

THE GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER HOLDS A KICKOFF EVENT
FOR THE GEORGETOWN STATE-FEDERAL CLIMATE RESOURCE CENTER

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(JOINED IN PROGRESS)

ALEINIKOFF: ... Governor Sebelius and Governor Gregoire. Thank you so much for being here. I know you have extraordinarily busy schedules, and to spend time with us here is just terrific.

Later in the evening, we'll also be joined by EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson and CEQ Chairwoman Nancy Sutley. They'll be here in just a little bit of time, so to have all of you here today is just wonderful.

This new center at Georgetown means a great deal to the Law School, and we hope that it'll provide an important new voice and a very important, perhaps the most important, policy debate of our day. And we're delighted that we'll be working with state and local governments as we try to provide a bridge between the state and local governments and the federal government. We can't really be better located than we are here, we don't think, to provide that kind of -- that bridge, and we intend to do a lot of work in this area.

I want to thank our initial funders, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and the Emily Hall Tremain Family Foundation, Michael Northrop, Stewart Hudson and the Tremain family from those foundations who have helped so much to make this possible.

And I also want to thank -- she's not with us tonight -- but Lisa Heinzerling, a professor at this Law School, who we have loaned to the EPA for a few years. We hope she's coming back soon, but we hope she

does great work. She will be senior climate counsel at the EPA. She's already on the job now so one of four of our faculty members, actually, who have joined the new administration.

At this point, I'd like to turn the podium over to our Executive Director Vicki Arroyo, who along with Peter Byrne, who's our faculty director, will be leading the new center.

Welcome to Georgetown. Thank you all for being here.

(APPLAUSE)

ARROYO: Thank you, Alex.

Welcome, Governors Sebelius and Gregoire, and thank you all for coming.

It's wonderful to have you here to celebrate the center's opening with us, and it's great for me to be back at Georgetown Law School where I was a student many years ago and to now work with one of the finest environmental law faculties in the country and also with others across the university and so many of you in your organizations and beyond the university to serve as a resource to the states and to provide lessons from the states to inform the federal dialogue on climate policy.

Already we're working with many of you to plan future events and develop analyses on the four initial areas of our focus.

First, legislation: Informing federal cap-and-trade, energy and other proposals with lessons from the state and regional initiatives.

Second, regulation: Using the Clean Air Act and other existing laws to increase efficiency and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

Third, transportation: Developing policy approaches that reduce emissions associated with transportation through changes in vehicles, fuels, transit, land use and systems efficiency.

Our faculty director, Professor Peter Byrne, brings experience on land use, and I've already started working with Professor Bob Stumberg) and his staff and students at the Harrison Institute on this and other topics, including our final area of concentration, adaptation.

Both the emerging science and our own life experience tell us that we are feeling the adverse effects of climate change. Melting ice and rising sea levels, more intense hurricanes and tornadoes in February, fire seasons that start in January in the South and end in December in the West, drought that affects our crops, communities and our wildlife.

We need to plan for and respond to these changes and anticipate how our policies and laws need to change to accommodate the ever-changing world in which we find ourselves.

From its inception, our center is putting adaptation on equal footing with mitigation, and to that end, I am grateful and delighted to announce that we have just been awarded a \$500,000 grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to support our work on adaptation. I want to take a moment to recognize Dr. Christina Rumbaitis del Rio, right here, from Rockefeller and thank her for supporting not only Georgetown on adaptation but so many institutions throughout the world.

(APPLAUSE)

And now it's my pleasure to introduce Governor Kathleen Sebelius. Governor Kathleen Sebelius of Kansas actually has family members who've attended Georgetown, including her husband Gary, who is now a federal magistrate judge in Kansas. And her son is actually a student here, and he's also doing a joint group program with my other alma mater, the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.

Governor Sebelius was first elected governor of the state in 2002 pledging independent leadership. During her first term, she was named by "Time" magazine as one of the nation's top five governors and went on to be reelected to a second term in 2006.

Previously, she served as the state's insurance commissioner, and as we all now know, she's a recognized leader in promoting access to quality and affordable health care.

