

America's Global Leadership: Impact on North Carolina

Ed: Welcome everyone. I'm Ed O'Keefe and I'm here today as a proud member of the United States Global Leadership Coalition's North Carolina Advisory Committee. On behalf of the entire Committee, I'm honored to welcome you here today and thank you for joining us. I'm also Deputy General Counsel and Legal Chief Operating Officer for Bank of America, based right here in Charlotte. I want to give a special welcome to my guests from the Bank of America Military Support and Assistance Group. We honor you for your service to our country. Thank you.

This afternoon, we look forward to a discussion on America's role in the world. A simple look at the headlines, whether it's North Korea's ongoing nuclear threats, the crisis in Syria, or the continuing unrest in the Ukraine, to address and understand the need for America to maintain a strong role in the world today. The United States GLC has assembled a distinguished group of leaders here in North Carolina, both Democrat and Republican, who believe like I do that America must be a global leader, not only because it's the right thing to do, but because it's the smart thing to do.

Most Americans think we spend 25% of the federal budget on foreign assistance, when in reality, it is 1%. We risk jeopardizing the hard-won gains of our fighting men and women as we draw down in front line locations if we do not ensure adequate resources for development and diplomacy. I see many of my fellow advisory committee members here today, and we as a group fully agree with this. We in Charlotte are pleased to stand with the USGLC and it's efforts to advance strong and effective international programs. As a rising business-oriented city, with ambitions to play on a global stage, Charlotte is the perfect place to have this conversation.

I know that our special guests today, Senator Burr, and distinguished panelists join us in this pursuit. Senator Burr, the North Carolina leaders gathered here today thank you for your dedication to these issue and we look forward to hearing your thoughts on America's foreign policy challenges. Now to introduce you, a little more to the USGLC, please help me welcome a man who needs no introduction in this crowd, please join me in welcoming one of the USGLC's North Carolina co-chairs, and our former governor, Mr. James Martin.

James: Thank you very much Ed O'Keefe. I don't know if they still have your identification up there, I was intrigued by the "Legal Chief Operating Officer." I've met the illegal one and I'm happy to get acquainted with you. I know what all that means, it means he's the top lawyer, among other things.

I want to say thanks to all of you, to Bank of America and to all of our corporate sponsors. Our sponsors for this event, whose names are at the bottom of... You got several programs at your place, but this one has them listed, and I hope you'll see that and appreciate their support for this occasion. I am pleased to be co-chair of the North Carolina Advisory Committee of the US Global Leadership Coalition, which from time we'll call the USGLC. When we say that, you'll want to think US Global Leadership Coalition.

Serving that way, along with my co-chair, former Governor Jim Hunt. Each of you has had those unfortunate occasions where your best-laid plans have had to be set aside because of something that came up that you had not anticipated and that happens to be the dilemma he faced. I spoke with Governor Hunt just yesterday and can relate to you that he is very sorry he can't be here with us. We had an earlier event at Raleigh a year ago and he and I co-hosted that with Senator Kay Hagan as our featured speaker then. Yet, those things happen. He asked me to assure you that he's fully supportive of the US Global Leadership Coalition and wanted to be here. As you know, during his four terms as my predecessor and successor - I was the baloney between his two slices of bread back in those days. As with governors of this state and southeastern states generally, he was seriously engaged in economic development recruitment for numerous countries on behalf of North Carolina and especially our manufacturing sector and economy, as was I. We'll miss him today, but appreciate his continuing commitment. Speaking for both of us, and with the room laid out the way it is from side to side, I get to practice speaking out of both sides of my mouth.

We are honored to have as our special speaker - we'll get over this in just a minute, y'all stay with me - but our special speaker, featured speaker, Senator Richard Burr and we have a number of special guests here... Was there a list for me to read out somewhere here? That one I know. Oh, turn the page, here we are. I had a different page, folks, bear with me. Among the many friendly faces here in the ballroom, let me start with Congressman Richard Hudson, Consul General of Israel to the southeast, [inaudible 00:05:37], former Congresswoman Sue Mark, Representatives Rodney Moore, Jacqueline Shafer, Ruth Samuelson, Bill Bawley, and Steven Ross, and representatives from the offices of Governor McCrory and Representatives Pittenger, Coble, and McHenry.

Now, a very special recognition for all the rest of important people who are here today, I would like to ask all of you to please stand and give yourselves a round of applause. Come on, you can do it. Up, everybody. Look around, this is a good group. We're talking distinguished. All right.

As Ed O'Keefe was explaining, the US Global Leadership Coalition has brought together a superb group of American leaders here in North Carolina and across

the country. We have built it across the country in a non-partisan, bi-partisan fashion to get support for American foreign policy that continues to be engaged in world leadership through what we call "Smart Power," and you'll see reference to that through the day. You can imagine what it means. It does mean the unrelenting commitment to sustaining our national security, supporting our allies and our own national interest, diplomatic programs to build strong relationships around the globe, investing in the developing countries that need the stabilizing force of jobs in order to undermine terrorist movements and appeals. These and many more initiatives to secure our future prosperity and markets and create stability around the world.

As Secretary of Defense, Bob Gates said, "Development is a lot cheaper than sending soldiers." You think about that one. A few years ago, we established a group, an institute in Chapel Hill called the North Carolina Institute for Defense and Business. Its purpose was to bring ranking military officers, future flag officers, the admirals and generals to come and meet with business executives and learn the best business practices such as logistics, supply chain management, barcode information for the shipping, arsenal management, those kinds of things. Because of those connections, we found an opportunity to work with the US Chamber of Commerce to train and energize and incentivize American businesses to establish operations of some kind in the Kandahar province of Afghanistan and the Anbar province of Iraq, which you may remember have been the most dangerous areas of those two countries. What we had seen was that there are many young men and some young women who are lured by promise that their family will be rewarded with money if they will sacrifice themselves and take out others, however that would do. Yet, we have found that once these jobs were established there, that was moderated to some extent. Still a dangerous place, but now there are many people who have jobs to live for rather than some cause to die for.

Today's program is an example of how we bring together diverse network like this all across America. Over 400 business and humanitarian organizations, along with military, foreign policy, faith-based leaders in every state who support this "Smart Power" approach to American foreign policy, in addition to state by state advisory committees like ours, to build community and media and therefore political support. The US Global Leadership Coalition has an unusually strong national presence. Listen to this, and it's in your program material. A national advisory council, which includes every living former Secretary of State, many other former Cabinet officials and former members of Congress, and has honorary chair Colin Powell. A national security advisory council of over 150 retired three star and four star American flag officers. A network of more than 30,000 American veterans nationwide who understand up close and personal how vital development and diplomacy are to US foreign policy and national

security. Today, Senator Burr and our distinguished panel will bring us more valuable insights to strengthen and expand our understanding of this challenge.

