

to a lot of the things he puts in them. It lies in how he governs, and he is not governing well. He is not governing down the middle. He is not governing in a way that lends itself to compromise. We Democrats will continue to hold the President accountable. That is our job. That is what the Constitution says we should do, and we will continue until we see the President change his course in governing. No speech is going to change that or affect that.

NOMINATION OF RYAN ZINKE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, one other issue is our nominee today, Mr. ZINKE. I want to spend a minute on him. He is the nominee for Secretary of Interior. One of the most important issues handled by the Interior Department is the stewardship of our national parks. These are some of the great national resources of our country.

When my children were younger, my wife and I would take them to national parks, and we would go hiking. We loved it. We so looked forward to going out West. I remember the reward at the end of a big hike was a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. I probably wanted it even more than my kids did. I loved peanut butter and jelly.

From Niagara Falls to the Erie Canalway, to places like Seneca Falls, Stonewall, and Ellis Island, my dear State of New York is home to some of our country's most famous national parks and monuments. They are places I have visited and treasured my whole life. I have been concerned in recent years about the reluctance on the other side of the aisle to properly care for these great national beauties, these great national resources. Currently, there is a \$12 billion maintenance backlog for our national parks. Our Republican majority has not seen fit to address them.

Now, adding insult to injury, the new administration's hiring freeze across Federal agencies has already affected parks like the Women's Rights National Historic Park in Seneca Falls, which I have visited many times. It has had to cancel tours due to insufficient funding.

Most troubling, our Republican colleagues want to make it easier to sell off or give away public lands and expand the footprint of the oil and gas industries on public lands—as usual, helping those narrow special interests, hurting the average American. That seems to be the trademark of this administration, which our friends on the other side of the aisle are happily going along with.

That is the context in which I approach Congressman ZINKE's nomination. He claims to be a conservationist in the spirit of Teddy Roosevelt, a great New Yorker. He has demonstrated support for rules, however, that would make it easier to sell off public lands. It is the opposite of what Teddy Roosevelt wanted.

Congressman ZINKE claims to be a conservationist, but he said he would revisit actions taken by the last administration to use the Antiquities Act to permanently protect endangered places of cultural, tribal significance. He claims to be a Roosevelt conservationist but pledged his support for the Trump administration's energy agenda—once again, centered on efforts to expand drilling and mining on Federal lands and waters. A few big oil companies would be made happy, but America would lose a great resource that is an economic resource as well as a beautiful natural resource.

I would say to Mr. ZINKE: You can't be a Roosevelt conservationist when you vote to make it easier to sell off public lands. You can't be a Roosevelt conservationist when you support opening up public lands to increased extraction and drilling. You are not much of a conservationist when you downplay the authority of the legislation that allows the President to create national monuments.

In sum, Congressman ZINKE says he is a dyed-in-the-wool conservationist but doesn't have the record to back it up. That should concern every outdoor enthusiast, every lover of our great and grand national parks.

Unfortunately, because of his record, I will vote no on Mr. ZINKE's nomination. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of RYAN ZINKE, of Montana, to be Secretary of the Interior.

Under the previous order, there will now be 20 minutes of debate, equally divided.

The Senator from Montana.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, what a historic day for Montana. As a fellow Montanan, as a member of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, I look forward

to working with RYAN ZINKE in his new role as the Secretary of the Interior.

Serving at the helm of the Department of the Interior, I know he will be a strong advocate for our public lands. He will uphold the Federal trust responsibility to Indian tribes, and he will help unleash American energy and will strengthen our water infrastructure.

I have heard all week some friends on the other side of the aisle speak against my good friend from Montana, RYAN ZINKE. I can tell you, I am perplexed. They are concerned that RYAN ZINKE may not uphold the important roles of the Department of Interior—and that is to protect the public interests in land and mineral management—that he will take shortcuts to extract minerals. Let me tell you what RYAN ZINKE will do, and I have known RYAN ZINKE for 38 years. He will finally restore balance to the use and management of Federal land.