Governor Sebelius has been committed to growing the Kansas economy and creating jobs while promoting the state's renewable energy assets. She's working with business and community leaders, utilities and local governments to promote wind energy and biofuels production in Kansas and to expand energy efficiency and conservation efforts. Kansas is also one of the seven members of the Midwestern Greenhouse Gas Reduction Accord.

Many of us in the climate debate, though, know her from her courageous leadership in recognizing the risks of building more conventional coal plants in an era of climate change.

In 2007 her administration rejected plans for two new coal-burning plants that would have produced 11 million new tons of carbon dioxide annually, the equivalent of adding 2 million cars to Kansas roads in a year. This was a bold decision for Kansas where almost 75 percent of the state's electricity comes from coal.

In an open letter to residents of her state, she described her support for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's decision to reject the new coal plant saying, "We now know that carbon emissions have a huge impact on the atmosphere, and global warming is very real. In a state like Kansas, where over 20 percent of our jobs and economy involve agriculture and the land, changes in climate and atmosphere can be devastating. Less water and hotter temperatures will result in fewer crops and less production, and that affects our state, the country and the world."

Please welcome me in joining Governor Kathleen Sebelius.

(APPLAUSE)

SEBELIUS: Well, thank you very much first to Director Arroyo and Dean Aleinikoff. Congratulations. This is a great time to launch a center for climate change and a great location here at Georgetown Law School.

As the director's already told you, I'm a little biased toward Georgetown Law School with a husband and a son. I've written a lot of checks to Georgetown Law School.

(LAUGHTER)

So I feel the pain that some of you feel on a regular basis.

But this is clearly a great center for a climate change discussion, and I'm so pleased to be here with my good friend and colleague, Chris Gregoire, the governor of Washington state.

And we felt a little bit isolated in this discussion for years. I've been a governor for six years. Chris has just gotten reelected to her second term, but this discussion of climate change and moving in a new energy direction and attempts to have climate planning and greenhouse gas reductions has really been uniquely at the state level. We have not had a partner in Washington. We have not had a discussion or an energy policy at the federal level, and I can't tell you how thrilling it's been for us to be in D.C. over the last several days with the new Obama administration.

Chris and I were at a meeting on Saturday afternoon with four of the principals of the new team, with Dr. Steven Chu, with Carol Browner, Lisa Jackson, who you'll hear from after awhile, and Ken Salazar, the new secretary of the interior. And just the brief time that we had to spend together, I can tell you it's a brand new world, and we will have great partners in moving in an exciting new direction.

So there can't be a better time to launch a center, which brings together an opportunity, not only for dialogue on the state and federal level and figuring out how to take the action of governors -- we've all been joining together in regional collaboratives and trying to move forward since there wasn't a federal energy policy to kind of create a template for that -- but to take that activity and help to drive it at the national level.

But I'd also suggest that you're in a great city to draw our international partners in. This is a wonderful opportunity to actually broaden this dialogue to a global dialogue and not just make it about what's happening within the borders of our country but how we are going to deal with these environmental and economic development issues with partners around the world.

And I can tell you that our international partners are thrilled again that the United States will be back at the table and wants to re-engage in that dialog. So this a great opportunity. I look

forward to having an opportunity to tap into the expertise that's here, to use the resources, to draw upon the Georgetown climate center for help and support.

I wish that our legislators shared what Director Arroyo has just said about the view. We're going to go back home and fight another bill in the Kansas legislature to strip our secretary of health and environment of all of his regulatory powers because they're not so thrilled with that decision. They passed several bills last year. I was able to sustain some vetoes, so I've got to go back home and continue the battle.

But it's great to have these resources. It's great to have the support, and we look forward to being a collaborative partner as we all move forward into a new energy era for America and for the world. Thank you.

(APPLAUSE)

NORTHROP: Greetings. I'm Michael Northrop with the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. When Rod Bremby, the commissioner in Kansas, and Jay Manning the commissioner in Washington state and 20 of their colleagues from around the country got together a year ago, they all bemoaned the fact that there was no place for them to have the conversation that we hope the center is going to be a platform for going forward.

And it was really at their behest that a couple of us said, "Well, this is a good idea. Let's go out and figure this out." So and little did we know that we'd be here today at Georgetown, but it is really a terrific thing to see this all come together.

And the time is now. There is a huge opportunity, and that meeting on Saturday that you all had with the administration was just a terrific indication that finally that partnership between the states and the feds can actually maybe be a reality.

