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TRANSCRIPT: SEN. JIM JEFFORDS

SENATE FLOOR SPEECH

3/7/03

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MR. JEFFORDS: I AM SPEAKING ABOUT A SUBJECT OF LIVES THREATENED IN THE U.S. OF DIFFERENT BUT MORE INSIDIOUS NATURE. AND IN THE LONG RUN MUCH MORE COSTLY IN HUMAN LIVES AS WELL AS SERIOUS HEALTH CONDITIONS. AIR POLLUTION AND THE ADMINISTRATION'S FAILURE TO RECOGNIZE THIS THREAT THROUGH ADEQUATE POLLUTION CONTROLS. I RISE TODAY, AS I SAY, TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE ADMINISTRATION'S FLAWED PLANS ON AIR POLLUTION AND GLOBAL WARMING. I AM PLEASED TO SEE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAS FINALLY REVIVED AN INTEREST IN DANGEROUS PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS THAT ACID RAIN AND SMOG. THEY HAVE EVEN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT CLIMATE CHANGE COULD HAVE SEVERE AND DAMAGED CONSEQUENCES. UNFORTUNATELY, THE ADMINISTRATION'S SOLUTION SEEMS TO BE LITTLE MORE THAN PUBLIC RELATIONS DISTRACTION FOR WHAT IS REALLY GOING ON. CORPORATE REGULATORY RELIEF. WHAT AMERICANS REALLY NEED TO KNOW NOW IS RELIEF FROM AIR POLLUTION AND SWIFT AND SERIOUS ACTION TO AVERT GLOBAL WARMING. THEY HAVE A RIGHT TO BREATHE AIR THAT ISN'T CONTAMINATED BY GREED. THEY HAVE A RIGHT TO FULL AND VIGOROUS

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CLEAN AIR ACT. SADLY, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS LOST SIGHT OF THESE RIGHTS. MR. PRESIDENT, THE DEVASTATION CAUSED BY DIRTY AIR IS STAGGERING. AS MANY AS 60,000 PREMATURE DEATHS EACH YEAR ARE LINKED TO AIR POLLUTION. THAT'S 60,000 DEATHS ACCORDING TO AN AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY STUDY. AND RESEARCHERS AT THE HARVARD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH. A STUDY BY THE RESPECTED ASSOCIATES, ABBOTT ASSOCIATES SAYS THAT 30,000 OF THESE DEATHS ARE DUE TO POWER PLANT POLLUTION ALONE. THAT'S AN ENORMOUS LOSS OF HUMAN POTENTIAL AND A HUMAN COST TO SOCIETY.

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THERE'S NO REASON TO ALLOW SUCH A TRAGEDY TO CONTINUE UNFOLDING. THIS CHART ILLUSTRATES THE MAGNITUDE OF THIS TERRIBLE SITUATION. MORE PEOPLE ARE DYING FROM POWER PLANT POLLUTION EVERY YEAR THAN DIE FROM HOMICIDES OR DRUNK DRIVING ACCIDENTS. WITH REAL REDUCTIONS IN AIR POLLUTION LIKE THOSE IN S. 366, THE CLEAN POWER ACT OF 2003 WHICH I INTRODUCED THREE WEEKS AGO WITH SENATORS COLLINS, LIEBERMAN AND 17 OTHERS, WE CAN SAVE TWO-THIRDS OF THESE LIVES. THIS BENEFIT IS REFLECTED IN THE -- ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE CHART. THE REPORT ALSO SAYS THAT POWER PLANTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FOLLOWING STATISTICS EACH YEAR OF THE 20,000 HOSPITALIZATIONS, 600,000 ASTHMA ATTACKS, 19,000 CASES OF CHRONIC BRONCHITIS, AND 5 MILLION LOST WORK DAYS DUE TO ILLNESS. FINE PARTICULATE MATTER IS A SERIOUS FORM OF AIR POLLUTION THAT POSES AN ESPECIALLY SEVERE HEALTH THREAT. FINE PARTICLES RESULT FROM THE INTERACTION OF WATER VAPOR WITH SULFUR DIOXIDE AND NITROGEN OXIDE EMISSIONS. MOST OF THESE POLLUTANTS COME FROM POWER PLANTS. THESE TINY PARTICLES REACH EASILY INTO THE DEEPEST DEPTHS OF THE HUMAN LUNG. A HOST OF SCIENTIFIC STUDIES -- HUMAN LUNG. A HOST OF SCIENTIFIC STUDIES

LIST A BARRAGE OF HEALTH PROBLEMS. I ASK UNANIMOUS CONSENT THAT A REPRESENTATIVE LIST OF THESE STUDIES BE SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD.

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THE PRESIDING OFFICER: WITHOUT OBJECTION.

