

how we are compounding their stress, their anxiety.

I have been part of groups who have talked to the Vice President, have talked to his negotiating team. I myself have raised these issues with the President. I want to be part of the solution, and I want to be part of the solution sooner rather than later because we owe it to the people of this country to function, and when the government is shut down, partial or otherwise, we are not functioning.

Let's stop talking about who has leverage and who doesn't have leverage and when that is going to tip to advantage the other side. Let's do what we need to do when it comes to ensuring the security of our Nation and our borders. Let's navigate those issues. But let's not hold hostage good men and women who are working hard to keep us safe every day through the basic functions of government.

I am one who has signed on I think to most of the bills that are out there that would help alleviate some of what individuals and their families are seeing, whether it is the Pay Our Coast Guard Act, the End Government Shutdowns Act, the Pay Excepted Personnel Act. But those are simply band-aids, and quite honestly, they are probably nothing more than messages right now.

What I am hearing from folks is, keep us secure, protect our borders, deal with humanitarian issues, but allow our government to function. Go to work, stop arguing about who is winning, and let's get the government open.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the senior Senator from Alaska be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions today through Monday, January 14.

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

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2019

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, January 14; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; finally, that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture motion with respect to the motion to proceed to S. 1 ripen at 5:30 p.m., Monday.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I asked that it stand adjourned under the previous order fol-

lowing the remarks of our Democratic colleagues.

Mr. KING. Would the Senator yield for just a short comment?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine is recognized.

Mr. KING. I can't leave the floor without complimenting the Senator from Alaska for her usual thoughtful analysis and constructive approach to dealing with this issue. I am proud to serve with the Senator on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. She has brought the same wisdom to the floor today that she does to the work of our committee. I simply wanted to acknowledge that and thank her for her comments.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I thank my friend from Maine. I enjoy working with the Senator as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Ms. MURKOWSKI). The Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam President, I rise to speak about President Trump's shutdown and the real pain that it is causing in my home State of Wisconsin and in communities across this country. The Trump shutdown is now in its 21st day, tying the longest Federal Government shutdown on record. Today is also the day that approximately 800,000 Federal workers will not get their regularly scheduled paychecks, including approximately 3,000 Wisconsinites. Many of these workers are doing their jobs without pay: Coast Guard workers, Transportation Security Administration agents, air traffic controllers, along with Federal law enforcement, including FBI and DEA agents.

These hard-working Americans are suffering because President Trump and Republicans in Congress refuse to support bipartisan legislation to end this shutdown and reopen the government.

We should be working today to pass bipartisan legislation to end this senseless and useless shutdown and reopen the government. Sadly, no votes are scheduled today by the Senate majority leader, meaning that the Trump shutdown will continue.

The House did their job and passed bipartisan legislation to end the Trump shutdown, but Senator Majority Leader MCCONNELL has thus far objected to bringing up this legislation in the Senate. In fact, yesterday, I joined many of my colleagues on this Senate floor in an effort to pass, once again, bipartisan legislation to reopen the government, but Majority Leader MCCONNELL blocked our efforts, and the pain will continue for so many across this country.

Why is the government shut down? Over the past 3 years, President Trump has publicly promised well over 200 times that Mexico would pay for his wall. Now he has shut down our government over his failure to keep his promise. He even said that he takes pride in this Trump shutdown.

The American people shouldn't pay for this deception, and Congress should

not make taxpayers pay billions of dollars for his wasteful and ineffective wall. What we should do instead is reopen the government and pass bipartisan Homeland Security legislation—supported by both Democrats and Republicans—that provides smart and cost-effective border security.

President Trump's shutdown has many consequences, and he has created many victims. I want to speak about some of the pain Wisconsinites are feeling.

In Wisconsin, the Trump shutdown is hurting farmers and rural communities. It really could not come at a worse time. Wisconsin lost over 600 dairy farms last year and over 500 the year before. In response, Congress worked together on a bipartisan basis to pass a farm bill that would support our farmers and our rural economy.

Unfortunately, with this shutdown, President Trump has threatened all of that progress. His shutdown is stalling the implementation of the bipartisan farm bill and delaying things like subsidy payments and loans that farmers need to get ready for the spring planting season and plan how they will endure in these very uncertain market conditions.

We have heard from farmers about the pain the Trump shutdown is causing them. Here is one story. Michael Slattery is a grain farmer from Manitowoc County, WI. He is waiting on \$9,000 that the Department of Agriculture agreed to pay him to compensate him for the losses from the President's trade war and for conservation efforts that he participates in on his farm.

Mr. Slattery planned to use this money to get ready for the upcoming planting season, but now that is all on hold. To quote Mr. Slattery: "We are being played the stooge."

He is right. Farmers like him have suffered enough under this administration, and the Trump shutdown is another blow for Mr. Slattery and farmers like him across Wisconsin and the entire Nation.

I have also heard from Kelly. Kelly lives in Black River Falls, WI. Kelly has a disability, and she also takes care of a grandchild with a disability. Kelly received funding from the Department of Agriculture, including a program that specifically helps low-income and underserved people in rural communities. The USDA had agreed to help her close on a home and to help her make some immediate home repairs. Now the funding is on hold. She can't pay the contractor who made the repairs, and she is also having trouble paying the mortgage on her new home.

What is the Department of Agriculture doing to help or assist Kelly? Right now, nothing. She can't even get information from the USDA because of the Trump shutdown.

People like Kelly and Michael should not have to suffer because President Trump broke a promise to make Mexico pay for an ineffective border wall.