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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O Lord God, the almighty and the all-wise, Your judgments and ways are past finding out.

Bless our Senators with strength sufficient for today's challenges, illuminating their paths with Your light. May they walk in the way of integrity and sacrifice. Lord, let Your power purify their thoughts as Your truth guides their words. Teach them to cheerfully do Your will, surrounding them with the shield of Your providential love. Use them to fulfill Your purposes for our Nation and humanity.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAWLEY). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will pro-

ceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Bridget S. Bade, of Arizona, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

MIDWESTERN FLOODS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to share a message from Iowa's heartland.

As you know, millions of Americans in the middle of the country are experiencing catastrophic flooding. My home State of Iowa and our neighbors in Nebraska are particularly hard hit, and it will affect others downriver of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers.

I want to thank the Trump administration for its swift response on Saturday to approve the expedited requests for a major disaster declaration made by Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds Thursday evening. The flooding has caused tremendous damage, impacting more than two-thirds of Iowa's 99 counties. The Federal disaster proclamation will trigger emergency assistance to 56 of those counties so far. Those would be the counties in blue on the map here.

Governor Reynolds' team has been in the trenches, working hand in hand with local officials and county emergency coordinators. They estimated damages so far across our entire State to be \$1.6 billion. The damages estimated for agriculture are \$214 million; damages to homes, \$481 million; and levee repairs, \$525 million.

By all accounts and every possible metric, the damages and devastation are overwhelming. Yet, at the very same time, the legendary mythology of America's heartland and its people is rooted in truth. The road to recovery will be long, grueling, and at times gruesome, but I am confident that the grit and resilience of Iowans and their fellow midwesterners will prevail.

Over the last week, we have heard remarkable stories of neighbor helping

neighbor and neighbors helping total strangers. Residents of all ages and differing abilities rubbed elbows to bag sand to save a water treatment facility in their small town. First responders and Good Samaritans rescued people stranded in their homes. Farmers moved their neighbor's grain and livestock to higher ground. Volunteers rolled up their sleeves to serve hot meals and deliver water. Generous Americans across our country opened their wallets to donate money, food, water, hygiene products, and medical supplies. Iowa farmers who were not wiped out by the floods are sending truckloads of much needed hay to livestock producers and ranchers in Nebraska.

These stories offer a glimmer of sunshine in the darkest hours of the 2019 floods. You might say that we are experiencing an unwelcome twist of March Madness along the Missouri River. Despite being mired in muck and mud, it is reassuring to see the full-court press and gritty resilience of midwesterners.

Make no mistake—the catastrophic damages to private property, farmland, Main Street businesses, public utilities, and critical infrastructure, including wells, roads, bridges, and railways, have extended beyond the capability of local and State government.

Aerial footage of our State makes entire communities and farmsteads look like an island surrounded by an ocean. You can see some of that here in this photo that was taken just last week. You see here a small community along the Missouri River. This is the town of Pacific Junction, which is located in the southwestern corner of the State in Mills County. Its entire population was forced to evacuate. As you can see from this photo, the rooftops of homes appear to be floating in the muddy waters of a Monopoly board.

I ask my colleagues here in the Senate and I ask Americans listening at home to put yourselves in the shoes of those evacuated from their homes.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Imagine if this were your home soaking in unsanitary water for days on end. Consider for a moment the damages to your furniture, clothes, appliances, and your most prized possessions. Think how much it would cost to replace those items. Now add up the countless hours of hard work it would take to clean up the mess, mud, muck, and mold once the water finally recedes.

I have another photo here I want you to look at. Let's now turn to a photo taken near Pacific Junction.

I thank Larry Winum of Glenwood, IA, a constituent and a friend, for sharing these photos.

Just think of the small businesses impacted by the floods. The photo here of a motel illustrates how flooding can wash away the livelihoods of business owners and their employees. This particular business will indefinitely have zero occupancy. Even if the roads were open, this business would need a floor-to-ceiling refurbishment to replace beds, linens, carpets, and towels, and most likely even significant plumbing and electrical work.

I want to show a photo of Main Street in Hamburg, IA. This community was hard hit in 2011. I was there in 2011. It is worse now. You can see it is underwater in 2019.

Let's examine how the flooding has affected our farmers. As a lifelong farmer, I know exactly what farmers across my State are feeling at this time of the year. They get very antsy and keep constant watch on the weather, soil temperatures, and planting conditions for their seed. They have ordered seeds and fertilizers. These farmers are chomping at the bit to get started on field work.

Now imagine the farmers along the Missouri River. Tens of thousands of acres of farmland are underwater. For sure, these acres may never be ready for planting this season.

Now consider the farmers who were storing grain in the bins along the Missouri. Millions of bushels of flood-soaked grain have spilled into murky floodwaters.

This picture says it all. This is grain that farmers were counting on to pay the bills to put this year's crop in the ground. This photo was shared courtesy of State Representative David Sieck, whose legislative district is almost completely impacted by the flood damages. I thank David for sharing.

My State staff tells me that some farmers in the flooded areas didn't get last fall's crop fully harvested, and of course that is destroyed.

Since March 12, my staff has been crisscrossing scores of Iowa counties to visit affected communities and meet directly with Iowans. They are sharing directly with me the feedback from Iowans. I am making plans to visit affected areas as soon as I can as well. I am anxious to measure recovery and cleanup efforts to inform my decisions on tax and spending policies that are needed to help with recovery efforts going forward.

As my speech and these photos suggest to all and I hope will suggest to each of my colleagues here in the Senate, we have a long road to recovery from the floods of 2019. In fact, it could be worse. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration issued a wake-up call last week. We are not yet out of the woods—not by a long shot. With more precipitation, snowmelt, saturated soils, frozen ground, and massive ice jams, we are in store for significant spring flooding that may reach 200 million Americans.

Today, I have talked largely about the extent of damages and the recovery efforts that are just getting started. It is also important to talk about flood mitigation. Breached, overtopped, or compromised levees span hundreds of miles on the Missouri River along the States of Iowa, Nebraska, and Missouri.

It took a long time for these communities to recover from flooding that took place 8 years ago. It is no wonder an awful lot of Iowans are feeling like they are way back to square one again.

Iowans, especially those who live along the Missouri River, want and deserve answers. Southwest Iowa communities have raised grave concern about the unresponsive Corps of Engineers—specifically, about the lack of communication and about not enough river dredging, water release, and about ordering the town of Hamburg, back in 2011, to remove reinforcements of the now-breached levee that left the town under water.

I, too, share the concerns that have been expressed to the Corps of Engineers. I have had a chance to talk to the Corps headquarters in Omaha. For years I have worked with several of my midwestern colleagues along the Missouri River to make flood control the No. 1 priority of the Corps.

It seems to me that misguided decisions and misplaced priorities have eclipsed common sense. As I told you, I talked last week with the commander of the Corps in Omaha and shared my concerns about the lack of communication and coordination with local communities. Perhaps a good scrubbing of the Master Manual of the Corps of Engineers for the Missouri River may help to clear the wax out of bureaucratic ears that haven't gotten the message.

The No. 1 priority of the Corps should be flood control—flood control, period. I started out today by saying that I wanted to share a message from America's heartland. I close my remarks by sending a message to that American heartland.

As Iowa's senior Senator, I will stand with you every step of the way. My staff and I are working very closely with Iowa and midwestern congressional delegations, the Trump administration, and State agencies to make sure disaster relief programs are working effectively for homeowners, small businesses, farmers, and our local communities.

The best I thing I can say to any Federal Agency and their employees, the Corps of Engineers, FEMA, and many others is to use a little common sense and cut out a lot of the redtape, but here is where it ends.

When the going gets tough, Iowans get tougher. So hang tough, keep fighting, and know that help is on the way.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MUELLER REPORT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, as the world now knows, yesterday evening Attorney General Barr sent a letter to Congress on the investigation by the special counsel. In his letter, Attorney General Barr confirmed the intelligence community's assessment that through a coordinated disinformation campaign and hacking operations, Russia sought to interfere with the 2016 election. Any attempts by a foreign government to interfere with our Democratic processes, successful or unsuccessful, must not be taken lightly.

Though the special counsel's investigation was very targeted and specific, Members of the Senate Intelligence Committee, on which I serve, continue our work to more closely examine the matter as well as the broader threats posed by foreign interference as part of our oversight responsibilities. Although this was the major focus of the special counsel's investigation, it was not the most anticipated portion of Mr. Mueller's report.

After reviewing the special counsel's findings, the Attorney General concluded that the Trump campaign did not coordinate with the Russian Government in their efforts to influence the election. Based on their reaction since General Barr released his letter, it is clear the partisans who will never be satisfied with any results of an investigation will not be appeased by this report from the special counsel or General Barr's summary of Mr. Mueller's conclusions.

I hope our colleagues will trust the dedicated team of public servants who investigated this matter for the special counsel and now allow Congress to move on so we can deal with other challenges facing the American people. The worst thing we can do is get bogged down in a relitigation of all these issues over which we have no real authority because Congress's role is to conduct oversight for purposes of determining whether the laws have been faithfully executed or whether changes in the law need to occur. Obviously, the special counsel's role is entirely different. It is a criminal investigation

to determine whether there is sufficient evidence of a violation of a criminal law that would warrant presentation to a grand jury, charging, and then a trial. Congress's role is demonstrably and decidedly different.

I would like to thank Mr. Mueller for conducting his investigation with the utmost professionalism. For those of us who have seen him in action over many years, we expected nothing different. I would also like to thank Attorney General Barr for promptly communicating his conclusions with both Congress and the American people. Throughout Attorney General Barr's confirmation hearings, he stressed his intent to release as much information as possible, and he is now in the process of delivering on his word.

I agree with those on both sides of the aisle, as well as the President, who want the Mueller report to be released publicly. As much of the report as can be released, and consistent with existing law, should be made public so the American people can read it for themselves, but I also agree with the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator GRAHAM, that we also need to understand better how we got to this place.

We need to look at the decisions made by the leadership in the Department of Justice, the FBI, the intelligence community, and the Obama White House during the time in which this counterintelligence investigation was initiated against President Trump while he was still a candidate, and why, contrary to the practice as testified to by Attorney General Loretta Lynch, a defensive briefing was not given to the Trump campaign so they could know that the Russians were trying the doors and the windows and trying to get into the organization.

We know now, from Mr. Mueller's report, they were unsuccessful in establishing a connection and collusion, as the word has been used, but we know the investigation that initially was started, ultimately, came up empty-handed and resulted in this narrative, which prompted the appointment of a special counsel and this long investigation that Mr. Mueller has now completed. So we need to understand that better as part of our oversight responsibilities, particularly those of us, such as the Presiding Officer and I, who are on the Judiciary Committee who have explicit oversight responsibility for the Department of Justice as well as the FBI.

THE GREEN NEW DEAL

Mr. President, on another matter, we will soon have an opportunity to vote on the Green New Deal. Since this resolution was introduced last month, there has been a lot of confusion about exactly what is in it and how much it would cost. Generally, those aren't great questions to leave unanswered when you are trying to pass something in the Senate. We need more information, to be sure.

When the resolution was released, it made some lofty promises: achieving

net zero greenhouse gas emissions, renovating or replacing all buildings to achieve maximum energy efficiency, and providing higher education, healthcare, and housing for everybody. Missing, of course, were some of the details about how these goals would be either feasible or affordable: no plans on how to incentivize the research and development of new, cleaner energy technologies; no specifics on how much it would cost to retrofit every existing building in the country; no estimates about how the long list of new entitlement programs would be funded. The confusion only grew stronger when one of the authors of the resolution released a background summary that made even more promises, again, with no assurance of any plan that would actually be feasible or could be implemented. The Congresswoman from New York claimed that the Green New Deal would even include a government-subsidized life for those who are unwilling to work. She said we will build high-speed rail that will make airline travel unnecessary, which came as a surprise to our colleagues from Hawaii, and she said we will replace every internal combustion engine in every vehicle. As you might imagine, there was a long list of unanswered questions.

The one thing we know about the Green New Deal is, it would be a bad deal for Texas. Our State has always embraced an "all of the above" attitude when it comes to energy. Our people don't expect handouts, but they do expect opportunities that only come with economic and individual freedom. They don't want to be told what the government will permit them to do or force them to do, and they certainly don't want to be taxed to death to support people who aren't willing to work. We believe the government that governs least governs best in a nation of laws, especially when it comes to our economy.

Texas keeps its taxes, government spending, and regulations at a rational minimum to give people and small businesses that create jobs the freedom to dream big and let the free market provide. We know it works. Lower taxes and less burdensome regulation draw businesses to our State. We are one of the fastest growing States in the Nation because people are literally voting with their feet. It is because we have seen jobs created and opportunities for everyone willing to work.