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MR. JEFFORDS: WHEN THESE TINY PARTICLES GET DEEP INTO THE LUNGS, THEY CAN LEAD TO PREMATURE DEATH AS WELL AS HEALTH PROBLEMS LIKE LUNG AND HEART DISEASE, ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYMPTOMS, CHRONIC BRONCHITIS, DECREASED LUNG FUNCTION AND EVEN LUNG CANCER. THERE'S EVEN EVIDENCE THAT THIS POLLUTION CAUSES AN INCREASED INCIDENCE OF LOW BIRTH RATE AND INFANT MORTALITY. SENSITIVE POPULATIONS LIKE CHILDREN, ASTHMATICS, AND THE ELDERLY ARE AT PARTICULAR RISK OF HEALTH DAMAGE. POWER PLANT EMISSIONS OF NITROGEN OXIDE AND EMISSIONS FROM MOBILE SOURCES CONTRIBUTE TO THE FORMATION OF GROUND LEVEL OZONE AS WELL. THIS IS ANOTHER SERIOUS THREAT THAT SCIENTISTS INCREASINGLY BELIEVE TO BE A CHRONIC HEALTH PROBLEM, NOT JUST ONE THAT POSES ACUTE RISK. RECENTLY, RESPECTED SCIENTISTS FROM THE UNIVERSITIES OF SOUTH CALIFORNIA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND ELSEWHERE PUBLISHED AN IMPORTANT ASTHMA STUDY.

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THEY FOUND THAT CHILDREN IN COMMUNITIES WITH HIGH AVERAGE OZONE LEVELS WHO COMPETE IN THREE OR MORE TEAM SPORTS HAVE A THREE TO FOUR TIMES HIGHER RISK OF DEVELOPING ASTHMA THAN NONATHLETIC KIDS. THEY HAVE THREE TIMES THE NORMAL EXPECTATIONS OF ILLNESS OF THE NONATHLETIC KIDS.

THIS IS BECAUSE ATHLETES GET THE HIGHER DOSE OF POLLUTANTS IN THE LUNG AND BECAUSE THEY BREATHE RAPIDLY AND DEEPLY. WE SHOULD LISTEN TO THESE AND OTHER SCIENTIFIC FINDINGS AND TAKE TO HEART THE SUFFERING THAT MANY AMERICANS EXPERIENCE DUE TO AIR

POLLUTION. POWER PLANTS ARE A MAJOR CULPRIT. IT IS OUR DUTY AS LAWMAKERS TO DO SOMETHING NOW TO STOP THESE DANGEROUS EMISSIONS AND TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH. WHILE THE CLEAN AIR ACT HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN REMOVING MILLIONS OF TONS OF PARTICULATE FORMING EMISSIONS FROM OUR AIR, IT HAS NOT GONE FAR ENOUGH. AND THESE HEALTH PROBLEMS REMAIN. PLUS, THERE ARE MAJOR SIGNS THAT THIS ADMINISTRATION IS SLOWING DOWN -- SLOWING DOWN IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE ACT. THESE DELAYS BENEFIT AND INCREASE AIR POLLUTION CAUSING SIGNIFICANT HARM TO OUR ENVIRONMENT AS WELL. SULFUR DIOXIDE AND NITROGEN OXIDE MAINLY FROM FOSSIL FUEL COMBUSTION EVENTUALLY FALL TO EARTH AS ACID. AS ACID RAIN WASHES VITAL MINERALS OUT OF THE SOIL. WEAKENS THE HEALTH OF TREES, LOWERS THE PH OF WATER BODIES AND LEACHES ALUMINUM INTO LAKES WHERE FISH SLOWLY SUFFOCATE FROM THE LACK OF OXYGEN.

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A STUNNING 41% OF LAKES IN THE ADIRONDACKS ARE ASIDE IDENTIFIED. IN 1996, E.P.A., THEY REPORTED THAT THE ACID RAIN PROGRAM OF THE PRESENT CLEAN AIR ACT COULD ONLY SLOW -- SLOW THE RATE OF ECOSYSTEM DAMAGE, THAT DESPITE THIS PROGRAM, MORE LAKES WOULD DIE. ACID RAIN SCIENTIST DR. JEAN LICKENS HAS SAID WE STILL HAVE A VERY MAJOR PROBLEM WITH ACID RAIN. THAT IS A SCIENTIFIC FACT. IN THAT REGARD, THE 1990 CLEAN AIR ACT AMENDMENTS HAVE NOT -- CLEAN AIR ACT AMENDMENTS HAVE NOT WORKED VERY WELL. AN IMPORTANT NEW STUDY BY RESEARCHERS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT CONFIRMS THAT THE ACID RAIN PROBLEM IS FAR WORSE THAN PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT. TIGHTENING SULFUR EMISSIONS FURTHER COMBINED WITH STRICT NEW CONTROLS IN NITROGEN EMISSIONS WOULD HELP RESTORE OUR FORESTS, LAKES, AND STREAMS. THE HUBBARD BROOK RESEARCH FOUNDATION KNOWS WHAT IS REQUIRED TO ENSURE BIOLOGICAL RECOVERY FROM ACID RAIN BY MID CENTURY IN THE NORTHEASTERN U.S.