I have two tasks today. One is to read a letter from Governor Charlie Crist, whose staff was also involved in that meeting a year ago, who couldn't make it tonight, but as you know, is another great governor leader on climate change in this country.

He writes, "Dear Attendees of the Georgetown State-Federal Climate Resource Center Launch: Global climate change is one of the most important issues we face, and it's important that we take action to secure our economic future as well as to protect our environment.

"As governor of Florida, I've made it a priority to address climate change and protect the Sunshine State's environment and economy, but Florida isn't alone in this effort, and to truly address the issues, we face, states must together work with our federal partners.

"The Georgetown State-Federal Climate Resource Center launch will be vital to encouraging that cooperation by providing expertise and resources on climate legislation and by bringing together leaders from

around the nation to work toward this important goal.

"Here in Florida we're putting in place new energy future for our state. In 2007 I signed three Executive Orders to increase energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase the use of alternative and renewable energy technologies, such as solar and wind power.

"Last summer I signed into law groundbreaking bipartisan energy and economic development legislation that is implementing measures to stimulate Florida's economy, reduce emissions and increase energy efficiency. As a result, Florida is second only to California relating to installed capacity of solar. In this way, we are guiding the Sunshine State into a new era of alternative energy and green technologies.

"I wish you the best of luck with this new center, and I look forward to working with all of those involved in securing a brighter tomorrow for future generations."

Terrific. So my second and last task is to introduce Governor Gregoire from Washington, and like some many of these governors who've been doing incredible work in their states while the federal government seems to be doing so little and even be doing less than little...

(LAUGHTER)

...Governor Gregoire is very similar. And she came into office in 2005, as you may remember, and in a very short time has moved forward incredibly aggressively on climate change.

She was one of the governors who started the Western Climate Initiative, which as you know, is a collaborative of seven states and four Canadian provinces, which is kind of the West Coast version of RGGI on the East Coast that we know a lot about.

She pushed through adoption of new standards for cars in the state. She backed and signed the nation's most aggressive green buildings legislation, requiring all major building to meet the Green Building Council's LEED standards. She put in place a 15 percent RPS. She put in place a greenhouse gas standard for new electric generation plants, which is going to make it tough for dirty coal in Washington in the future. She's put in place biofuel standards and on and on and on.

It's unbelievable that you did all that since 2005. But it is fantastic just to see that commitment again and again at the state level, and Governor Gregoire, you have been right out there with the very best of them, so congratulations.

In January she proposed a piece of cap-and-trade legislation in the state of Washington, which will put in place the principles that are in the WCI, the Western Climate Initiative Consortium principles. That bill is now working its way through the Washington legislature. I know that she would love your help in trying to do anything we all can to make sure that it moves and passes.

And she's also got, I should just say, terrific staff. Mark Rupp), who's here, who plays such a huge role in pulling the center together, and Jay Manning, who I mentioned earlier who was at the meeting a year ago, are just unbelievably good people. And it's been a joy working with them every step of the way.

So we welcome you, Governor. Thank you so much for your leadership.

(APPLAUSE)

GREGOIRE: Thank you all.

(APPLAUSE)

Thank you and thank you for that kind introduction and very exciting, to the director, to the dean to have the center here and to have this center actually come to being.

We have been through an interesting last four years trying to fill the void of leadership here in Washington, D.C. And while we've made a lot of progress in the states, we really came to the realization that we didn't have the expertise that was really going to be called for, looking at what has happened in the E.U., what lessons have been learned, what has succeeded and what can we replicate here and in how short a time.

So that is, I think, kind of the genesis of the idea. We need the help, and we candidly need the help to make sure when Congress moves -- and I am determined it will move -- when Congress moves, it moves in the right direction in the right timeframe with the right fundamentals. And so to have it here at Georgetown, I think, is absolutely the right thing.

Now, while I have not paid any checks to Georgetown...

(LAUGHTER)

...I want you to know that our daughter married a Georgetown Law School graduate in August so...

(APPLAUSE)

And let me just tell you what Kathleen and I have experienced, a little exclamation point to what she just told you. It has been a 180 from all of my experience over the last four years coming back to Washington, D.C., at the National Governors Association meeting and wanting to talk about energy policy and global climate change. This time we come back and it's a welcome mat out. What can we do? How can we partner? How fast can we go?