Our unemployment rate is at or below the national average. I believe, in Midland, TX, in the Permian Basin, it is 2.1 percent. They can't find enough able-bodied people to perform the good, well-paying jobs that exist. We know we lead the Nation in exports, fueling both the State's economy as well as that for the entire country.

As I just alluded, the major part of our State's success is our thriving energy industry. Something that will not come as a surprise to most people is the fact that Texas leads the country in both oil and natural gas production,

but what may surprise you is the fact that we are the No. 1 producer of electricity from wind energy. One-fourth of all U.S. wind energy comes from Texas. There is no doubt that Texas's position as the largest energy-producing State has secured our position as an economic powerhouse, but if the authors of the Green New Deal get their way, oil, gas, and all hydrocarbons will all be off-limits, and the results will be disastrous without anywhere else to turn for an alternative because renewables simply aren't prepared to fill that gap. Hundreds of thousands of people will lose their jobs, exports will decline, and without a reliable alternative power source, you can expect to spend most of your day in the dark. Instead of talking about plans that would hurt my constituents in Texas and bankrupt the entire country, let's have a serious conversation about real solutions.

A few weeks ago, our friend and colleague from Maine, Senator COLLINS, joined me on a tour of the NET Power demonstration plant in La Porte, TX. NET Power has developed a first-of-its-kind system that generates affordable energy from natural gas while producing zero emissions. These innovative carbon capture technologies are what our future should look like. If American companies don't produce them first, well, we know somebody else will. So in America we need to invest in new technologies that can take our most reliable and affordable energy sources and make them cleaner.

When Senator MCCONNELL announced his intent to bring this bill to the floor, things got a little strange in the Senate. In my experience, if the majority leader says he will bring something you authored to the floor, you are thrilled—but not with the Green New Deal. The junior Senator from Massachusetts who introduced the resolution in the first place referred to this announcement as "sabotage."

Well, clearly something is wrong. I believe it is important for us to have a discussion about smart ways to reduce emissions and lessen our environmental footprint, but the way to do that is not through heavyhanded regulations or unrealistic goals to eliminate the fuel sources we need, nor is it about throwing in socialist government power grabs that only appeal to a radical wing of the other party, which is basically a distraction from the real issues we should be discussing.

The Green New Deal is bad for America, bad for Texas, and I urge my Democratic colleagues to stop this ideological race to the left and start working with us on practical solutions that actually have a chance to become law. I will vote no on the Green New Deal resolution, and I encourage all of my colleagues to do the same.

FIX NICS ACT

Mr. President, this last Saturday marked 1 year since the Fix NICS Act was signed into law. This legislation meant a lot to me personally because it

fulfilled a promise I made to the members of the Sutherland Springs community after the deadliest shooting in Texas history.

On November 5, 2017, a deranged gunman opened fire in the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, killing 26 people and rocking our entire State to its core.

The gunman had a criminal record, a record of violence and mental illness. He had been convicted of domestic violence while serving in the military and by law should not have been able to purchase or possess a firearm, but the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, known as NICS, did not have a record of his crimes because they had not been transmitted by the U.S. Air Force to the FBI. In the wake of that tragedy, it is hard to rid your mind of the what-ifs. What if his criminal record had been uploaded to the NICS database? What if he had not been able to purchase a gun? For the friends and family of those lost that day, those questions are almost too tough to ask because they know the answer: Their loved ones might still be alive today.

Sadly, there is nothing we can do to bring back the loved ones they lost that day, but I knew there was something we could do to prevent other families and communities from experiencing that sort of pain, grief, and loss. Less than 2 weeks after the tragedy, Senator MURPHY from Connecticut and I introduced the Fix NICS Act to prevent these systemic failures from happening again. This legislation penalizes Federal Agencies that fail to properly report relevant crimes and incentivizes States to improve their reporting.

These sorts of commonsense reforms gained broad bipartisan support. In fact, there were 77 cosponsors here in the Senate alone, including both the majority and minority leaders, something of a rarity in my experience. It also gained the support of a diverse group of national organizations, from the National Rifle Association to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Fraternal Order of Police, and the National Shooting Sports Foundation. When President Trump signed this bill 1 year ago, it marked the strongest update to the background check system in a decade.

I appreciate the support of my colleagues for this legislation. What we were able to demonstrate is that Congress can work in a bipartisan way to address a problem if we just put our minds to it. I appreciate the support of the Sutherland Springs community in the wake of the tragedy, something they are still feeling even today. I am confident that this legislation will help to save lives and make our communities safer.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

NEW MANHATTAN PROJECT FOR CLEAN ENERGY

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I believe climate change is real. I believe

that human emissions of greenhouse gases are a major cause of climate change, and I believe the Democratic plan for climate change, which the Senator from Texas just spoke about—the Green New Deal—is so far out in left field that not many are going to take it seriously.

So as one Republican, I am here today to propose this response to climate change, which is that the United States should launch a New Manhattan Project for Clean Energy, a 5-year project with 10 grand challenges that will use American research and technology to put our country and our world firmly on the path for cleaner, cheaper energy.

Meeting these grand challenges would create breakthroughs in advanced nuclear reactors, natural gas, carbon recapture, better batteries, greener buildings, electric vehicles, cheaper solar power, and fusion. To provide the tools to create these breakthroughs, the Federal Government should double its funding for energy research and keep the United States No. 1 in advanced computing. This strategy takes advantage of the United States' secret weapon—our extraordinary capacity for basic research and especially in our 17 National Laboratories. It will strengthen our economy. It will raise family incomes.

This strategy also recognizes that when it comes to climate change, China, India, and other developing countries are the problem. American innovation is the answer. According to the Global Carbon Project, over the last 13 years the United States has reduced production of greenhouse gases more than any other major country. Let me say that again. According to the Global Carbon Project, over the last 13 years the United States has reduced production of greenhouse gases more than any other major country. But over the last 5 years, China and its carbon emissions have risen. The U.S. reduction is largely thanks to conservation and switching from coal to natural gas in the production of electricity.

This is the way a California physicist explains it: Our mothers told us as children to clean our plates because children in India were starving. Now, cleaning our plates was a good thing for us to do, but it didn't do much for starving children in India. In the same way, reducing carbon emissions in the United States is a good thing to do, but it doesn't do much to address climate change because most of the increase in greenhouse gases is in developing countries. If we want to do something about climate change, we should use American research and technology to provide the rest of the world with tools to create low-cost energy that emits fewer greenhouse gases.

The purpose of the original Manhattan Project during World War II was to find a way to split the atom and build a bomb before Germany could. The New York Times described this as the

“most concentrated intellectual effort in history.” Instead of ending a war, the goal of the New Manhattan Project will be to minimize the disruption on our lives and our economies caused by climate change, to clean the air, and to raise family incomes, both in our country and in the rest of the world, by creating large amounts of reliable, clean, inexpensive energy.

Can a New Manhattan Project accomplish such bold breakthroughs in just 5 years? Well, take a look at the last 5 years. Carbon emissions from energy consumption are down by 230 million metric tons. The number of electric vehicles has doubled and so has the median driving range per charge. The utility scale cost of solar power has been nearly cut in half. The number of homes has risen by 4 percent, but household energy usage has decreased by 10 percent. We lost and then we reclaimed the No. 1 spot in supercomputing. The cost of natural gas has been cut in half, and the percent of electricity provided by natural gas has increased from 27 percent to 35 percent. And that is all in the last 5 years.

I will not spend time in these remarks debunking the Green New Deal because so many others have so effectively already done that. Basically, the Green New Deal is an assault on cars, cows, and combustion. With nuclear power available, its strategy for fighting climate change with windmills makes as much sense as going to war in sailboats. As a bonus, and as the Senator from Texas outlined, it throws in free college, a guaranteed job with a government-set wage, and it would take away private health insurance on the job from 170 million Americans, and no one has any earthly idea what it will cost taxpayers.

You don't have to believe that humans cause climate change to believe in the New Manhattan Project for Clean Energy, and you don't have to be a Republican. Hopefully, the New Manhattan Project for Clean Energy can become a bipartisan proposal. Many of its 10 grand challenges have been proposed by the National Institute of Engineering and the National Academy of Sciences. At different times, Barack Obama, John McCain, Newt Gingrich, and Howard Dean have all called for a Manhattan Project for new energy sources.

These are the 10 grand challenges:

First is advanced nuclear. Ninety-eight nuclear reactors produce 60 percent of all carbon-free electricity in the United States. There has never been a death as a result of an accident at one of these reactors. The problem is that in competition with natural gas and coal, these reactors cost too much to build and some of them cost too much to operate. According to the Energy Information Administration, 11 reactors may shut down over the next 5 years. Building the Vogtle nuclear plant in Georgia—the only two new reactors being built in the United States—could cost as much as \$27.5 billion. Building two natural gas plants to

create the same amount of electricity would cost less than \$2 billion. We need to stop talking about advanced reactors and actually build something. Within the next 5 years, we need to build one or more advanced reactors to demonstrate the capabilities they may bring—lower costs, increased safety, and less nuclear waste.

Natural gas. During the 1980s, American enterprise and technology created a new, cheaper way to produce natural gas in the United States. This helped our country lead the world in reducing carbon emissions because natural gas has about half the carbon emissions as a typical coal plant. Continuing to develop new combustion technologies will make natural gas-fired electric generation more efficient and further reduce carbon emissions.

Next is carbon capture. This is really the holy grail of clean energy. Coal is cheap. There is a lot of it. Already we know how to capture sulfur, nitrogen, and mercury from coal plants to clean the air. We have seen that happen in Tennessee. If we can figure out a way also to capture carbon at a cheaper cost and find large-scale uses for its by-product—for example, CO₂ to ethanol—coal could be used everywhere in the world. The Natural Resources Defense Council has argued that after conservation, coal with carbon capture is the best option for clean energy.

Next is better batteries. The all-electric Nissan Leaf that I bought in 2011 had a hard time getting me from the Capitol to Dulles airport and back. Its range was about 70 miles. Today, the Nissan Leaf can travel 226 miles on one charge. A Tesla Model S can travel 335 miles on one charge. The price of lithium-ion batteries should fall another 45 percent during the next 5 years. Better batteries can also one day allow utilities and their customers to store large amounts of electricity during nonpeak hours.

Greener buildings. Despite considerable recent progress, this is still the real low-hanging fruit. Residential and commercial buildings still consume 39 percent of U.S. energy.

The next grand challenge is electric vehicles. Ten years ago there were no mass-produced electric cars on United States highways. Today there are 1 million, and you read in the paper almost every day about a major automaker making a large investment to make millions more.

Cheaper solar. Solar power has grown by 1,500 percent since 2011, but it still accounts for only about 2 percent of U.S. electricity. The new goal for the Department of Energy's SunShot Initiative is to lower the cost of solar another 50 percent to 3 cents per kilowatt hour for utility scale solar.

Then there is fusion. This is the ultimate green energy dream—to make electricity on Earth the way the Sun makes it. Instead of splitting elements, combine them and make clean, almost limitless energy without waste. This is still a dream, but there can be meaningful progress in the next 5 years.

Advanced computing. China, Japan, the United States, and the European Union—all want to be first in advanced computing. The stakes are high because the winner has an advantage in such things as advanced manufacturing, simulating advanced reactors and weapons before they are built, finding terrorists, saving billions of Medicaid waste, and simulating the electric grid in a natural disaster.

The United States regained the No. 1 spot last year in advanced computing, thanks to sustained funding by Congress during both the Obama and Trump administrations, and we need to keep that position.

The final grand challenge is to double energy research funding. Advanced computing is the first tool the New Manhattan Project needs to meet its grand challenges. The second tool is money. It would take \$6 billion annually to double funding for the Department of Energy's Office of Science and its 17 National Laboratories, which is where most of our Nation's basic energy research is done. By comparison, many estimate the cost of the Green New Deal in the trillions.

This is a bold agenda and, hopefully, a bipartisan agenda. It is an agenda that can, over the next 5 years, place Americans firmly on the path toward dealing with climate change and at the same time produce large amounts of reliable, clean energy that lifts family incomes in our country and around the world.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a 2012 op-ed in the *New York Times*, entitled "The Conversion of a Climate-Change Skeptic," authored by Richard Muller, a professor of physics at the University of California, Berkeley, and, second, an address I made in Oak Ridge, TN, in 2008, which called for a New Manhattan Project for Clean Energy Independence, be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

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

[From the *New York Times*, July 28, 2012]

THE CONVERSION OF A CLIMATE-CHANGE SKEPTIC

(By Richard A. Muller)

Call me a converted skeptic. Three years ago I identified problems in previous climate studies that, in my mind, threw doubt on the very existence of global warming. Last year, following an intensive research effort involving a dozen scientists, I concluded that global warming was real and that the prior estimates of the rate of warming were correct. I'm now going a step further: Humans are almost entirely the cause.