THEY SAY WE MUST REDUCE UTILITY SULFUR DIOXIDE EMISSIONS BY 80% BEYOND WHAT IS CURRENTLY REQUIRED IN THE YEAR 2010. IT IS CLEARLY TIME THAT WE ACT. CURRENT AIR POLLUTION LEVELS ARE ALSO HINDERING VISIBILITY OF OUR MAJESTIC NATIONAL PARKS.

CHRONIC AIR POLLUTION CONTINUES TO ENVELOPE THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS, ARCADE YA NATIONAL PARK, SHENANDOAH AND OTHER SITES IN A BLANKET OF HAZE. THIS -- THIS NOT ONLY COSTS OUR REGIONS VITAL TOURIST DOLLARS, BUT ENDANGERS PLANTS AND WILDLIFE. AIR EMISSIONS OF MERCURY CAUSE SEVERE HEALTH DEFECTS AS WELL.

MERCURY IS A POTENT NERVOUS SYSTEM TOXIC. AFTER BEING EMITTED INTO THE AIR, IT FALLS INTO THE LAKES AND STREAMS. MERCURY THEN BIOACCUMULATES IN FISH AND ANIMAL TISSUE TAKING A HIGHLY TOXIC FORM. EATING CONTAMINATED FISH CAN CAUSE SERIOUS NERVOUS SYSTEM DAMAGE ESPECIALLY TO A YOUNG FETUS OR YOUNG CHILD. LET ME REPEAT THAT. EATING CONTAMINATED FISH CAN CAUSE SERIOUS NERVOUS SYSTEM DAMAGE ESPECIALLY TO PREGNANT MOTHER'S DEVELOPING FETUS OR TO A YOUNG CHILD. THIS IS INCREDIBLY SERIOUS.

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ACCORDING TO THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, 1 IN 12 WOMEN OF CHILDBEARING AGE IN THE U.S. WILL HAVE MERCURY LEVELS ABOVE THOSE CONSIDERED PROTECTIVE OF NEWBORNS BY THE E.P.A. THAT MEANS AS MANY AS 390,000 CHILDREN ARE BORN EACH YEAR AT THE RISK OF DEVELOPMENTAL PROBLEMS. WE HAVE SUCH A WIDESPREAD MERCURY CONTAMINATION PROBLEM IN OUR COUNTRY, THAT 41 STATE POST FISH MUTUALS WARNINGS. OUR -- POWER PLANTS, ESPECIALLY COAL-FIRED PLANTS, EMIT THE BULK OF UNCONTROLLED MERCURY EMISSIONS IN THE U.S. YET THE TECHNOLOGY EXISTS TODAY TO SAVE THOSE LIVES. AS JAMES WILLIE DIRECTOR OF THE U.N. ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM 2003 GLOBAL MERCURY ASSESSMENT STATES AND

I QUOTE, "THERE ARE TECHNOLOGIES AVAILABLE ALREADY WHICH WILL REDUCE MERCURY EMISSIONS FROM POWER STATIONS BY ABOUT 80%. WHAT WE CAN DO NOW IS OFTEN CHEAP AND IT CAN CUT OTHER POLLUTANT -- POLLUTANTS AS WELL." MR. PRESIDENT, I HAVE HIGHLIGHTED FOR YOU THE WAY IN WHICH AIR EMISSIONS SUCH AS SULFUR DIOXIDE AND MERCURY ESPECIALLY FROM POWER PLANTS THREATEN THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF MILLIONS OF AMERICANS. TO SAY THAT AMERICANS -- MILLIONS OF AMERICANS AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

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BUT I AM AFRAID TO SAY THAT AMERICANS MAY FACE AN EVEN GREATER LONG-TERM THREAT FROM GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION. CARBON MONOXIDE IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT GREENHOUSE GAS EMITTED AS A RESULT OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES. THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES FAULTS FOSSIL FUEL CONSUMPTION WITH CAUSING MOST OF THE GLOBAL WARMING PROBLEM. IN FACT, FOSSIL FUEL BURNING PLANTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR 37% OF ALL U.S. CARBON MONOXIDE EMISSIONS. THE U.S. MADE A COMMITMENT UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE TO ADOPT VOLUNTARY MEASURES TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS TO 1990 LEVELS. BUT DESPITE THIS GOAL, EMISSIONS FROM THE POWER SECTOR HAVE GROWN STEADILY AND ARE NOW 20% -- 20% ABOVE THOSE LEVELS. OUR WORLD HAS ALREADY SEEN ABOUT 1 DEGREE OF WARMING IN THE LAST CENTURY. THE N.A.S. AND THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE GENERALLY AGREE THAT THE EARTH WILLING WARM ANOTHER 2.5 TO 10 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT OVER THE NEXT 100 YEARS. THIS COULD SIGNIFICANTLY CAUSE ABRUPT CHANGES IN THE CLIMATE, AS WELL AS THREATEN OUR PUBLIC HEALTH, THE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND MANY ECOSYSTEMS.

