

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 Michael J. Desmond, of California, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel in the Department of the Treasury, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) is necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 84, nays 15, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 30 Ex.]

YEAS—84

Alexander	Ernst	Paul
Baldwin	Feinstein	Perdue
Barrasso	Fischer	Peters
Bennet	Gardner	Portman
Blackburn	Graham	Risch
Blumenthal	Grassley	Roberts
Blunt	Hassan	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rosen
Braun	Heinrich	Rounds
Brown	Hoeven	Rubio
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Cantwell	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Capito	Isakson	Scott (SC)
Cardin	Johnson	Shaheen
Carper	Jones	Shelby
Casey	Kaine	Smith
Cassidy	Kennedy	Stabenow
Collins	King	Sullivan
Coons	Lankford	Tester
Cornyn	Leahy	Thune
Cortez Masto	Lee	Tillis
Cotton	Manchin	Toomey
Cramer	McConnell	Udall
Crapo	McSally	Van Hollen
Cruz	Moran	Warner
Daines	Murkowski	Wicker
Durbin	Murphy	Wyden
Enzi	Murray	Young

NAYS—15

Booker	Klobuchar	Sanders
Duckworth	Markey	Schatz
Gillibrand	Menendez	Schumer
Harris	Merkley	Warren
Hirono	Reed	Whitehouse

NOT VOTING—1

Sinema

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 84, the nays are 15.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Michael J. Desmond, of California, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel in the Department of the Treasury.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I rise this evening to speak on a subject that, with the groundswell of activism, has once again captured national attention—and rightfully so.

Many years ago, I was a young naval flight officer stationed at a mock field naval air station in the Bay area out in California, preparing for the first of what would be three tours of duty in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam war. I joined there with tens of thousands of people one day to celebrate our country's first-ever Earth Day. I will never forget it.

This was back when polluters dumped waste into our waterways with impunity. Garbage littered our shores, and too many rivers oozed instead of flowed. One of them was in Cleveland, OH. The Cuyahoga River, north of where I went to school at Ohio State, actually caught on fire. Factories spewed toxic fumes, and acid rain fell from the sky. The urgency was clear then, and it is even clearer today.

That very first Earth Day was a transformative experience for me, and it will serve as an inspiration for me for the rest of my life.

As I look at what is happening across our country today, I see the movement for bold and transformative action to save our planet. I see the faces of those who were there with me that day in Golden Gate State Park.

I have had a lot of different jobs since then, but it is not lost on me that I stand here today on the brink of yet another watershed moment as the top Democrat on the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works—the committee that oversees our Nation's environmental laws—to talk about climate change.

In the days and weeks ahead, Senator MCCONNELL intends to engage in a ploy to try and undermine the Green New Deal by calling a vote for a resolution he does not even support. I believe he hopes that, in turn, there may be some disruption and damage inflicted on the Democratic Party and the climate change movement.

To the American people, hear this; it is a simple message: We cannot—we will not—allow cynicism to win, not now and not with so much at stake.

When it comes to climate action, there could not be a starker difference in this Chamber between the Democratic Party and the Republican Party in this debate.

We, as Democrats, may not agree on exactly how we should address climate change, but we all agree it is happening. We agree that human activity is the main cause, and we agree that we must act now.

Democrats know that climate science isn't part of some grand hoax. It is not an alarmist prediction. It doesn't come from some left-leaning organization. It doesn't come from talk radio. It comes directly from our Nation's leading scientists and leading scientists from all around the world.

Just 3 months ago, 13 Federal Agencies released a comprehensive climate report that described the dire economic and health consequences we face if we fail to take meaningful action to address climate change now. I may be

mistaken, but I believe those 13 Federal Agencies were acting under law signed by a Republican President. I believe it was George Herbert Walker Bush.

This report is the Fourth National Climate Assessment. It was developed over a 3-year period by more than 300 Federal experts and non-Federal experts who volunteered their time—who volunteered their time.

Here is a brief summary of their report: The science behind climate change is settled. Let me say that again. The science behind climate change is settled.

From our warming oceans to our atmosphere, climate change is happening, and human activity, such as burning fossil fuels, is greatly contributing to this crisis.

Our Nation's scientists have found a direct link between climate change and the extreme weather we experienced in 2017, which altogether cost the American economy more than \$300 billion—that is \$300 billion in economic damages, more than any year before.

