our country has the necessary tools to both combat and prevent wildland fires.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

SERVING ACTIVITIES

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 19, 2013, at 9:30 a.m., in room 308 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Krishna Patel, a detailee on Senator JOHNSON’s banking committee staff, be granted floor privileges for the duration of today’s session.

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

Mrs. HAGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to Margaret Lawrynowicz on December 19.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that CDR Joe Carrigan, the defense legislative fellow assigned to my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the 113th Congress.

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, may I ask unanimous consent that a reenter into the Senate the room 308 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, we all have various people from other departments and agencies in our government on occasion who help us in our offices. Being a member of the Armed Services Committee, I have had the pleasure to have a number of fine defense fellows serve in my office and help us prepare the Defense bill and deal with other issues of importance.

Commander Joe Carrigan is another one of these very fine fellows. He is one of the best we have ever had. He has a good strategic mind, he works extremely hard, he is always thoughtful, and he is a delight to have in the office. We have been talking about our military personnel and their retirement benefits. Remember, unlike other government employees, they are on call anytime, any day, to be sent anywhere in the world at the very risk to their lives and physical well-being. In addition, they work long hours. They have often been asked to work a weekend or a night or 24 hours without sleep to do some task they are called upon to do, and they get no overtime for it. It is just the way it is done in the military because when a challenge is out there, they act.

I know some point out the weaknesses in this large entity, the Defense Department, and some of the management problems that arise. But I have to say without any doubt whatsoever that the institution has quality people—people of integrity, men and women who love their country and serve their country and do whatever you ask them to do. I see that every day when we work with people such as Commander Carrigan. And he will be successful in whatever he does and in whatever his next assignment will be.

So as we wrap up this Defense bill, I would like to thank him for his service and to thank all of our men and women in uniform who do their work, and I hope that we in the Congress can be worthy of their trust.

I yield the floor.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, saner times may succeed, they may not succeed, but to have a voice.

I think those who have not served here in the past and have never been in the minority cannot begin to appreciate that right. I started in the House of Representatives where the majority rules but the minority has the ability to do something that the Founding Fathers established that body. But they said they wanted the Senate to be different, a place where the passions could be cooled, where debate could be held, where amendments could be offered, where laws could be changed or modified. Members were given a 6-year term so they would not have the pressure of running for election in just months out or a year out; so they could step back and simply say let’s look at the larger view.

In my first time here in the Senate, that practice was led by the Democratic leaders and Republican leaders. The majority changed. I came here with a Democratic leader who was eminently fair to the minority and—in my view—as did many Members, none more vividly and with emotion and commitment than did Robert Byrd, the Democrat from West Virginia, who probably knew more about procedures and the history of the Senate than all the other Senators combined. Read his volumes.

We would listen to Robert Byrd, respecting how he respected this institution. I experienced under Robert Byrd, then Republican Bob Dole, and then Tom Daschle, Democrat, Trent Lott, Republican—I experienced respect for the rights of the minority even though I was in the majority. They were sacrosanct. No one stood up and said let’s take those rights away. Those who did were called down by us. Our party made an attempt at that. Sense and reason prevailed. It was imposed by those who had been here, saying you need to understand the unique role of the Senate that has been created by our Founding Fathers, enshrined in the Constitution, 225 years of tradition and history.

To have the majority leader, the Senator from Nevada, come here and say we are taking that away, what we had to do, the rules—we are going to impose on you because you are dragging out the time it takes to secure nominations. We are going to impose on you. We are going to take away your minority rights and we are going to rule by majority. As I said, I understand the frustration that must have been felt on the other side of the aisle when Members would delay the confirmation of nominations. You have a voice. Republicans doing that? They were doing that because the majority leader was using a technique to deny us amendments on any number of bills.
Everyone here has constituent interests, their own interests. They come to the Senate, they want to move forward with an agenda. When you are in the minority you know that the chances of passing that are slim unless you get support from the other side. That is why when I say to Members when we want to try to move something, to see if they can convince their Members to join us. That is the way this place has always worked.

But the process of the so-called filling of the tree—I know people in the world say what in the world are you talking about, filling the tree? It is a procedural method which denies the minority the right to offer amendments. I do not have the statistics in front of me, but the majority leader has imposed that time after time. So the frustration just kept building here, day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year, of Members who said: I came to the Senate. I don’t have a majority. I do not have the ability to even bring up my amendment.