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THE PRESIDENT'S OWN CLIMATE ACTION REPORT SAYS THE BEST SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION INDICATES THAT IF GREENHOUSE GAS CONCENTRATIONS CONTINUE TO INCREASE, CHANGES ARE LIKELY TO OCCUR. GLOBAL WARMING IS EXPECTED TO HAVE WIDE REACHING AND MOSTLY NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON HUMAN HEALTH. WE ARE LIKELY TO SEE DIRECT IMPACTS LIKE DEATH AND ILLNESS DUE TO HEAT STRESS AND EXTREME WEATHER. WE ARE ALL -- ALSO LIKELY TO SEE INDIRECT IMPACTS FROM WORSENERD AIR POLLUTION AND ALLERGENS AND INCREASES IN THE OCCURRENCE AND TRANSMISSION OF DISEASES LIKE MALARIA AND PERHAPS WEST NILE VIRUS. WE HAVE ALREADY SEEN A DRAMATIC NUMBER OF HEAT RELATED DEGREES SINCE THE 1980'S. A 1980 HEATWAVE IN THE U.S. RESULTED IN 1,700 DEATHS, WHILE THOSE IN 193, AND 1988 KILLED AROUND 500 PEOPLE EACH. ALSO, WE ALL REMEMBER THE DEADLY HEATWAVE OF 1995 THAT KILLED 765 PEOPLE IN CHICAGO ALONE. THAT'S WHAT WE ARE LOOKING TOWARDS IF WE CONTINUE TO ALLOW THE CARBON TO ACCUMULATE. THESE NUMBERS ARE MUCH TOO HIGH. THEN THEY ARE GOING TO GET HIGHER IN THE CLIMATE MODELS ARE RIGHT. EXPERTS PREDICT THAT IN CITIES JUVENILE SUCH AS NEW YORK, PHILADELPHIA, CLEVELAND AND LOS ANGELES, HEAT RELATED DEATH COULD INCREASE 100%. ACCORDING TO THE E.P.A., AND OTHERS, SEA LEVEL RISE FROM GLOBAL WARMING WILL BRING ON ANOTHER SET OF CONSEQUENCES. SEA LEVEL IS PROJECTED TO -- PROJECTED TO RISE BY ONE FOOT IN THE NEXT 20 TO 50 YEARS.

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IN THE NEXT 100 YEARS A TWO-FOOT RISE IS ALMOST LIKELY AND A FOUR FOOT RISE IS POSSIBLE. TO PUT THIS IN PERSPECTIVE, THE E.P.A. SAYS THAT SIMPLY RAISING EXISTING BULB HEADS AND SEAWALLS ALONG THE MEADOW OWE THE MONDAY HAS TAN

SHORES, ALONE TO HELP PROTECT IN ONE FORM, ONE TO THREE FOOT RISE WOULD COST UP TO \$ \$140 MILLION. ACCORDING TO THE PEW CENTER ON GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE, A 20-INCH SEA LEVEL RISE COULD

HAVE SIGNIFICANT CUMULATIVE IMPACTS ON COASTAL PROPERTY IN THE UNITED STATES. THESE IMPACTS COULD RANGE FROM ABOUT \$20 BILLION TO \$50 BILLION BY THE YEAR 2020 -- 2100. THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF SEA LEVEL RISE WOULD BE DEVASTATING AS WELL. NATIONWIDE A TWO FOOT RISE IN SEA LEVEL COULD INUNDATE 17% TO 43% OF THE U.S. THAT'S 1% TO 43% OF THE -- 17% TO 43% OF THE U.S. COULD GO INTO WETLANDS OR UNDER WATER AND ELIMINATE A TOTAL OF 10,000 SQUARE MILES OF WET AND DRY LAND IN OUR COUNTRY. I DON'T WANT TO SEE THAT HAPPEN. BECAUSE OF GLOBAL WARMING OUR FOREST WILL SEE DRAMATIC CHANGES AS WELL.