Before we break for lunch, we have a special presentation we want to make. In its brief tenure, the USGLC has crossed America to identify and honor companies and non-profits that have pursued innovative solutions to some of the world's most vexing economic and societal problems. Today, we recognize and honor a special local company that has a unique business commitment to world peace. It's called MANA Nutrition. You say, "Where have I heard that before?" It's located right here in Charlotte, and like MANA from heaven, indeed, these folks produce and distribute what they call "ready-to-use therapeutic food" in partnership with the USAID, the Aid for International Development. They deliver food to children suffering from malnutrition and hunger in less developed countries. It means jobs here in North Carolina and in our neighbor state of Georgia. Let's learn a little more about this.

Video: There are six million deaths a year from complications arising from malnutrition. We're not going to solve world hunger, but we can make a serious impact on malnutrition. MANA is RUTF, that's Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food. Peanut butter paste, specifically designed for and proscribed to kids who suffer from severe malnutrition. It's peanut butter, milk, and vitamins in one pack. The six week course of MANA can bring a child back from the brink of starvation. This needs to leave our hands and get into a kid's hands.

James: Here indeed is an initiative that we can all be truly proud of among our neighbors. I want to call forward Mark Moore, the founder and CEO of MANA Nutrition, accompanied by Senator Burr, who will assist me. Mark, we want you to know that we are very proud of what you've done here and proud that you have based this and brought jobs here and nutrition abroad. Clap if you agree with me.

Sen. Burr: Mark, I'd like to make this very special presentation to you, with this small award for a big accomplishment on your part. This award says, "In recognition of your innovation and smart power, US Global Leadership Coalition, April 2014." Congratulations.

Mark: Thank you sir. I appreciate it.

James: Let's stand right over here. [inaudible 00:13:07]

Sen. Burr: Yeah, I used to do this for a living. [inaudible 00:13:18]

Mark: Thank you. This is in two pieces here, and thanks for the warning, Senator. I was about to drop that on your toe. That would have made global news. Thank you,

Governor Martin, for the award. We're greatly honored. Thank you, Senator Burr, for your great work and your leadership and support of US international affairs programs, which allow MANA to make a difference and to make a difference not only all around the world but right here at home in Charlotte. Thanks to the USGLC. Hanging out in public with you and the 150 or so retired three and four star generals on your advisory board certainly is a feather in our cap. Also, thanks to Cannell Gates and thanks to Garoon Walker, who are both here today, big helpers in our mission.

Finally, thanks to Charlotte for welcoming us as a young company. We arrived here four years ago from Dallas, from Los Angeles, from DC, from Colorado, simply because it seemed like a nice place to live and we liked the rocking chairs in your airport. It's a very welcoming and livable city and we love it. I want to be the first person in history to make a very short award speech and to encourage those attending with this kind of charge to greatness. We've got a lot of people in this room who have a lot of impact, a lot of very driven people from a lot of very big corporations in big places.

Here's what I want to charge you with. As a company of MANA, we're determined to do these three things. You got to wrap your mind around this. I want you to think smaller, I want you to aim lower, and I want you to slow down and grab some coffee. If you can handle that, that sounds like a charge I can handle personally, to think a little smaller, to aim a little lower, and to go grab some coffee. If you think smaller and focus on children, it's imperative. 26% of the world right now are children, kids under 15. 50% of the population of countries like Central African Republic and South Sudan, places where we have big trouble, where we send our military, are children. If we can think smaller, we can have a bigger impact. That's what USGLC is encouraging us to do today.

Aim lower. Kids are the key, and kids under 6 are the key. If you reach a child by the time he or she reaches her 6th birthday, you're talking about 95% of their brain growth. If you can get them the proper nutrition in early age, you can transform economies. The World Food Program released a study last summer that said Ethiopia's GDP is impacted by 3 billion dollars because of nutrition.

Finally, slow down. Finding the bandwidth in a busy life to sit down with like-minded people won't result in more things to do, but it may result in the synergies and the possibilities to form a company sort of like MANA that's trying to make a difference in the world. Thank you for this award and thanks for the opportunity to be here.

James: Mark Moore, MANA Nutrition, ladies and gentleman. For those of you who are wondering, he came here not from Dallas, North Carolina, but from a city out West.

Michelle: Good afternoon. I'm Michelle Shrader, the Minister of Admissions at Myers Park Methodist Church. Myers Park is a community that takes seriously the command to go. We live out as best we can the calling to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God. In my travels, I have placed my hands upon the faces of children in South Africa who were dying of HIV/ AIDS. I have raised my hands over communities in Zimbabwe and Haiti that were living under the threat of a cholera epidemic. I have sat with people in Armenia and heard their stories of being victims of human trafficking. I have seen the devastation of civil war and what it does to educational systems in countries like Liberia and South Sudan. For many years now, I have walked with very hungry people, people who would be glad to receive that peanut butter. Hungry for food, but also hungry for something better in their life, and so I celebrate the gift of all of you being in this room today, working towards this new something different that we're working towards in the world.

America is often thought of as a city of light on a hill. Our good will and investments around the world are making a big difference, but there is still work to be done. There are still more than a billion people living on less than \$2 a day and more than 10 million children die every year from preventable diseases before they reach their fifth birthday. Today, US development is fighting famine and hunger through programs aimed at ensuring food security, providing relief efforts in response to disasters like the one in the Philippines. Last year alone, Americans assisted to provide life-saving HIV/AIDS treatment to 15 million people, 5 million of those orphans.

During my seminary years, I served in South Africa, and I walked alongside many orphans, many people in poverty. I stand before you today to tell you that those people would be very thankful for the work that our country has done in that country over the years. The President's emergency plan for AIDS relief has helped educate and medicate many people in that country. I borrow a word from the South African culture today, ubuntu. In [inaudible 00:19:07] language, it means, "that I am because we are." It's an understanding of community that is larger than ourselves. I believe that's what we're being called to live into today, an ubuntu-like understanding of life together. As each live into this ideology in the places that we are called to lead and serve, I believe we will see a change in the face of our global community.

At this time, before we share a meal together, I'd like to ask you to bow your heads for a word of prayer. Holy God, on this afternoon, as we are gathered here together in this room, a room full of wonderful and amazing people. God, we are of the pain of many out there in the world.

Here as we eat a wonderful meal, will go without. So God as we are gathered

here today we ask that you circle this room of wonderful wise people were, with plans that will bring about change in the world around us. Rise up within each of us a leader that will make a difference in the world around us. We ask that you bless this food that we are about to receive, the hands that prepared it, and each of us as we partake of it. Amen.

Megan: Ladies and gentlemen if you could please enjoy your lunch our program will resume shortly. Thank you.

(background noise and talking)

[00:09:26]

Welcome back! Please continue your lunch while we make a few remarks. We do want to continue to respect your time. My name is Megan Bourne. I'm the founder and executive director of the foundation for tomorrow.

First I want to take a minute to recognize e the men and women here today who have sacrificed so much in the defense of our nation and our most deeply held values. They deserve our appreciation and support for this service to our nation.