Scientists are no longer asking if climate change is happening but rather how bad is it going to be. How bad is it going to be? Numbers and the facts don't lie. It will only get worse if we do nothing.

If we don't act on climate change by 2050, wildfire seasons could burn up to six times—six times—more forest area every year. If we don't act on climate change, we will see more extreme flooding that devastates small communities like Ellicott City, MD, not far from here, which has been hit by not one 1,000-year flood in the past year but two. These are floods that are supposed to occur maybe once every 1,000 years. They had two of them in the last 2 years.

If we don't act on climate change, rising temperatures, combined with increasingly frequent and severe rain, mean farmers are likely to experience a reduction in corn and soybean yields by up to 25 percent. If we don't act on climate change, we will see more deadly category 5 hurricanes and storm surges like the ones we saw with Hurricanes Irma and Maria just 2 years ago.

If we do not act on climate change, we will see economic pain across every major sector of our economy in this country. The 2018 National Climate Assessment concludes that at the end of this century, climate change could slash our gross domestic product by 10 percent.

How much is that compared to what? Well, compared to the losses we sustained in the great recession just a decade ago, 10 percent is more than double those losses—more than double.

It doesn't matter if you are from a coastal State or from a landlocked State. I have lived in both. It doesn't matter if you care about public health or the environment or if you care about our economy or national security. The fact is, every person living in

this country will eventually see or experience the effects of climate change if they haven't already done so today.

We have two options. We confront this challenge head on—reduce carbon emissions, enhance resiliency, and support millions of new clean energy jobs—or we could choose to ignore the problem and pass the buck. To whom? To our children, to their children, and to their children.

Senator MCCONNELL, President Trump, and Andrew Wheeler at EPA want to pass the buck. They prefer to walk away from the growing threat we face. Instead of pursuing any ideas to address climate change and protect Americans from its effect, sadly, the Trump administration has promoted policies that increase our dependency on dirty energy.

President Trump has even said he doesn't believe in climate change. He doubts the credibility of his own scientists at NASA and at NOAA, as well as 97 percent of the global scientific community. Continuing to misinform the American people and delay real climate action puts American lives and our economy at risk.

It doesn't have to be this way. As Democrats, we choose to confront climate change. We choose to do so now. We know our communities are feeling the pain now from the climate crisis because we see the effects of climate change every day across this country.

We may not yet agree on exactly how we must address climate change, but we all agree on three things. Here they are. One, we agree climate change is real; two, human activity during the last 100 years is a dominant cause of the climate crisis we face today; and three, the United States, and especially the Congress, that is us, the House and the Senate, and the administration should take immediate action to address the challenge of climate change.

That is why I will be introducing a resolution that says just that. Democrats know we can have a healthy climate and a strong economy. They are not mutually exclusive. Anyone who says otherwise is preaching a false choice.

Democrats know this because of the work we started with President Obama in the White House, where we accomplished real actions to put this Nation on a path of net zero emissions. Our Republicans friends across the aisle should know this because of the work done by the former President, the late George Herbert Walker Bush, years earlier that I just alluded to a minute ago.

During the Obama administration, starting with the Recovery Act, the Federal Government provided economic incentives, environmental targets, and supported market developments to encourage investments in the clean energy of the future.

Thanks to the investments during the previous administration, consumers are paying less for energy, and more than 3 million people in this

country went to work today in the clean energy sector—3 million and growing.

Democrats know we must build on this progress, and that is why we continue to support policies that reduce our Nation's carbon footprint, help create a fair economy, and support those most vulnerable to climate effects, but in the U.S. Senate, as in most places, it takes two to tango, and for over two decades Democrats have put forth different policies that use market forces, make big investments in technology, or set strict standards. We have done them all, and we don't seem to get very far with our friends on the other side of this aisle. I know because I have co-sponsored many of these efforts.

Let me just say this. We are not going to give up. We are going to keep on trying. We will not back down. We are going to stand our ground.

Let me leave our colleagues with this message today. This should not be an issue. Climate action should not be an issue that divides us as a body. It shouldn't divide us as a country or as a world. It should unify us.