And then to talk about the stimulus package, which as I think the nation has not recognized is the single largest energy -- energy -- policy that's ever been passed in the United States. And for those out there who don't know it, it's our job to let them know really what is in that stimulus package that relates to energy, and it's kind of

the foundation upon which we can now go and grow.

And so the discussion with every one of those secretaries and more was their role, their part in the energy policy. But to hear the Secretary of the Interior when we said, "What are your top three priorities?" Priority number one, energy and how do we move forward on global climate change-related issues. And that's what we got from all of those secretaries, so it's very, very exciting.

The Western Climate Initiative began, I think, with a press conference that I had and the press people asking me the question, what can one little state like the state of Washington with 6.5 million people do with regard to global climate change? I wasn't necessarily ready for the question, but as I thought for a moment, I turned and said, "Lead."

And from that moment, talking to Oregon and California, bipartisan, we have grown to seven governors and four Canadian provinces, and now we're into the launch of, OK, let us each adopt a piece of legislation dealing with global climate change.

Now, let me just tell you how the debate's going.

(LAUGHTER)

The debate is challenging in my Washington state legislature, challenging in this respect: They really want and are thirsty for information about what has worked and what hasn't worked and what does the science really tell us. And I will tell you, in the last four years I've made more emergency declarations as governor than ever in the history of the state of Washington.

We have within the span of 13 months had two 100-year floods, so we flood in the winter, and then I issue my emergencies in the summer because we have droughts and wildfires. So we, as a coastal state, are a perfect example that if we don't get going, the consequences are so severe to us, not only economically but in every respect of our livelihood, that we don't have an alternative but to move forward.

But we need the signal from Congress. We got it from the President that we are going to move forward, that there is no way to turn back. We have to move forward, and I believe, rather than a tax that a cap-and-trade system is the right way to go. And I've heard it from the administration over the last three days, and we heard it from the President today in our discussion in a private session with the governors.

So we need a signal from Congress it's real. It's going to happen. We need the expertise here and the bridge of we are doing and what we're thinking onto Congress.

One of the great fears is not only are we going to get out there too far and then nothing will happen nationally? That's what I hear from my business community. And then the second thing we hear most often is really, as we move forward, if they do move forward, will they understand what it's like on the ground and how to make it work?

We just did our last session of the governors meeting, heard from a minister from Denmark. And if you've studied it at all, it's become an independent nation when it comes to energy. They have done amazing things. We can take a lot of lessons from them.

But one of the messages when I asked what would you recommend as we move forward with global climate change, maybe you should do it as we did it, which in 2005 we put it in place. It was an experiment for three years, and it took effect in 2008.

I'm not a big advocate of that long a time. We can learn their lessons and take what succeeded there, but there may be a path forward. Again, so we need the dialogue, not only on the science but on the policy and on the politics of how this center can bridge the work and what we want to do as states onto Congress to make it happen and partner internationally.

I sure hope that the United States of America shows up at the next international and says, "We're no longer going to be in the back. We're going to take our rightful leadership role." I think it's been embarrassing for this country.

It's time we took our rightful spot, America's time to lead. It will lead with this center. Thank you and congratulations.

(APPLAUSE)

ARROYO: Thank you so much.

As the dean mentioned, we'll be hearing later this evening at 6:30 from Administrator Lisa Jackson and also Chair Nancy Sutley of CEQ. But the governors have another event tonight, so please join me one more time in thanking them on their way out.

(APPLAUSE)

BYRNE: Hello, everybody. I'm Peter Byrne, a professor here and the faculty director of the Georgetown climate center. And it's my privilege to introduce Nancy Sutley, chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

And as somebody who works in the areas of land use and local government, I'm particularly pleased that the chair of CEQ comes directly from a large city government as deputy mayor for energy, environment in Los Angeles.

But Ms. Sutley also has a distinguished record working for EPA as a special policy adviser to the regional administrator and also as special assistant to the administrator here in Washington and also, as many of you know, distinguished work on the California -- working for Governor Davis as a deputy secretary and working with California EPA.