My total turnaround, in such a short time, is the result of careful and objective analysis by the Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature project, which I founded with my daughter Elizabeth. Our results show that the average temperature of the earth's land has risen by two and a half degrees Fahrenheit over the past 250 years, including an increase of one and a half degrees over the most recent 50 years. Moreover, it appears likely that essentially all of this increase results from the human emission of greenhouse gases.

These findings are stronger than those of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate

Change, the United Nations group that defines the scientific and diplomatic consensus on global warming. In its 2007 report, the I.P.C.C. concluded only that most of the warming of the prior 50 years could be attributed to humans. It was possible, according to the I.P.C.C. consensus statement, that the warming before 1956 could be because of changes in solar activity, and that even a substantial part of the more recent warming could be natural.

Our Berkeley Earth approach used sophisticated statistical methods developed largely by our lead scientist, Robert Rohde, which allowed us to determine earth land temperature much further back in time. We carefully studied issues raised by skeptics: biases from urban heating (we duplicated our results using rural data alone), from data selection (prior groups selected fewer than 20 percent of the available temperature stations; we used virtually 100 percent), from poor station quality (we separately analyzed good stations and poor ones) and from human intervention and data adjustment (our work is completely automated and hands-off). In our papers we demonstrate that none of these potentially troublesome effects unduly biased our conclusions.

The historic temperature pattern we observed has abrupt dips that match the emissions of known explosive volcanic eruptions; the particulates from such events reflect sunlight, make for beautiful sunsets and cool the earth's surface for a few years. There are small, rapid variations attributable to El Niño and other ocean currents such as the Gulf Stream; because of such oscillations, the "flattening" of the recent temperature rise that some people claim is not, in our view, statistically significant. What has caused the gradual but systematic rise of two and a half degrees? We tried fitting the shape to simple math functions (exponentials, polynomials), to solar activity and even to rising functions like world population. By far the best match was to the record of atmospheric carbon dioxide, measured from atmospheric samples and air trapped in polar ice.

Just as important, our record is long enough that we could search for the fingerprint of solar variability, based on the historical record of sunspots. That fingerprint is absent. Although the I.P.C.C. allowed for the possibility that variations in sunlight could have ended the "Little Ice Age," a period of cooling from the 14th century to about 1850, our data argues strongly that the temperature rise of the past 250 years cannot be attributed to solar changes. This conclusion is, in retrospect, not too surprising; we've learned from satellite measurements that solar activity changes the brightness of the sun very little.

How definite is the attribution to humans? The carbon dioxide curve gives a better match than anything else we've tried. Its magnitude is consistent with the calculated greenhouse effect—extra warming from trapped heat radiation. These facts don't prove causality and they shouldn't end skepticism, but they raise the bar: to be considered seriously, an alternative explanation must match the data at least as well as carbon dioxide does. Adding methane, a second greenhouse gas, to our analysis doesn't change the results. Moreover, our analysis does not depend on large, complex global climate models, the huge computer programs that are notorious for their hidden assumptions and adjustable parameters. Our result is based simply on the close agreement between the shape of the observed temperature rise and the known greenhouse gas increase.

It's a scientist's duty to be properly skeptical. I still find that much, if not most, of what is attributed to climate change is speculative, exaggerated or just plain wrong. I've

analyzed some of the most alarmist claims, and my skepticism about them hasn't changed.

Hurricane Katrina cannot be attributed to global warming. The number of hurricanes hitting the United States has been going down, not up; likewise for intense tornadoes. Polar bears aren't dying from receding ice, and the Himalayan glaciers aren't going to melt by 2035. And it's possible that we are currently no warmer than we were a thousand years ago, during the "Medieval Warm Period" or "Medieval Optimum," an interval of warm conditions known from historical records and indirect evidence like tree rings. And the recent warm spell in the United States happens to be more than offset by cooling elsewhere in the world, so its link to "global" warming is weaker than tenuous.

The careful analysis by our team is laid out in five scientific papers now online at BerkeleyEarth.org. That site also shows our chart of temperature from 1753 to the present, with its clear fingerprint of volcanoes and carbon dioxide, but containing no component that matches solar activity. Four of our papers have undergone extensive scrutiny by the scientific community, and the newest, a paper with the analysis of the human component, is now posted, along with the data and computer programs used. Such transparency is the heart of the scientific method; if you find our conclusions implausible, tell us of any errors of data or analysis.

What about the future? As carbon dioxide emissions increase, the temperature should continue to rise. I expect the rate of warming to proceed at a steady pace, about one and a half degrees over land in the next 50 years, less if the oceans are included. But if China continues its rapid economic growth (it has averaged 10 percent per year over the last 20 years) and its vast use of coal (it typically adds one new gigawatt per month), then that same warming could take place in less than 20 years.

Science is that narrow realm of knowledge that, in principle, is universally accepted. I embarked on this analysis to answer questions that, to my mind, had not been answered. I hope that the Berkeley Earth analysis will help settle the scientific debate regarding global warming and its human causes. Then comes the difficult part: agreeing across the political and diplomatic spectrum about what can and should be done.

A NEW MANHATTAN PROJECT FOR CLEAN
ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

SEVEN "GRAND CHALLENGES" FOR THE NEXT
FIVE YEARS: PLUG-IN ELECTRIC CARS AND
TRUCKS, CARBON CAPTURE, SOLAR POWER, NU-
CLEAR WASTE, ADVANCED BIOFUELS, GREEN
BUILDINGS, FUSION

MAY 9TH, 2008

History

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Sen. Kenneth McKellar, the Tennessee who chaired the Appropriations Committee, to hide \$2 billion in the appropriations bill for a secret project to win World War II.

Sen. McKellar replied, "Mr. President, I have just one question: where in Tennessee do you want me to hide it?"

That place in Tennessee turned out to be Oak Ridge, one of three secret cities that became the principal sites for the Manhattan Project.

The purpose of the Manhattan Project was to find a way to split the atom and build a bomb before Germany could. Nearly 200,000 people worked secretly in 30 different sites in three countries. President Roosevelt's \$2 billion appropriation would be \$24 billion today.

According to New York Times science reporter William Laurence, "Into [the bomb's]

design went millions of man-hours of what is without doubt the most concentrated intellectual effort in history."

The goal: victory over blackmail

I am in Oak Ridge today to propose that the United States launch a new Manhattan project: a 5-year project to put America firmly on the path to clean energy independence.

Instead of ending a war, the goal will be clean energy independence—so that we can deal with rising gasoline prices, electricity prices, clean air, climate change and national security—for our country first, and—because other countries have the same urgent needs and therefore will adopt our ideas—for the rest of the world.

By independence I do not mean that the United States would never buy oil from Mexico or Canada or Saudi Arabia. By independence I do mean that the United States could never be held hostage by any country for our energy needs.

In 1942, many were afraid that the first country to build an atomic bomb could blackmail the rest of the world. Today, countries that supply oil and natural gas can blackmail the rest of the world.

Not a new idea

A new Manhattan Project is not a new idea—but it is a good idea and fits the goal of clean energy independence.

The Apollo Program to send men to the moon in the 1960s was a kind of Manhattan Project. Presidential candidates John McCain and Barack Obama have called for a Manhattan Project for new energy sources. So have former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Democratic National Committee chairman Howard Dean, Sen. Susan Collins of Maine and Sen. Kit Bond of Missouri—among others.

And, throughout the two years of discussion that led to the passage in 2007 of the America COMPETES Act, several participants suggested that focusing on energy independence would force the kind of investments in the physical sciences and research that the United States needs to maintain its competitiveness.

A new overwhelming challenge

The overwhelming challenge in 1942 was the prospect that Germany would build the bomb and win the war before America did.

The overwhelming challenge today, according to National Academy of Sciences president Ralph Cicerone, in his address last week to the Academy's annual meeting, is to discover ways to satisfy the human demand for and use of energy in an environmentally satisfactory and affordable way so that we are not overly dependent on overseas sources.

Cicerone estimates that this year Americans will pay \$500 billion overseas for oil—that's \$1,600 for each one of us—some of it to nations that are hostile or even trying to kill us by bankrolling terrorists. Sending \$500 billion abroad weakens our dollar. It is half our trade deficit. It is forcing gasoline prices toward \$4 a gallon and crushing family budgets.

Then there are the environmental consequences. If worldwide energy usage continues to grow as it has, humans will inject as much CO₂ into the air from fossil fuel burning between 2000 and 2030 as they did between 1850 and 2000. There is plenty of coal to help achieve our energy independence, but there is no commercial way (yet) to capture and store the carbon from so much coal burning—and we have not finished the job of controlling sulfur, nitrogen, and mercury emissions.

The Manhattan Project model fits today

In addition to the need to meet an overwhelming challenge, other characteristics of

the original Manhattan Project are suited to this new challenge:

It needs to proceed as fast as possible along several tracks to reach the goal. According to Don Gillespie, a young engineer at Los Alamos during World War II, the "entire project was being conducted using a shotgun approach, trying all possible approaches simultaneously, without regard to cost, to speed toward a conclusion."

It needs presidential focus and bipartisan support in Congress.

It needs the kind of centralized, gruff leadership that Gen. Leslie R. Groves of the Army Corps of Engineers gave the first Manhattan Project.

It needs to "break the mold." To borrow the words of Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer in a speech to Los Alamos scientists in November of 1945, the challenge of clean energy independence is "too revolutionary to consider in the framework of old ideas."

Most important, in the words of George Cowan as reported in the excellent book edited by Cynthia C. Kelly, ". . . The Manhattan Project model starts with a small, diverse group of great minds."

I said to the National Academies when we first asked for their help on the America COMPETES Act in 2005, "In Washington, D.C., most ideas fail for lack of the idea."

The America COMPETES model fits, too

There are some lessons, too, from America COMPETES.

Remember how it happened. Just three years ago—in May 2005—a bipartisan group of us asked the National Academies to tell Congress in priority order the 10 most important steps we could take to help America keep its brainpower advantage.

By October, the Academies had assembled a "small diverse group of great minds" chaired by Norm Augustine which presented to Congress and to the President 20 specific recommendations in a report called "Rising Above the Gathering Storm." We considered proposals by other competitiveness commissions.

Then, in January 2006, President Bush outlined his American Competitiveness Initiative to double over 10 years basic research budgets for the physical sciences and engineering. The Republican and Democratic Senate leaders and 68 other senators sponsored the legislation. It became law by August 2007, with strong support from Speaker Pelosi and the President.

Not elected to take a vacation this year

Combining the model of the Manhattan Project with the process of the America COMPETES Act has already begun. The National Academies have underway an "America's Energy Future" project that will be completed in 2010. Ralph Cicerone has welcomed sitting down with a bipartisan group to discuss what concrete proposals we might offer earlier than that to the new president and the new Congress. Energy Secretary Sam Bodman and Ray Orbach, the Energy Department's Under Secretary for Science, have said the same.

The presidential candidates seem ready. There is bipartisan interest in Congress. Congressman Bart Gordon, Democratic Chairman of the Science Committee in the House of Representatives—and one of the original four signers of the 2005 request to the National Academies that led to the America COMPETES Act—is here today to offer his ideas. Congressman Zach Wamp, a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee who played a key role in the America COMPETES Act, is co-host for this meeting.

I have talked with Sens. Jeff Bingaman and Pete Domenici, the chairman and senior Republican on the Energy Committee who

played such a critical role in America COMPETES, and to Sen. Lisa Murkowski, who likely will succeed Sen. Domenici as the senior Republican on the Energy Committee.

Some say a presidential election year is no time for bipartisan action. I can't think of a better time. Voters expect presidential candidates and candidates for Congress to come up with solutions for \$4 gasoline, clean air and climate change, and the national security implications of our dependence on foreign oil. The people didn't elect us to take a vacation this year just because there is a presidential election.

So, how to proceed?

A few grand challenges—Sen. Bingaman's first reaction to the idea of a new Manhattan Project was that instead we need several mini-Manhattan Projects. He suggested as an example the "14 Grand Challenges for Engineering in the 21st Century" laid out by former MIT President Chuck Vest, the president of the National Institute of Engineering—three of which involve energy. I agree with Sen. Bingaman and Chuck Vest.

Congress doesn't do "comprehensive" well, as was demonstrated by the collapse of the comprehensive immigration bill. Step-by-step solutions or different tracks toward one goal are easier to digest and have fewer surprises. And, of course, the original Manhattan Project itself proceeded along several tracks toward one goal.

