

Let me close by saying that I do not know of a harder working or more productive person than BYRON DORGAN. He produces extraordinary amounts of high-quality work. He is type A squared, but he never forgot his roots.

BYRON DORGAN grew up in Regent, ND, a town of 300. He often reminds us that he graduated in a class of nine and he was in the top five. He is proud of that background, he is proud of that heritage, he is proud of our State, he is proud of our Nation, and we are proud of him.

I will miss BYRON DORGAN's partnership here every day, but I know he will be with us because BYRON DORGAN will never be far from the fray. BYRON DORGAN has served this body well, served the Nation well, and served our State extraordinarily well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRANKEN.) The Senator from Colorado.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 2476

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 636, H.R. 2476; that the Udall of Colorado substitute amendment which is at the desk be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; the Udall of Colorado title amendment which is at the desk be agreed to; the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; and any statements relating to the matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator KYL and Senator MCCAIN, I respectfully object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, if I might, I know Senator DURBIN has a pressing unanimous consent request. I ask unanimous consent that when he has concluded his request, Senator BARRASSO and I could engage in a colloquy on the very bill that has been objected to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Illinois.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST— EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the Executive Calendar of the Senate notes, on page 5, Calendar No. 1002, James Michael Cole, of the District of Columbia, nominated by the President of the United States to be Deputy Attorney General. That was reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee, his nomination, on July 20 of this year. We are now into December, and this year is coming to an end. This has taken long enough.

I ask that the No. 2 spot in the Department of Justice be filled, that we not continue to have this vacancy and

imperil the important mission of that Department.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session and to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 1002, James Michael Cole, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Attorney General; that the nomination be confirmed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that any statements be printed in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, the Department of Justice is well aware of some issues that have been raised by the intelligence community, particularly the Senate Intelligence Committee, with respect to this nominee; therefore, I must object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, if I might, I would like to yield to Senator BARRASSO from Wyoming to discuss the important bill that was just objected to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. It was a privilege for me to cosponsor this piece of legislation with the distinguished Senator from Colorado. My colleague Senator ENZI and I have long been advocates of allowing an additional opportunity for jobs and for economic development into the wonderful ski areas around Rocky Mountain West, which is the intent of this bill. It really is aimed at increasing summer activities so that a number of these locations, if you will, on Forest Service land can use that land for an extended season, which would then work toward full-time, year-round employment for the folks in those areas, putting in things such as zip lines and opportunities for recreational advancements to increase the amount of tourism, the amount of visitors to these wonderful places people like to enjoy. We think additional opportunities and enhancements would allow for additional employment. That is why Senator ENZI and I joined with Senator UDALL in support of his efforts on this important piece of legislation.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I thank both Senators from Wyoming for their support. I know we will go back to work in the next Congress because, as the Senator pointed out, this bipartisan bill would provide clear authority for the Forest Service to allow additional summertime use of ski areas which would help create jobs and grow sustainable economies in ski country. It is no cost. It is common sense, as the Senator pointed out. That is why it not only has support from the

two Wyoming Senators but also Senators RISCH, ENSIGN, BENNETT, and GREGG. It was favorably reported out of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee in September. The CBO projects it will actually generate revenue for the Federal budget and will help improve the economy in a lot of hard-hit mountain communities.

Mr. President, we passed a number of other bills out of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee that, unfortunately, will not receive votes in this Congress. I want to touch on a couple of them.

I begin with the National Forest Insect Disease Emergency Act. I have been working on this concern for the entire time I have served in the Congress, whether in the Senate or the House. We have an enormous bark beetle epidemic in our Western forests. Those who study our forests say that because of climate change and drought and human activity, these epidemics will become more and more common. What the bill would have done is provide the tools and resources to the Forest Service to help address this serious natural disaster. It is slow moving but nonetheless a natural disaster. That disaster is the deaths of millions and millions of acres of trees due to insect infestations.

Senators CRAPO and RISCH were cosponsors. It is a very significant disappointment that we didn't move to consider this bill. I know it would have passed the Senate.

Another bill is the Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel Act, commonsense legislation that would directly benefit a community in Colorado and, indeed, the entire Arkansas River Valley, one of the significant watersheds in the State of Colorado. This mine drainage tunnel near Leadville, in 2008, was backed up with a large volume of contaminated water which then created a safety hazard to the community, but it was unclear whether the Bureau of Reclamation or the Environmental Protection Agency was responsible for addressing it.

My bill would clarify that the Bureau of Reclamation has the authority to treat this backed-up water and is responsible for maintaining the tunnel so that in the future these kinds of threats will not arise and, if they do, it is clear who is responsible to mitigate them. It is a straightforward bill. It doesn't cost anything. It would give the people of Leadville the certainty they have needed for years.

Finally, I wish to mention the Sugar Loaf Fire Protection District Land Exchange Act. This would help protect public safety. It facilitates a fair exchange of lands on the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest near Boulder between the Forest Service and the Sugar Loaf Fire District. The fire district is seeking this exchange so they can upgrade and maintain fire stations which serve this community which has been subjected to wildland/urban fires. We