It is such a thrill for us as long-time residents or workers in Washington, D.C., to have such an exciting group coming to Washington to provide us with leadership in this area, and it's again a pleasure

to introduce Nancy Sutley.

(APPLAUSE)

SUTLEY: Thank you, Peter, and thank you, Vicki, for the invitation. I'm very pleased to be here and very pleased to be joined by my colleague and friend, Lisa Jackson.

And it's a particular thrill for me to see this evolution of the discussion on climate. When I was at Cal EPA, sort of my unique contribution to the first piece of legislation that California passed -- I can't remember now -- 2002? On the Pavley auto standards was I told my boss at the time, the secretary of Cal EPA, this was a big deal.

(LAUGHTER)

And then it was kind of off the races, so I've seen at the state level what states can do to move climate policy along. I think the realization in California that the state needed to do something was in thinking about what the impacts were going to be on California of climate change.

And then when I went to the City of Los Angeles, my now former boss, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, committed himself to making Los Angeles the greenest big city in America. And before you snicker, it was really out of a belief that these are pressing problems that local governments need to solve. So whether it's increased incidence of wildfires -- wildfire season in Southern California is now year-round. It's not just when it doesn't rain. Sea level rise, more days with smog, and scariest of all for California, the prospect of losing 90 percent of the Sierra snowpack because of climate change.

So California and other states, they took up the mantle when there wasn't that much going on in Washington, and local governments around the nation -- something like, I think, 900 mayors -- have signed onto the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate pledge, really taken up this issue.

And so coming back here to Washington, I've been gone 13 years. I come back with a renewed vigor for and having learned about how states and local government and the federal government, if they're all growing in the right direction, the same direction, can work together to really, literally change the world.

So I just want to say to Georgetown and to the supporters of this great new center, "Yea."

(LAUGHTER)

This is terrific. And, you know, I think we've all been given the charge by the President, you know, to try to make a cleaner future for all Americans. And I know you heard earlier about how important the recovery package is, how it is an unprecedented investment in clean energy and in cleaning up our nation, so we have a lot to look forward to and a lot that we can work on together.

And so thank you very much for the invitation to be here, and I look forward to spending more time with all of you. Thank you.

(APPLAUSE)

ARROYO: Yea, Nancy.

(LAUGHTER)

Thank you so much. Before I introduce Administrator Lisa Jackson, I just wanted to acknowledge the support of so many state-level cabinet officials that helped to make the center possible. You heard some of the background from before I was involved from Michael Northrop, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, earlier. And, really, a number of state officials have made this possible, and many of them, unfortunately, have to be here more in spirit than in reality because of either budget constraints or legislative hearings that they're involved in.

But I have seen around the room and hopefully they're still here and can wave Commissioner Laurie Burt of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

(APPLAUSE)

Where are you, Laurie?

Secretary Paula Hammond of Washington's Department of Transportation.

(APPLAUSE)

And Secretary Mike Chrisman of California's Natural Resources Agency.

(APPLAUSE)

So thank you all for being here, and if I've missed anyone, I really apologize. Please let us know if you're here.

And now I get to introduce Lisa Jackson, and I've really been looking forward to this.

As EPA's administrator, Lisa Jackson leads a staff of approximately 18,000 professionals dedicated to protecting public health and the environment of all Americans. She was nominated to lead the agency by President Barack Obama -- I like hearing that -- on December 15th, 2008, and confirmed by the Senate on January 23rd, 2009. She is the first African-American to serve in this position.

Administrator Jackson lists among her priorities reducing greenhouse gas emissions. And as those of who read today's "New York Times" editorial well know, she's moving very quickly to reverse years of neglect on this issue. Thank you.

(APPLAUSE)

Before becoming EPA administrator, Ms. Jackson served as chief of staff to New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine, and prior to that, she was the commissioner of the state's Department of Environmental Protection. While commissioner, she was known for her advocacy on reducing greenhouse gases, aggressively controlling the pollution, having an open and honest dialog with stakeholders and ensuring that underserved communities received fair environmental protection under the law.

Prior to joining DEP, she worked for 16 years as an employee of U.S. EPA, initially at its headquarters here in Washington, and later at a regional office in New York City, where she helped direct the region's enforcement program.

Governor Corzine said after her confirmation to head EPA, quote, "The American people have gained a tireless public servant and a tenacious guardian of the environment."

