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Senate

GLOBAL WARMING

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, today marks, I believe, the 6th week during which we have been debating the energy legislation that is before us. In my own view, among the bills we will debate and discuss and vote on this year in this Chamber, few, if any, are as or more important.

I am encouraged there is a growing likelihood we actually may vote on cloture and begin to reduce the scope of the amendments and the amount of time that remains for this critical debate, to get to final passage, and hopefully to enter a conference with the House and provide a compromise the President can sign into law.

It is in our naked self-interest as a nation to finish our work and to do so with some dispatch. We have heard countless times about our growing dependence on foreign sources of oil, which is now approaching 60 percent. We have heard concerns from a number of Members related to the trade deficit our Nation continues to run, a trade deficit that exceeded \$400 billion last year and roughly a third of which is attributable to the oil we import.

I will take the next few minutes and share one other reason why we should feel a sense of urgency in passing this legislation and attempting to finalize a compromise with the House and the administration. That deals with what is happening in the atmosphere of our Earth: global warming.

This past Saturday, in Wilmington, DE, the annual Commonwealth Awards were bestowed upon a variety of some of the most famous, remarkable people in the world.

Among the people who received the Commonwealth this past weekend were a husband and wife team who are researchers who work out of Ohio State University in Columbus, OH. Their names are Dr. Lonnie Thompson and Dr. Ellen Mosley-Thompson.

I ask unanimous consent the full statement of Calvert A. Morgan, who presided at that event, be printed in the RECORD.

I would like to share some excerpts of it today during my own remarks:

The issue of global warming has been vigorously debated for the past two decades. Is the climate on Earth getting dangerously warmer, and if so, is modern-day air pollution to blame? While many have exchanged rhetoric on the matter, two American researchers have trekked to the world's remote ice fields to dig for answers.

Dr. Lonnie Thompson and Dr. Ellen Mosley-Thompson are husband-and-wife collaborators who study climate change and global warming. They have spent the past 25 years collecting and analyzing ice cores extracted from glaciers on the five continents.

Their research has yielded a remarkable and priceless archive of the earth's ancient climate.

What's more, their findings offer some of the most convincing evidence yet that global warming is real, and human activity is a contributing factor.....

Dr. Lonnie Thompson is a professor of geological sciences. He has led some 40 international expeditions to collect ice cores

from the mountains of Africa, South America and Asia. His wife, Dr. Mosley-Thompson, is a professor of geography. She has led similar field programs to Greenland and Antarctica.

To understand the Earth's past and present climate, our honorees and their research teams analyze the chemical and physical properties preserved in ice cores.

Lonnie Thompson's research is unique because it focuses on the ice fields of the tropics and sub-tropics instead of polar ice. He believes the hottest part of the globe is crucial to understanding global warming. Tropical glaciers, he says, are "the most sensitive spots on Earth" and serve as "an indicator of the massive changes taking place" in today's global climate.

Cores have been drawn from mountain tops from throughout the world.

New cores from two sites in central and southern Tibet reveal that the past 50 years have been the warmest in the last 10,000 years in that part of the world.

Using two decades of ice core data and aerial mapping, the Thompsons offer proof that the world's tropical glaciers are melting faster and faster as the years pass.

The icecap on Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak, has lost 82 percent of its area since it was first mapped in 1912. One-third of the area has disappeared just since 1989.

Based on this dramatic evidence, Lonnie Thompson predicts that the snowcap of this storied mountain will be gone by 2020. He says the same fate awaits other mountain ice caps in Peru and around the world. These vanishing glaciers "will have a massive effect on humanity," he says, posing an urgent natural and economic threat around

the globe.

I think it is important, as we come to the end of the debate on this energy bill, to remind ourselves that, yes, indeed, we import entirely too much oil from around the world from people who do not like us, in some cases, and who, I am convinced, use the resources we send to them to hurt us. I think it is important that we remind ourselves of the economic trouble we create for America by a growing trade deficit, a third of which is attributable to our dependence on foreign oil, on imported oil.

Lost in this discussion are the points that Drs. Thompson have made, of which we were reminded in Delaware just this last Saturday; that is, there is global warming. The climate of the Earth has changed and is changing more rapidly as time goes by. Fully one-quarter of the carbon dioxide that we put into the air comes from the cars, trucks, and vans we drive.

As we prepare to approach the end of this debate, I hope we will not only have done something to reduce our reliance on foreign oil, not only done something to reduce our growing trade deficit, but that we will have taken affirmative steps to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide we are putting into our atmosphere, that literally is destroying the icecaps of Mount Kilimanjaro and any number of other mountains throughout our tropics and subtropics.

I used to think global warming was a figment of somebody's imagination. I don't see how any of us anymore can say that is the case. It is real. It is here. It is imminent. It is something we can do something about, and we need to do that in the context of this energy bill. I hope we will.