Here are my criteria for choosing several grand challenges:

Grand consequences, too—The United States uses 25 percent of all the energy in the world. Interesting solutions for small problems producing small results should be a part of some other project.

Real scientific breakthroughs—This is not about drilling offshore for oil or natural gas in an environmentally clean way or building a new generation of nuclear power plants, both of which we already know how to do—and, in my opinion, should be doing.

Five years—Grand challenges should put the United States within five years firmly on a path to clean energy independence so that goal can be achieved within a generation.

Family Budget—Solutions need to fit the family budget, and costs of different solutions need to be compared.

Consensus—The Augustine panel that drafted the "Gathering Storm" report wisely avoided some germane topics, such as excessive litigation, upon which they could not agree, figuring that Congress might not be able to agree either.

Seven grand challenges:

Here is where I invite your help. Rather than having members of Congress proclaim these challenges, or asking scientists alone to suggest them, I believe there needs to be preliminary discussion—including about whether the criteria are correct. Then, Congress can pose to scientists questions about the steps to take to achieve the grand challenges.

To begin the discussion, I suggest asking what steps Congress and the federal government should take during the next five years toward these seven grand challenges so that the United States would be firmly on the path toward clean energy independence within a generation:

1. Make plug-in electric cars and trucks commonplace. In the 1960s, H. Ross Perot noticed that when banks in Texas locked their doors at 5 p.m., they also turned off their new computers. Perot bought the idle nighttime bank computer capacity and made a deal with states to manage Medicare and Medicaid data. Banks made money, states saved money, and Perot made a billion dollars.

Idle nighttime bank computer capacity in the 1960s reminds me of idle nighttime power plant capacity in 2008. This is why:

The Tennessee Valley Authority has 7,000–8,000 megawatts—the equivalent of seven or eight nuclear power plants or 15 coal plants—of unused electric capacity most nights.

Beginning in 2010 Nissan, Toyota, General Motors and Ford will sell electric cars that can be plugged into wall sockets. FedEx is already using hybrid delivery trucks.

TVA could offer "smart meters" that would allow its 8.7 million customers to plug in their vehicles to "fill up" at night for only a few dollars, in exchange for the customer paying more for electricity between 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. when the grid is busy.

Sixty percent of Americans drive less than 30 miles each day. Those Americans could drive a plug-in electric car or truck without using a drop of gasoline. By some estimates, there is so much idle electric capacity in power plants at night that over time we could replace three-fourths of our light vehicles with plug-ins. That could reduce our overseas oil bill from \$500 billion to \$250 billion—and do it all without building one new power plant.

In other words, we have the plug. The cars are coming. All we need is the cord.

Too good to be true? Haven't U.S. presidents back to Nixon promised revolutionary vehicles? Yes, but times have changed. Batteries are better. Gas is \$4. We are angry about sending so many dollars overseas, worried about climate change and clean air. And, consumers have already bought one million hybrid vehicles and are waiting in line to buy more—even without the plug-in. Down the road is the prospect of a hydrogen fuel-cell hybrid vehicle, with two engines—neither of which uses a drop of gasoline. Oak Ridge is evaluating these opportunities.

Still, there are obstacles. Expensive batteries make the additional cost per electric car \$8,000–\$11,000. Smart metering is not widespread. There will be increased pollution from the operation of coal plants at night. We know how to get rid of those sulfur, nitrogen, and mercury pollutants (and should do it), but haven't yet found a way to get rid of the carbon produced by widespread use in coal burning power plants. Which brings us to the second grand challenge:

2. Make carbon capture and storage a reality for coal-burning power plants. This was one of the National Institute of Engineering's grand challenges. And there may be solutions other than underground storage, such as using algae to capture carbon. Interestingly, the Natural Resources Defense Council argues that, after conservation, coal with carbon capture is the best option for clean energy independence because it provides for the growing power needs of the U.S. and will be easily adopted by other countries.

3. Make solar power cost competitive with power from fossil fuels. This is a second of the National Institute's grand challenges. Solar power, despite 50 years of trying, produces one one-hundredth of one percent of America's electricity. The cost of putting solar panels on homes averages \$25,000–\$30,000 and the electricity produced, for the most part, can't be stored. Now, there is new photovoltaic research as well as promising solar thermal power plants, which capture the sunlight using mirrors, turn heat into steam, and store it underground until the customer needs it.

4. Safely reprocess and store nuclear waste. Nuclear plants produce 20 percent of America's electricity, but 70 percent of America's clean electricity—that is, electricity that does not pollute the air with mercury, nitrogen, sulfur, or carbon. The most important

breakthrough needed during the next five years to build more nuclear power plants is solving the problem of what to do with nuclear waste. A political stalemate has stopped nuclear waste from going to Yucca Mountain in Nevada, and \$15 billion collected from ratepayers for that purpose is sitting in a bank. Recycling waste could reduce its mass by 90 percent, creating less stuff to store temporarily while long-term storage is resolved.

5. Make advanced biofuels cost-competitive with gasoline. The backlash toward ethanol made from corn because of its effect on food prices is a reminder to beware of the great law of unintended consequences when issuing grand challenges. Ethanol from cellulosic materials shows great promise, but there are a limited number of cars capable of using alternative fuels and of places for drivers to buy it. Turning coal into liquid fuel is an established technology, but expensive and a producer of much carbon.

6. Make new buildings green buildings. Japan believes it may miss its 2012 Kyoto goals for greenhouse gas reductions primarily because of energy wasted by inefficient buildings. Many of the technologies needed to do this are known. Figuring out how to accelerate their use in a decentralized society is most of this grand challenge.

7. Provide energy from fusion. The idea of recreating on Earth the way the sun creates energy and using it for commercial power is the third grand challenge suggested by the National Institute of Engineering. The promise of sustaining a controlled fusion reaction for commercial power generation is so fantastic that the five-year goal should be to do everything possible to reach the long-term goal. The failure of Congress to approve the President's budget request for U.S. participation in the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor—the ITER Project—is embarrassing.

Anything is possible

This country of ours is a remarkable place.

Even during an economic slowdown, we will produce this year about 30 percent of all the wealth in the world for the 5 percent of us who live in the United States.

Despite "the gathering storm" of concern about American competitiveness, no other country approaches our brainpower advantage—the collection of research universities, national laboratories and private-sector companies we have.

And this is still the only country where people say with a straight face that anything is possible—and really believe it.

These are precisely the ingredients that America needs during the next five years to place ourselves firmly on a path to clean energy independence within a generation—and in doing so, to make our jobs more secure, to help balance the family budget, to make our air cleaner and our planet safer and healthier—and to lead the world to do the same.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ERNST). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

MUELLER REPORT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday, Attorney General Barr

transmitted to Congress his summary of the special counsel's principal conclusions from his investigation into Russia's efforts to interfere in the 2016 election.

The result of that investigation is being hailed as good news for the President, and it certainly is that. But, really, it is good news for our entire country. It is good news that our law enforcement professionals know much more about Russia's malevolent attempts to interfere in American elections, and it is good news that we can conclusively set aside the notion that the President and his team had somehow participated in those attacks on our democracy.

According to the Attorney General, the special counsel's indepth investigation "did not find that the Trump campaign or anyone associated with it conspired or coordinated with Russia in its efforts to influence the 2016 U.S. presidential election." That really says it all.

Further, Attorney General Barr and Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein concluded the investigation did not—did not—establish that the President engaged in obstruction of justice.

So after 2 years, thousands of subpoenas, hundreds of search warrants, hundreds of witnesses, millions of taxpayer dollars, these are the findings: no collusion, no conspiracy, no obstruction.

What the investigation did produce, it seems, is a deep examination of Russia's efforts to interfere in the 2016 election. The Attorney General reports that Russia carried out online disinformation campaigns and computer hacking efforts designed to sow discord in our Nation and interfere in American politics.

It is deeply disturbing that the Obama administration was apparently insufficiently prepared to anticipate and counter these Russian threats. It was hardly a secret prior to November 2016 that Putin's Russia was not, and is not, our friend. Yet, for years, the previous administration ignored, excused, and failed to confront Putin's malign activities both at home and abroad.

I am glad the special counsel's report will contribute new insight and new understanding to our awareness of Russian activities. I look forward to the release of more information in the coming days, as the Attorney General has said he intends to do, in consultation with Special Counsel Mueller.

I look forward, as well, to the continuing parallel work of our Senate colleagues on the Select Committee on Intelligence to study the threats that foreign interference pose to our institutions.

As I said, in any sane political moment, all of this would be very welcome news to all Americans—in a normal time. But we know that, amazingly, the reaction in some corners of the far left has seemed not to be celebration but, rather, disappointment.

Huge components of the Democratic Party and their media allies have spent

literally years spinning intricate theories about this Presidency and trying to sell the American people on their wild claims. It is as if many of our Democratic colleagues are still just unable to process the simple fact that, yes, the American people elected this Republican President over his Democratic opponent.

We are faced with new evidence every day that our Republican policies are delivering exactly the change that middle-class families voted for back in 2016. Yet, even still, many on the left remain convinced that only conspiracy and corruption could possibly explain why they might actually lose an election.

Well, here in the real world, the American people hired this President to clean up the mess of the preceding 8 years. That is exactly what we set about doing, and the results are clear. The Nation is clearly better off than it was 2 years ago.

I sincerely hope that now, at last, our friends on the left will be able to put aside their fixation on permanently relitigating their loss in 2016 and actually join in the productive work that the rest of us have been proudly engaged in for the past 2 years and counting.

Unfortunately, the events over the last few months have not exactly indicated that productive, practical cooperation is what our Democratic colleagues have in mind. To the contrary, the Nation has watched as the Democratic Party has engaged in a collective headlong sprint—a headlong sprint—toward the left, as far to the left as possible, as fast as possible.

They have proposed a massive rewriting of the rules of American politics. They have proposed scrapping Medicare, slapping its name on a brandnew, one-size-fits-all government insurance plan, and then making American families' existing private insurance policies illegal. And, of course, they have proposed what the Senate will be voting on later this week—the famous Green New Deal.

My colleagues and I will have plenty more to say on this subject in the coming days. Today, I just want to say that I could not be more glad that the American people will have the opportunity to learn precisely where each one of their Senators stands on this radical, top-down, and socialist makeover of the entire U.S. economy.

Middle-class families will get to see if their Senators have been wooed by the disjointed contents of leftist daydreams.

Hard-working Americans in Kentucky and around the country who are employed in the energy and manufacturing industries will get to see if their Senators support eliminating all fossil fuels and suffocating their livelihoods.

Homeowners who take pride in their hard-earned investment will get to see if their Senators are in favor of forcible, DC-directed remodeling of every building in America.

Working-class Americans who have benefited from our growing economy and historic job market will learn whether their Senators support turning away from free enterprise and implementing a new government-driven employment system.

Families who have to budget for household expenses will see which Senators vote to increase their electricity bills by what one analysis pegs at—listen to this—\$300 a month.

Of course, every American taxpayer will get to learn whether their Senator supports saddling our Nation with the astronomical cost of this socialist fantasy—tens and tens of trillions of dollars—a tax burden that would be certain to hurt not just wealthy Americans but the middle class as well.

On all of these questions, on this whole Democratic effort to rebrand all the failed ideas of 20th-century socialism with a little green paint, every Member of this body will have the opportunity to cast a clear vote this very week. The American people deserve to know which Senators can reject this crippling proposal right away and which Senators find themselves unable to do that. That is exactly what they will learn later this week.

NOMINATION OF BRIDGET S. BADE

Madam President, later today, the Senate will vote to advance the nomination of yet another of President Trump's qualified choices to the Federal bench.

Bridget Bade of Arizona has been tapped to serve on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. She brings with her well-rounded experience as a legal professional. She is a two-time graduate of Arizona State University and has served with distinction at the Department of Justice, the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona, as a special counsel in private practice, and most recently as a magistrate judge.

Our colleagues on the Judiciary Committee saw fit to forward Ms. Bade's nomination with bipartisan support, and I hope all Senators will join me in voting to advance it later today.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO TOM UDALL

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, first, all of us heard the sad news today—nice for him but sad for us—that TOM UDALL will not seek reelection.

He is one of the most principled, hardest working Senators we have. He is bright, he is dedicated, and he has such integrity, which runs in the Udall family. When he gets up to speak, every Senator, Democratic and Republican, always knows how well thought out his remarks will be and how sincere they are. He is not doing this for some angle or political purpose. He is just the kind of person the Founding Fathers wanted to serve in the U.S. Senate.

TOM's leadership on reforming the campaign finance system, on protecting the environment, on advocating on behalf of Native American communities, shepherding legislation to protect America from harmful chemicals, and so much more, has been invaluable.