I'd like to ask all the veterans in the room to please rise as we salute you.
(applause)

Thank you for helping to make the work we do here in North Carolina possible. I'm very proud today to stand alongside fellow North Carolina advisory committee member, Secretary Decker. At the foundation for tomorrow we work to secure quality education and emotional support for orphan invulnerable children in East Africa, so that they may reach their full potential and thrive in their communities.

Whether it's fighting hunger or malaria, HIV and AIDS, empowering women and girls, or advocating for justice, we are eyewitnesses to the life-changing impact of that small but mighty 1% of federal spending that we know as the American international affairs budget.

Now you may ask yourself, why is Secretary of Commerce standing here with a woman from a children's education organization? Well, we've come together today because America's global leadership benefits us both. Secretary Decker.

(applause)

Sec. Decker: I would never wonder why we are standing here together because I don't think you can think about North Carolina's economy, without thinking about our

children. I'm reminded on a daily basis, that the hard work we are doing round growing North Carolina's economy again Israeli for our children and our grandchildren, isn't it? It is the thing that motivates me, and it motivates me to be here with you here today 10 think about North Carolina's position and opportunity in the global economy.

I sat not long ago across the table from a CEO of a very large agribusiness concern in our state, and after we met, talked a bit about what we were doing in North Carolina, he looked across at me, very seriously, and he said Sharon do you understand that North Carolina is sitting at the epicenter of the agricultural evolution in the world. I said tell me more. He said you're an agricultural economy, you understand it, it's your roots, literally, and figuratively. You understand the power of the need to fill children's stomachs with food. You understand the power behind helping economies learn how to grow their own food. It's what this state has done all of your life. You also understand about investment, and research and development in agriculture, you understand about research and development and manufacturing, and on and on we went.

On that day I took that challenge. I began to really think about the position North Carolina plays in the global economy. From my experience as secretary of commerce, a very short period, a year and a half, as well as my many years at Duke energy... I know that in order to stay competitive in the global marketplace we need to have systems and policies in place that allow us to do business. Not only do it well in North Carolina domestically, but very important to our conversation today, do it well around the world.

America's development in diplomatic programs do just that. We don't have to look very far to see how it has benefited North Carolina already. Today, [inaudible 00:13:25] supports over 22% of the jobs in this great state. North Carolina exported over 30 billion dollars in goods and services to foreign markets last year and I can tell you that those numbers will be bigger this year. Over 88% of North Carolina's companies that export their products are small or medium-sized businesses and that encourages me most of all. Because I understand that is we rebuild North Carolina's economy so much of that is going to be done through small and midsize businesses. The key strategy for helping you, many of you in this room do that is helping you export more effectively and efficiently. The products and services that you are already producing.

Jean Davis is with me today. Jean if you'll please stand.

Jean has led our international division through many years of growth, and we're grateful for that.

And happy to share the gene has taken on a new responsibility as we look to privatize the sales and marketing functions of the state.

They've asked Jean to lead the business and development in that new operation because she is one, a great and effective leader, but secondly because her eyes R. On the world.

So as we are marketing North Carolina as we are seeking firms to come to our company, invest in our state, and investments to come to our state... as we are seeking to help those of you in business here grow, we want to be doing that with global eyes, in Jean is the right person to lead us in that direction. We're excited about the possibilities of which we have just tapped the surface.

The business world can take some credit for this success that the state has already seen but we have to share that credit I think with our development and diplomacy programs, funded by the US international affairs budget. That in the broadest sense provides the foundation that allows us as business development folks to really take our place and to make a difference in this economy.

As I often know , as the mother of four children, the words are often best said out of the mouths of babes and so watch this video with me where these young folks could better tell that story.

Video: With our economy the way it is today...

Some people are asking why we're spending so much money overseas...

And not on creating jobs right here at home.

Well actually were not spending much money.

Just 1% of our national budget goes to the international affairs budget.

That's not a lot.

In helping create American jobs is just what that money is doing.

If you want to create jobs you have to create more demand for products and services.

You need more customers.

And where are American companies finding more customers?

Not here... but here... and here... and here.

95% of the world's customers live outside of the US.

95%!!

When we sell goods to them, they're called exports.

US exports counted for a big part of our economic growth last year.

Half went to developing countries...

And their economies are growing three times faster than developed countries.

and every 10% increase in exports equals a 7% increase in jobs here.

So how do we increase exports?

Build new markets for American goods and services.

Remember that 1%?

America's international affairs budget helps fund programs that improve health and education, supports agriculture development

Builds a stable economy...

And creates new markets.

So if we don't go the biggest fastest growing group of consumers...

Other countries will.

Other countries already are.

Investing a small amount in global development and diplomacy's...

Is not only the right thing to do...

It's also the smart thing to do.

Make our economy stronger.

To create more jobs... for my mom... for my dad... for my neighbor... for me.

(applause)

Sec. Decker: I think they make it pretty clear. We're here for an important reason today and I'm delighted that you all have come. It is now my honor to introduce Senator Burr and members of the panel that will come in a few short moments. It's my honor to introduce Senator Burr.

Today's conversation about America's global leadership is one that couldn't take place without the senator. First elected to the House of Representatives in 1994, Sen. Burr served five terms in the house, and is currently serving his second term in the U.S. Senate. As ranking member of the Senate Veterans Affairs committee and member of the intelligence committee, Senator Burr has a unique perspective on the role that Mark power plays for our national security and for economic development. He understands that in today's increasingly interconnected world, the challenges we face in the US are more complex and require all of the foreign-policy tools that possibly could be available to us.

Senator, we're honored to have you here today and we thank you for your leadership. I'm so grateful, I have to add personally for Senator Burr's support of our efforts here in North Carolina and economic development, and always willing to help us, always willing to make phone calls, always willing to encourage, and I'm very grateful for that.

Also, on our panel will be Lieut. Gen. Ingram. He serves as the director of the Army National Guard where he guided the formulation, the development and implementation of all the programs and policies of affecting the Army National Guard. A force of more than 350,000 Citizen soldiers around the country, and the important for you to know that in the army and Air National Guard we have 152 units and 11,000 soldiers and airmen here in North Carolina. So, Lieut. Gen. Ingram, your work is important to us and will look forward to hearing from you after the Senator speaks.

Joining him in the panel will be Bill Lane. Bill is the international government affairs director at Caterpillar and cobras of the US GLC. Bill has been a leading voice in the business community for free trade and global engagement in Washington DC for over 35 years. Important for you to know about Bill, is that Caterpillar has over 2000 employees in the state of North Carolina.

We are very grateful that Bill is here and grateful for Caterpillar's business in this state. I shared with him that just last week I was at the Caterpillar facility in Sanford, North Carolina where we announced a new initiative in workforce development in the state, a workforce collaborative between commerce and the North Carolina community college system as we develop a seamless process for getting folks back to work and employers reaching people. We chose to

announce that at the Caterpillar plant because we feel that they are such a strong model in our state of really developing employees, hiring our people, and creating great career opportunities for them.