What are we afraid of, taking a vote? If you cannot take a vote and go home and explain your vote to people, then you are not here. You are not what you believe in. You vote for what you think your State and your constituents who sent you here believe in. Some one wins, some one loses, but at least you have the opportunity to make a case, to explain.

So, month after month, year after year, under the leadership of Senator Reid, increasingly that right has been taken away. The frustration boils up from our feeling like—forget it. Forget 225 years of history. Forget how the Founding Fathers decided to structure this democratic function. Forget how past leaders, Republicans and Democrats, held this as sacrosanct, a right for the minority, the minority voice.

Here is the party that says we got elected by a majority and therefore the minority has no say. Those who have not served in the minority will not understand the denial of the right to express your view and have it put before this body for a vote. You can get up and talk about it but you cannot get it to a vote, so talk is cheap. Until they experience that, I am afraid, they will not have an understanding of how we need to get back to what this body was intended to be.

I want my colleagues who have imposed this in support of the majority leader’s tactics of denying Members the ability to offer an amendment regardless of what it is for—I want my colleagues to understand that is where the frustration came from. And that is why we are trying to use whatever rules we have left to send the message that you are stifling us. You are denying us the very right that we worked so very hard to come to have here.

I am making a plea, I guess, that we sit down and have an adult conversation about how to make this place more efficient, how to make it more effective but do so in a way that allows the minority the right to participate in the process.

Going through the exercise we have gone through for the last few weeks with votes every 2 hours, sleeping on cots in our office or sleeping on the floor in the corridors of the middle of the night to vote—if we are talking about something serious for the country that needs that kind of debate, I am not saying we shouldn’t do that. If it is a defense bill or a critical issue, such as an energy or foreign policy issue, that is what this place is all about. If it takes us well into the night on something substantive like that, then we want to preserve that. But it is over the nomination of a district judge—and the statistics show that the majority party has virtually gotten every one they wanted.

Just recently the Republicans said that somehow we have to send a message that we are being shut out, and we have to do everything they did by a majority vote of the Democratic Party which basically told Republicans: Forget the history. Forget the past. Sit down. You have no role.

I hope we can get back from that because it is so important for the future of this country to have a deliberative body that has the time and opportunity to debate, to offer amendments, and to fashion legislation in a bipartisan fashion. Maybe we have learned that lessons, maybe we have not. There is a lot of rancor here right now.

I am glad we came to an agreement to have two votes at 11:15 this evening, and then we will move the process to six votes tomorrow morning, and then we will be able to go home and enjoy Christmas with our families.

I think the solution to this is not to throw daggers at each other but to sit down and think through. Maybe we need to reach back to some of the founding fathers. Maybe we need to reach back to some of the stirring words that were spoken by the majority telling their own Members: Don’t go there. You are taking away the very essence of the U.S. Senate.

One of the Members on the Democratic side who has many years of experience here—many more than I—made that plea. Unfortunately, it wasn’t listened to by Members in his caucus. I think if we could step back and we could look at the history of those in the minority doing everything they could to protect the rights of those in the minority, we would recognize that there is a better way to go forward than what we have done here.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll. The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum be rescinded.

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

MANUFACTURING JOBS

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I come to the floor once again to talk about manufacturing jobs. This week, under Senator Amy Klobuchar’s leadership, the Majority Whip released a report that thoroughly and thoughtfully lays out why manufacturing jobs have such promise and how Congress can act to help spurs manufacturing job creation now and into the future.

Manufacturing jobs are high-quality jobs, that they pay better than jobs in any other sector in wages and benefits, and that they help create more local service sector jobs, that they contribute more to the local economy, and that manufacturers invest the most in private sector R&D of any sector in our country.

Manufacturing, as the Presiding Officer well knows, has long played an important role in our Nation’s economy. It has served as our economic backbone, and has built the American middle class. But over the past 60 years, manufacturing in our country has changed, gradually and then dramatically. As and how we have changed, so has the nature of manufacturing and the playing field on which we can and must compete.