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A 3.6-DEGREE FAHRENHEIT WARMING COULD SHIFT MANY NORTH AMERICAN FOREST SPECIES, 200 MILES NORTH. GIVEN THE LIKELY TIME FRAME OF THIS WARMING, THOSE TREE SPECIES, WOULD HAVE TO MIGRATE ABOUT TWO MILES EVERY YEAR TO STAY ALIVE: THIS POSITION IS A GRAVE THREAT TO THE STATE'S FOREST INDUSTRY BECAUSE HALF OUR SPECIES LIKE MAPLE WILL DISAPPEAR. LORD NOTION VERMONT DOESN'T WANT TO SEE THAT HAPPEN. A RECENT ARTICLE IN THE JOURNAL "NATURE" STATES THERE IS NEW STRONG EVIDENCE OF GLOBAL WARMING IMPACTS ON ANIMAL AND PLANT WORLD. RESEARCHERS SAY AS MANY AS 677 SPECIES ARE ALREADY REACTING TO GLOBAL WARMING BY ADJUSTING THEIR RANGE NORTHWARD TO SEARCH FOR COOLER TEMPERATURES OR BREEDING EARLIER IN THE SPRING IN RESPONSE TO WARMER TEMPERATURES. A RECENT STUDY BY THE AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY AND NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION, REPORTS SOME BIRDS LIKE THE BALTIMORE ORIOLE MAY COME AND DISAPPEAR FROM HOMESTATE. THE NATION'S 63 MILLION BIRD WATCHERS WILL LIKELY BE FRUSTRATED FROM THE COMING CHANGES IN BIRD HABITAT AT THAT TIME. ALSO, EACH STATE HAS PREDICTED THAT EVEN A MODEST WARMING CHECK CHECKLIST WOULD ELIMINATE 90% OF

IDAHOHABITAT FOR THE GRIZZLY BEAR AND THE TOURISM INCOME AT
 YELLOWSTONE.EVEN IN IDITAROD TRAIL SLED DOG RACE IS RUNNING
 INTO PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF GLOBAL WARMING.UNSEASONABLY WARM
 TEMPERATURES HAVE MEANT THE RACE WILL HAVE TO TAKE DETOURS FOUR
 THE FIRST TIME IN ITS HISTORY.MUCH OF THE SNOW MELTED.

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THE ALASKA ROUTEIS NOW MARRED BY BEAR GROUND AND OPENRIVERS.
 ALASKA'S GLOBAL WARMING PROBLEMS MADE US NEWS LAST YEAR AS
 WOMEN.AS YOU CAN SEA IN THIS POSTER. "THE NEW YORK TIMES" NEWS
 STORY FROM JUNE ILLUSTRATED ALASKA'S CLIMATE CHANGE IS STARK
 REALITY NOT ABSTRACTION.I WOULD LIKE TO ASK FOR UNANIMOUS
 CONSENT THE ARM BE ARTICLE BE PRINT BRING -- BE PRINTED IN THE
 RECORD.

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THEPRESIDING OFFICER: WITHOUT OBJECTION.

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MR. JEFFORDS:PEOPLE ARE HAVING TO COPE WITH MOSQUITOES WHERE
 THEY DIDN'T EXIST. HUNTERS ARE TRAPPED ON BREAK AWAY ICE.
 HOUSES ARE SLOUCHING DUE TO PERMANENT A FROST. MEAN TERMS IN
 ALASKAHAVERIGGS EN 5 DEGREES SINGS THE 1970'S. MR., PRESIDENT,
 THAT'S AN ANEXTREMELY RAPID RATE OF THEN. I'M DELAYED ALASKA
 IS A TESTING GROUND FOR WHAT IS YET TO COME AROUND THE GLOBE.
 THESE ARE JUST SOME OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC
 CONSEQUENCES OF -- AGAINSTS -- CONSEQUENCES OF GLOBAL WARMING
 THAT MAY EFFECTOUR COUNTRY AND MY COLLEAGUES. IT IS HARD TO
 TELL THE EFFECT ON THE ECONOMY THIS WILL HAVE. MR. PRESIDENT, I
 HAVE SPOKEN NOW IN SOME DETAIL ABOUT THE WAYS IN CHOW OUR

SERIOUS AIR POLLUTION AND GLOBAL WARMING APPROXIMATE THREATEN PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH THE AS WELL AS ECONOMIC PROSPERITY. I HAVE SHOWN HOW MILLIONS OF PEOPLE SUFFER THE ILL EFFECTS OF PARTICULAR POLLUTION AND. I HAVE EXPLAINED HOW ACID RAIN STOPS OUR BEAUTIFUL THE FROST OF VEGETATION LEACHED NUTRIENTS OUT OF RICH SOILS NOW SUFFOCATING IN THE HEROICS AND STREAMS. IT IS TIME NOW TO LOOK AT WHAT OUR ADMINISTRATION IS DOING TO RELIEVE AMERICANS OF THIS COSTLY BURDEN. MR. PRESIDENT, OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS I JOINED MY COLLEAGUES FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE TO SPEAK OUT IN THE DEFENSE OF THE CLEAN AIR ACT PROGRAM CALLED "NEW SOURCE REVIEW" OR N.S.R. IT PLACE A CRUCIAL ALROLE IN RIDDING OUR AIR OF SOME INDUSTRY'S MOST HARMFUL AIR EMISSIONS. IT RESULTS IN HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN HEALTH RELATED BENEFITS. HOWEVER, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS CHOSEN TO IGNORE PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS AND SIDE WITH INDUSTRY.

