of items that are not likely to be of material concern to public safety." That is obviously something that I think every Senator wants to avoid. Internet companies should not be subject to broad requirements to police the speech of their users.

There is no question that tracking terrorist activity and preventing online terrorist recruitment should be top priorities for law enforcement and intelligence agencies. And leading technology companies certainly have a role to play here. The Director of the FBI testified this month that technology companies are "pretty good about telling us" when they see something of serious concern. But I haven't yet heard any law enforcement or intelligence agencies suggest that this provision will actually help catch terrorists, and I take the concerns that have been raised about its breadth and vagueness seriously.

For these reasons, I object to this unanimous consent request. I look forward to working with my colleagues to revise or remove this provision so that the rest of the bill can proceed forward.

RECOGNIZING PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER AND TAIWAN

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I wish to recognize an exceptional President and a true friend to the United States who cherishes that President's memory. Those of us from the great State of Kansas are justly proud of Dwight David Eisenhower, fondly known as "Ike" to his Abilene neighbors. The Republic of China, Taiwan, calls him a loyal friend.

In 1911, Eisenhower left his boyhood home in Kansas for the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. During World War II, Eisenhower was in charge of plans in the Pacific War and commanding general of the Army's Euro-

pean Theater. On June 6, 1944, General Eisenhower led the D-day invasion on the beaches of Normandy and liberated Europe. During this time, Taiwan stood as our ally in Asia, with the Flying Tigers in the Doolittle Raid and along the Burma Road. In 1951, President Truman asked Eisenhower to become the first Supreme Allied Commander in Europe. After a long and decorated military career, America's voters said, "I like Ike," by overwhelmingly electing him as the 34th President of the United States in 1952.

Today, it is my privilege to serve as Chairman of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission. Because this memorial honors a Kansan, a war hero, and a President the world admires, our good friend and partner, the government and people of the Republic of China, has generously made a gift to ensure the memory of Dwight D. Eisenhower is preserved for generations to come.

It is fortunate for all that our Taiwanese friends have not forgotten President Eisenhower's staunch support for their security and his strong commitment to the U.S.-Taiwan relationship. In 1960, President Eisenhower made the first official U.S. visit to Taipei to meet with President Chiang Kai-shek. As Taiwan's Representative to the United States, Dr. Shen has told me, "President Eisenhower holds a very special place in the hearts of the people of Taiwan."

It was Eisenhower who signed the Sino-American Mutual Defense Treaty in 1954. The next year, on the occasion of the passage of the Formosa Resolution by the Congress, President Eisenhower further pledged to "protect the territories in the Western Pacific under the jurisdiction of the Republic of China." It was also Eisenhower who dispatched the U.S. Seventh Fleet to patrol the Taiwan Strait in the 1950s, thus assuring that the people of Taiwan would remain secure from any external military threat. Deservedly, a significant portion of President Eisenhower's foreign policy legacy is maintaining peace and security in the Taiwan Strait.

In honoring a great general and President, Taiwan has demonstrated an unbroken bond of friendship, dating back to World War II. That enduring friendship is yet another key element of President Eisenhower's legacy.

WORLD WAR II VETERANS VISIT

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, today I honor the veterans of Honor Flight Northern Colorado that have made their 14th trip to Washington, DC to visit the memorials that stand in our Nation's Capital. This group includes veterans from various wars and generations, but all are linked by their service to our country.

Ten years ago, the Honor Flight was created to fly veterans that had served in World War II to Washington, DC so they could visit their memorial located in our Nation's Capital. Now, the