Bill, we particularly thank you for that. They will be joined by our distinguished moderator, the Emmy aware winner Christian broadcast network political correspondent, David Brody. We are so honored to have all of these distinguished gentlemen with us today. They will join us for a panel after the senator speaks, but first, ladies and gentlemen, join me in welcoming a true leader, a North Carolinian of highest valor and an advocate for US Smart Power, Senator Richard Burr.

Sen. Burr: Sure, and thank you for that very generous introduction. Governor Martin, I have always felt that it is better to be the meat between the two pieces of bread. I am glad you recognize exactly where you are. Mark, congratulations on [inaudible 00:01:29] recognition. I have got to admit that it has been a busy week. It is a challenging time, as we all know. As I got home at 11 last night, I said, "I will wait until tomorrow morning to think about what is on my schedule."

I woke up this morning and realized I had to drive and give this speech. It was a troubling hour and a half because I look at the diversity of the involvement and the support within this group and I realize, this is really, really important! That is tough for a member of congress to actually do something really, really important these days, (laughter). I will not embarrass our North Carolina chairs, the Jim and Jim show, the governor and governor ... Jim Martin, and Jim Hunt have served this state in an unbelievable way. They continue to serve us in every capacity that they are asked to do. We are grateful for you. Would you applaud the governor, and the governor that is not here.

Let me, if I can, try to set the stage for my brief remarks by sharing with you last week and where I was. A little over ten days ago I left with five of my colleagues, headed to Europe, to do what I do every 3-4 years. That is to visit our military cemeteries abroad, part of the American Battlefield Monuments commission. A lot of Americans do not realize that for World War I and World War II, many of our relatives, many of our friends' relatives, are still buried outside of the United States.

At the end of the conflict, in both operations, the military contacted families and said, "Do you want me to send the remains of your son/daughter/husband/wife/father/mother home?" Many individuals chose to leave their loved ones where they had given the greatest sacrifice ... As close to the battlefield as that cemetery might be. This was an effort led by General Percy. Much of the design was his fault. We have military cemeteries that have

as few as 13,000 visitors a year. This year Normandy will top 1.7 million on the 75th anniversary ... Quite a difference in attendance.

There is an American, at that cemetery that ceased 13,000 visitors a year, keeping that ground as impeccable as the ground is at Normandy, respecting every person who gave the ultimate sacrifice by making sure that the grass is mowed and the headstone is clean. There has been one big change that I want to share with you that has happened in the last year and a half ... Now, at every cemetery you visit, they tell the story.

If you are a North Carolinian walking into Cambridge, England cemetery, they are going to probably take you to the wall of the missing. They are going to probably tell you about the Irving Brothers from Charlotte, North Carolina ... The right and left gunner on the same heavy bomber, a bomber that left on a mission and never returned. They are going to tell you where they went to school, if they can find that information. They are going to tell you whether they were married and had children. They are going to tell you why they signed up, and more importantly if they knew anything about the decision to leave them there, they will share that with you. Not just family members, any person who walks in.

We have got a generation right now that we have got to educate about the sacrifices that were made so that we could be here today, so that we can talk about the global nature of opportunity and the impact that we can have on developing areas of the world. We could not do that if it was not for those brave souls. I am challenged a little bit this morning to come up with the things that I want to tell you, but I want to focus on three things. I do not think that these are going to be three things that you do not already know.

One, the globe has changed in the last fifteen years. If my dad were still alive, he would probably tell me I am crazy, it is still the same. The truth is, for those in business, for those in education, for those in elected office, we know it has changed drastically. For those in a non-profit capacity, you probably understand more than anybody just how challenging this new landscape is.

Two, terrorism is alive. It is alive and it is growing in the region that its presence is felt. More importantly, some of our best long term partners have no interest in the status of terrorism. It makes it challenging, to sat the least. Third, technology. Technology has always been perceived as a multiplier to economic growth. What I have to share with you today is technology now has become a threat. Our ability to sort through the two is really a challenge for those of us that have the responsibility of studying the policy course for the country.

Let me be a little more specific on both. The global landscape changing ... Probably best said in the video we just saw. Developing and developed. Some

might suggest there is something else ... No, there is not. We made a decision along with our German friends and the Japanese several decades ago. Us controlling the capital in the world, is not the best thing. Investors really nudged us to that, and capital began to be exported. Before that, Bill, we were in the textiles and furniture business in this state. We could do it because we controlled the capital.

When technology changed manufacturing, we sold the old technology to somebody that had a lower labor rate, but when you put the two together, it all matched. The free flow of capital changed drastically competition around the world. It was that free flow of capital that made governments begin to think about how our policies affect competitiveness of our companies, and more importantly, our citizens. The demographics have shift. For the past two decades we have been focused on a place called China ... Some for manufacturing reasons, but a lot for the market. High growth market ... A lot of people.

They were right. 70%+ of consumers today are outside of the United States. You manufacture something in the United States, 70% of who you are selling it to is outside of our country. Just as we have talked about China, the last two decades, how many people realized that in 2030, Africa will be the most populated continent in the world. It will be the target of investment. Do not believe me ... Look at what the Chinese are doing. They are getting the foothold today.

The challenging thing is, with the exception of President Bush's decision to start an HIV/AIDS initiative, which I applaud, and has had significant impact ... As a matter of fact, this year for the first time since that initiative went into place, the South African's said they are not taking anymore money, they are self-sufficient. That is how it is supposed to work and will continue to partner with other partners in the region to make sure that we reduce the risk, extend the life, and also through that program, teach them what self-sufficiency is as well.

It is also important when I have got the opportunity to have so much of US business in the room to say, this is not something government accomplishes. Our policies have to reflect the opportunity seamlessly for you to invest in these markets. Governments are not going to shift it. There is just not the power. Private investment, in developing countries around the world, changes their expectations of what they can achieve.

Coalition governments ... Tony you have got a lot of students at Piedmont Community College and I would be willing to bet that as those kids come from high school around the state, if you mention coalition governments to them, they look and they say, "What is that?" 97% of the rest of the world is coalition governments. We do a pretty good job of teaching about the United States

Republic, but we do not spend one bit of time talking about a coalition government.

I remember a trip to Madrid, Spain 17 years ago when we had a trade spat with the Spanish on, believe it or not, bananas. They took a suit to the WTO. I could not believe this. I sat down with some parliamentarians in Spain and I said, "Why would you let it get to this point?" They said, "Congress, we have a coalition government by one vote. We have two islands that grow bananas, they are part of the coalition. If we do not take out this suit, our coalition government falls and we have a special election in 90 days." I got my lesson on coalition governments.

There is no predictability. There is uncertainty. What does it require for capital investment to be made? Certainty. Predictability. Rule of law. Intellectual property protection. It sounds like I am ticking down a list of exactly what the United States foundationally stands for. Trade and prosperity. Richard Hutchin did a great job of talking about trade bills that are talked about in Washington. Action is what we need.

There is some that believe you can put the genie back in the bottle. Putting the genie back in the bottle is not good for the United States, and it is not good for the rest of the world. We should be in a mode where we aggressively open every market possible and make it as seamless for US companies to sell into those markets and for those markets to sell into ours. The United States consumer has been a beneficiary of competition, and I would tell you that for the sustainability of corporate America, they should have as robust a competition and learn how to succeed in it without federal government subsidies.