I thank Senator MCCONNELL in advance for allowing the Senate to devote a fulsome period of time to this important discussion. How we choose to act today will not decide our fates. How we choose to act today will decide the fates of generations of Americans—not just our fates but generations of Americans that will be on this Earth long after the rest of us are gone. So let's get to work. Time is wasting. Let's get to work.

I yield the floor to the Senator from Massachusetts, who has done great work on this for as long as I have been alive—almost as long as I have been alive, my friend and my colleague who has been a giant on these issues for a long time and continues to be.

I yield the floor.

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, I thank our great leader on the Environment Committee for his visionary work on this issue. I am here for the same purpose today. I am here to talk about climate change, about our climate crisis, and about the mistake it would be to put Andrew Wheeler in charge of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Climate change is an existential threat to our country and to the planet. We know this because the world's leading scientists, the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, just made that warning late last year. It is an existential threat to the planet.

The U.N. report told us we have very limited time until we are past the point of no return, and the most catastrophic impacts of climate change are irreversible.

Our own Federal scientists across 13 Agencies also just warned in the National Climate Assessment that the impacts of climate change are not in the future, but they are happening in our communities right now.

Here is what all 13 U.S. Federal Agencies said. They said our efforts do

not yet approach the scale necessary to avoid substantial damages to the economy, environment, and human health. These are Earth-shattering reports about the state of our Earth. These are the doomsday reports about what happens if we do not take bold action.

The dire consequences of climate change, in fact, are arriving. A tenfold increase in ice-free summers in the Arctic, 99 percent loss of coral reefs, and a doubling of species lost around the world. In the Northeast, in worst-case scenarios, by the end of the century, both the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Logan Airport will be under water, and over 20 percent of Boston's population will face flood risk.

The climate emissions are not slowing down. In 2018, emissions increased 2.8 percent. We have the "Denier in Chief" in the White House, and this week Republicans in the Senate are poised to confirm a coal lobbyist to head the Environmental Protection Agency.

During his confirmation hearing, when I asked whether he agreed with the conclusions of the National Climate Assessment report, Mr. Wheeler said he still needed additional briefings before he could make a public comment on it. Let me repeat that. The nominee of Donald Trump to run the Agency charged with protecting the planet from climate change had not even sufficiently reviewed the climate report from our own Federal Agencies before his confirmation hearing. He also said he considered the report to be a representation of the worst-case scenario and that what we face is "a climate issue."

Well, the worst-case scenario is one in which the Republican Senate will confirm a former coal lobbyist to head the Environmental Protection Agency. The worst-case scenario is the Trump administration's plans to roll back the Clean Power Plan and the fuel economy emission standards, the single largest steps we have ever taken to address climate change. We are in a worst-case scenario, and we need to dramatically change course.

That should start by not confirming Andrew Wheeler, a coal lobbyist, to run the Agency charged with protecting our planet. Andrew Wheeler's answers on the climate crisis should be disqualifying. His record as a coal lobbyist should be disqualifying. We should come together and reject Andrew Wheeler as the head of the EPA.

The impact of climate change on ordinary families on their health, on our Nation, on our security, and on our future is too urgent. We must be bold. We must be ambitious.

That is why I have introduced the Green New Deal resolution. It lays out a serious, bold, aspirational set of goals

that meet the scale of the threat we are facing. It is a set of principles, not prescriptions. The Green New Deal will allow us to engage in massive job creation to save all of creation. It calls for a massive 10-year mobilization to transform our climate, our economy, our democracy. It is about jobs and justice.

An overwhelming number of Americans support climate action, and a majority of Americans support a Green New Deal. Never in our history have the interests of all Americans been so united in a single issue: climate change.

From the air we breathe to the jobs that employ us, to the neighborhoods we live in, to the economy we operate within, climate change defines our existence. This is the time for serious solutions. Global temperatures are the highest in recorded history. Wealth inequality is at its highest point since the era of the Great Depression. The erosion of our coastlines, the erosion of earning power of workers, the pollution of our planet, the pollution of our democracy by Big Oil and Koch brothers financing, the relationship between these ills and injustices is undeniable, but the challenge is not insurmountable.

It will only be through a historic intergenerational commitment to end climate change that we create the kind of democracy that works for all Americans. This Green New Deal mobilization will make the United States the global leader on clean energy and climate action.