Do you know that in Montana we have more recoverable coal than any State in the United States? Yet the Obama administration had planned to block our ability, Montana's ability, to develop these resources. A moratorium is not a responsible policy. It is reckless. It is misguided, leaving the States and the tribes to be reliant on mineral royalties, to lose out on these revenues, and lose out on the good-paying jobs that coal supports. RYAN ZINKE will take a fresh look at our coal programs and see how we can access these untapped resources in an environmentally responsible way.

Let me remind my colleagues that RYAN ZINKE was born and raised in Montana. It is a State where we like to say we get to work where we also like to play. He will restore that balance to the Department so Montanans can gain better access to our public lands.

He will also ensure our public lands work for those who live closest to them, and that means our States and our tribes. RYAN is a Montanan. He grew up in America's public lands. He grew up in the shadows of Glacier National Park. I grew up in the shadows of Yellowstone National Park. He knows we must strike this balance between conservation and responsible energy development, and he understands better than anybody I know that one-size-fits-all policies of Washington, DC, never work for real America.

I look forward to voting for my friend, my colleague, a Navy SEAL for 23 years, and our next Secretary of the Interior, RYAN ZINKE.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I will vote against confirming Representative RYAN ZINKE as Secretary of the Interior, and I would like to take this opportunity to explain why. To put the matter succinctly, Representative ZINKE—if he is confirmed—will be charged with implementing the Trump administration's "energy independence plan," which includes maximizing energy production on Federal lands, including the outer continental shelf,

OCS. I oppose oil and gas drilling off the coast of Maryland and the entrance to the Chesapeake Bay. There is too little to gain and too much to lose.

Last November, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, BOEM, wisely did not include any parcels in the Atlantic in the 2017 to 2022 plan to lease offshore land the Federal Government controls. In December, then-President Obama used his authority under section 12(a) of the 1953 Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act of 1953 to withdraw unleased OCS lands from future lease sales, too.

This makes sense. According to BOEM, the entire Atlantic OCS, from Maine all the way to Florida, has 1.15 billion barrels of “undiscovered technically recoverable” oil and 12.80 trillion cubic feet of “undiscovered technically recoverable” natural gas. These sums sound large, but let’s put them in context. The Gulf of Mexico OCS has more than 40 times as much oil and 10 times as much natural gas.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Geological Survey, USGS, recently determined that the midland basin of the Wolfcamp Shale area in the Permian Basin has 20 billion barrels of oil and the natural gas equivalent of another 1.6 billion barrels. The oilfield stretches over 118 miles from Lubbock to Midland. It is the largest “continuous oil” discovery in the United States, according to the USGS, three times larger than the assessment of the oil in the mammoth Bakken formation in North Dakota.

It doesn’t make any sense to jeopardize the marine life and the fishing and tourism industries along the Maryland coast and Chesapeake Bay when there is so much more oil and gas in other parts of the country.

Deepwater Horizon was a state-of-the-art rig, but it failed, causing the largest oil spill in U.S. waters. Eleven crewman were killed. An oil spill entering the Chesapeake Bay would be a disaster.

An even bigger threat to Maryland and other coastal States is climate change and rising sea levels. We need to accelerate our transition from fossil fuels, not our dependence on them. Two years ago, Oceana concluded that modest levels of offshore wind development over the next 20 years could produce about twice the amount of energy along coastal Atlantic States as offshore drillings and create more than 1.5 times the number of jobs.

There is no provision in the 1953 law that permits President Trump to reverse the Obama administration’s section 12(a) OCS withdrawals, but he is determined to try. When Representative ZINKE was first asked about lifting the moratoria, he responded, “If I am confirmed, I will work to implement President-elect Trump’s policy.”

That is the problem right there.

I appreciate Representative ZINKE’s honorable service to our country, both in uniform as a Navy SEAL and as an elected official in the Montana State Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives. He has called himself a

“Theodore Roosevelt conservationist” and supports a permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

It is possible Representative ZINKE will try to resist the Republicans’ zeal for transferring ownership of precious public lands from the Federal Government, although he supported a House rule change at the beginning of this Congress to make it easier. Representative ZINKE is an avid sportsman who appears to appreciate the unique role the Federal Government has in managing these resources for multiple uses—not just energy production—and preserving them for future generations.