We will all be saying more about TOM in a little while. We will miss him. He has been a wonderful Senator, a great friend, and a wonderful member of this caucus.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Madam President, I am going to speak briefly on the matter of climate change, and then I will address matters relating to the special counsel's investigation.

During the last month, this Chamber has been the forum for debate on a topic I never thought I would see Republicans raise on their own—climate change. They have long been the party of climate change denial, with President Trump as the climate change denier-in-chief. It is an awfully difficult position to defend. It becomes more difficult every week and every month, and it is directly at odds with strong consensus views of scientists in the United States and around the globe.

As our weather changes and as we face disasters, the average American is saying more and more: Uh-oh. Climate change. I wonder what the people in Nebraska and Iowa think. They have had these huge floods that have been so devastating to them.

It is long past time for Republicans to take these issues seriously. This Chamber is supposed to debate the most serious issues of our day. Climate change is at the top of the list and shouldn't be an exception. That is why for a month all 47 Democrats have asked our Republican colleagues three simple questions, which none of them will answer. They are going to have to answer them sooner or later. One, do you agree that climate change is real? Two, do you agree that it is caused by human action? Three, do you believe that Congress should take immediate action to combat its effects?

We are not prescribing one part or another; we are saying, let's debate it. Let's not have a sham vote that is meant to embarrass one person or another. This is too serious of an issue for that. Republicans owe the American people some real answers, not games.

As I mentioned, just over the last week in the plains of Iowa, we saw the devastating effects of climate change with devastating clarity. The kind of weather we saw in the Iowa plains has no precedent. It was the equivalent of a category 2 hurricane lambasting the heart of the Midwest. Our hearts are with the people whose homes were destroyed or damaged, whose farms were decimated, and the animals that were lost.

The science is clear: A changing climate and warmer air make these freakish weather incidents more likely and more intense.

Republicans may want to keep their heads in the sand. I think that is a loser for them, especially among younger and younger voters. Like on so many other issues, Republicans are clinging to the past and not looking at what has happened, but Republicans do so at their own peril. With each passing year, their climate change denial is increasingly out of step with the American people. A majority of Americans—two-thirds, including a large percentage of Republicans—believe climate change is real and believe human action has accelerated its pace. They know it for a very simple reason—they can see it themselves.

On the South Shore of Long Island, all of a sudden after Sandy, very Republican areas understood the need to address climate change. That is happening all over the country. The American people see the effects of climate change every time a fire devastates California, another hurricane strikes the Gulf States, or Biblical flooding strikes some part of the country or another. They see them personally, not theoretically. That is what is happening. Indeed, scientists in the United States and Canada now say that the evidence for climate change has reached a "gold standard" of certainty.

What have Republicans done about it? Rather than take these warnings seriously, they choose to play games with our planet's future. Rather than get serious about the world our children will inherit, Leader MCCONNELL has elected to push a sham vote on their version of the Green New Deal. They will play that game right before voting on funding for natural disaster relief. Let there be no doubt—these disasters are magnified precisely because of climate change. I cannot fathom the level of cognitive dissonance required to schedule these two votes one right after the other.

No one is fooled by the Republican attempts to posture and politicize climate change. If they really want to debate the issue, let's debate it. Let's bring different views to the floor. Let's see how people vote. Let's not put something on the floor for the first time—a serious proposal on climate change, which the leader has never before put on the floor. Let's debate them all. We are not getting that to happen. Oh no. It is just a game—politics, politics, politics—that the American people, on this issue and so many others, dislike.

Let Republicans come at us with all they have. The facts are on the people who understand that climate change is real. It is no wonder our Republican colleagues don't want a real debate but a game. But the American people are not going to be fooled by the Republicans' stunt vote.

Democrats are prepared to take bold action to address the climate crisis head-on. That is why we are pushing for the creation of a bipartisan committee on climate change so we can examine this issue with the level of ur-

gency and depth it deserves. I urge my colleagues on the other side who know the truth to speak out and join us as we try to put a halt to the greatest threat of our time.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H. CON. RES. 24

Madam President, now on another matter, last night, Attorney General Barr delivered a brief letter to Congress that included his summary of Special Counsel Mueller's investigation. We have all seen the Attorney General's letter, but none of us—neither the Congress nor the public—have seen the report itself. The Justice Department has declined to even say how many pages the report includes, as if that were some sort of State secret.

After all, let's not forget why we are here in the first place. Two years ago, a hostile power attacked our democracy. As Mr. Barr's letter says, Russian actors, with the backing of Mr. Putin, waged a sophisticated and malicious campaign of disinformation and falsehood in order to influence the outcome of our elections. That has never happened before.

The American people deserve to see the documentation. What did they do? Whom did they approach? What happened? To sweep an issue like this under the rug, when the security of our wellspring elections—fair and not interfered with by foreign power—is at stake?

It is overwhelmingly self-evident in the public interest for the Mueller report to be released to the people. The American people simply want the truth. Each American, if he or she chooses, could read the report for themselves and draw their own conclusions. Whether or not you are a supporter of President Trump, whatever you feel, there is no good reason not to make the report public.

On March 14, just prior to the recess, the House of Representatives surprised a lot of our Republican friends here in the Senate by passing a resolution calling for the report to be made public. Guess what the vote was. It was 420 to nothing. Even the most vociferous defenders of President Trump—Mr. MEADOWS and Mr. JORDAN—voted yes.

When the resolution arrived here in the Senate, I asked unanimous consent that it be adopted. I thought it would be. Regrettably, one Senator objected. The Senator from South Carolina—my friend, Senator GRAHAM—said he wouldn't agree to the resolution unless it was amended to call for a special prosecutor to investigate Hillary Clinton. The Senate was unable to pass the resolution that passed the House unanimously without controversy.

In fact, President Trump had said, even before the report came out and repeatedly afterward several times, that he supported passage of the House resolution and he supports making it public, and so did a good number of my Republican colleagues—a whole bunch today.

So, in a moment, I am going to renew my request of March 14 that the Senate

adopt H. Con. Res. 24, calling for public release of the Mueller report. Now that President Trump supports public release of the report, there is no good reason for anyone to object to this request.

It is a simple request for transparency, nothing more, nothing less—not to make a decision as to what you believe, not to say what we ought to do about it, but just to make it public. Transparency is a great American virtue that we have tried to uphold through the centuries.

So I hope I will not hear a request from the other side to amend the resolution to call for a different special counsel investigation. If there is going to be an objection, the American people deserve to know why—why should this report not be made public—not why something else shouldn't be done, not some extraneous issue. Why shouldn't this report be made public?

I ask my friend, the leader—I see him rising, and I imagine he is going to object—to give a reason why this report should not be made public, not that something else should be done at the same time. This is serious stuff. If there is an objection raised, it will only serve to frustrate the compelling public interest that is made in the special counsel's report in making it public.

Therefore, I will now give the Senate another opportunity to join every one of their colleagues in calling for the public release of this important report.

Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 24, expressing the sense of Congress that the report of Special Counsel Mueller should be made available to the public and to Congress, which is at the desk; further, that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOZMAN). Is there objection?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, as I said just a few moments ago, it is certainly good news for the country that the special counsel concluded that there is no evidence that the Trump campaign collaborated or conspired with the Russian Government to influence the last Presidential election. It is also good news for the country that due to the special counsel's work, we now have more insight into Russia's efforts to interfere with our democratic institution.

Now, I have consistently supported the proposition that the special counsel should be allowed to finish his work without interference. The work of the special counsel, however, is not yet complete. Neither is the work of the Department of Justice. The Attorney General told us yesterday that he is working with the special counsel to determine how much of the special coun-

sel's report can be produced without violating the law and without jeopardizing other ongoing matters, including other matters initiated by the special counsel. The special counsel and the Justice Department ought to be allowed to finish their work in a professional manner.

Now, my good friend, the Democratic leader, was all for allowing the special counsel to conduct his work without political interference when it might be politically advantageous to him, but, apparently, my friend from New York is not for allowing the special counsel to complete his work with the Justice Department, according to his best professional and legal judgment, when that might be inconvenient to my friend's own current political purposes.

To date, the Attorney General has followed through on his commitment to the Congress. One of those commitments is that he intends to release as much information as possible. I certainly welcome that commitment to transparency, as do others, but to the extent that the Attorney General, in consulting with the special counsel, believes it is important to protect sensitive sources and methods, protect material that could affect ongoing investigations and prosecutions, and is legally protected, then he deserves the time to work through these issues.

I am going to object in order to allow the special counsel and the Justice Department to finish their careful and professional review of a, no doubt, voluminous record—a record that likely contains sensitive, classified, and legally protected material.

For all of those reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The minority leader is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I will be brief. The resolution does not say it has to be done immediately. The resolution certainly allows for the Attorney General to make sure that nothing is released that violates the law. All it says is that it ought to be released. It is hard to understand why the majority leader wouldn't be for that resolution.

None of his objections—none—are in the words of the report. In fact, the words of the report are very simple. It shows a sense of the Congress that it should be released—not when, not in violation of the law, not in a hurried matter, just to be released.

So I am sort of befuddled by at least the majority leader's reasoning in this regard because it is not in the words of this resolution.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the country and the President had to wait 2 years. It has been going on for 2 years. This very expensive investigation took 2 years to be concluded. Look, it is not unreasonable to give the special counsel and the Justice Department just a little time to complete their review in a professional and responsible manner.

Remember, as I said earlier, we are likely dealing here with other potential prosecutions, classified information, and damaging people's reputations. There is no evidence that the Attorney General is not going to produce as much information as possible for all of us, and that is why I objected.

I think it is a reasonable thing to do. We have been waiting for a long time for this report to wrap up. It is largely good news, not just for the President but for the country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, again, this language was good enough for every Republican in the Senate, as well as every Democrat. The President himself says it should be released. It is hard to understand why the majority leader should stand alone in objections no one else found to be reasonable or sustainable and oppose this resolution. The report should be made public, and the Senate should resolve that it should be.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan is recognized.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, revolution is deeply embedded in the character of this Nation.

More than two centuries ago, delegates from across the American colonies gathered in Philadelphia to take what was audacious action. They risked everything, including their lives, by declaring independence from the greatest and strongest power in the world at that time, the British Empire.

I am proud to say that my forefather served in George Washington's army, and he was called to risk his life and serve in the Continental Army to fight for an idea—that freedom and liberty would reign in this country.

As Americans, throughout history, we have been called to service. Sometimes we are called to service by clear and present danger, such as the bombing at Pearl Harbor. Sometimes we are called to greatness by stretching our imagination like, when we went to the Moon, and sometimes we are called to unity by necessity because the stakes of inaction are simply too high.

Today the United States faces such a challenge, and I believe we can once again prove our greatness. It is an undeniable fact that climate change, caused in large part by humans, is a threat to Michigan, our Great Lakes, our country, and our planet. Climate change poses a threat not only to the lands and waters that we all depend on but also to our health, our economy, and even our national security.

It is also undeniable that the United States, unified in purpose, can meet the challenges and defeat the threats caused by climate change, but we need to take action now. Time is simply not on our side.

Without question, taking action involves political risk, but doing nothing is simply not an option. The longer we

wait, the risks to our planet only grow more challenging and difficult to solve.

Our planet is showing clear, unequivocal evidence of climate change, according to an overwhelming scientific consensus. Our ice caps are melting. Our oceans are warming. Severe weather is becoming the new normal. Land temperatures are rising.

Just last week, an alarming new report found that the Great Lakes are warming more quickly than other parts of the country. This change will negatively impact fish species, lead to more algal blooms, cause flood damage to communities, homes, and businesses, and irreversibly alter a sensitive ecosystem that provides drinking water for 40 million Americans. I represent the Great Lakes State, and climate change threatens our economy and our way of life.

I am disappointed that instead of working together on commonsense efforts and treating climate change with the seriousness that it deserves, the Republican Senate majority leader has chosen to waste limited floor time on a political stunt.

What we should be doing is having a thoughtful debate on the need to address a significant threat to our country. Rather than playing partisan games, it is time to find unity and take bold action.

The Senate must come together to pass real, concrete policies that will help to mitigate climate change and to wean us from our dependence on fossil fuels. I know it is possible because I have worked on bipartisan efforts with my colleagues to advance clean energy and lower greenhouse gas emissions.

Together, we have advanced technology innovation, fueled our Nation's transportation with cleaner energy, bolstered our Nation's infrastructure to be more resilient to climate impacts, offered incentives for carbon capture sequestration, and boosted energy efficiency. These are all accomplishments that we have done together, but more needs to be done.

This Congress, as we consider a surface transportation reauthorization package, as well as a new Water Resources Development Act, would be foolish to ignore climate impacts as we spend taxpayer dollars for infrastructure. We must seize the opportunity presented by a clean energy economy to continue driving American innovation while creating sustainable good-paying jobs.

