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Senate

JUMPSTART OUR BUSINESS STRENGTH (JOBS) ACT, CONT.

Mr. CARPER. I thank the Senator for yielding me 3 minutes 22 seconds.

Mr. President, as we gather for this debate, about 60 percent of the oil we use in this country comes from other places. We are importing all that oil. It adds to a huge trade deficit, about \$500 billion and growing. About a third of that trade deficit is related to the importation of oil.

We have the opportunity with the energy provisions that are part of this bill to do some good things with respect to energy independence in this country. We have the opportunity to urge people to buy more energy-efficient cars, trucks, and vans. We have the opportunity to nurture an automotive industry which will provide fuel-cell-powered vehicles that will provide for vehicles that are powered by a combination of electric and internal combustion—maybe a combination of diesel and electric. We have the opportunity to provide incentives for people to use solar energy more frequently and more effectively, to use geothermal energy more effectively, more broadly. We have the opportunity to encourage people to use wind power as a source of electricity, and other forms of energy, through this bill.

Some would say we ought to have a comprehensive energy bill, and these

elements ought to be part of the comprehensive energy bill. I will tell you I don't know if we are going to have a chance to debate a comprehensive energy bill. We do have the opportunity today to encourage solar energy, wind power, fuel cells, hybrid vehicles, and we have a chance to do this today.

About 100 miles from here there are fields on the Delmarva Peninsula—in Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia—where we are growing soybeans. We use soybeans in my part of America to feed the chickens. We take the hull and we feed the chickens and raise more chickens in Delaware, I think, than anyplace in the country. We use the corn we raise to feed the chickens. We have a lot of soybean oil we don't know what to do with, and one of the things we figured out to do is take soybean oil and mix it with diesel fuel—80-percent diesel, 20-percent soybean oil—and we use it to power our DelDOT vehicles in the State of Delaware. We use it to power more farm equipment in the State of Delaware that is diesel power.

It works, it is energy efficient, and it is environmentally friendly. People tell me it smells like french fries.

That is one of the things we are more likely to do with this bill. The intent and encouragement of this bill is to reduce our

dependence on foreign oil and move to biofuels, including soy diesel. Good results come out of using soybeans for this purpose. It reduces our reliance on foreign oil, it is environmentally friendly, and it gives the folks who are raising soybeans—whether it is Delaware, Idaho, or any other place—the opportunity to have another market for their commodity. That is good for farmers, actually paying them to grow a commodity rather than paying them not to do that. This makes a whole lot of sense.

I wish the Senator from Arizona in offering his amendment had focused on section 29. That is a more narrowly crafted amendment. My hope is this will be defeated and we may reconsider it and come back to address that.

I thank the Chair.