While these are all positive factors, I am troubled that Representative ZINKE has received a 3 percent rating from the League of Conservation Voters. He has vacillated on the issue of climate change: in 2010, he was one of nearly 1,200 State legislators who signed a letter to President Obama and Congress calling for “comprehensive clean energy jobs and climate change legislation.” Since then, however, he has repeatedly expressed doubt about anthropogenic climate change. In an October 2014 debate, Representative ZINKE stated: “it’s not a hoax, but it’s not proven science either.” During his confirmation hearing, Representative ZINKE said that humans “influence” climate change, but did not acknowledge the scientific consensus that human activity is a dominant cause of climate change. He also supports using the Congressional Review Act to overturn rules agencies have spent months and even years to develop.

For all of these reasons, but particularly out of concern for the Chesapeake Bay and Maryland’s beautiful shoreline and coastal communities, I will vote against confirming Representative ZINKE as Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I oppose the nomination of Representative RYAN ZINKE to be Secretary of the Interior.

The Department of the Interior is charged with judicious management of our Nation’s public lands. It is responsible for balancing conservation, recreation, and development to ensure that Americans get the best use and best value from our collective natural resources.

President Teddy Roosevelt, one of the greatest stewards of our public lands, once said: “I recognize the right and duty of this generation to develop and use the natural resources of our land; but I do not recognize the right to waste them, or to rob, by wasteful use, the generations that come after us.”

The Obama administration took important steps to protect our resources and provide best value to taxpayers. Taking Atlantic Ocean drilling off the table protects our coastal areas and the vital tourism industry up and down the Eastern Shore, including Ocean City. Modernizing the coal leasing process ensures that taxpayers get

proper payment for use of common resources. Preventing methane leakage on public lands stops waste of resources and pollution from a potent greenhouse gas.

Representative ZINKE’s history in Congress casts doubt on his commitment to these important initiatives. He has a mere 3 percent lifetime score from the League of Conservation Voters and an F grade from the National Parks Action Fund. I appreciate that he has spoken in opposition to the sale or transfer of public lands to States, but I am deeply concerned about his vote in January in the House of Representatives for a rule change that would make sales and transfers much easier.

As the Sierra Club has said: “Rather than dedicating himself to the preservation of our public lands, Representative Zinke has repeatedly sided with those who would dismantle, degrade, or dispose of them. Mining, drilling, logging, and dirty energy interests have been placed time and again before the public interest”

In an op-ed opposing a Department of the Interior rule to update coal leasing to get better value for American taxpayers, Representative ZINKE said that the Obama administration was “fighting a more aggressive war against American coal than they are against ISIS.” This kind of hyperbole does not bode well for Representative ZINKE’s ability to represent American taxpayers or promote conservation as Secretary of the Interior, should he be confirmed.

In his nomination hearing, Representative ZINKE pledged to support Federal public lands, permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and address the National Parks maintenance backlog. These are important promises from any nominee for the Department of the Interior. Unfortunately, Representative ZINKE’s voting record does not give me confidence in his commitment to fulfill them, and therefore I must vote against his nomination today. I am proud to be a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, and if he is confirmed, I look forward to working with him to protect our public lands and ensure that American taxpayers get a fair deal for our common resources.

Mr. DAINES. I yield back the time on both sides.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Zinke nomination?

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: The Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 68, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 75 Ex.]

YEAS—68

Alexander	Flake	Nelson
Barrasso	Gardner	Paul
Bennet	Graham	Perdue
Blunt	Grassley	Portman
Boozman	Hatch	Risch
Brown	Heinrich	Roberts
Burr	Heitkamp	Rounds
Capito	Heller	Rubio
Cassidy	Hoeven	Sasse
Cochran	Inhofe	Scott
Collins	Johnson	Shelby
Coons	Kaine	Strange
Corker	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cornyn	King	Tester
Cortez Masto	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	Manchin	Toomey
Cruz	McCain	Udall
Daines	McCaskill	Warner
Donnelly	McConnell	Wicker
Enzi	Moran	Wyden
Ernst	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Murphy	

NAYS—31

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Reed
Blumenthal	Harris	Sanders
Booker	Hassan	Schatz
Cantwell	Hirono	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Menendez	Warren
Durbin	Merkley	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murray	
Franken	Peters	

NOT VOTING—1

Isakson

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote on the nomination, and I move to table the motion to reconsider.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to table.

