

they are using the term to describe a significant amplification from what we are seeing right now. They are ringing a five-alarm fire bell to say: This is the moment to wake up.

Wake up, America. You are a democratic republic. You are supposed to be able to respond to the challenges that come before us. And we have a massive challenge: devastating consequences of carbon pollution. You must stop burning carbon. Find a path to change how we operate in transportation, how we operate in generating electricity. Address this issue. Hold every hearing, summon every scientist, ring every bell, and get to work. That is what these two reports are saying to us.

So, colleagues, if you are sitting here asleep at the switch, you are not doing your job. If you are sitting here advocating for the fossil fuel industry, you are worse than not doing your job—you are helping to damage the land across this great Nation for all Americans. So wake up and get to work.

This isn't a Democratic issue or a Republican issue, a blue county or red county. In fact, the biggest impacts are felt in our red counties, where the foundation of the economy is farming, fishing, and forestry, and every one of those is being impacted by this effect. So we, as representatives in our democratic Republic, with our "We the People" Constitution—it is our job to operate for the people, not for the powerful, not for the privileged.

I will be introducing a resolution that recognizes and accepts the findings of these reports, acknowledges the expertise from 91 scientists in 41 countries and 300 scientists in 13 Federal agencies, the combined efforts of these two reports that say that we are in trouble and we must act, and we must act in partnership with the world.

We need to act here. We need to say to Trudeau of Canada: You want to be a climate leader. You claim you are a climate leader. Why are you tripling the size of the pipeline that serves the tar sands?

We need to say to the leadership of Australia: Your outback is on fire during your winter. Your coral reefs are dying. The Great Barrier Reef has died in the last 10 years. Why are you doubling down on coal?

We need to say to Japan: Don't base your energy future on liquefied natural gas, which is simply another fossil fuel strategy.

We need to say to Germany: Why do you want this gas pipeline from Russia as a foundation for your energy future?

Let's all be in this together because if any nation acts by itself, we can't change the course—the big course, the big picture—of the damage carbon pollution is doing. We have to work together. That means we now pivot and say: Let's recognize that renewable energy is now the cheapest energy. It is less expensive to generate a kilowatt hour of electricity from renewable energy, from solar wind, than it is from fossil fuels. Let's not just realize that

carbon is doing all this damage; let's also recognize that the strongest economy will be built on the cheapest energy, which is renewable energy. So we have every reason to act.

Let's remember that we were founded as a "we the people" vision, and let's honor that vision.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 709—CONDEMNING RUSSIA'S PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS IN THE KERCH STRAIT AGAINST THE UKRAINIAN NAVY

Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. MORAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

##### S. RES. 709

Whereas, on November 24, 2018, Ukraine commemorated the 85th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932–1933, known as the Holodomor, in which millions of Ukrainians perished under Soviet policies designed to break Ukrainian resistance to Soviet communist rule and forced collectivization;

Whereas, on November 25, 2018, Russian Federation military forces fired on three Ukrainian Navy vessels attempting to transit the Kerch Strait between the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov;

Whereas the three Ukrainian ships were seized by Russian Federation forces, and Ukrainian government officials stated that at least six of the 24 captured Ukrainian sailors were wounded in the incident;

Whereas the Russian Federation's seizure of the Ukrainian vessels is a blatant violation of its commitments under international law and a 2003 Agreement between the Russian Federation and Ukraine on cooperation in the use of the sea of Azov and the strait of Kerch;

Whereas, on May 15, 2018, the Government of the Russian Federation completed construction of a road and rail bridge over the Kerch Strait, connecting Russia with Crimea in Ukraine, and has systematically harassed Ukrainian and international shipping transiting between the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov;

Whereas, in March 2014, Russian Federation forces invaded and occupied Ukraine's Crimean peninsula, in full contravention of the Russian Federation's commitments under the United Nations Charter and the Helsinki Final Act condemning the threat or use of force as means of altering international borders;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has increased considerably its military presence in occupied Crimea since 2014, including increasing military personnel to an estimated 28,000–29,000, adding six new submarines and three frigates to the Black Seas Fleet, and deploying S-400 long-range air defense battalions;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation continues its efforts to destabilize eastern Ukraine, bears responsibility for the ongoing conflict that has cost the lives of over 10,000 Ukrainians, and recently orchestrated illegitimate leadership elections in the Luhansk and Donetsk regions;

Whereas section 1234 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115–91; 131 Stat. 1659) authorizes the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to provide appropriate security assistance to the Ukrainian Armed Forces; and

Whereas, on July 25, 2018, Secretary of State Michael Pompeo issued the Crimea Declaration, cementing United States non-recognition of Russian sovereignty over Crimea and calling upon Russia to uphold its commitments under international law regarding the territorial integrity of other states: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) strongly condemns the provocative actions of the Government of the Russian Federation in the Kerch Strait against the Ukrainian navy;

(2) calls upon the Government of Russia to immediately release all Ukrainian crew members and vessels and to cease its harassment of Ukrainian and international shipping transiting the Kerch Strait;

(3) stresses that the behavior of the Government of the Russian Federation is destabilizing for the entire region and invites further escalations;

(4) urges members of the international community to unite in opposition to the actions of the Government of the Russian Federation in the Kerch Strait, as they infringe upon fundamental principles of international law affecting all nations;

(5) welcomes and affirms Secretary of State Pompeo's Crimea Declaration announcing United States policy to never recognize Russia's attempted annexation of Crimea;

(6) reaffirms the unwavering support of the people and the Government of the United States for the people of Ukraine and Ukraine's territorial integrity; and

(7) calls upon the President and the entire Administration to implement an all-of-government approach to forcefully express opposition to the Russian Federation's November 25, 2018, attack on Ukrainian forces at every opportunity.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4063. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. ISAKSON) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3946, to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Statesboro, Georgia, the Ray Hendrix Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic.

SA 4064. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. ISAKSON) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3946, *supra*.

SA 4065. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Ms. BALDWIN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 424, honoring the 25th anniversary of the National Guard Youth Challenge Program.

SA 4066. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. MENENDEZ) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1918, to oppose loans at international financial institutions for the Government of Nicaragua unless the Government of Nicaragua is taking effective steps to hold free, fair, and transparent elections, and for other purposes.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 4063.** Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. ISAKSON) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3946, to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Statesboro, Georgia, the Ray Hendrix Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

##### **SECTION 1. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC, STATESBORO, GEORGIA.**

The Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in