Administrator Jackson is a summa cum laude of graduate of Tulane University's School of Chemical Engineering and earned a Master's degree in chemical engineering from Princeton.

But I'm really proud because like me she is from New Orleans, Louisiana. She spent many years there. She was born in Pennsylvania, I guess, but we take credit for her, Don Boesch and I and John Glenn and the other New Orleanians, who are here. And it's one of the many reasons that I'm so proud to have her here and to introduce her to you tonight.

Lisa?

JACKSON: Wow, thank you. Well, first, Happy Monday Gras.

(LAUGHTER)

Well, Mardi Gras is tomorrow but...

(CROSSTALK)

ARROYO: I asked them to serve King Cake tonight ...but they didn't know what I was talking about.

(LAUGHTER)

JACKSON: The only thing worse than King Cake today is King Cake at the end of the week.

(LAUGHTER)

But that's inside jokes.

Well, thank you all. I'm thrilled to be here tonight. I'm well aware that I'm standing between you and food and drink and a good time and to actually start to begin the work you need to do, so I'm not going to speak too long.

A couple of things: I'm absolutely convinced -- in case any of you actually have the honor of being head of the EPA -- that it's all about timing. You just got to know when to quit. I'm thinking about sending my letter of resignation any day now.

(LAUGHTER)

You know, there's a trajectory, right? And then, then, yeah. And I know that you all will be amongst the voices trying to figure out whether that trajectory's going in the wrong direction, and I thank you in advance for keeping me straight.

(LAUGHTER)

I also -- I know. I mean it.

I also want to thank right now first the administration of Georgetown and this center, the Law School, not only for being willing to host this center but also for lending me Lisa Heinzerling, who an extraordinary resource).

(APPLAUSE)

Boy, is she smart. If you're a law student, I actually feel bad because I should apologize for depriving you of the ability to take a class from her. But perhaps you will feel comforted to know that she is already having an extraordinary impact in making public policy that serves all of us in this country and indeed the world, so I thank her for that.

I want to thank you funders who I was making jokes about sitting around and realizing that this makes sense to do and how auspicious a time to be rolling it out and how auspicious a time to be saying that, gee, maybe states have something to say on the issue of climate change.

Having come from a state, obviously, I have my own opinions about that, and I promise not to be shy about them. I happened to work for a governor who had very strong opinions on a lot of issues having to do with climate change. And, obviously, I now, as I've said many times, represent the entire country and all of the governors and the panoply of ideas and thoughts and stakeholders who want to be heard on this issue.

But states have a very peculiar and particular and important voice on these issues, first and foremost, because you live it. You live, you know, I'm sure you heard from the governors earlier, as we heard on Saturday at the NGA from leadership governors, you know, not advocacy -- understanding and experience on these issues. Understanding because they're already doing it and that's the kind of experience that also will forge great public policy.

Having a center like this, having the forethought to do it, gives a nice place for those ideas to come together, be magnified, be given voice to and a resource.

I'm really here to thank you in advance tonight for all the times you're going to save me. I'm not kidding.

(LAUGHTER)

You know, to thank you for all the times you'll have information or data that we don't have, for all the times you'll be advocating with my own staff and with others for approaches we may not have considered, for all the times you, when you go back, those of you who work in state government or work with state governments, go back and carry messages forward from this crazy island called Washington, D.C., which is insular and sometimes hard to communicate back out and to receive information in.

So this is a huge IOU as administrator for all the times when I know that work will actually more than inform our work but be vital to our work.

We have a lot of work to do, and the really cool thing for you students who are here is that almost all of it is, you know, a quagmire to try to figure out going forward. And maybe that's as it should be. At the end of the day, if you're going to talk about something as vitally important as climate and if you're going to come back to try to really change direction -- and we are. We're trying to change the country's direction fairly significantly on climate. That should not be able to be done easily.

It's not going to be able to be done easily and not without lots of discussion and lots of thought about what's legal, what's illegal, what's good policy, what's bad policy, what makes sense cost-wise, what doesn't make sense cost-wise. All the questions about how we make sure that whatever we do, we take care of those who are disproportionately impacted already in our communities, all the science questions yet to be answered, and most importantly -- and this is why I thank you again for Lisa -- all the legal issues that have to be carefully thought out and carefully choreographed.