The motion was agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 10 minutes of debate equally divided.

The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, it is an honor for me to recommend again Dr. Carson as the Secretary of HUD. Dr. Carson brings a fresh set of eyes to every issue and every problem he faces, and he has an incredible record of success and of achieving outstanding results. We look forward to his bringing that same kind of analytical mind and management to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

I don't think there is a better pick that could have been made. I urge my colleagues to support this motion to invoke cloture.

I yield the remainder of our time to the Senator from Montana.

CONFIRMATION OF RYAN ZINKE

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, back in 1979, there was a junior from Bozeman

High School and another junior from Whitefish High School, both headed to Dillon, MT, as Boys State delegates. The keynote speaker that year was a newly elected U.S. Senator named Max Baucus. Who knew that 38 years later the kid from Bozeman would serve as a U.S. Senator and the kid from Whitefish would be our next Secretary of the Interior.

Congratulations to RYAN ZINKE, our new Secretary of the Interior, who was confirmed with very strong bipartisan support. He is the first Montanan to serve in a President's Cabinet since our statehood in 1889.

RYAN, it is truly an honor to be one of the very first to call you Secretary ZINKE. On behalf of the people of Montana and our country, well done, sir.

I yield back my time.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, it is my understanding that there is no one else who wants to speak on either side. So at this time, I yield back all time on both sides.

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

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Benjamin S. Carson, Sr., of Florida, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Mitch McConnell, Johnny Isakson, Jeff Flake, Steve Daines, James Lankford, Roger F. Wicker, Dan Sullivan, Thom Tillis, Rob Portman, John Thune, John Hoeven, Deb Fischer, James M. Inhofe, Tim Scott, Lindsey Graham, Jerry Moran, Pat Roberts.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Benjamin S. Carson, Sr., of Florida, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 62, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 76 Ex.]

YEAS—62

Alexander	Cochran	Ernst
Barrasso	Collins	Fischer
Blunt	Corker	Flake
Boozman	Cornyn	Gardner
Brown	Cotton	Graham
Burr	Crapo	Grassley
Capito	Cruz	Hatch
Cardin	Daines	Heitkamp
Carper	Donnelly	Heller
Cassidy	Enzi	Hoeven

Inhofe	Murkowski
Johnson	Paul
Kennedy	Perdue
King	Portman
Lankford	Reed
Lee	Risch
Manchin	Roberts
McCain	Rounds
McConnell	Rubio
Menendez	Sasse
Moran	Scott

Shelby
Strange
Sullivan
Tester
Thune
Tillis
Toomey
Warner
Wicker
Young

NAYS—37

Baldwin	Harris	Peters
Bennet	Hassan	Sanders
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Schatz
Booker	Hirono	Schumer
Cantwell	Kaine	Shaheen
Casey	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Coons	Leahy	Udall
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	McCaskill	Warren
Durbin	Merkley	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murphy	Wyden
Franken	Murray	
Gillibrand	Nelson	

NOT VOTING—1

Isakson

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 62, the nays are 37.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Benjamin S. Carson, Sr., of Florida, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I applaud my colleagues for voting in favor of cloture on the nomination of Dr. Benjamin Carson to be the next Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

On January 12, the Senate Banking Committee held its confirmation hearing, and Dr. Carson responded to questions and concerns thoroughly and thoughtfully. Dr. Benjamin Carson was unanimously reported out of the Senate Banking Committee on January 24.

To many Americans, Dr. Carson needs no introduction; however, his impressive resume bears repeating. Dr. Carson was raised by a single mother in an impoverished part of the city of Detroit. He attended Yale University and the University of Michigan Medical School and later became a highly accomplished and respected neurosurgeon. Dr. Carson was named director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital in 1984, at the age of 33—the youngest such director in the Nation.

He gained national fame in the 1980s by becoming the first doctor to lead an operation that separated twins who were conjoined at the head—one of many high-profile operations led by Dr. Carson. He also ran for President this past election and spent months traveling the country, listening to the American people about the problems and the issues they face with respect to housing.

During his testimony before our committee, Dr. Carson highlighted his commitment to carrying forth the