Save our policy and our investment to be leveraged to make the marketplace work, not to create the marketplace. Tara Rosen, as you have heard, being a member of the intelligence committee consumes some portion of every day that I am in Washington or not. What I need to share with you today is it is not just limited to individuals which you read about and hear about on the news. It is about countries. Countries are very much involved, and organizations like Al Qaeda are very much alive.

I do not say this to try to in any way deflect the national debate on what we do or when we do it, it is to tell you that you have to face the realities of what the world looks like if you want to understand why capital decisions by private entities are made the way they are. I could make a tremendous case to you today, and I say this to our European brethren that are in the room ... How could we help Africa the most? It is for Europe to give up on the demand that they grow nothing with genetically modified seed so that they can take advantage of what technology has provided.

As much as Bill and Melinda Gates might try in Ghana and other places to bring hybrid products to the marketplace, what they really need there is the ability to take advantage of the MO seeds that are drought resistant and allow their agriculture to grow so that at some point they can be more self sufficient and not rely on peanut butter and vitamins. Policies have to reflect the type of changes that we need in those regions, if in fact, we want the outcomes that everybody in this room is seeking.

You cannot ignore the fact that there are countries like Syria, Ukraine, Iran, and North Africa ... Whether it is General Engram when he was back on active duty or whether it is any of our active duty forces today .. They do not have to devote some portion to these countries every day trying to figure out what type of a contingency plan do we need if ... In fact, they would be fired if they did not.

The reality is, that takes an investment in personnel, that takes an investment in knowledge, it takes an investment in presence in those regions. Think, if that did not exist, what our investment in extending economic growth and development around the world could be. Technology ... I said technology, we have always used as a force multiplier for economic growth. Technology now is somewhat of a threat.

Ask anybody in the banking industry today whether the cyber-threat is alive and well. I do not expect Bank of America, or Wells Fargo, or anybody to talk about it, but it happens. It happens regularly. It happens in every country, and in some cases it is a criminal element and in some cases it is nation state. It is something that we have to deal with in the context of the [inaudible 00:17:33] of operation of a business, and more importantly the security of a country.

I will stop for a personal moment, because, as you can tell I am a little bit passionate about this because the number one responsibility I have as a member of congress is to assure the American people are safe. Everything else is secondary to that. Any member that tells you that is not their primary role constitutionally just did not hear the oath that they took. The reality is that we have to deal with this, but we have to deal with it in a partnership with American business. We have to deal with it in a partnership with our global partners around the world.

I hope that over the next several months we will be able to accomplish some type of predictable blueprint for how America will at least move forward and how our partners will intertwine into that move. I said I was going to be brief, let me try this ... What is the takeaway?

The takeaway is the question I was asked at Athens Drive High School by an 11th grader in Raleigh, North Carolina yesterday. Envision a school that five minutes

before I walked in the door to meet with students, a tree fell, the transformer blew, and the power went out. They were really excited that the power had gone out. They were not terribly excited that I was there. I will go to a school before I go to a rotary because kids will ask me what they hear their parents complain about around the dinner table, and not necessarily what was in the morning paper or the evening news.

When I opened it up for question, this 11th grader looked at me, and he said, “Senator, could you tell me what our foreign policy is?” Yeah. The unfortunate thing was it was the first time I’ve been in a school and been embarrassed at the fact that I couldn’t answer it.

Stop and think about it for just a minute. When I travel abroad right now some of our most longest term partners are wondering whether they need to go find another partner, because the lack of our ability to clarify our foreign policy. Will we be there? Will we live up to our agreements that we have?

I bring these up not to in any way to get up to the line of politics, but to say these are absolutely crucial to economic global growth, and to our presence in it. The United States of America is the least expensive place to manufacture in the world today. Why? Because our energy cost is one third of what the rest of the world is. I’ve never been more optimistic about what we can do, and if we take advantage of it, how much we can share, but if we don't take advantage of it, it means we’re just going to fall short of providing enough, or being the impetus for those developing areas of the world, and we’re going to have to rely on peanut butter, and vitamins.

I’m reminded of Helen Keller, when a reporter caught her after a speech she had given, and the reporter said to her, “Can you think of anything worse in life than to lose your sight?” She paused for a moment, and she said, “Yeah. To have my sight and lose my vision.” This is a real important time for America to understand what our vision is, for the world. Without that vision we don't know where we fit. This organization helps to drive government to understand what our policy should be, therefore our vision should be, and how we fit in our impact on the rest of the world.

In a nutshell, leadership’s essential. Leadership is absolutely crucial to an ability to communicate effectively, our vision of where we want to go. De Tocqueville came to the United States, and he said this was the greatest country in the world. When he went back across the pond, he was asked to define that, and he said the American people have the capacity to give up their time and their resources to help anybody in need. A great example right here. He never mentioned government state, local or federal. I hate to say that to all my elevated officials here. We’re irrelevant from the standpoint of de Tocqueville’s assessment. That’s a great thing.

The capacity exists within us. Unfortunately, with my involvement in healthcare, I am thoroughly convinced that this is not something that is generationally passed through our DNA. Usually, it's bad things that we pass in DNA. The good things we teach.

As I started with my talk, we've got an educational process to teach the next generation, and the next generation, and the next generation about the sacrifices that were made so that we can do what we do. We've got an educational ... I was right at the point too ...

We've got an educational task in front of us to teach the next generation, and the next generation, and the next generation about the fact that the person who can most affect the change globally is the person you look at every morning when you brush your teeth. It's us as individuals. It's fulfilling what de Tocqueville saw in America being the greatest country in the world, but you can't expect our children and our grandchildren to get it without us individually setting the example for them to learn from. For your participation in this organization, for your participation in this effort, that's setting the example for the next generation to understand why they should be involved.

Thank you for being here today. God bless.

Moderator: Hello everyone. Am I on? I'm not on. Now I am.

We're going to have about 30 minutes, maybe a little less, or so, to have a discussion here. So I really appreciate the gentleman, the Senator, and Bill, being here today.

Senator, I want to get into ... and by the way, we will see if we can take a few questions, that's depending on how long our answers are. Good luck with the Senator here ...

Sen. Burr: I think that's a nice way of saying the speaker went too long.

Moderator: Senator, let me ask you, real quick, you were recently ... last year, recently, a few years ago, we saw in Africa. You saw some of these government programs as they relate to development and diplomacy at work. What was your take away? I know you saw Bono. That may not be the highlight, necessarily, but from a development and diplomacy standpoint, what did you see over in Africa that may be something you can relate to the audience here? How are these programs at work, exactly?

Sen. Burr: Let me tell a quick story on Bono. Bono's bigger than life, to everybody who knows Bono. Go to a small village in Ghana, bring the entire village in, of 3, 400

people and have every member of the senate that's there introduced, and see everybody's eyes light up and applaud, and Bono introduce, and not a soul there knew who he was. Not one hand applauded, and that's when I learned he wasn't there for the recognition. He's there for the cause, and that makes a huge difference.

