of December 2004, there are approximately 380 operational Landfill Gas energy projects in the United States and more than 600 landfills that are good candidates for projects. Companies ranging from Ford to Honeywell to Nestle are converting landfill gas into energy.

There is similar potential for chemical plants who also release methane into the atmosphere, contributing to local smog and global climate change. If they sequestered methane to sell to a hythane manufacturer, I believe they would take advantage of the profits it would yield.

My State of Arkansas, for example, has significant methane seams, including the Fayetteville shale bed methane seam, which Southwest Energy and CDX Gas are already using to their advantage. These resources could contribute to hythane fuel production as well.

Our Nation's energy problems cannot be solved overnight; however, we would be remiss if we did not at least further explore innovative and practical solutions, such as biodiesel and hythane. This amendment is a win-win situation for our energy independence, health, economy, and environment. I thank my colleagues for their support.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I regret that I was unable to take part in yesterday's cloture vote because I was testifying before the BRAC Commission. With the senior Senator from Wisconsin, in an effort to save the Milwaukee-based 440th Airlift Wing from closing. The fate of the 440th is very important to me and my constituents, and, while I have only missed a handful of votes in my 12 years in the Senate, it is clear to me that testifying in St. Louis was the right decision.

If I had been present I would have again voted against the cloture motion on the BRAC Commission bill. Since the motion required 60 votes to pass, my absence did not affect, and could not have affected, the outcome of the vote.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, for too long, we, as a body, and we as a Nation, have fallen short in our efforts to address some of the most profound and far reaching challenges of our time—global climate change and energy security. For too long, we have skirted the issue of climate change responsibilities. We have convinced ourselves that we are doing something but, in reality, we continue to take no real action. Rather than lead, we have stood by, paralyzed, undermining any efforts to forge an effective response.

It is time to pull ourselves out of that quicksand and confront the tasks at hand. First, we must establish practical and comprehensive steps to reduce U.S. emissions of greenhouse gases and to reduce our dependence on foreign energy sources. Second, we must work in a partnership with developing nations to deploy clean energy technologies that can meet their urgent development needs while reducing their own contribution to global climate change and their growing energy dependency. Third, we must commit ourselves to the fundamental task of forging an effective and sound international agreement to guide a truly global solution to most daunting problem global climate change.

In 1997, during the 105th Congress, the Senate passed S. Res. 98, by a vote of 95 to 0. As the prime author, along with Senator HAGEL, of S. Res. 98, I sought at that time to express the sense of the Senate regarding the provisions of any future binding, international agreement that would be acceptable to the Senate. However, almost from the day of that vote, those on both sides of the issue have misrepresented and misconstrued its intent. What was meant as a guide for action has instead been invoked, time and again, as an excuse for inaction. Yet, we have represented and misconstrued S. Res. 98 more so than this present administration. Rather than employing it as a tool to positively influence the international negotiations, the administration used it as cover to simply walk away from the negotiating table.

For the U.S., the issue should no longer be about the Kyoto Protocol. Certainly, everyone in this Chamber knows that the United States will not join in or support the Kyoto Protocol. The rest of the world has come to accept that fact as well. So let us exorcize the specter of the Kyoto Protocol from this debate. The real question is what comes next. How do we arrive at a credible, workable strategy, one compatible with the best interests of the United States and of the other major emitting industrial and developing countries? That must be the question now before us.

We must send a clear signal that we recognize the facts of the situation, and we must be prepared to work toward a fair and effective framework for action. We must be bold leaders. We owe this to ourselves; we owe it to the other nations of the world; and we owe it most of all to our children and to future generations.

Technology is a critical component to resolving the climate change challenges in the U.S. and around the world. But let me be clear. Even as the United States looks at the potential of new technologies, as the solution, it continues to woefully underfund these very programs. Technology policies by themselves cannot be the silver bullet. Technology policies must be paired with commonsense, market-based solutions to create global effort to counteract and adoption of new and improved technologies that will provide a signal to reduce emissions.

There must be a broader approach. I want to commend Senator MCCAIN and LIEBERMAN for their diligence and hard work to find a middle ground. I want to commend Senator BINGAMAN on his efforts as well. Like them, I believe that we face a problem, and it requires that we craft an economically and environmentally sound solution.

The McCain-Lieberman amendment did not pass in its current form. While I did not vote for their amendment, I want to make it very clear to the administration and to others who just want to say ‘no’ that I will work with Senator MCCAIN, Senator LIEBERMAN, and Senator BINGAMAN, and other Republican and Democratic Senators who want to craft a constructive solution.

I have long said that global warming and energy security are major challenges in the U.S. and around the world. Troubling things are happening in our atmosphere, and we should wake up. I am not alone in this belief. The U.S. cannot bury its head in the sand and hope that these problems will simply go away.

I have insisted on a rational and cost-effective approach for dealing with climate change, both domestically and internationally. I have no doubt that the far right and the far left will dispute any move I make on this issue, but it is time to get the right architecture and solid funding in place to make a first step a reality. I am concerned that the McCain-Lieberman approach, in its present form, will negatively impact my State, but that does not mean that we will not be able to find some common ground in the future. I hope that my friends in the energy industry will decide to work with them as well.

Mr. President, we cannot just stand still. I know Senator MCCAIN. He is tenacious, and Senators LIEBERMAN and BINGAMAN are equally tenacious. If 14 Senators in the middle can come together to diffuse the Nuclear Option, then I am certain that a solid center of Senators can find a path forward to address global climate change and our Nation's energy security needs. I would certainly not support actions that would harm the economy or the people of my State of West Virginia or the United States in general. Yet, I repeat, I believe that there is a middle path forward, and I stand ready to work with those who share that view.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to speak to a particular section of H.R. 6, the Energy bill that would lead to Nevada and Washington ratepayers being relieved of $480 million in under fraudulent contracts entered into with Enron, the defunct energy company.

The largest utility in my State, Nevada Power, had a $326 million contract with Enron for power. The contract was terminated once it became impossible for Enron to hide its financial frauds any longer and instead was forced to declare bankruptcy. Nonetheless, Enron has asserted before the bankruptcy court the right to collect all of the profits it would have made if it were paid so-called “termination payments.” Enron has made this claim even though Enron never delivered the power under the...