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THESE NEW N.S.R. RULES WILL MAKE IT MUCH MORE EASIERFOR POLLUTERS TO SEND EVEN MORE POISON INTO THE AIR. THE ADMINISTRATION TEST US NOT TO WORRY ABOUT THESE SO-CALLED N.R.S. REFORMATION, BUT ANY HOLES LEFT WILL BE

PATCHED UP BY ANOTHER PROPOSAL THAT WAS RETROUT INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS LAST WEEK CALLED "CLEAR SKIES." MR. PRESIDENT, I AFRAIDCLEAR SKIES WILL NOT PROVIDE SUCH A SAFETY NET. IN FACT, A LOOK AT THE FINE PRINT SHOWS THAT CLEAR SKIES ACTUALLY PROVIDES LESS PROTECTION THAN EXISTING LAWFUL. THAT'S LESS PROTECTION THAN EXISTING LAW. MORE IMPORTANTLY IT WILL NOT DO ENOUGH TO ADDRESS THIS COUNTRY'S ALREADY SIGNIFICANT AIR POLLUTION. UNLIKE THE NEW N.S.R. CHANGES, WHICH EFFECT ALL MAJOR SOURCES OF AIR POLLUTION, CLEAN SKIES ONLY ADDRESSES SOME OF THE AIR POLLUTION COMING FROM ONE SOURCE, POWER PLANTS. SO

PUSHING, BROAD N.S.R. PROTECTIONS WHILE PROMOTE AGO NARROW PROPOSAL, DOES NOT MAKE ANY SENSE. PLUS, SCREEN SKIES WILL ELIMINATE IMPORTANT CLEAN AIR PROGRAMS THAT PECK LOCAL AIR QUALITY NOT SETTLEMENT THEM. FOR UTILITIES, CLEAN SKIES WILL STRIP THE CLEAN AIR ACT OF THE MERCURY AIR TOXICS RULE AND THE REGIONAL HAZE RULE. AND WHILE THE ADMINISTRATION'S NEW NSR RULE COULD ALLOW 50% OF ALL ASSOCIATIONS TO AVOID ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW, CLEAR SKIES WILL GIVE POWER PLANTS EVEN GREATER EXEMPTIONS. CLEANER -- CLEAR SKIES WILL ALSO DEGRADE THE ABILITY OF STATE TO PURSUE INTERNET AIR POLLUTION APPROXIMATE. AND WILL PREVENT THE EVOLUTION OF TOUGHER ENOUGH SOURCE PERFECT FOR MAN'S STANDARDS. AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THIS CHART, BESIDE ME NOW, THE TRUE RESULT OF CLEAR SKIES WILL BE LESS APPRECIATION AND MORE POLLUTION THAN BUSINESS AS USUAL. IN THE CHART, BLUE, GRAY AND RED BARS REPRESENT THE SO-CALLED CLEAR SKIES REDUCTION PLAN TO SULFUR NIGHT GENERAL AND MERCURY EMISSIONS RESPECTIVELY. BUT LOOK AT THE YELLOW BAR?

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THE YELLOW BAR REPRESENT WHERE WE WOULD ALREADY BE HEAD ED WITH FALL AND FAITHFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRESENT EXISTING CLEAN AIR ACT. WE ARE NOT EVEN THING THAT UNDER THIS ADMINISTRATION. MINORITY LEADER, THE ADMINISTRATION'S PLAN A LOOSE MORE POLLUTION. IT IS A SERIOUS WEAKENING OF CURRENT PROGRAMS. IN FACT, CLEAR SKIES WILL RESULT IN HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF TONS MORE EMISSIONS THAN FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE AND OTHER CLEAN AIR ACT PROGRAMS. ACCORDING TO THE E.P.A.'S OWN ESTIMATE, BY THE YEAR 010, CLEAR SKIES WILL ALLOW -- OWE 2010, CLEAR SKIES WILL ALLOW 125 PERCENT MORE SULFUR DIRE OXIDE, 60% MORE NIGHT GENERAL OXIDE, 420% MORE MERCURY POLLUTION THAN THE

CURRENT LAW. TOECH TALL CARBON MONOXIDE EMISSIONS WOULD CONTINUE TO GROW IN LEAPS AND BOUNDS DESPITE THE ADMINISTRATION'S GOALS TO LOWER THE EMISSION INTENSE TIP.