Today our auto industry in Michigan is rapidly working to advance electrification. Just last week, General Motors announced plans to add 400 jobs and invest \$300 million to build a new electric car at their Orion plant. But despite these efforts, our State and our country have been hurt by the lack of a coherent, cohesive, and forward-looking policy that grows our economy while protecting our environment.

We need a policy that ensures that renewable energy is produced here in America and done in a way that cre-

ates jobs and strengthens our national security. I know that we can do it if only we can find the political will.

Together, we can effectively confront climate change in a way that benefits Michigan workers and families, our Great Lakes, and the entire country.

The science is clear, but time is not on our side. We must take action now to confront climate change before it is too late. I urge my colleagues to stop playing political games. Let's roll up our sleeves and get to work on solving the climate change crisis together.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

DISASTER RELIEF

Mr. ISAKSON. Thank you, Mr. President. I rise for a moment to talk about a vote we will have tomorrow in this Chamber on a motion to adopt an amendment to the supplemental appropriations passed by the House, and it is a disaster amendment dealing with the States that have been afflicted by disasters over the last 2 years—most of them southern States, but not all. Some include the Territory of Puerto Rico.

I am going to go over the details in a second, but first of all, some of you may see floating around this memorandum from the chairman of the Appropriations Committee in the House and the vice chairman in the Senate. It talks about an agreement that was on the disaster money and refers to Puerto Rico being shortchanged and the fact that we need to make sure that that doesn't happen. I want to give you the facts.

Georgia, which I represent, is one of a number of States that includes Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alaska, California, and Hawaii, which have experienced significant disasters in the past 2 years. We saw the fires in California on our TVs. We saw the volcanoes in Hawaii. We saw the blueberries in Georgia fall off the vines and be destroyed. We saw what happened to these crops and Alaska's earthquake. All of these States have received nothing yet.

Puerto Rico has received \$40 billion—\$40 billion for what happened in Maria, and \$21 billion has not been spent. They have gotten a lot of money, \$40 billion, and the amendment I want to talk about in a second gives them \$600 million more.

There are a lot of places in this country that are States that we represent that have gotten nothing and have had big disasters in the last 2 years. These disasters are hurting our economy, our people, and our States.

So I want to—any of you to see this email or this flyer tomorrow or hear the debate tomorrow. What it says, the flyer says that the vice chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Senator LEAHY, is going to object to the substitute that will be offered by Senator PERDUE and myself tomorrow to the bill that will be debated unless Puerto Rico gets a better shake. The

point, Puerto Rico has gotten 40, only spent 19, they have got \$21 billion left to spend. We have \$600 million to see to it that they don't run out of SNAP money at the end of this month, which they will with everything that stands currently. Puerto Rico is being treated great. Is there CDBG money they want? No, it is not in there.

"Fair" is an interesting word. Fair is when you and I are treated fairly. We both get equal proportions, for money and things of that nature. Unfair is when somebody weights the formula—or someone takes undue advantage of a special situation.

Well, this is a special situation. A lot of people are going to go without help by the end of next month. Farm bills are going to come due, and banks are going to foreclose on them. A lot of people in agriculture will be hurt badly. People who have been hurt by the fires in California will not be helped. Those who expressed help for earthquake damage in Alaska will not be helped. A lot of people will not be helped.

We need to put off this guise of fairness and be really fair. Let's see that we put in the \$600 million, which the amendment does and see to it that people on SNAP in Puerto Rico get their money. Let's see to it that those people in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina and other States damaged by floods, hurricanes, or fires get their money.

There will be more emergencies, and we all know that. We all hate emergencies for a lot of reasons—appropriators, especially. Nobody wants to have to do that, but when our State, your State or mine, is injured dramatically in a disastrous hurricane or tornado or whatever, we as a country have always passionately dealt with the results of those storms, the losses those States have felt, and helped those States get back on their feet and those people be served.

We are not asking for a handout; we are asking for a hand up in each of those States, and they have been waiting for a long time. Those who know what I am talking about, who is from Georgia, we have farmers who have gone through a cycle and their farm financing was done through banks that, at the end of this month, will have to act on those loans and call them for payment or have a refinance schedule knowing that they got some money coming down the line. If this passes and is agreed to by the House and the banks get the message that we are trying to help them like we have always had in the past, they will have a chance to make the negotiations, pay the money back that they borrowed, and do it over time and give people jobs in the field rather than go back and tell them we can't give them money and help them and lose the farm and business and us lose a lot of jobs.

It is just not right, and it is not fair. I used the word "fair" just then because I think fair is the definition of

seeing to it that Puerto Rico, Georgia, and South Carolina get help.

If you get this argument, read it. It sounds like we agreed to something 3 weeks ago, and now, all of a sudden, we are not agreeing to the same thing. That is not true. We agreed last week when we left what this vote would be tomorrow, what the supplemental will look like, what would be included in it, and as I understood it and my sense of understanding, we agreed to all the things. Was there enough money for Puerto Rico for what they wanted? No, they wanted more. Would Florida like more? Would Georgia like more? North Carolina like more? Yes. But in fairness of equity, it is fair and equitable to those people.

I would urge you to listen to the debate and what everybody tells you what happened before you make a decision and everyone gets hurt. Instead what you are going to do, if you fall for this scenario, you are going to really hurt some people who will otherwise be helped through deliberations that have taken over the part of the last 2 or 3 months.

Mr. President, I appreciate the time and the time to come here. I wish I could talk about something other than disasters, but I can't. A lot of people lost their lives and farms and their future. I want to see that we help in an equitable fashion in those States and those Territories that we do so.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware is recognized.

THE GREEN NEW DEAL

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise to speak this afternoon on the upcoming vote on the majority leader's Green New Deal resolution, a resolution that, ironically, he apparently does not support.

First I want to say this about the Green New Deal: Even our Republican friends cannot deny that this resolution has sparked a national conversation and generated a great deal of enthusiasm among the American people, especially among younger Americans.

It reminds me of the time when I was a young naval flight officer stationed at Moffett Field Naval Air Station just south of San Francisco, waiting to be deployed to Southeast Asia during the Vietnam war. I joined millions of Americans across our country that year and celebrated our Nation's very first Earth Day.

As I listen to the rising chorus of voices calling for climate action today, I hear the sounds of that day in Golden Gate Park. I remember the urgency we felt then to address the environmental challenges facing our Nation and our world, and I feel an even greater sense of urgency today. That is why it is so disappointing to me that our Republican colleagues—not all of them but a number of them—are trying to make a mockery of the very real concerns and the passionate calls for action we are hearing from people all across this country and, indeed, all around the world.

This is not a time for derision. This is not a time for division. On an issue as serious as this one, we ought to be serious about addressing it. However, it has become clear that some—not all but some—of our Republican friends would rather have some fun and talk, maybe, about hamburgers and cheeseburgers and that kind of thing. Worse, some have conflated meaningful action on climate change with socialism.

With the death of our late colleague John McCain, I am the last Vietnam veteran serving in the U.S. Senate. I served 5 years in a hot war in Southeast Asia to oppose the expansion of communism. Shortly after we celebrated that first-ever Earth Day in 1970, I was sent on the first of three deployments in Southeast Asia before eventually serving another 18 years until the end of the Cold War as a Navy P-3 aircraft mission commander in the Naval Reserve and retiring as a Navy captain after chasing Soviet submarines in all of the oceans of the world.

I am not a socialist. Like most of our colleagues here, I am an American patriot and proud to be one. I care deeply about this planet, and I know we can have cleaner air and water while creating jobs. Those two things are not mutually exclusive. Our Republican colleagues know better than that, and they owe our country better than that.

In recent weeks, our Republican colleagues have thrown around a \$93 trillion number. That wildly overestimated number primarily refers to provisions in the Green New Deal that are not directly related to climate change.

At a time when our country is looking to Congress for leadership on climate action, hiding behind political games, deception, and scare tactics is irresponsible. It is cowardly when we ought to be brave.

Right now a clear majority of Americans want us, in Congress, to address the growing climate crisis that is facing our country and our planet. We should be having a fact-based, policy-driven conversation about tackling this crisis, and we should be talking about the real costs that confront us, including the cost of inaction.

I live in Delaware, the lowest lying State in our country. Our State is sinking. The oceans around us are rising. According to our Nation's leading scientists, climate change unchecked means more sea level rise, costing coastal communities up and down the east coast—like my State—trillions of dollars in economic damages over the next 80 years.

In the Northeast we are experiencing rain events in which we are measuring rain by the foot, not the inch. Not too far from where we stand today, Ellicott City, MD, has experienced not one but two 1,000-year floods. They have withstood not one but two 1,000-year floods in less than 2 years.

Today, our hearts go out to our neighbors along the Missouri River Basin as they are suffering through

catastrophic flooding. As of Friday, the cost of damage to Nebraska alone had already surpassed \$1.3 billion, and the damage to Iowa alone was estimated at \$1.6 billion. Some cities are currently without fresh water. In Missouri, entire communities have been evacuated. In Northwestern Missouri, roughly 40,000 acres of farmland was still underwater this past Friday.

Our Nation's scientists tell us that climate change unchecked means more frequent and more intense storms, meaning bomb cyclones. I didn't even know there was such a thing as bomb cyclones, but there are. Intense rainfalls and category 5 hurricanes are becoming the new normal.

Last year, we witnessed the tragic devastation caused by wildfires fueled by drought and heat, like the California wildfires. Imagine what we could face in 2050 when, according to our Nation's scientists, wildfire seasons burn up to six times more forest area each year.

The extreme weather events we see are already taking a toll on American lives, on American livelihoods, and on our Nation's budget. According to NOAA, in 2017 alone, extreme weather cost Americans \$300 billion in economic damages—a new record. That same year, the Federal Government spent \$120 billion in Federal disaster spending for just four extreme weather events—just four.

Earlier this month, the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office released its biennial high-risk list and once again identified climate change as a significant fiscal risk to the Federal Government and, I might add, to taxpayers.

According to GAO, since 2005, Federal funding for disaster assistance has reached \$430 billion—nearly one-half trillion dollars—and those costs will continue to rise. GAO says: "Disaster costs are projected to increase as extreme weather events become more frequent and intense due to climate change."

NOAA and NASA tell us these numbers will be a drop in the bucket compared to our new climate future if we do not act on climate change. If we do not change course, just about every major economic sector in the United States will be negatively affected by climate change by the turn of this century. Some sectors could see hundreds of billions of dollars of losses every year.

Add it all up, and climate change could slash up to 10 percent of our gross domestic product, GDP, by 2100. I like to say, compared to what? Well, for context, that would be more than double the losses incurred during the great recession of the last decade. However, all of these costs are woefully underestimated. How can we put a pricetag on the toll of this destruction? What is the cost of our fourth-generation farm family who loses their land and their livestock? What is the cost of a bridge inundated by water, separating a community from a hospital or

other emergency services? What is the cost of the family who loses a child to an asthma attack on a high particulate matter day?

The circumstances I have laid out are dire because that is the crisis we face, and we cannot evade it into oblivion. This poster says it all: "No matter where we live, we can't ignore the reality of climate change or its effects." We have to accept and address this crisis.

As Albert Einstein once said, in adversity lies opportunity. The opportunity before us is even greater. More than 3 million people have gone to work in the clean energy sector in the United States in recent years, and those jobs are in renewable energy generation, energy efficiency, smart grid and storage, cleaner fuels, and lower emission vehicles.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 2 more minutes to complete my remarks.

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

Mr. CARPER. Nearly 500,000 of these clean energy jobs are in the solar and wind industries, and one out of every six construction workers in this country now make their living in emergency and energy efficiency. One out of every five companies involved in making motor vehicle parts makes their money from products that make our cars, trucks, and vans cleaner.

Our clean energy revolution did not happen by accident. We put smart policies in place, and we had leadership that believed climate change was a threat. During the Obama administration, starting with the Recovery Act, the Federal Government provided economic incentives and smart regulations to support market investments and clean energy. We must build on this progress and continue to support policies that reduce our Nation's carbon footprint, help create a more robust economy, and support those most vulnerable to climate change.

Yet instead of pursuing any ideas to address climate change and protect Americans from its effect, the Trump administration has sadly decided to ignore climate change, decided to defund clean energy research and roll back any meaningful climate action, decided to walk away from provisions that would help protect Americans from rising floods and other extreme weather events.

Our President's failed leadership on climate change threatens our health, our economy, U.S. competitiveness, and our future. Sadly, most of our—not all—but most of our Republican friends have been applauding the President with every action.