That's why America's there. We're not there for the recognition. We're there to stimulate those individuals in the country, and, I might say, people here. I'll give one example. The most effective HIV program in South Africa is a program called mothers2mothers. It's a mentoring program with mothers with HIV counsel mothers who have yet to deliver children, to get the drugs they need so that the transfer to their child doesn't happen.

It has nothing to do with federal government in Washington, federal money, government money, or government involvement out of South Africa, but it has to do with an individual who put up the money out of New York City, created a program that we should import back to the United States and rural America, and stop the transmissions that we've got, but it never would have happened, had we not highlighted what can be done if people are willing to invest in it.

Moderator: General Ingram, you were ... obviously being ... leading the National Guard here in North Carolina, for, what was it, about 10 years, or so? You've been to Iraq, Afghanistan. A lot of folks in this room have as well. What are you seeing over there for these development and diplomacy programs, and how they fit into this smart power strategy, and it's not just military boots on the ground, if you will. What can be done, specifically, in these areas here?

Ingram: The military provides a lot of security ...

Moderator: Your mic is on ... Is his mic on? Yeah, okay.

Ingram: The military provides a security, but the real growth in the civilian population, that's what you're really talking about here, comes from having a job. USID, and a number of other agencies, provide the background ... provide the resources, the knowledge, to help start businesses.

For example, the 30th Brigade combat team from North Carolina was in the southern part of Baghdad for their second rotation, and what they did was spend a lot ... an inordinate amount of time, actually, helping start small businesses. Explaining to people, again Guards are ... because Guardsmen come from the civilian population, basically, they helped ... began a number of businesses ... chickens and eggs, actually. I remember that one. Helping women and ... most of the men didn't do this, but helping women sell eggs to their neighbors, to do other things ... manufacture homespun businesses, if you will.

USID helped in that, but, again, it was a natural for the National Guard, because of their civilian background, and the way they work, until the people were occupied on a daily basis. The terrorism that Governor Martin a little while ago ... the population, the age of the population, in unemployed young males, is a recipe for disaster, so if those people are employed, they're not engaged in activities that are detrimental to [crosstalk 00:10:20] ...

Moderator: That's interesting.

Bill, I'm curious, it's such a small world, even though we live in such a large world, and maybe you can tie all of this in a bow for us, because you have ... manufacturing is so important in this state, obviously, you work, obviously, for Caterpillar, and yet there's this ... There's a lot of global health problems around the world too, so I'm wondering how you tie in this idea that we have jobs and issues that are affected here in North Carolina, but it ties right into what's going on to making sure these countries around the world have a very important dedication to the global health issue. How do you reconcile the two?

Bill: Let me just say something, why I'm here. Of all the issues I work on ... I started at Caterpillar 39 years ago, and ... one week out of college, it's been a great career. Of all the things I work on, there's nothing more important than this one and let me tell you why.

You can't say Caterpillar didn't care about global markets. In 1975, when I started, we cared about exports. The countries we exported to were Europe ... rich countries: Canada, Australia, and at the time, OPEC countries, oil producing countries. That's where all the exports went.

Today, exports are more important than they've ever been. Well over half the jobs in the United States are related to exports, but where do we export? Over half of what we export, we export to the developing world, and most of those countries started growing because they receive some kind of support, or aid from the United States. Our big markets today ... some of them are obvious, but our big exports, that you don't really read about every day, are Chile, or Peru, or Colombia, or South Africa, or Indonesia.

All these countries benefitted, or another, from US aid, and the one thing that you start realizing, and here too, young can be wrong, and then admit it ... and let me just say, we were wrong, and I'm going to admit it. If you go back 35 years, and you looked at something Caterpillar would say on public policy, we would say with almost a real zeal, that we believe in trade, not aid. We were always big free traders, but the thing is when you start focusing on Africa, you start focusing on a lot of parts of the world. If people are being ravaged by AIDS,

I don't care if there are zero tariffs, or zero quotas, or whatever ... preference programs. These economies are not going to grow.

While I found speaker [Haster 00:13:01] put me out of commission, I looked at foreign aid all over the world, when I was up in northern Uganda, where these little towns were coming back to life because of the PEPFAR program, that Senator Burr talked about, and I said, "My God. George Bush is more popular in northern Uganda than he is in Texas", and by the way, he was at the time. People say nice things about him. In 2007, I actually sent an email to Speaker Hastert, I said, "You should get the word out." He says, "He doesn't want to get ... take credit for it", it was just one of those ... it was just the way he was.

All of a sudden, if you start improving, first, health, then you start focusing on education, you start focusing on infrastructure, it's amazing. It starts having an accumulative effect, and as we do our planning forward, I'm going to tell you that Bill Lane, that's up here, 20 years from now, they're not going to be talking about Colombia, and Chile, and Peru, and Mexico. We're going to talking about the fastest growing economies in the world, which right now, 6 of the top 12 are in Africa, starting from a very low base, I admit, but that's going to be the story.

It's going to be the story because of what folks are doing in this room, right now. You're planting the seeds. You're going to grow the markets, and at some point you're going to harvest the markets, and that's more jobs for folks in North ... there's going to be more jobs in the states that have their act together. I'm going to tell you right now, North Carolina's in that top elite as states that have their act together.

Moderator: That goes to the issue of development, and I know as former Secretary Gates has said, development is a lot cheaper than sending soldiers. We heard that from the Governor earlier. How exactly? In other words, how do these development and diplomacy programs help us prevent, maybe, putting some boots on the ground there, specifically? I think people want to know what these programs do, specifically, to help the terrain, or help the political climate there, especially.

Ingram: You really don't want to fight with people that you're trading with. The more engaged we are economically, I think it prevents conflict, especially between governments. Terrorism is another key there.

I do want to talk, just a moment, about an engagement program that we've been involved with for the last 20 years. It started after the fall of the Berlin Wall, called Partnership for Peace in Europe, where 17 emerging democracies in Eastern Europe were paired with National Guard organizations in 17 states. North Carolina now has 2 state partnerships. They're in 67 countries, including

Vietnam, is the newest one. It starts out as a military to military relationship, and then grows military to civilian, in some cases civilian to civilian.

In the case of North Carolina, we partnered with Moldova in Eastern Europe, and then later, in 2007, we partnered with Botswana in Africa, so the engagement, a normal visit, a person from our state and the Ministry of Defense, and that nation, are permanently on a daily basis ... fosters a lot of opportunities not only for the military piece, but for businesses, et cetera.

Just to talk, very briefly, about what Moldova ... the national health ... actually, the national medical university, in Botswana ... in Moldova, is partnered with Wake Forest University School of Medicine, East Carolina School of Medicine. They do a video call conference on a daily basis, so those kinds of engagements ... and again, in 67 countries around the world, really do make a difference.