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I ASK MY COLLEAGUES TO BE WARY OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROGRAMS ABOUT THE BENEFITS IN CLEAR KIES SKIES.WHILE THEN TOWEL REDUCTIONS OF 70% FOR SULFUR, NIGHT GENERAL AND MERCURY EMISSIONS, THEY ARE ACTUALLY USING OUTDATED INFORMATION TO ARRIVE AT THESE NUMBERS, REAL REDUCTIONS IN 2010 FROM THE YEAR 2000, WOULD BE ONLY 60% FOR SO X AND NO X AND 40% FOR MERCURY.CLEAR SKIES WILL ALSO PUSH COMPLIANCE DEADLINES OUT FURTHER INTO THE FUTURE TAN PRESENT LAUCH. BY AS MUCH AS TEN YEARS. COMPARED TO THE THYEN AIR ACT THE EMISSION REDUCTION WAS OCCUR EIGHT YEARS LATER FOR NIGHT GENERAL, SIX YEARS LATER FORKS SUM IF YOU ARE, TEN YEARS LATER FOR MERCURY. THIS DELAY WOULD RESULT IN THOUSANDS OF ADDITIONAL ASTHMA ATTACKS, HOSPITALIZATIONS AND DEATHS.TO BE MORE SPECIFIC, E.P.A.'S OWN DATA SHOWS THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CLEAN AIR ACT WILL RESULT IN APPROXIMATELY 200,000 AVOIDED DEATHS IN AIR POLLUTION.THE ADMINISTRATION'S CLEAR SKIES ROLL BACK, ON THE OTHER HAND, WILL ALLOW 100,000 OF THESE TO END PREMATURELY. 100,000 LIVES PREMATURELY.APPROACHES LIKE THE JEFFORDS-COLLINS, LIEBERMAN CLEAN POWER ACT ARE WE WENEEDED TO SAVE THESE LIVES. OUR BILL WILL SURPASS THE CLEAN AIR, SAVING AS MANY AS 250,000 LIVES, 150,000 MORE LIVES SAVED THAN THE BUSH CLEAR SKIES ACT. OUR BILL WILL ALSO RESULT IN BENEFITS OF \$100 BILLION MORE FOR HEALTH AND VISIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS.I'D LIKE TO ASK UNANIMOUS CONSENT THAT A TABLE ILLUSTRATING THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THESE TWO APPROACHES BE SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD.

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THEPRESIDING OFFICER: WITHOUT OBJECTION, SO ORDERED.

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MR. JEFFORDS:MR. PRESIDENT, THE CHOICES SEEM EASY TO ME. WHILE THE CLEAN POWER ACT WOULD SAFEGUARD AND SURPASS CLEAN AIR ACT SUBMISSIONS REDUCTIONS, CLEAR SKIES WOULD BE A TICKET TO POLLUTE. IF CLEAR SKIES LEGISLATION BECOMES LAW, WE'LL ALL PAY THE PRICE IN HEAZYPARKS, INCREASED ACID RAIN AND MORE TRIPS TO THE EMERGENCY ROOMTS.THESE ARE COSTS WE CANNOT AFFORD.

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MR. PRESIDENT, I HOPE THIS MESSAGE REACHES THE AMERICAN PUBLIC. THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORT TO FREE POLLUTERS FROM ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION.CLEAR SKIES MAY SOUND LIKE A GOOD THING, BUT IT'S A SMOKE SCREEN. IN ADDITION, CLEAR SKIES DOES NOTHING TO ADDRESS THE GLOBAL WARMING.GLOBAL.AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THIS CHART, CLEAR SKIES IGNORES OUR COMMITMENT UNDER THE U.N. FRAMEWORK CONVENTION TO RETURN TO THE 1990'S OF CARBON LEVELS. AT A TIME WHEN WE SHOULD BE ADOPTING REAL MEASURES TO REDUCE CO-2 LEVELS TO AVOID TWO BILLION TON, THE ADMINISTRATION IS PROMOTING A "BUSINESS AS USUAL" APPROACH. THIS APPROACH WILL RESULT IN 3.5 BILLION TONS OF CO-2.THAT'S NO WAY TO PROTECT THE AMERICAN ECONOMY OR THE WORLD FOR CLIMATE CHANGE.THE ADMINISTRATION SAYS WE SHOULDN'T WORRY. WE SHOULD TRUST THAT THEIR VOLUNTARY GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION PLAN WILL HELP PREVENT CLIMATE CHANGE. MR. PRESIDENT, I'M NOT CONVINCED. MADAM PRESIDENT, I'M NOT CONVINCED. I'M DEEPLY CONCERNED BECAUSE I KNOW THAT THE VOLUNTARY PLANS TO DATE HAVE NOT DONE ENOUGH TO KEEP U.S. CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS

FROM RISING. THE ADMINISTRATION'S NEWLY ANNOUNCED PROPOSAL AND INAPPROPRIATELY NAMED "CLIMATE VISION PLAN" IS PART OF THE PRESIDENT'S GOAL TO REDUCE EMISSIONS INTENSITY BY 18% DURING THE NEXT DECADE.

