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**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
**DISTRICT 20**



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

March 4, 2015

## **Representative Evans Comments on the Floor of the House of Representatives in Support of SB 324**

Thank you Madam Speaker. To the bill.

Colleagues, I rise today in support of SB 324.

I have listened carefully to all of the arguments offered – those in favor, those opposed – and I want everyone to know that I have carefully considered what has been said. I value your advice and respect the varying opinions about this complex policy.

Here's where I landed, and why.

I believe the choice before us today is larger than a bill – more important somehow; it will endure long after our words fade.

The choice before us is a question that will define our state for years to come.

Shall we continue the work? Shall we continue the policies implemented in 2009 that have already leveraged private and public investment, policies that have accelerated – and continue to accelerate – development of alternative fuels, or shall we walk away?

Shall we build upon the successes made?

Shall we continue to do our part where we may – to move our nation, however slowly, closer to energy independence?

We cannot do all things, but we can do some things. Shall we do what we can, while we can, or stand aside and accept the past as prelude?

Colleagues, I come to this chamber like all of you, the sum of my life experiences.

Like several other members of this House I spent years in uniform defending our nation against enemies – foreign as well as domestic.

That experience leaves an impact; it stirs a particular sense of responsibility, a hard-won type of vigilance within all of us that served abroad.

War is something necessary.

War is ugly, it is messy, it unleashes the worst of human nature – it must always be the last result; war must never become too easy, too familiar.

And like many of you, I visit the Iraq-Afghanistan War Memorial a few times a month, to reflect and remember the price paid by others for me, our family, and our community.

I only knew a few of the fallen personally at least in life, but I was blessed with the opportunity to get know many of them through their families.

We shall remain in their debt forever. We owe the fallen everything we have to give, we owe them a nation, state, and community worthy of their sacrifice and service.

Each, every visit up to that peaceful place stirs memories: of the faces of the names etched into granite, of the names of others – of names etched upon memorials across the country – of names that can never be etched into stone because of circumstances or classification.

I ask for your support of this bill not because I know SB 324 is a perfect measure, but because I know it is part of a larger strategy that may help us send fewer young men and women to war on our behalf.

Today I know my duty is to support this bill.

I know I am honor bound to do whatever I can do, while I am able because they cannot.

I know I cannot stand idly by as another generation of our best and brightest return home damaged, maimed, wounded, and worse.

For I know – my heart knows - we have filled too many granite monuments at too many war memorials already; I know this bill is an opportunity – however small – to do something, today.

Thank you.