This mobilization will be the greatest blue-collar jobs program in a generation. This mobilization will be an opportunity to repair the historic oppression of frontline and vulnerable communities that have borne the worst burdens of pollution from our fossil fuel economy—these communities that also will be the most affected and the least able to respond to the impacts of climate change. The Green New Deal represents an opportunity to lift up all workers and all communities.

President Roosevelt was right when he said about the New Deal that “statesmanship and vision, my friends, require relief to all at the same time.”

We are talking about a historic, 10-year mobilization that will mitigate climate emissions and build climate resiliency. We have acted on this scale before, and we must do it again.

We have already laid the foundation for our climate future. In 2008, we had only 1,200 megawatts of total solar capacity in the United States. Today, we have 65,000 megawatts. In 2008, we had only 25,000 megawatts of total wind capacity. Today, we have 98,000 megawatts of wind capacity. In 2008, there were only 2,500 all-electric vehicles in our country. Today, we have 1 million, with 500,000 new all-electric vehicles to be sold this year. Most of all, what we have seen over the past 10 years is a growing movement for climate action. In wind and solar, we now

have 350,000 people who are employed. That didn’t happen 10 years ago; it is happening today.

The Green New Deal is not just a resolution; it is a revolution. Republicans and climate deniers are taking mathematical liberties to say it would cost too much to act, but the cost of inaction on climate will be far higher. Over just the past 2 years, the cost of storms and the cost of fires in our country created over \$400 billion in damages. By the end of this century, it will be tens of trillions of dollars that we will lose. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. If we start today, we can avoid the worst, most catastrophic consequences. For those who say we can’t afford to act to address this crisis, I say we can’t afford not to.

The question is, Will any Republican stand up to fight for these goals? The Republican Party is about to confirm a coal lobbyist to run the Environmental Protection Agency. That is where we are in 2019, with the worst scientific reports coming from the U.N. and our own scientists—a threat of an existential risk for the planet—and we are about to confirm a coal lobbyist.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have to be bold the way President Kennedy was in 1962 when he called for a mission to the Moon to be accomplished within 10 years. He said it would not be easy. He said we would have to invent metal that did not exist and propulsion systems that did not exist. He said we would have to bring that mission back safely through heat half the intensity of the Sun, and we would have to do so safely within 10 years so that we could control outer space. We did that, ladies and gentlemen, and we can do it again.

We have to accept this challenge. We can do it. We can unleash an innovation revolution in our country, and again we will do it to save all creation by engaging in massive job creation, a blue-collar revolution hiring millions of workers to do this job.

I thank you, Madam President. This is a very important week before us.

I yield back to my colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I am honored to follow the distinguished ranking member on our Environment and Public Works Committee and one of the coauthors of the Waxman-Markey bill—the one significant piece of climate legislation that has passed a House of Congress—and to add my voice.

Mr. MARKEY. Would the Senator yield?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Gladly.

Mr. MARKEY. I just want to say that there is no climate warrior like SHELDON WHITEHOUSE from Rhode Island. He is up every day of his life on this issue, and when he speaks, he speaks with authority. I just want to say what an honor it is to be here today.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. It goes the other way.

Sometimes it seems that our friends on the other side of the aisle think

that the only people who are watching this conversation are fossil fuel industry lobbyists and CEOs and electioneers.

So we are going through, shortly, a truly preposterous exercise on the floor of the Senate, which is that a party that has brought up no significant legislation in the time that Leader McConnell has had the floor is now going to bring its first measure related to climate for a floor vote, and it is something they intend to vote against. It is something they intend to vote against. When you bring a measure to the floor that it is your intention to vote against, that is not legislating. Something else is going on.

Now I think this was a very clever stunt. We don’t know quite where it was cooked up, but we have observed that the Wall Street Journal editorial page is a relentless mouthpiece for the fossil fuel industry, having published climate denial articles literally within the last year. The Wall Street Journal editorial page called for this stunt vote, and it was less than 24 hours before the Republicans in the Senate jumped up, scampered out, and did exactly what they were told to do by the fossil fuel industry’s mouthpiece, the Wall Street Journal editorial page.