Due to global competition and the worst recession since the Great Depres-
sion, we lost 6 million manufacturing jobs in the United States in the first decade of this century. We are now on our way back, but we are well short of where we were in 2000. We have gained 550,000 manufacturing jobs over the last 3 years, and that gives me real hope. In just the last 6 months, we have seen new signals that our manufacturing sector continues to be on the rebound.

A new report from the Institute for Supply Management shows the U.S. manufacturing sector grew last month at its fastest pace in 2 1/2 years, and hiring has reached an 18-month high. The value of our manufacturing exports has grown 38 percent in the last 4 years, and those exports now account for nearly 3 million jobs on American shores.

But, as the President Officer and I well know and as many of our colleagues know, we need to invest more in that success and in that growth, in the private sector and in the public sector.

Overall, this is great news, about the slow, but real, steady recovery of our manufacturing sector. The reason we are coming back is the United States is actually poised to compete in advanced manufacturing, in the manufacturing economy of this century. In the 21st century, manufacturing is fundamentally different than it was in our past. Rather than repeating the same simple tasks, workers now carry out far more complex and varying tasks. They need to be critical thinkers and problem solvers. They
have to do math and communicate with each other in writing and as a team and work in ways simply not expected 20 or 30 years ago. Crucially, they need to understand the entire manufacturing process in a way that wasn’t necessary before. You have to see how machines doing a lot of work, but we need workers who can oversee them and understand them to keep our steady, growing benefits to increase productivity.

Manufacturers can’t rely on someone from outside our country to fix a problem every time there is one. Today they rely on their workers to troubleshoot on the fly. Our workers need to continue to be some of the most productive in the world and, to do that, they need to be more skilled than ever, particularly because they are overseeing highly complex operations.

The manufacturing floor today, as this report reminds us, is no longer the dirty, dingy, dangerous manufacturing work environments 40 years ago. Today it is clean, high tech, highly productive, and it needs a highly skilled workforce. We can win by training our workers for these jobs.

While some nations engage in a race to the bottom on environmental labor and wage standards, this isn’t the playing field we can or should try to win. Fortunately, we already have the tools to lead the way in manufacturing, in an innovation-centered economy.

This Joint Economic Committee report outlines how low-energy costs, due to greatly expanded natural gas supplies, a highly skilled workforce relative to much of the rest of the world, and having still the world’s best universities, all in combination give us a real fighting chance. American manufacturing, I am convinced, is poised for a takeoff.

Now we have this report from the Joint Economic Committee which shows what that means. It shows what we should remain optimistic about American manufacturing, if we can simply in this body harness the will to act. This report frankly lays out a lot of the things: that the advanced manufacturing sector can thrive in the United States—thata facility was located in America, not overseas; and there is a critical role for government to play. So together, we have created Manufacturing Jobs now and in the future and they are exactly the areas that the Manufacturing Jobs for America initiative centers on as well.

First, we have to strengthen America’s workforce. Second, we have to fight for a more level global playing field so we can open markets abroad and compete successfully. Third, we need to make it easier for manufacturers—especially new and small businesses—to access capital, to invest in research and development as well as new equipment and products. Fourth, we can and should do more to ensure a coordinated, all-of-government effort. This leads to the manufacturing by insisting on a stronger, clearer national manufacturing strategy. Together, across these four areas, the bills in Manufacturing Jobs for America can have a real and substantial impact if they become law.

I believe in the power of this initiative because I have seen the potential of manufacturing up close. In my time in the private sector, I developed a fierce belief in how we can and must here in Washington to support and spur American private sector manufacturing. Before I came here, much of my work in the private sector was at a manufacturing company, a materials-based science company that makes hundreds of products. At one point I was part of a site location team that had to decide where to locate a new state-of-the-art semiconductor chip packaging manufacturing plant.

What made the difference? In the ultimate decision on a site, the jobs foremost we needed a skilled and reliable workforce. Second, we wanted the State, county, and city governments to be responsive and have made investments in infrastructure. While we also of course and tax credits and training grants, the first two really were the main factors—the skills and capabilities of the workforce at all levels and the responsiveness of the local government, the State government, and the Federal Government in investing in infrastructure.

