

to hit us again. But we've also got a lot of work to do here at home. I made that clear the other day when I signed a really good piece of legislation, and that's the education reform bill. And I'm now making that statement again when I sign this sensible piece of legislation, one that emphasizes the need for environmental stewardship all across the country, and a piece of legislation that will enhance prosperity and the safety of Americans living in urban areas.

This bill was passed because of the work of both Republicans and Democrats. It's an example of what can happen when people put partisanship aside and focus on what's best for America. It shows what can happen when people say, "I'm proud of my political party, but I'm more proud of my country, and I'm in Washington, DC, to do what's right for America first, not my political party."

And so I want to thank Paul Gillmor from the State of Ohio. Paul flew over today from his district outside of Toledo, in order to watch this bill being signed. And it's right that he's here, because he was the main sponsor in the House, who has worked hard to get this piece of legislation through. Paul, I want to thank you for coming. I look forward to giving you the pen, as I sign the bill. This should be one of the high marks of your leadership and your service to the country. So thank you for being here, sir.

I want to thank two members of the Pennsylvania delegation for being here, Joe Hoeffel and Bob Borski. Thank you both for being here and taking time out of your day to come. It's good to see the old Governor here. I appreciate Mark coming today. I appreciate his leadership, and I know the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania appreciate his willingness to step in when Ridge left, and he's doing a fine job. I want to thank the attorney general, Mike Fisher, for being here as well. Michael, thanks for coming, and thanks for your service to Pennsylvania.

And then I want to thank Brian O'Neill. I knew the O'Neills were a big family, but I didn't realize—[laughter]—they were that big. But I thank Brian for being a risktaker—somebody who understands that in order to create jobs, you have to take risk; somebody who is an entrepreneur; somebody who has had the vision to take these eyesores and convert them into positive economic assets that benefit the community at large. And so, Brian, I'm proud of the work you do, no more so than the citizens of this community. You're leaving behind a legacy that is positive and strong. And I'm honored to be here at your place of business. Thank you, sir.

I also want to thank some of the Senators that worked on this piece of legislation, none of whom could be here today. They're traveling around in different parts of the globe. One is Senator Lincoln Chafee from Rhode Island; he sponsored the bill. Kit Bond worked on it; Senator Bob Smith, Senator Harry Reid all worked hard to get this legislation out of the Senate and eventually onto my desk.

All of us have a responsibility to be the stewards of our land. When we use the land, we must do so wisely and responsibly, balancing the needs of the environment with the best interests of those who live and work on the land.

The law I sign today addresses the problem of land which has already been developed and then abandoned. American cities have many such eyesores; anywhere from 500,000 to a million brownfields are across our Nation. These areas once supported manufacturing and commerce, and now lie empty, adding nothing of value to the community and sometimes only causing problems.

Many communities and entrepreneurs have sought to redevelop brownfields. Often they could not, either because of excessive regulation or because of the fear of endless litigation. As a consequence, small businesses and other employers have located elsewhere, pushing development