I am sure there were champagne corks banging into the ceilings of the boardrooms for ExxonMobil, Americans for Prosperity, and the Koch Industries as all of these fossil fuel executives and lobbyists cheered this stunt. But in the Senate, we actually have a larger audience than just fossil fuel donors; the country is watching and the world is watching, and what they are seeing right now is, frankly, an embarrassment.

It is not just this stunt that reflects a broken Senate; it is a much larger problem of a Senate that cannot deal with the climate change issue in a bipartisan fashion.

I would state that when I got here in 2007, the Senate could deal with climate change in a bipartisan fashion. In 2008, the Senate could deal with climate change in a bipartisan fashion. In 2009, the Senate could deal with climate change in a bipartisan fashion. The reason I know that is because I was here then, and I saw as many as five bipartisan efforts to deal with climate change during that period, with different Republican and Democratic Senators. Then along came the Citizens United decision in January 2010, and from that moment after, it was like watching a patient drop dead in the emergency room. The heartbeat of activity on climate change just flatlined on the Republican side of this Chamber.

I think the fossil fuel industry—I know the fossil fuel industry asked for that decision from the Supreme Court and the five Republican Justices. I think they anticipated what the decision was going to be, and they immediately went to work to squelch and crush any dissent from their orthodoxy

on that side of the aisle. The result has been that there has been no significant piece of climate legislation to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and to deal with this problem since Citizens United that any of our colleagues now will co-sponsor or support. It has just been silent, and it is a dramatic failure in this greatest deliberative body.

I will state, as others have stated, as Ranking Member CARPER and Senator MARKEY have said, that the science on this is now beyond dispute. The science on this is irrefutable. If we fail to deal with this problem, the consequences will be catastrophic and irreversible.

“Irrefutable science.” “Catastrophic and irreversible consequences.” I am actually quoting somebody when I say that. Do you know whom I am quoting? I am quoting from 2009 Donald Trump—Donald Trump, Donald Trump, Jr., Eric Trump, Ivanka Trump, and the Trump Organization signed this full-page advertisement in the New York Times in 2009. “If we fail to act now,” they said, “it is scientifically irrefutable that there will be catastrophic and irreversible consequences for humanity and our planet.” So as much as the fossil fuel-funded mockery in which the Republican Party has engaged, challenges these facts, even the Trumps knew this a decade ago.

In trying to describe the Green New Deal, one might describe it as something that, if you invested in it, would “drive state-of-the-art technologies that will spur economic growth, create new energy jobs, and increase our energy security all while reducing the harmful emissions that are putting our planet at risk.” That is a pretty good capsule of the Green New Deal.

Guess what Donald Trump and his family said in the same advertisement.

Investing in a Clean Energy Economy will drive state-of-the-art technologies that will spur economic growth, create new energy jobs, and increase our energy security all while reducing the harmful emissions that are putting our planet at risk.

All you have to do is listen to the 2009 Donald Trump to understand that the science of climate change was then irrefutable and it is even stronger now and that the consequences of our failure to act and our obedience, our adherence to fossil fuel-funded propaganda and orthodoxy will lead to consequences that are catastrophic and irreversible—said a decade ago. We have had 10 more years of unrestricted emissions since then.

Just the basic tenets of the Green New Deal are “a clean energy economy [that] will drive state-of-the-art technologies that will spur economic growth, create new energy jobs, and increase our energy security.”

With the words of Donald Trump, I rest my case and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, think about what we just heard, first from Senator MARKEY talking about a fossil fuel lobbyist in the year 2019 being cho-

sen to head the EPA—a fossil fuel lobbyist—when there has not been a bill on this floor or any motion coming from Senator MCCONNELL to deal with climate change, to deal with one of the greatest if not the greatest moral issue of our times—nothing on this floor. You heard what Senator MARKEY said. This administration has done nothing to address this issue, and President Trump selects a fossil fuel lobbyist to be head of the EPA. It is the same thing over and over again.

We have to take aggressive action to protect our planet and protect our future now. That means accelerating our transition to carbon-free power. It means investing in technologies that make our manufacturers the most energy efficient in the world. It means creating jobs in clean energy all around the country.

I have always, as a House Member living in Lorain, OH, and as a Member of the Senate—for years, I have always refused to accept the idea that you have to choose between good environmental policy and good-paying jobs. We have proved that is simply not true. We have proved it in my State, where we have lots of wind turbines, made usually with American-made steel. We have proved it in Toledo, where we have one of the biggest solar energy manufacturers in the country. We proved it in the auto industry, where the auto industry has generally had a pretty good decade making more fuel-efficient cars. We put Americans to work, and we can change course on climate change before it is too late.