This experience taught me two things: that the advanced manufacturing sector can thrive in the United States—that facility was located in America, not overseas; and there is a critical role for government to play. So if this Congress makes a concerted, across-the-board push to help create manufacturing jobs in America, I am convinced we can lay a strong foundation for growth today and tomorrow. The report’s message is just for us. We just need to stop the endless partisan struggles that have dominated this Congress in the last few years and seize the very real, very positive opportunity in front of us—to lay out a bipartisan path forward to strengthen the manufacturing sector in our country.

Together, we can keep our factories humming. This Robin Hood Committee report emphasizes that there are four key areas where we have to focus to create manufacturing jobs now and in the future and they are exactly the areas that the Manufacturing Jobs for America initiative centers on as well.

This bill is not a Christmas gift to the manufacturers of America, nor is it a gift to the work force. It is the product of an extensive bipartisan, bicameral agreement between the Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives. We have passed a defense bill every year for the last 51 years. This bill deserves to be the 52nd because, like our previous bills, it does the right thing for our troops, their families, and our Nation’s security. It passed the House with a vote of 330 to 69, and it deserves an equally strong bipartisan vote in the Senate tonight.

Yesterday I praised the members of our committee, and I also noted the amazing work of our staff, and I am not going to repeat that. This bill is not a Christmas gift to our troops and their families. Authorizing funding for our troops, supporting our troops and their families is what we owe them. It is the least we can do, for they are the gift—they are the gift to this country, to this Nation, and to all of its people.

I would like to describe some of the most important provisions in this bill. The bill includes numerous provisions to sustain the compensation and quality of life that our service men and women and their families deserve as they face the hardships imposed by continuing military operations around the world. For example, our bill authorizes over 30 types of bonuses and special pays aimed at encouraging enlistment, re-enlistment, and continued service by Active Duty and Reserve component military personnel. The bill also includes supplemental impact aid to local educational agencies with military dependent children and $5 million in impact aid for...
schools with military dependent children with severe disabilities.

It enhances DOD programs to assist veterans in their transition to civilian life and increase their opportunities for early employment by improving access to credentialing programs for civilian occupational specialties.

It requires the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that the electronic health records systems of the two Departments are interoperable and provide a single integrated display of data.

The bill also includes funding needed to provide our troops the equipment and support that they need for ongoing combat, counterinsurgency, and stability operations around the world. For example, our bill authorizes $9.9 billion for U.S. Special Operations Command, including both base budget funding and OCO funding.

It authorizes nearly $1 billion for counter-IED efforts, beginning to ramp down in this area while ensuring that we make investments needed to protect our forces from roadside bombs.

It provides $6.2 billion in funding to train and equip the Afghan National Army and Police, as requested by the commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, so that we can complete the transition of security responsibility, as planned, by the end of 2014.

It authorizes the Secretary of Defense to determine that it is in the national security interests of the United States—to use up to $150 million of amounts authorized for the Coalition Support Fund account in fiscal years 2013 and 2014 to support the border security operations of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

It extends global train and equipment section “1206”—authority through 2017 to help build the capacity of foreign forces to conduct counterterrorism and stability operations.

The bill includes a compromise on Guantanamo, which eases the transfer of Gitmo detainees overseas, while retaining prohibitions on transfers to the United States. It includes 36 provisions to strengthen DOD’s response to the problem of sexual assault in our military.

The bill includes hundreds of other important provisions to ensure that the bill carry out its essential national defense missions. For example, Section 121 of the bill increases the cost cap for the Gerald R. Ford aircraft carrier program as requested by the Department of Defense and tightens cost controls on the program. In the absence of this provision, DOD would have to stop work on the aircraft carrier, resulting in the layoff of thousands of workers and an additional cost of up to $1 billion dollars on the program and subsequent ships.

Section 352 of the bill requires DOD to eliminate the development and fielding of service-specific combat and camouflage utility uniforms and instead move to combat and camouflage uniforms that are used by all members of the Armed Forces. This provision addresses a finding by GAO that identified DOD’s fragmented approach to developing and acquiring combat uniforms as a source of duplication and waste in the Department.

Section 904 of the bill requires the Secretary of Defense to streamline DOD management headquarters at all levels by changing or reducing the size of staffs, eliminating forms of management, cutting functions that provide little or no added value, and consolidating overlapping and duplicative programs and offices. We expect this provision to save $10 billion or more over the next 10 years.