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EMISSIONS INTENSITY IS A TERM TO DESCRIBE THE EMISSIONS PER DOLLAR OF G.D.P. IT MAY SOUND LIKE A RESPECTABLE GOAL TO REDUCE INTENSITY BY 18%. HOWEVER, THE TRUTH IS THIS APPROACH WILL NOT REDUCE ACTUAL EMISSIONS OF GREENHOUSE GASES. EVEN IF THE EMISSIONS DECLINED PER DOLLAR, OVERALL EMISSIONS

WILL GROW, GROW BY 16%. WE MUST NOT BASE OUR NATIONAL STRATEGY TO PREVENT GLOBAL WARMING AND ITS HARMFUL AND COSTLY IMPASSE ON A 16% INCREASE IN GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. AGAIN, I FIND IT VERY UNFORTUNATE THE ADMINISTRATION APPEARS TO BE PROMOTING POLICIES BASED ON FUZZY MATH. I AM CONFIDENT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC WILL RATHER SEE LEGISLATION LIKE THE CLEAN POWER ACT PASSED. OUR BIPARTISAN BILL WILL REQUIRE REDUCTIONS OF CO-2 OF 21%, A RETURN TO THE 1990 LEVELS. THE BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SUPPORTS OUR APPROACH. THE ORGANIZATION'S PRESIDENT, MICHAEL MARVIN, SAYS THESE IDEAS WILL ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF CLEAN, EFFICIENT, ECONOMIC AND SECURE ENERGY RESOURCES FOR OUR NATION. MR. PRESIDENT, OUR CLEAN POWER APPROACH WILL REDUCE THE RISK OF CLIMATE CHANGE. THE ADMINISTRATION'S VOLUNTARY PLAN WILL NOT.

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IN FACT, JIM CONOTIN, CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EQUALITY, HAS ADMITTED TO THIS FAILURE. IN JULY OF 2002, THE COMMERCE COMMITTEE HEARING HE QUESTIONED -- CONFESSED GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS WILL RISE, NO QUESTION ABOUT IT. DOES THIS SOUND LIKE AN ADMINISTRATION CONCERNED ABOUT IMPROVING AIR QUALITY AND PROTECTING GLOBAL CLIMATE FROM IRREPARABLE HARM? NO. OR COULD THIS BE AN ADMINISTRATION THAT PUTS THE INTEREST

OF THE POLLUTERS FIRST?

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MR. PRESIDENT, I URGE MY COLLEAGUES TO LOOK AT THE FINE PRINT OF THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL AND ASK QUESTIONS. IF YOU'RE VERY LUCKY, YOU MIGHT JUST GET A HELPFUL AND HONEST RESPONSE. FRANKLY, I DOUBT IT. AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE IN THE LAST CONGRESS, I ASKED THIS ADMINISTRATION, NAMELY, IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, THE COUNCIL OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO RESPOND TO STRAIGHTFORWARD QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS, THEIR RULE-MAKING PROPOSALS AND THEIR TESTIMONY BEFORE OUR COMMITTEE. THEY ARE HARDLY UNUSUAL INQUIRIES. IN SOME INSTANCES I HAVE YET TO RECEIVE A REPLY. WHEN I RECEIVE A REPLY, IT HEART EITHER INCOMPLETE, INADEQUATE AND WITHOUT FAIL QUITE LATE. SIMPLY STATED, THE AMERICAN PUBLIC, THROUGH LAWS SUCH AS THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, AND ALSO THROUGH THE ELECTED OFFICIALS IS ENTITLED TO KNOW THE BASIS OF GOVERNMENTAL DECISIONS. THE CONGRESS HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO OVERSEE AND UNDERSTAND THE ACTIVITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, PARTICULARLY WHEN IT IMPLEMENTS NEW LAWS THAT WE WRITE. MADAM PRESIDENT, IT IS APPARENT THROUGH MY EXPERIENCE AND THAT OF OTHER MEMBERS I HAVE CONSULTED THAT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC IS BEING KEPT IN THE DARK BY THE ADMINISTRATION ON THE IMPORTANT CHANGES IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH POLICIES. THE "CLEAR SKIES" PROPOSAL DIMS EVEN FURTHER THEIR HOPES IN THE RIGHT TO EXPECT A CLEANER AND BRIGHTER FUTURE. MADAM PRESIDENT, I THANK THE BODY FOR ALLOWING ME THIS TIME AND JUST WANT TO POINT OUT THAT WE SHOULD NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THERE ARE THINGS THAT ARE COSTING THOUSANDS OF LIVES IN THIS COUNTRY THAT WE COULD PREVENT THAT ARE NOT BEING LOOKED AT WELL ENOUGH TO GIVE US THE

SECURITY THAT WE NEED.MADAM PRESIDENT, I YIELD THE FLOOR.

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