MITCH MCCONNELL and President Trump seem to think climate change—that is notwithstanding what Senator WHITEHOUSE said—is a joke. I have news for them. Climate change is not something to play political games with; it is a crisis we need to confront and set an example around the world. It is a crisis we need to confront and to set an example for our partners around the world.

It would be shameful enough to have no ideas and no plan to confront our biggest threats. But not only do President Trump and Leader McConnell have no plan, not only are they denying the problem, and not only are they standing in the way of solutions, but they are actually working to make climate change worse. It is just despicable.

They are spreading lies and stacking the administration with shills for the fossil fuel industry. They stacked the administration with Wall Street cronies to do bank regulation. They stacked the administration with fossil fuel cronies and shills to do energy and climate and environmental regulation.

We got news this week that the White House is going to use your taxpayer dollars to set up a panel to promote junk science and spread the debunked conspiracy theory that climate change is a hoax.

This week we will vote on the President's nominee to head the EPA, a lob-

byist who would be overseeing the same special interests who have paid his salary. Andrew Wheeler is just the latest in a long line of cronies from the fossil fuel industry who President Trump has put in charge at the EPA and the Department of the Interior.

Climate change is not a future problem. It does damage to this country right now. It is threatening thousands of Ohio workers who rely on Lake Erie for their livelihood, whether it is tourism or other industries that rely on clean water.

Climate change makes algal blooms worse. Off the shores of Toledo, it contaminates our lake, threatens our drinking water, and hurts small business. Nobody on that side of the aisle seems to give a darn.

I have talked to farmers who have been farming in the Western Lake Erie Basin for decades. They tell me they are experiencing heavier rain events more often and with greater intensity compared to even 15 years ago. Hotter summers and shorter winters will only make this problem worse.

It is time for the President of the United States to stop sabotaging the country he is supposed to lead. It is past time to rejoin the Paris Agreement, to restart the Clean Power Plan, and to implement aggressive fuel economy standards for cars and trucks. It is time to create new jobs in clean energy and energy-efficient manufacturing. It is time for the United States to be the leader the world looks to. It is time to take this threat seriously to preserve our country for our children, and their children, and their children's children before it is too late.

S. 311

Madam President, yesterday we saw yet another attempt by Republican politicians to put themselves in the middle of the sacred doctor-patient relationship and to take away the freedom of women to make their own healthcare decisions. Supporters of this bill, including President Trump, have spread lies and they spread misinformation.

This bill is about intimidating doctors. It is about making it harder for women to get comprehensive care, and they simply don't care. It is despicable.

That is why doctors and medical experts oppose this bill. Let me give you a few: the American College of Nurse-Midwives, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Medical Women's Association, the American Public Health Association, the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, and the Association of Physician Assistants in Obstetrics and Gynecology. The list goes on and on.

Yet President Trump and most Republican politicians—most Republican Members of the Senate—think they know better than you and your doctor. It is nothing new. We have seen it over and over. Washington politicians—most of them men—are obsessed with trying to insert themselves into women's private healthcare decisions. They

just can't help themselves. But those decisions should be and are between a woman and her doctor—period. That is why we defeated this bill yesterday. It is why I will always support women's freedom to make their own healthcare decisions.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ACT

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, before I wrap for the end of the day at the request of the leader, I want to share my thanks, my appreciation—truly, my appreciation—for an action that the House just took up.

It was just about an hour or so ago that the House took up the bill that we had passed out of the Senate here, our lands and water conservation bill, which was a very significant measure of about 120 different conservation, lands, waters, and sportsmen's bills—all rolled into one package—that passed out of here by 92 to 8. It just passed out of the House by a significant, significant margin.

It is, I think, a real testament not only to the work that has been done within this body on a very strong bipartisan basis but, really, to the work that we have done with the House, in our working with the other body in a bipartisan, bicameral way. I think it goes a long way to showing that we really can come together as a Congress on issues that are important to each of us individually.