In conclusion, let me just say to the American people, don't be fooled or distracted by the political games. We cannot allow cynicism to win. We can reduce our Nation's carbon footprint; we can strengthen our economy; and we can support those most vulnerable among us—indeed, we must. Climate

change is real. Human activity is the dominant cause. Congress needs to act. Stop the political theater and start to address the climate change before us today while we still have time, and we do.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The bill 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 Bridget S. Bade, of Arizona, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, David Perdue, Roy Blunt, John Cornyn, Joni Ernst, Lindsey Graham, John Boozman, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, Steve Daines, James E. Risch, John Hoeven, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, John Thune, Pat Roberts, Jerry Moran.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that the debate on the nomination of Bridget S. Bade, of Arizona, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 77, nays 20, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 50 Ex.]

YEAS—77

| | | |
|-----------|------------|-----------|
| Alexander | Daines | King |
| Barrasso | Duckworth | Lankford |
| Bennet | Durbin | Leahy |
| Blackburn | Enzi | Lee |
| Blunt | Ernst | Manchin |
| Boozman | Feinstein | McConnell |
| Braun | Fischer | McSally |
| Brown | Gardner | Moran |
| Burr | Graham | Murkowski |
| Capito | Grassley | Murphy |
| Cardin | Hassan | Paul |
| Carper | Hawley | Perdue |
| Cassidy | Heinrich | Portman |
| Collins | Hoeven | Reed |
| Coons | Hyde-Smith | Risch |
| Cornyn | Isakson | Roberts |
| Cotton | Johnson | Romney |
| Cramer | Jones | Rosen |
| Crapo | Kaine | Rounds |
| Cruz | Kennedy | Rubio |

| | | |
|------------|----------|------------|
| Sasse | Sinema | Van Hollen |
| Schatz | Sullivan | Warner |
| Scott (FL) | Tester | Whitehouse |
| Scott (SC) | Thune | Wicker |
| Shaheen | Tillis | Young |
| Shelby | Toomey | |

NAYS—20

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|----------|
| Baldwin | Harris | Peters |
| Blumenthal | Hirono | Sanders |
| Booker | Klobuchar | Schumer |
| Cantwell | Markey | Smith |
| Casey | Menendez | Stabenow |
| Cortez Masto | Merkley | Wyden |
| Gillibrand | Murray | |

NOT VOTING—3

| | | |
|--------|-------|--------|
| Inhofe | Udall | Warren |
|--------|-------|--------|

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 77, the nays are 20.

The motion is agreed to.

The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all postcloture time on the Bade nomination expire at 2:15 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. I further ask that following the disposition of the Bade nomination, the Senate proceed to legislative session and resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 88, with the time until 4 p.m. equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; finally, notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, that the cloture motions with respect to the motions to proceed to S.J. Res. 8 and H.R. 268 ripen at 4 p.m. tomorrow.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

TRIBUTE TO WILLARD KINZER

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today it is my honor to pay tribute to Willard Kinzer, a one-of-a-kind Kentuckian who will receive a lifetime achievement award at the beginning of April. Willard, a leading figure in Floyd County, seems to have done it all.

He is a World War II veteran, who felt compelled to join the Navy after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Willard's a nonstop worker, becoming a prominent entrepreneur in eastern Kentucky, leading Kinzer Drilling through expansions and growth. His philanthropy has helped build schools in his native Appalachia and has supported the Mountain Arts Center, and perhaps most unexpectedly Willard holds the distinction

as the first individual in history to drive a stock suspension car faster than 230 miles per hour. If that weren't impressive enough, wait until you hear that Willard was in his 80s at the time.

He certainly has a notable list of accomplishments, and Willard shows no plans to slow down any time soon. Last year, he celebrated his 90th birthday by winning a drag-racing championship at 175 miles per hour. In Willard's trophy room, which is packed with the many awards he has earned over a long career of achievement and thrill-seeking, a sign reads, "Life begins at 200 mph." It is a fitting motto for a man who never seems to take his foot off the gas pedal.

Willard's local community will continue to enjoy his many contributions and inspirational example for generations to come. I am pleased to see his incredible life be honored, and I would like to add my voice to the chorus of those praising this remarkable Kentuckian. I hope my Senate colleagues will join me in recognizing Willard Kinzer for a lifetime of achievement and to congratulate him on this honor.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL LUKE REINER

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the service of the adjutant general of the Wyoming National Guard, MG Luke Reiner, to the State of Wyoming and our Nation.

In 1982, Major General Reiner enlisted in the Army National Guard. As a born leader, Luke was commissioned as an officer in 1986 and subsequently joined the Wyoming Army National Guard in 1987. Coming to Wyoming was the best decision of his career.

Major General Reiner wore many hats and served at every level of the Wyoming Army National Guard. From his first job as the counter fire officer of the 115th Field Artillery Brigade to the executive officer of the 2-300 Field Artillery Battalion, he rose to take command of the 115th Fires Brigade. Luke's operational experience included a deployment to Kuwait where he commanded Camp New York in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Governor Matt Mead appointed Luke Reiner as adjutant general, and he took command on April 1, 2011. Luke and I got to know each other very well over years as we worked together to secure funding to modernize the C-130H fleet. Major General Reiner was the Wyoming Guard's advocate in Washington at the National Guard Bureau and the Pentagon. He frequently traveled back to Washington and served on various National Guard committees and counsels.

Every Thanksgiving, I travel overseas to visit with Wyoming servicemen and women deployed around the world. Governor Mead, Major General Reiner, and I spent Thanksgiving with the 133rd Engineering Company stationed in Bahrain in 2013. It was an honor to eat Thanksgiving dinner with these

young men and women alongside Major General Reiner.

On March 28, 2019, Luke will officially retire as Wyoming's adjutant general and hand the colors over to BG Gregory Porter. Major General Reiner will remain in Wyoming. I look forward to continue working closely with him in his role as director of the Wyoming Department of Transportation.

Luke epitomizes the "Code of the West." Live each day with courage. Take pride in your work. Do what needs to be done. We thank him for all he has done to keep Wyoming and our Nation safe.

Finally, I want to thank Luke's wife Devonna and his two daughters Heather and Holly for allowing Luke to serve Wyoming and this great Nation. We are forever thankful.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK TYRRELL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, today I recognize the distinguished career of Pat Tyrrell. After more than 18 years of service, Pat is retiring as Wyoming's longest serving State engineer.

A Wyoming native, Pat grew up in Cheyenne. He attended the University of Wyoming in Laramie where he obtained a B.S. in mechanical engineering and an M.S. in civil engineering. He began his time in public service in 2001 when Governor Jim Geringer appointed Pat as Wyoming's State Engineer. During his tenure, he served under four Governors and became well known in the State, region, and Nation as an expert on all matters related to water resources.

Established under Wyoming's Constitution, the State engineer serves as the chief water official in Wyoming. With Wyoming situated astride the Continental Divide, the State provides the headwaters for four major river basins in the Western United States.

Charged with the regulation and administration of the water resources in Wyoming, Pat's duties as State engineer ranged from overseeing the permitting and adjudication of water rights, regulation of the use of water under the doctrine of prior appropriation, and representing the State on numerous boards, compacts, and commissions. These included Wyoming's commissioner to the Upper Colorado River Commission, the North Platte Decree Committee, Western States Water Council, and the Colorado River Salinity Control Forum. He often served in leadership roles and worked in cooperation with the other 17 Western States to manage and develop water resources.

Pat is known for his balanced approach to water resource management, ensuring compliance with the law while also protecting the interests of Wyoming water users. His expertise and influence were instrumental in resolving decades-long problems, such as the Big Horn General Adjudication.

As State engineer, he waded through thousands of water rights in the Big

Horn Basin to bring clarity and certainty to Federal, Tribal, and State interests in the area and ultimately saw the end to a 37-year lawsuit. Pat's reflection on this case was emblematic of his philosophy to water management: "If we can move water without any ill effect to existing users, we can make changes. But we need everybody at the table."

Shortly after I joined the U.S. Senate, I experienced this philosophy firsthand. It was during a critical point in passing the Craig Thomas Snake Headwaters Legacy Act that Pat met in my office with key players who were negotiating the final language of the bill. With his calm demeanor and extraordinary understanding of Western water law, he was able to provide clarity to the meaning of certain text in the bill and assuage all in the room of the practicality of what the text said and what was contemplated. Shortly thereafter, agreement was reached, and the bill was signed into law. It became clear to me that one of Pat's greatest skills is he builds trust through his knowledge of the law and how it is applied and is able to accurately articulate how that application will or will not impact people's lives.

Pat has used this philosophy in interstate water negotiations. Known as the senior statesman on the river, Pat has been instrumental in many of the key decisions related to management of the Colorado River. Time after time, Pat has sought cooperation and coordination to balance the various needs and demands on the river. From hydro-power production and ecosystem protection, to water storage and water delivery obligations, Pat has been instrumental in crafting creative solutions to ensure all needs are met.

In the face of nearly two decades of drought in the Colorado River basin, his expertise has been invaluable. He was instrumental in implementing the river's 2007 Guidelines and has been intimately engaged in development of the current Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan, which is currently being debated in Congress. As Wyoming's representative on the river, Pat focused on ensuring the needs met by the Colorado River today will be maintained for future generations.

In the same way Pat has looked out for Wyoming's future water needs, he has also sought to care for the development of Wyoming's future leaders. Late last year, he and his wife Barbara established a scholarship fund at the University of Wyoming to provide future students an education in engineering. Expertise and education in water management in States like Wyoming is invaluable, and we can only hope for more leaders like Pat.

Pat's service has reached every corner of the State. The history books will note his involvement in the 2001 Modified North Platte Decree, the Yellowstone River compact, which involved an 11-year Supreme Court lawsuit with the State of Montana, and many other

accomplishments, but those who worked with him will remember and hopefully carry on his gentle nature, deliberate thinking, and dedication to the law.

I invite all members of the Senate to join me in congratulating Pat in his retirement, wishing him well and his family much success in the future.

TRIBUTE TO DENISE LOWERY

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, along with my colleague, the ranking member on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, Senator MURRAY, I wish to pay tribute to Denise Lowery. Ms. Lowery is a non-designated employee on the HELP Committee staff and is retiring at the end of this month after almost 16 years of distinguished service to the HELP Committee.

Ms. Lowery has served as editor for the committee since 2003, compiling and sending to print all our committee reports and materials for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Ms. Lowery is well regarded by all Members and staff of the committee, having proven her professionalism, courtesy, and substantial expertise over almost 16 years. Without the support of Ms. Lowery and the rest of the non-designated staff, the committee could not accomplish the important work the American people expect us to get done on their behalf. I, the ranking member, and the rest of the committee's members want to recognize Ms. Lowery for that tremendous contribution to the Committee as she exits her time in the Senate.

I wish Ms. Lowery the best and hope retirement from the Senate will allow her time for hobbies such as working on home improvement projects and spending time with her friends and family.

I would like to yield now to my colleague, the ranking member, Senator MURRAY, for her remarks.

Mrs. MURRAY. I thank Chairman ALEXANDER and join him in commending Ms. Lowery for her many years of dedicated and outstanding service to the HELP Committee, the Senate, and the American people. I greatly appreciate the sacrifice that Ms. Lowery has made over the past 16 years in assisting the HELP Committee by applying her expertise in editing, printing, and memorializing our important work. We wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement.

We hope our colleagues will join us in thanking Ms. Lowery for her service.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANTON ART CENTER

• Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Anton Art Center in Mount Clemens, MI. I appreciate the oppor-

tunity to recognize the efforts of the Anton Art Center to fulfill their mission to enrich and inspire people of all ages through the arts.

The Anton Art Center was established in 1969 by three members of the Mount Clemens Art Association: Bea Wright, Gretchen Thompson, and Phyllis Wickens. Upon its founding, they took over occupancy of the then Mount Clemens Public Library to save the historical building from demolition. The library was built by Andrew Carnegie in 1903 and opened in 1904 and was one of approximately 2,500 libraries that Carnegie funded throughout the world. The center converted the interior to include three galleries, an art studio and meeting area, a pottery studio and kiln room, and offices. In 2006, local businessman Gebran Anton led a fundraising effort to expand the building with the addition of a gift shop, an increase in gallery space, and more classroom space. It is fitting that the center should occupy a Carnegie Library, a beautifully designed building that is now listed in the State of Michigan historic register.

The goals of the Anton Art Center are to present a wide array of programming to appeal to diverse audiences, provide support for the arts, and become a focal point for arts programming and work toward inclusion, diversity, equity, and access in all they do. Through its many programs, the Anton Art Center has become a leading advocate of the arts and artists in Macomb County and throughout the surrounding area. In addition to traditional artist exhibitions, the center offers a multitude of programs for artists to showcase their work to the public. There are multiple juried statewide competitions, as well as two annual events that include the ART! Macomb Art Fair and holiday market. The center's gift shop offers yet more opportunity for the community to support local artists. The center also supports the aspiring artist inside many of us by offering adult and child classes in many mediums including clay, drawing, mixed media, photography, weaving, and watercolor.