Moderator: Senator, what are you hearing on Capitol Hill as it relates to this international affairs budget, and these development and diplomacy programs. It's only about 1% of the Federal budget, and yet, there seems to be all this controversy about why we are sending money to places that maybe we shouldn't be sending it to, but clearly, they're working.

How do folks in this room and yourself on Capitol Hill advance the ball? How do you win the argument, specifically as it relates to this international affairs' budget, and specifically, the development and diplomacy programs?

Sen. Burr: It's very simple, encourage your members of Congress to travel. Everybody thinks that that's an automatic re-election negative. I would tell you that if you don't know about the rest of the world, how can you make global decisions? If you're going to make investments, and they're going to be the right investments, how are you going to know, unless you see them? I think it's Teddy Roosevelt that said, the most important thing to do is the right thing, the second most important thing to do is the worst thing. The worst thing to do is nothing, and I think that a lot of times, with the absence of knowledge, we do nothing, and I think we're at a point that our responsibility is we've got to do something, and you are much better at impacting it in a positive way, if in fact, you have a personal experience.

Moderator: I do want to mention, there are some cards on your tables. If there are some questions you have, we'll try to get to them. No guarantees, but we hope to do that.

Bill, tell me a little bit ... This whole global health issue is interesting to me, because Africa is such an emerging country, as it relates specifically to what the Senator talked about earlier, about where Africa's going in the future. How

exactly does the global health affect the stability of nations, because I think that, to me, would be a key as it relates to the jobs that we're talking about here in North Carolina, and really, around the country? If you don't have countries that are stable, politically and otherwise,, the where are you, exactly?

Bill: Health's a big part of it, but let me just point out to everybody, Africa's not a country. I mean, and I say that because you've got to keep in mind, you've got some countries ... I mean, you've got South Africa, you've got Nigeria, you've got Egypt, that have always been big markets. Then you've got some countries that really have gotten their act together, the Ghanas and Botswanas and what have you. You've got a lot of countries that are challenged from a transparency and a corruption standpoint, so you really have to really address a marketing or development program country by country and not necessarily continent by continent.

Health is absolutely critical, but let me just give you an example of the challenge that everybody here has. I mean, you think about what you read about in the newspaper. What we're asking everybody in this room to do is to be one of the most boring jobs in America. We want you to be a fire marshal. Now, if you're a really good fire marshal, you're going to hold your job for a gazillion years, and at the end of retirement, they're going to give you a watch, and you're going to go away in the sunset. They're not going to build any statues.

But if you are a fire fighter, if the fire marshal's not around and a blazing fire happens, you're going to be called in and you're going to put out the fire and you're going to get all sorts of justifiable acclaim. What we're trying to do is keep the fires from being started in the first place, and people don't write about it. People don't talk about it at the dinner table. Preventing a crisis is really what we're all about, and if we can do it, it pays huge, huge dividends.

Of all the issues I've worked on ... There was a thing called Plan Colombia. Plan Colombia 14 years ago was on the verge of being a narco-terrorist state, and between President Clinton and Speaker Hastert, they put together a bipartisan effort to improve the situation. Part of it dealt with the military. Part of it dealt with civil society, and it was an expensive program. It was almost \$1 billion a year, but over 14 years, we now have a thriving democracy. It's peaceful. It's one of our best allies in the world, and you say to yourself, "That's a lot of money," but I've got to tell you, that's the equivalent of three weeks in Iraq, and think about the payoff. Nobody gets credit for that kind of stuff, but you have proven that you can really get ahead of the curve. You can do things in a bipartisan way.

Of all the areas out there, this is one of the most bipartisan efforts we have. Republicans, the faith-based community, they're working hand in glove with a lot of the NGOs and what have you that have different views on running the

government, but it's an area that we've really had great success, and business is playing a much more activist role. I mean, if you want to think about your career down the future, this is a place you want to be.

Moderator: Interesting. I did get my C words mixed up there, by the way. My geography teacher is probably listening online and knows that. I know it's a continent. It's a big one. My goodness, a little lack of sleep here.

Sen. Burr: David, I learned something. Real quickly to Bill.

Moderator: Yeah.

Sen. Burr: Out of the 10 countries that love America the most, seven of them are in Africa.

Ingram: That's right.

Moderator: Yeah.

Sen. Burr: I mean, that's something that Americans don't understand. The ground is fertile for us to do what we're talking about.

Bill: And we earned it. We've earned the love, if you will.

Moderator: Well, and there's a question that's come from the audience here. Senator, let me ask you, and I'll ask maybe a lot of the panel here. China has become a big foreign aid player in Africa, specifically. Should American businesses be worried about the competition there?

Sen. Burr: Well, Americans should be worried that's it impossible for a country to develop past a certain point without natural resources, and the Chinese interest in these countries in Africa is to acquire their natural resources, so if America stands idly by, or American business, and allows that to happen, we will only develop those countries to a certain point because they could never be self-sufficient. That's what scares me.

Moderator: Hmm. Anybody else on the panel want to take it?

Bill Lane: Well, I mean, China is a real competitor. They have a different model.

Moderator: Yeah.

Bill: They'll come into countries, and they will build the road. At Caterpillar, we often say, "The road to development is sometimes built [crosstalk 00:04:15]."

Sen. Burr: They will bring their own workers, too.

Bill: They'll bring a lot of their own workers. They bring their own equipment, but there is such a hunger for infrastructure, for clean water, for roads, and what have you, that it's hard to look a gift horse in the mouth. Now how does the United States do it? We teach people how to build the road. We provide the funds for the materials and what have you so that you can sustain the road, but I don't bash China. I mean, China ... This is a pretty effective ...

What we've got to do is we've got to outthink them. We've got to outwork them. We've got to out-engage them, but how can you get mad at someone that's building a road, even if they're doing it mainly for their own self-interests? But in the same token, that's more of a reason why we need to be more engaged, not less engaged.

Moderator: Okay. Yeah, please.

Ingram: From my perspective, and it's only with the limited experience I have with Botswana, my thought on that is that the African nations tolerate China. They would much rather do business and do things with the United States as opposed to China, but they're building roads and they're doing things, so they tolerate them and allow them to come into their countries to do that.

Moderator: That's interesting. Senator, I'm curious. This is a good question. They're all good questions, but here's one. There seems to be a growing isolationist strain in both parties ... news flash ... on Capitol Hill, but from a security, economic, and moral perspective, how do we counter that exactly, and kind of bringing it back to development and diplomacy, how does that affect what we're talking about here today?

Sen. Burr: Leadership. And some might perceive that I'm speaking of the executive branch. I'm not. Leadership has to emerge out of the Congress, both sides of the House, both parties, and we've become too focused on November every two years, and in large measure because technology allows us to man down to a level that you can be real specific, so I'd sort of include that in the technology threat side. It was very different when you had to go out and shake the hands and do it person by person by person. Now, there are people that know if I made a mistake today, which I'm sure I did. There are a lot of people that already know it because one of you have already Tweeted it.

Audience: (Laughs).

