

payer dollars are spent wisely and curbing nuclear proliferation to keep our communities safe.

In recent years, PETE has used his role as chairman or ranking member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee to fight for our Nation's energy security.

PETE worked across the aisle to pass the first comprehensive energy legislation since 1992. Because of PETE and the bill he got through Congress, our Nation began investing in our own energy sources. This bill provided incentives to expand the production of energy from wind, solar, geothermal and biomass sources to promote cleaner alternative sources of energy.

PETE also ensured that this bill promoted research and development of hydrogen and fuel-cell technology.

PETE didn't end the fight for our Nation's energy independence in 2005 though. Since that time, he has been a leader in the Senate calling for more action.

Before the gas price crisis that is now affecting families across the country, PETE sounded the alarm. He has called for bringing relief to families struggling with pain at the pump by tapping our own domestic supplies of gas and oil.

PETE has proposed the commonsense proposal—the Gas Price Reduction Act—to end our Nation's energy crisis.

It is this foresight, this leadership, and this passion to making our Nation a better place and for making our communities better for our families that will make PETE DOMENICI missed by all—Republicans and Democrats alike.

Mr. President, I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROCKEFELLER). The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I understand there is an order that the distinguished Senator from Iowa will be recognized next. But I asked him graciously, would he give me a minute to speak in support of the United States-India nuclear cooperation agreement. I strongly endorse this agreement because as one of those who advocate greater nuclear power in our Nation, the industrial base of India will work with our industrial base at this time when we need to increase the number of plants we have in our Nation.

The United States-India Nuclear Cooperation Approval and Nonproliferation Enhancement Act will provide congressional approval of the agreement reached between the United States and India that will pave the way for bilateral cooperation in civilian nuclear energy. This agreement resulted from years of diplomatic negotiations. I note that my dear friend, Ambassador Nick Burns, helped lay the foundation for this agreement during his tenure as Under Secretary of State for Policy.

As I publicly stated when this agreement was first announced in March 2006, it is important that as we move to implement this historic arrangement

with India, we preserve two equally important objectives: a strengthened strategic partnership with India that includes mutually beneficial cooperation in civilian nuclear energy; and preservation of the nuclear nonproliferation regime to prevent the further spread of nuclear weapons and related technologies. I believe the bill ably crafted by Senators BIDEN and LUGAR seeks to advance both of those objectives.

As part of this agreement, India has agreed to separate its civilian nuclear fuel cycle from its military program, and to place the civilian program under full safeguards to be monitored by the International Atomic Energy Agency. This arrangement is intended to ensure that cooperation in civil nuclear energy will not assist India's nuclear weapons program in any way. India has also agreed to maintain its moratorium on nuclear testing, work toward a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty, and strengthen its domestic nuclear export control laws. The bill providing congressional approval for the agreement makes clear that in the event India were to test a nuclear weapon in the future, cooperation under this agreement would be terminated.

Facilitating India's development of civilian nuclear energy will make an important contribution to a cause I value highly: reducing the emission of greenhouse gasses into the environment. As nations such as India grow and have increasing requirements for energy, it is imperative for the health of our global environment that they turn increasingly to clean sources of energy such as nuclear power.

I am also hopeful that this agreement will open the door to United States-India trade and investment in nuclear energy, and lead to new business opportunities for American firms with expertise in civilian nuclear power. Today, the United States is looking to expand its production of civilian nuclear power; to do so with the participation of the industrial base of India should help to expand the safe and economical production of civilian nuclear energy in both countries.

Mr. President, I support Senate approval of the United States-India Nuclear Cooperation Agreement because I believe it will advance the United States-India strategic partnership, promote a clean energy source to meet India's growing demand for energy, open the door to new business opportunities for the U.S. nuclear energy sector, and still promote and preserve important nonproliferation practices and principles which remain in the interest of the United States and indeed the international community.

I thank the Presiding Officer and my colleagues.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TESTER). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor to express my opposition to this deeply unwise United States-India Nuclear Cooperation Approval and

Nonproliferation Enhancement Act. In truth, this is not a nonproliferation enhancement act; it is a nonproliferation degradation and weakening act. If we pass this legislation, we will reward India for flouting the most important arms control agreement in history, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and we will gravely undermine our case against hostile nations that seek to do the same.

At a time when one of our primary national security objectives is to mobilize the global community to prevent Iran from producing nuclear weapons, the legislation before us would severely undermine our credibility and consistency.

India has refused to sign the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty—one of only four nations, by the way—and, three decades ago, produced its first nuclear weapon. It was precisely for this reason that following India's first nuclear test in 1974, the United States felt compelled to create the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

Since the 1954 Atomic Energy Act, the United States has prohibited—has prohibited—the sale of any nuclear technology, peaceful or not, to any nation, such as India, that does not have full nuclear safeguards—full nuclear safeguards. As was pointed out earlier by my colleague from North Dakota, Senator DORGAN, right now India has 22 nuclear reactors. Under this agreement, only 14 will come under IAEA, International Atomic Energy Agency, safeguards—14. What about the other eight? What is going to happen to them? They are not under any safeguards at all. So, again, we are undermining and we are overturning what the United States has been doing for over 50 years.

The legislation we now have before us permits the United States to unilaterally break that ban. It will open the floodgates for other nations, such as France and Russia, that already have agreements to sell to India pending—pending—the approval of this deal.

Listen to the views of LTG Robert Gard, chairman of the Center for Arms Control and Proliferation. I quote his words:

The greatest threat to the security of the United States is the proliferation of nuclear weapons. This deal [with India] significantly weakens U.S. and international security by granting an exception to the rules of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and American laws, thereby undermining the entire nonproliferation regime and inviting violations by other nations.

I would add there is nothing in this agreement to prevent India from continuing on a parallel path its robust nuclear weapons program. India is allowed to continue producing—to continue producing—bomb-making material, and it is free to expand its arsenal of nuclear weapons. Even worse, there is nothing in this legislation to prevent India from resuming nuclear weapons testing.

So I ask, why, in the twilight of the Bush Presidency—and we know what