

Before I close, though, Mr. President, I would like to say that Senator LANDRIEU has been a tireless advocate for her constituents. I had hoped to support her in her efforts to restore coastal Louisiana.

Unfortunately, though, given the potential for a bill to come back that would threaten California's coast, I must vote against this bill.

I ask unanimous consent that the Governors letter to which I referred be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER,  
July 12, 2006.

Hon. DIANNE FEINSTEIN,  
Senate Office Building,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR FEINSTEIN: I am writing each member of the United States Senate to express my extreme disappointment about the recent action taken by the House of Representatives to approve the Deep Ocean Energy Resources Act (DOER).

I have repeatedly expressed my opposition to any measure that would weaken the national oil and gas leasing moratorium that has been protecting the California coast for the last 25 years. When I ran for Governor, I promised the people of California that I would do everything in my power to oppose efforts to weaken federal protections against offshore oil drilling. The DOER would be the beginning of the end of these protections that we have enjoyed for the last 25 years. In fulfilling my promise to all Californians I continue to oppose this bill in the strongest terms.

I have been asked to consider new amendments to the bill, but I can tell you that certain things are not negotiable. Our coast is not for sale and no amount of promises of money or other "incentives" will alter my position on that. California has the most aggressive energy-efficiency measures in the nation. Because of our efforts, California's per capita energy use has remained nearly flat, while nationwide energy use has increased by nearly 50 percent.

Let us change this debate and start talking about a comprehensive energy policy that incorporates the full range of energy efficiency measures and alternative energy sources that can keep this nation running strong now and for generations to come.

I urge you to oppose the Deep Ocean Energy Resources Act and to also oppose any amendments intended to make this bill appear acceptable to the American people. Absent an amendment that would uphold the current moratorium in perpetuity this bill is an unacceptable approach and no amount of tinkering will fix it.

Sincerely,

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I commend the chairman of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for his leadership in moving this bill to the floor. Is it his understanding that the conservation and outdoor recreation royalty established by his legislation has tremendous value for the stateside program of the Land and Water Conservation Fund over the long term?

Mr. DOMENICI. Yes, the Senator from Tennessee is correct. Those who want to make sure our citizens have

access to the great American outdoors have long advocated the principle that some of the funds from offshore oil and gas drilling should become a royalty for conservation and outdoor recreation, providing a reliable and permanent stream of funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This basic concept was proposed in 1962 by the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission—also known as the Rockefeller Commission—and it was also a primary recommendation of President Reagan's Commission on Americans Outdoors in 1986. This legislation is an important first step in the right direction, one that has been 40 years in the making.

Mr. SALAZAR. I join the Senator from Tennessee in expressing my appreciation for Chairman DOMENICI's leadership, and I wish to thank both of my colleagues for working with me on providing this permanent funding stream for the LWCF stateside grant program. This program supports the state and local parks and recreation projects that improve the quality of all Americans' lives, and enables American families to enjoy our precious natural resource of open spaces.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Would the Senator from New Mexico clarify whether this conservation and outdoor recreation royalty would prevent additional appropriations for the Land and Water Conservation Fund stateside program?

Mr. DOMENICI. No, it would not. The LWCF stateside program will continue to be eligible to receive funding in the appropriations process just as it is currently. The mandatory funding stream established under this bill would not replace appropriated funding, and does nothing to disadvantage the program in the appropriations process.

Mr. SALAZAR. The Senator from New Mexico makes a critical point. The projected revenues for the LWCF stateside program under this bill are important, but they are not sufficient to keep that program, which has contributed to the improvement of 98 percent of the counties in the United States since 1964, strong and vital. And I know that all of us aim to bolster the LWCF stateside grant program, and to achieve the level of support envisioned by Congress's authorization. So we must supplement the revenues directed to LWCF under this bill with meaningful annual appropriations. I have spoken to the majority leader about this issue as well, and he has assured me that he shares my concerns. I look forward to working with him and with all of my colleagues on this issue in the years ahead.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Would the Senator from New Mexico support an appropriation of \$100 million in fiscal year 2007 for stateside LWCF?

Mr. DOMENICI. I was pleased that the Senate Committee on Appropriations included \$30 million for the stateside program in the fiscal year 2007 Interior and Related Agencies appropriations bill. This was a significant im-

provement over the President's budget request and the House Interior bill, both of which zeroed out stateside for the second straight year. Still, there is room for improvement. I would share the Senator's interest in adding to the stateside funding in the Senate committee mark if appropriate offsets can be found. In fiscal year 2007, zero revenues will be allocated to stateside LWCF from this conservation royalty because it will take time for the new areas to be brought on line and begin producing. So we will need to appropriate funding in fiscal year 2007 to fill that gap.

Mr. SALAZAR. That would certainly be in the interest of all Americans. Of course, we commit to working together to support LWCF with supplementary appropriations beyond the next fiscal year as well. Only constant vigilance and steady support will ensure that the provision providing a permanent stream of funding for LWCF in the bill before us acts as it was intended—as a strong and growing core, but not the totality, of support for this vital program.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I thank the Senator from New Mexico, and look forward to working with him to ensure adequate funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Ms. COLLINS. I would also like to thank Chairman DOMENICI, as well as Senators ALEXANDER and SALAZAR, for confirming that the LWCF funds provided by this legislation are intended as additional funds to supplement the program, not a replacement for full funding through the normal appropriations process. I would also note that over 50 senators signed the Collins-Salazar-Alexander letter in support of \$100 million in funding for LWCF-stateside in fiscal year 2007. As evidenced by this support, this program is absolutely vital to communities throughout the Nation. Almost every county in the Nation has taken advantage of this program to conserve open spaces or build playgrounds, ballparks, and trails. I sincerely hope the Senate will restore this historic level of funding through the appropriations process, in addition to those funds that will be made available under this bill.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I thank the Senator from Maine.

SECURING OUR ENERGY FUTURE

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about America's energy crisis, and I am glad to see that my friend, Majority Leader FRIST, is on the floor to discuss this issue with me.

High natural gas prices continue to be a terrible burden for Minnesota's families and businesses. High natural gas prices had a severe impact on Minnesotans last winter—I am sure many of my colleagues remember the push that I, along with Senators SNOW and COLLINS, made early this year for emergency LIHEAP assistance—assistance the majority leader helped us deliver. Moreover, I don't need to remind my farm State colleagues of the severe