Moderator: All right. We're wrapping up here, but this is the lightning round, 30 seconds or less. Don't worry. There's no trap doors, no buzzers. It's okay, but why do you

care about fighting global poverty? What is it exactly? What's in the heart? This is my Oprah/Dr. Phil question.

Audience: (Laughs).

Moderator: What is it? Why do you care? Why are you here fighting this fight? Anybody can start.

Sen. Burr: Well, let me take it on. Americans are the most compassionate people in the world, and I believe that every American, given the opportunity, would want to help somebody in need. They don't always know how. They don't have your number. They don't have another channel, but individually, they would like to do something, and I think that's a very powerful thing.

Moderator: Yeah.

Ingram: In my experience, people from other countries, they see the United States flag on your uniform, and they don't really care who the coalition partners are, but if the United States is engaged, it's a good thing. If the US goes away, then the coalition crumbles, and the people that are being helped sit there and kind of stare into space and say, "It's all over," so that's been my experience.

Moderator: Bill, the last 30 seconds are yours.

Bill: The last 30 seconds is simple. I mean, there's three reasons that bring us all together. One is helping people is common among all of us. Two is there's obviously good security reasons why you want everyone to be engaged and benefiting from the global economy, and three, it's good business.

I'd say I live by a couple simple rules. One is you always want to help the ins when they're out. Everybody calls the candidate who wins the election. Call the candidate who loses the election. You'll have a friend for life (laughing), and amazing, some of those people come back.

The other one, and the one that I want you all to really remember, is always position yourself to take credit for the inevitable (laughing), and you're on the right side on this one. If we keep going in the trends that we're going, you're going to see growth in parts of the world that hasn't seen growth ever, and as a result, you're going to make friends, you're going to do good business, and you're going to have a safer world. This group does a terrific job pulling all that together, so stay involved and thank you.

Moderator: Thanks, Bill. Big hand for our panel.

Audience: (Applause).

Moderator: Thank you. Hold on one second. [Inaudible 00:09:45].

Audience: (Applause).

Liz: Good afternoon. I'm just going to close up. I'm Liz Schroyer. I'm the Founding Executive Director of the US Global Leadership Coalition, and I'm here to really thank you and thank them.

Audience: (Applause).

Liz: Governor Martin and Governor Hunt, wherever you are, you are marvelous, and we thank you from the bottom of our heart for your leadership on so many things that you do, but that you give your time to this passion and this interest. The four gentlemen to my left. David Brody, you are fabulous that you did that lightning round and got so much in. Bill Lane, my hero, my friend. General Ingram, you are truly a hero, and enjoy your retirement painting your fence, building your fence, your wife getting you back for a little bit more time.

And Senator Burr, you are magnificent, and I thank you for all of us. So many reasons, but the one that brings all of us together is that when there are battles to be fought in Washington and those children that we saw on, Mark, your video that are hungry and need help, you are there when there are some that want to cut the International Affairs Budget and cut the Global Health Budget. You are there and you say no, that we need to be there and put a little bit of investment in, and we really thank you for everything that you do and being here today.

Audience: (Applause).

Liz: Two more things. Thank you to our partners. We had magnificent partners who made this happen: the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, the Charlotte Regional Partnership, Charlotte International House, North Carolina Technology Association, and the World Affairs Council of Charlotte. Thank you to each of you.

As you know, there is a saying of, "There's no free lunch," so I have a call to all of you, and it's not going to cost you anything other than your voice and your activism. I always like to have a meeting, and I don't like to just have a good meeting. I like to have a great meeting, and here is the difference of what makes a great meeting. It's what happens when you walk out the door, and what happens when you walk out the door is that I need you to join us and to be involved with us.

I'm going to ask you four things, and they're all really easy to do. The first is that tomorrow or in the next couple days, you're going to get an email from one of my colleagues. Where is Pamela Gregory, who really is the person who made this happen? Raise your hand in the back. You know Pamela.

Audience: (Applause).

Liz: She is our regional manager that helped put all of this together, and you're going to get an email from her that's going to give you pictures and videos and everything about today's event. I ask you to share it with some of your friends and people who should have been here and need to be a part of this conversation that says to everybody America needs to be engaged and lead in this world. Share it so that we can make sure that there are more people from North Carolina that are part of this conversation.

Second, we saw a lot of wonderful men and women stand up when we announced the veterans in this room. We want to make sure that all the veterans in North Carolina that should be part of this are part of what we call Veterans for Smart Power. We have 30,000 Veterans for Smart Power around the country that are part of our network. If you are a veteran and are not signed up or you know a veteran, when we send out that email, please let us know more, so number two is to help us build our veteran community list because those are some of the most important voices that help our cause.

Third, on your table was the dates for our annual conference coming up. We love seeing you here in Charlotte. I love getting out of Washington, D.C., but frankly, as Senator Burr knows, it's a little tough in Washington, D.C., and we need you there, so on June 17 and 18, we are hosting our annual conference. It's for state leaders, and you'll be meeting people like yourself from all over the country, veterans, faith-based leaders, and business leaders. We host a day of meetings and conference where we talk about these issues, and then we actually go up to Capitol Hill so we can thank the members of the North Carolina and other delegations for helping support the International Affairs Budget. There's no cost to coming other than getting yourself there, and we really would invite you and encourage you to come.

Last and I think most importantly is, in Washington, D.C., it's tough to be, I think, a Senator and a Congressman these days, and I imagine that you get a lot of people that tell you that they don't like what you do, and so I ask you, when you hear from us and we ask you to say thank you to Senator Burr, to Senator Hagan, to Congressman Hudson, and all the other members of the delegation when they take the steps to support the International Affairs Budget, to support the global development and diplomacy budget, to please respond to those emails from us and to say thank you to them because it's tough to be a member of Congress and

in the Senate these days, and we want to make sure that they hear from us about how much we appreciate this little 1% of the budget and what they do.

I'll leave you with this one story. In February last year, I got to go to Tanzania, and I went to a country in Africa. I got to a very, very rural part of Africa, and I saw a ... The first person I saw a woman singing to me as I got there, and she was dressed in traditional African garb, and she said, "Hello. My name is Veronica, and I want to be on the internet."

Audience: (Laughs).

Liz: So I took out my iPhone, and I turned it on and she said, "Let me tell you why. I want to tell you because you're an American, and I had a little plot of land. My little plot of land was doing terrible until America came, and they told me about a program called Feed the Future, a program that is sponsored by USAID, Americans' money and part of this little 1%, and that program didn't just give me food to feed my family, but it was going to teach me how to get more yield from my crops. My husband did not believe that these seeds would work, and so we divided the land and he planted on his side. It didn't grow. I planted on my side, and it flourished, and today, instead of being poor, I own a used truck. All 11 of my grandchildren now go to school, and I am teaching 15 women in my village how to do the same things that I learned from you, so I want to be on the internet to thank America."

Audience: (Applause).

Liz: So I thank America through the voice of Veronica, and I thank you for being part of our journey to build a better, safer world. Have a wonderful day, and I look forward to seeing you hopefully in Washington very soon. Thank you.

Audience: (Applause).