And if there has been any success so far, it's in trying to show the American people, not to mention the President, that we get all those back and forth and ins and outs and all the things that need to be discussed and aired and talked about in order to come up with sane, rational, progressive policy on climate and, of course, energy.

We happen to have a great ally whose name is President Barack Obama. He really has made clear that he understands that energy and the economy are intricately linked, that energy and climate are intricately linked. And I do agree with Nancy that, you know, the stimulus, the Recovery Act, is a very concrete demonstration of literally putting money where his mouth has been on those issues.

And if you talk to people who are outside the Washington, you know, , they understand that that's actually real public policy, that we're going to be investing a whole lot of money in energy efficiency and renewable energy and demonstration projects and science and research fundamental to actually being able to solve this problem.

It is extraordinary to be able to work with somebody like Nancy Sutley. I learn from her every time I'm in a meeting with her about the kind of quiet competence and extraordinary expertise that she brings to these issues. And so to have an ally in the White House who -- in addition to Carol Browner, who's another ally in the White House -- but Nancy's here.

(LAUGHTER)

But to have her there at CEQ and to know that we are approaching these issues together, I think, is also extraordinarily important.

Just a couple of thoughts. Obviously, the big issue of the day is this myth. It is a myth. I say it to you now so you can help say that, that we have to -- right now we are at this horrible fork in the road, and the fork looks something like this, depending on who's painting the picture.

EPA will regulate cows, Dunkin' Donuts, Pizza Hut, your lawnmower and baby bottles.

(LAUGHTER)

I haven't figured out why baby bottles yet but probably baby bottles. Just throw it in there. Somebody said to me today, "Kittens" -- I like that one --

(LAUGHTER)

In its overzealous and somehow misguided and somehow, you know, strange unfurling of regulatory might, that will happen any second now because nobody's putting the brakes on EPA and climate legislation that there aren't enough votes to get that people are ready to -- they estimate somewhere here, as David McIntosh, if I was yanking his chain, I would say, you know, like that crazy Lieberman-Warner bill.

(LAUGHTER)

You know that. So here we are at this fork, this untenable position on climate.

It is not true. I do not see that, and I have not been made to see it. I think that we are doing everything we can to turn the ship and to explain to people that we understand that the issues of climate, energy, economy, the international stage are all very much related.

EPA does have regulatory might. That's exactly what it should have. It is at its heart a regulatory agency. But it also will quickly become irrelevant if it is not shown to be listening, to be a laboratory where good ideas move forward, an advocate and, yes, at the end of the day, a place where we can find the balance that makes good public policy, that addresses first and foremost the issue of climate change -- we can't lose that -- but also addresses people's real fear

about what this will cost them, how much it will cost every day in their electric bill or whether it will cost them in jobs or competitiveness or what it will cost in terms of a move to a new energy economy for the current energy economy.

We have all that work to do, and I look forward to doing it with you and with those who aren't here in the room. If I have one plea, it's that you constantly work to be a center that has, as one of its fundamental strengths, the fact that it is based at a university with young people who are innovative and eager and ready to ride this wave of this international phenomenon on energy and climate.

Please, please, please, keep to this. Somebody said to me the other day, "You know, what's funny is that at the end of the day" -- I think it was Dave McIntosh, call him out -- "you know, we're really talking about this generation or next, but the next generation has most assuredly spoken." So I would hope that we would be able to demonstrate to them that we can do it too.

But please make sure that in harnessing the states, you harness the young folk because we are going to need their momentum to drive this engine of change.

Thank you so much having me here.

(APPLAUSE)

ARROYO: Thank you so much, Administrator Jackson. We very much look forward to working with you and your staff.

In closing, I just want to recognize and introduce you to a couple of the new, terrific staff that we have on board. I don't see them, but please, stand up.

Diane Derby is our new communications director. And Kate Zylain the back is going to be our new policy director in March. And Kym Hunter, who's in the way back, is our research assistant and also the new editor-in-chief of the environmental law review here. And I want to say a special thanks to Elizabeth Clapsin Special Events for helping to make this evening possible.

Please stay awhile. Enjoy your evening and let's get back to work on this tomorrow morning. Thank you.

(APPLAUSE)

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