I give my thanks and my appreciation to Chairman GRIJALVA, to Mr. BISHOP, who was the former chairman of that committee and who worked on this with us last year, and to all of their teams, as well as to the House leadership, which has helped to advance this to this moment in time.

We look forward to the President's signing that very, very shortly, and I know that it will come as a real positive moment for so many. I thank all who helped us with this.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that with respect to the Miller nomination, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the postcloture time on the Desmond nomination expire at 12:15 p.m. tomorrow; further, that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and

laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; finally, that there be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to the cloture vote on the Wheeler nomination.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, the rules governing the procedure of the Committee on Armed Services have not changed for the 116th Congress. Pursuant to rules XXVI, paragraph 2, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, on behalf of myself and Senator REED, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the committee rules be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

UNITED STATES SENATE

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

RULES OF PROCEDURE, 116TH CONGRESS

1. Regular Meeting Day—The Committee shall meet at least once a month when Congress is in session. The regular meeting days of the Committee shall be Tuesday and Thursday, unless the Chairman, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, directs otherwise.

2. Additional Meetings—The Chairman, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, may call such additional meetings as he deems necessary.

3. Special Meetings—Special meetings of the Committee may be called by a majority of the members of the Committee in accordance with paragraph 3 of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

4. Open Meetings—Each meeting of the Committee, or any subcommittee thereof, including meetings to conduct hearings, shall be open to the public, except that a meeting or series of meetings by the Committee or a subcommittee thereof on the same subject for a period of no more than fourteen (14) calendar days may be closed to the public on a motion made and seconded to go into closed session to discuss only whether the matters enumerated below in clauses (a) through (f) would require the meeting to be closed, followed immediately by a record vote in open session by a majority of the members of the Committee or subcommittee when it is determined that the matters to be discussed or the testimony to be taken at such meeting or meetings—

(a) will disclose matters necessary to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States;

(b) will relate solely to matters of Committee staff personnel or internal staff management or procedure;

(c) will tend to charge an individual with a crime or misconduct, to disgrace or injure the professional standing of an individual, or otherwise to expose an individual to public contempt or obloquy or will represent a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of an individual;

(d) will disclose the identity of any informer or law enforcement agent or will disclose any information relating to the investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense that is required to be kept secret in the interests of effective law enforcement;

(e) will disclose information relating to the trade secrets or financial or commercial information pertaining specifically to a given person if—

(1) an Act of Congress requires the information to be kept confidential by Government officers and employees; or

(2) the information has been obtained by the Government on a confidential basis, other than through an application by such person for a specific Government financial or other benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to prevent undue injury to the competitive position of such person; or

(f) may divulge matters required to be kept confidential under other provisions of law or Government regulations.

5. Presiding Officer—The Chairman shall preside at all meetings and hearings of the Committee except that in his absence the Ranking Majority Member present at the meeting or hearing shall preside unless by majority vote the Committee provides otherwise.

6. Quorum—(a) A majority of the members of the Committee are required to be actually present to report a matter or measure from the Committee. (See Standing Rules of the Senate 26.7(a)(1)).

(b) Except as provided in subsections (a) and (c), and other than for the conduct of hearings, nine members of the Committee, including one member of the minority party; or a majority of the members of the Committee, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of such business as may be considered by the Committee.

(c) Three members of the Committee, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party, shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of taking sworn testimony, unless otherwise ordered by a majority of the full Committee.

(d) Proxy votes may not be considered for the purpose of establishing a quorum.

7. Proxy Voting—Proxy voting shall be allowed on all measures and matters before the Committee. The vote by proxy of any member of the Committee may be counted for the purpose of reporting any measure or matter to the Senate if the absent member casting such vote has been informed of the matter on which the member is being recorded and has affirmatively requested that he or she be so recorded. Proxy must be given in writing.

8. Announcement of Votes—The results of all roll call votes taken in any meeting of the Committee on any measure, or amendment thereto, shall be announced in the Committee report, unless previously announced by the Committee. The announcement shall include a tabulation of the votes cast in favor and votes cast in opposition to each such measure and amendment by each member of the Committee who was present at such meeting. The Chairman, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, may hold open a roll call vote on any measure or matter which is before the Committee until no later than midnight of the day on which the Committee votes on such measure or matter.

9. Subpoenas—Subpoenas for attendance of witnesses and for the production of memoranda, documents, records, and the like may