That means real time on the floor and—more than time obviously—the ability to have an open amendment process and to consider serious, substantive legislative proposals.

Again, I have seven amendments offered. They attack both the demand side, to lower demand, and also the supply side, to increase supply, including in the short and medium term.

We need to attack both sides of the equation. We need to do both those things. But, fundamentally, we need to act. The American people are sick and tired of our never acting on issues that are important to their lives, never taking up what hits them in the pocketbook, what their families are concerned about, what threatens their future.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST S. 3248

So we need to act. So in that vein, I again urge us to act. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider S. 3248, in the following manner: that the bill be subject to energy-related amendments only; that amendments be considered in an alternating fair manner between the two sides of the aisle.

I ask further unanimous consent that the bill remain the pending business, to the exclusion of all other business other than privileged matters or items agreed to jointly by the two leaders.

I ask further unanimous consent that the first seven amendments to be offered on the Republican side of the aisle by either the Republican leader or his designee be the following:

An Outer Continental Shelf amendment, including a conservation provision; an oil shale amendment, including a conservation provision; an Alaska energy production amendment, including a conservation provision; the Gas Price Reduction Act, which has 44 cosponsors, including myself; a clean nuclear energy amendment; a coal-to-liquid fuel amendment, including a conservation provision; and a LIHEAP amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator, I object.

The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. VITTER. I ask unanimous consent for an additional 30 seconds.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. VITTER. Again, I am very disappointed—not surprised, very disappointed. The American people want action. The American people deserve action on what is the single greatest threat and issue in their lives right now.

I urge all of us to come together, not as Democrats or Republicans but as Americans, to act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Madam President, I am disappointed to be here and to have to give this speech today. I am disappointed because I am, once again, on the Senate floor discussing the fact that the majority leader has decided to use the Senate parliamentary tactic to stop members from offering amendments and to close off debate.

We are going to spend until tomorrow morning or whatever time tomorrow we decide to have another vote on another cloture motion doing nothing. While we can raise issues, we cannot get any votes on any issues. This is all valuable time that we could be voting on issues for the American people, issues that would actually solve some of the gas price problems I hear about all over Wyoming and all over the country. It is the No. 1 concern in this country right now.

The majority leader has a rain delay that has put a halt to this match, but this game will get played. We will debate alternative energy, finding more oil on American soil, deep sea exploration, nuclear energy, oil shale. You cannot stop us forever because the American people have told us the most important issue on their mind is the issue of energy.

The majority leader has told the world's most deliberative body we cannot have a real debate about this issue. But the American people are telling him something else. Hopefully, soon he will listen. It is no wonder Congress has an approval rating that is less than 10 percent.

Rather than working on the issues that are important to our constituents, we continue to play ''gotcha'' politics. It is not getting us anywhere. It is certainly not improving our Nation's energy situation. This brand of nonlegislating that the majority continues to peddle is not making a gallon of gas cheaper.

When will the leaders let us put real proposals on the table? This body will take some and this body will leave some, but we should be taking action. What we have now is not action, it is acting, acting in the dramatic sense. We evidently think that if we can place blame on speculators and get a vote on that and be done, we can check that box off and say that we took care of energy for America. Americans are smarter than that.

The majority leader is preventing a vote on an amendment that would increase production on the Outer Continental Shelf. We cannot vote on an amendment that will allow for more production of diesel fuel from our Nation's most abundant energy source, coal. We cannot vote on extending the wind production tax credit. We cannot vote on extending tax credits for solar energy.

The majority leader has said we need to get an agreement on amendments. Our side has agreed we need to work on energy amendments because this is an energy debate. We have been willing to put aside all the other kinds of amendments. But, no, that is not enough. We want to be able to read each of them and decide whether they are meritorious before they are put on the table.

I am not sure why that is the case. It does not match up with our historical energy debates or, for that matter, any of our debates.

The Senate considered the Energy Independence and Security Act last year. At that time, gas was $3.06 a gallon. I talked a little bit about that bill because I called it the anti-energy bill and said there was not anything in that that was going to bring down the price of gas. Obviously, I was right. The price is up another dollar from that. But even on that one, there were 331 amendments that were filed. Of those, 49 amendments were agreed to, and 16 amendments received rollcall votes.

The Senate considered the Energy Policy Act of 2005, that is the previous bill to the anti-energy bill. Gas was $2.26 a gallon then. There were 235 amendments that were filed and, of those, 57 amendments were agreed to and 19 amendments received rollcall votes.

The crisis is even greater now. So there ought to be amendments being debated, considered. We should not have the parliamentary tactic that keeps us from doing amendments.

Anytime a bill comes in here, and it is a take-it-or-leave-it proposition, this body leaves it. So if you want to get something done, want to be able to check off the box, we need to be able to do some amendments.

Now, not only were both those bills fully amendable but both received significant floor consideration. We spent 15 days on the floor on one of them and 10 days on the other. Why? Because they are serious issues that deserve serious debate. We wanted to make sure ideas from both sides were considered.

As I recall, both sides lost some. But that is how it works. I have an amendment that relates to State mineral royalties. That amendment would encourage States to allow for energy production on their land by giving them their fair share of mineral royalties. We are not going to get to consider that. There are a number of other amendments that I would support relating to energy development on the Outer Continental Shelf in the States that want energy production and only those States that want it.

I would support an amendment to improve our Nation's energy situation by accelerating the development of coal-to-liquid fuels. That could be coal to diesel and coal to jet fuel. Those are the most expensive fuels in the United States right now. Those are the ones that have some great potential for decreased costs using our most abundant energy source.

We have more Btu's in coal—in fact, we have more Btu's in the clean coal in northeastern Wyoming than Saudi Arabia has in oil. It is an old technique from World War II, from converting that to, say, diesel, and also to convert it to jet fuel. Our military needs jet fuel. It can be done from coal.

Unfortunately, the majority leader has stopped me from doing so by using parliamentarian tactics to cut off the debate. He has also stopped me from