Section 1024 of the bill allows the Secretary of the Navy to settle 20-year old litigation arising from the default termination of the contract for the production of the A-12 aircraft. Under the proposed settlement authorized by this provision the Navy will receive ships and aircraft worth almost $400 million at no cost to the government.

Section 1098 of the bill authorizes the Department of Defense to transfer an unneeded aircraft to the Forest Service, providing the Forest Service with much-needed replacements for aging wildfire suppression aircraft. This provision was based on a Senate floor amendment which we were unable to adopt even though it had been cleared on both sides.

Section 1302 of the bill authorizes the use of funds available under the Cooperative Threat Reduction—CTR—program to eliminate Syrian chemical weapons. This provision will give DOD the funding flexibility that it says it needs to carry out the destruction of these dangerous weapons, as provided by our agreements with the Russians and others.

Section 2807 of the bill requires that all future military construction projects funded using in-kind payments from partner nations under an international agreement be submitted for congressional authorization. That may not sound like a big deal, but this provision is the result of a yearlong investigation by the committee staff, in which we learned that DOD was using in-kind payments from our allies to fund questionable military construction projects without appropriate oversight.

Section 2941 through 2946 of the bill authorize a new land withdrawal to expand the Marine Corps training range at 29 Palms in California. This provision was the No. 1 legislative priority of the Marine Corps this year. As the Commandant of the Marine Corps explained in an August 29 letter to the committee, the Marine Corps has spent more than 6 years analyzing and preparing for this expansion to ensure that the Corps can meet its minimum training criteria for live fire and maneuver training. The Commandant’s letter explains:

Although Twenty-nine Palms has served the Marine Corps well since the 1940s, it is currently inadequate to properly train our Marine Corps. The Marine Corps proposes to correct this training and readiness shortfall by expanding Twenty-nine Palms through the withdrawal and acquisition of 140,000 acres in the Johnson Valley area.

These are just a few examples drawn from hundreds of provisions in this bill. As Gen Martin Dempsey, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told us last week, the authorities included in this bill “are critical to the Nation’s defense and urgently needed to ensure we all keep faith with the men and women, military and civilian, selflessly serving in our Armed Forces.”

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The Acting President pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. Reid. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The Acting President pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. Reid. Has all time expired?

The Acting President pro tempore. It has.

Mr. Reid. I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the motion to concur with the amendment.

The Acting President pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The motion is withdrawn.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to concur.

Mr. Vitter. I ask for the aye and nay.

The Acting President pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The Acting President pro tempore. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

Mr. Durbin. I announce that the Senator from Florida (Mr. Nelson) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 84, nays 15, as follows:

(Rollcall Vote No. 284 Leg.)

YEAS—84

Alexander
Argo
Balz
Baucus
Begich
Baucus
Bunten
Burr
Canwell
Cardin
Carper
Cassey
Chambliss
Coats
Cochran
Collins
Coons
Cornyn
Donnelly
Durbin
Inhofe
Isakson
Johnson
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (WI)
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (ND)
Johnson (IN)
Kaine
Grassley
Hagerty
Heitkamp
Hirono
Hirono
Hoeven
Hoven
Johnson
Johnson
Johnson
Johnson
Johnson
Kaine
Kaine
The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The motion to conclude debate on the nomination of Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote and to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION
The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will report.

CLOTURE MOTION
We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security.

Harry Reid, Thomas R. Carper, Barbara Boxer, Mark Begich, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tom Udall, Debbie Stabenow, Sheldon Whitehouse, Bernard Sanders, Mazie K. Hirono, Christopher A. Coons, Jon Tester, Brian Schatz, Martin Heinrich, Claire McCaskill, Heidi Heitkamp, Kirsten Gillebrand.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII is waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Alejandro Mayorkas, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk shall call the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 55, nays 45, as follows:

YEA—55

Alexander
Barrasso
Baucus
Baldwin
Brown

Kaine
Klobuchar
Landrieu
McCaskill
Menendez

Moran
Markowski
Murray
McCaskill
Schatz

Scott
Shahbeen
Stabenow
Sanders
Whitehouse

Yeary

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 71) was agreed to. The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 71) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY IN ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the Indian Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 623 that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The bill (H.R. 623) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AMENDING THE ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005
Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Energy Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 767, and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

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

The bill (H.R. 767) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.