The Anton Art Center also serves as the Region 10A Re-granting Agency for the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, MCACA. As such, they award mini-grants to nonprofit organizations, schools, municipalities, and individual professional artists in Macomb and Oakland Counties in support of arts and culture programming and professional or organizational development. They also provide technical assistance to organizations applying for funding through this program.

I am pleased to rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Anton Art Center. They have been a staple of the arts and cultural scene in Macomb County for half a century, and I wish them continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO SANDRA CARAWAN

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Sandra Carawan, the Gilchrist County teacher of the year from Bell Elementary School in Bell, FL.

Sandra is dedicated to her students, working closely with them each day to help solve their problems. Her colleagues describe her as a tremendous asset and someone who will help in any way she can, whether as a teacher or with administrative duties. She was named Bell Elementary School's teacher of the year in addition to receiving the award for the district.

A fifth grade exceptional student education teacher, Sandra acts as the lead teacher for her grade level. She also serves as Bell Elementary School advisory chair, safety patrol sponsor, district 21st century evaluator/coordinator, a positive behavior support team member, and a data evaluator for the entire Gilchrist County School District. She graduated from Saint Leo University, earning her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education in 1999 and her master of education degree in 2007.

I convey my best wishes to Sandra for her dedication to her students and school. I look forward to hearing of this continued success.●

TRIBUTE TO LILLY CHAPPELL

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Lilly Chappell, the Bradford County teacher of the year from Southside Elementary School in Starke, FL.

Lilly has enjoyed spreading her passion for learning to others throughout her whole life. She has spent 11 years with the Southside Parent Teacher Organization, helping to build a playground and sound system for students, directing musicals with more than 250 students, and making herself available for a variety of other extracurricular events throughout the school year.

Lilly has taught in Bradford County for 20 years, beginning as a writing coach. She has served at Southside Elementary School as the lead teacher in fourth and fifth grade, the K-5 county gifted instructor, 5th grade English language arts, and as a history teacher. She attended the University of Florida and University of North Florida, studying public relations and elementary 1-6 education. As a result of her teaching and mentoring over the years, several of the students she previously taught have now become her colleagues.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Lilly for her years of dedication to her student. I look forward to hearing of her continued good work in the coming years.●

TRIBUTE TO NICOLE KENNGOTT

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I honor Nicole Kenngott, the Pinellas County teacher of the year from Plumb Elementary School in Clearwater, FL.

Nicole specializes in deaf studies and special-needs education. She uses innovative, research-based teaching methods to educate her students. She designs lesson plans to promote continuous learning in a teaching environment meant to encourage and inspire her students.

Nicole works with students to identify their fears in order to foster a better growth mindset and develop an enthusiasm for learning. Last year, 60 percent of her students earned a level three or higher on the State English test, compared to 51 percent in Pinellas County schools.

Nicole earned her master's degree from Dowling College and has taught at Plumb Elementary School for 3 years. She follows a teaching style based on a growth mindset and Conversation, Help, Activity, Movement, Participation, and Success or CHAMPS. She also uses the strategies of Advanced Via Individual Determination teaching and restorative practices.

I express my sincere gratitude to Nicole for her commitment to helping her students succeed in school. I look forward to learning of her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO MELISSA PAPPAS

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I honor Melissa Pappas, the Orange County teacher of the year from Brookshire Elementary School in Winter Park, FL.

Melissa is a K-5 intensive autism teacher that works with children with severe behavioral functional and academic needs. She is motivated by her passion for her students and is responsible for one of only five intensive units districtwide, serving students with severe behavioral, functional, and academic needs. She believes teaching is not only a profession that teaches all other professions, but the one with the power to shape the future for all types of learners.

In the past year, she launched a schoolwide initiative during Autism Awareness Month to educate members of the school community to promote acceptance, love, and understanding of those with autism and special needs. As a result of the initiative, many students performed random acts of kindness and engaged students with exceptionalities.

I extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Melissa for her devotion to helping her students succeed in life. I look forward to learning of her continued success in the coming years.●

TRIBUTE TO LAURA WYKOFF

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Laura Wykoff, the Alachua County teacher of the year from Fort Clarke Middle School in Gainesville, FL.

Laura keeps letters from her students to remind her of the importance of her job. After receiving this award,

she shared many of these letters with those in attendance at the award ceremony. The letters consist of humorous ones on learning about integers, algebra, and other math subjects to serious ones about how, if it was not for Laura, they would not have been successful in school. She considers these examples as an important reason for why she does her job.

Laura considers teaching her students and realizing that they understand something and that makes a student feel good about themselves as the best part of the job. At the award ceremony, one of her former students credited Laura with his success and noted that she has always been there for him.

Laura has taught for more than 10 years and is currently a seventh and eighth grade mathematics teacher at Fort Clarke Middle School, where she has been since 2015. Her family consists of a long line of academics, and Laura believes teaching is in their blood.

I offer my sincere thanks and gratitude to Laura for her dedication to her students throughout her career. I look forward to hearing of her continued success in the years ahead.●

RECOGNIZING SOUTHERN CRAFT CREAMERY

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, as chairman of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize a small business that exemplifies the unique American entrepreneurial spirit. It is my privilege to honor a Florida small business that not only produces an amazing product, but also tirelessly serves their community. Today, I recognize Southern Craft Creamery, of Marianna, FL, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Founded in 2012, Southern Craft Creamery is owned and operated by Dale and Cindy Eade, with the help of their children. After selling their handcrafted ice cream wholesale for 6 years, the Eade family opened its first brick-and-mortar location last February.

Southern Craft Creamery is a true family-run business. While Dale and Cindy's daughter, Megan Austin, along with her husband Brad, currently manage Cindale Farms, a local dairy farm where Southern Craft Creamery sources its milk, Lauren and Zach O'Bryan, Dale and Cindy's daughter and son-in-law, initially launched the ice cream brand. Having been involved in the Florida dairy business since 1980, it is no surprise that the Eade family's ice cream is crafted to showcase the quality milk they produce and the delicious southern ingredients they grew up with.

Today, Southern Craft Creamery sells a wide variety of signature ice cream flavors including tupelo honey, salty caramel, and candied bacon, as well as seasonal flavors such as raspberry basil, bourbon butter pecan, and blackberry buttermilk.

Southern Craft Creamery has been repeatedly recognized for these deli-

cious flavors, being named the overall food winner in the 2013 Made in the South Awards by "Garden & Gun" magazine and by "Southern Living" magazine in the Best Sweets category for the magazine's 2015 food awards.

Southern Craft Creamery creates these remarkable ice cream flavors by sourcing many of their ingredients from other local, family-owned small businesses. Working with local farmers and producers has allowed Southern Craft Creamery to give back to their community while also receiving the freshest and most flavorful ingredients available. They also work with regional, family-owned retailers to sell their ice cream throughout Florida.

Southern Craft Creamery and the Eade family seek to give back to their community in any way possible. After Hurricane Michael devastated their community, they gathered supplies for victims, opened their doors to allow residents to cool off, and offered free coffee and ice cream to first responders. Prior to December 2018, Southern Craft donated all of their tips to Partners for Pets, a nonprofit animal shelter in Marianna. Since December 2018, however, all of their tips have been donated to Friends of the Florida Caverns State Park in an effort to assist in replanting trees and repair damages caused by Hurricane Michael.

The Eade family's work to grow Southern Craft Creamery, support local farmers, and aid members of their community is an excellent example of civic dedication. Companies like Southern Craft Creamery are the heartbeat of local, small-town communities across Florida. I would like to congratulate Southern Craft Creamery on their 1-year anniversary of opening their storefront and for being named the Senate Small Business of the Week. I wish them good luck and look forward to watching their continued growth and success.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1024(a), and the order of the House of

January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Joint Economic Committee: Mr. SCHWEIKERT of Arizona, Mr. LAHOOD of Illinois, Mr. MARCHANT of Texas, and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER of Washington.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 306(k) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 242k), and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker reappoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics for a term of 4 years: Dr. Vickie M. Mays of Los Angeles, California.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-619. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "External Marking Requirement for Small Unmanned Aircraft" (RIN2120-AL32) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-620. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (53); Amendment No. 3833" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-621. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (14); Amendment No. 3834" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-622. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3835" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-623. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3836" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-624. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (68); Amendment No. 3837" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-625. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (54); Amendment No. 3838" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-626. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3839" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-627. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3840" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-628. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (27); Amendment No. 3841" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-629. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (37); Amendment No. 3842" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-630. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Restricted Areas R-5502A and R-5502B; Lacarne, Ohio" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2018-1080) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-631. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of

Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Restricted Areas R-5502A and R-5502B; Lacarne, Ohio" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2018-1080) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-632. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Auburn, Nebraska" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0974) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-633. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Williston, North Dakota" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0250) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-634. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Coushatta, Louisiana" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0787) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-635. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace and Amendment of Class E Airspace; Ephrata, Washington" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2017-01031) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-636. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace, Amendment of Class D Airspace, and Revocation of Class E Airspace; Tacoma, Washington" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2017-1032) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-637. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Flippin, Arkansas" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0952) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-638. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Corry, Pennsylvania" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0998) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

No. FAA-2018-0735)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-684. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Leonardo S.P.A. Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0092)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-685. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; MD Helicopters, Inc. (MDHI) Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0991)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-686. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Limited Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0385)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-687. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Limited Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0047)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-688. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Division (PW) Turbofan Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0826)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-689. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Turbofan Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0624)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-690. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce PLC Turbofan Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0056)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-691. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Safran Helicopter Engines, S.A., Turboshift Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0949)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-692. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Saab Aeronautics Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0964)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-693. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-9189)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-694. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0959)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-695. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0581)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-696. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0902)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-697. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0580)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-698. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to

law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0409)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-699. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0162)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-700. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0793)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-701. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Viking Air Limited (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.; Canadair Limited) Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0638)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-702. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Zodiac Aerotechnics Oxygen Mask Regulators" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0505)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HOEVEN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

S. 224. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Tanana Tribal Council located in Tanana, Alaska, and to the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation located in Dillingham, Alaska, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-10).

S. 256. A bill to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide flexibility and reauthorization to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages (Rept. No. 116-11).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 380. A bill to increase access to agency guidance documents (Rept. No. 116-12).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

S. 394. A bill to amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to improve the orderly transfer of the executive power during Presidential transitions (Rept. No. 116-13).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 395. A bill to require each agency, in providing notice of a rule making, to include a link to a 100 word plain language summary of the proposed rule (Rept. No. 116-14).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment:

S. 406. A bill to establish a Federal rotational cyber workforce program for the Federal cyber workforce (Rept. No. 116-15).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 504. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Department of Homeland Security to develop an engagement strategy with fusion centers, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-16).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

Special Report entitled "Activities of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs" (Rept. No. 116-17).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 853. A bill to amend the John S. McCain III, Daniel K. Akaka, and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018 to eliminate the Asset and Infrastructure Review Commission of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 854. A bill to require human rights certifications for arms sales, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. ERNST):

S. 855. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to make it a criminal offense for individuals to engage in sexual acts while acting under color of law or with individuals in their custody, to encourage States to adopt similar laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 856. A bill to allow State manufacturing extension partnerships to award grants to small- and medium-sized manufacturers for the purpose of training new workers to replace departing experienced workers; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 857. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the amount of special pension for Medal of Honor recipients, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 858. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to provide blood testing for firefighters of the Department of Defense to determine potential exposure to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GARDNER:

S. 859. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to reauthorize hydroelectric production incentives and hydroelectric efficiency improvement incentives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. GARDNER:

S. 860. A bill to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to modify the terms of the Jackson Gulch rehabilitation project in Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. SMITH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. REED, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 861. A bill to establish in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the Department of State a Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTI Peoples, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 862. A bill to repeal the sunset for collateral requirements for Small Business Administration disaster loans; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 863. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the grade and pay of podiatrists of the Department of Veterans Affairs; considered and passed.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 864. A bill to provide for further comprehensive research at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke on unruptured intracranial aneurysms; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SULLIVAN:

S. 865. A bill to amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 to establish an oil spill response and prevention grant program and provide for advances from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the application of the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund financing rate, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. YOUNG, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. LEE, Mr. SASSE, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. DAINES):

S.J. Res. 14. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require that the Supreme Court of the United States be composed of not more than 9 justices; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. Res. 120. A resolution opposing efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement targeting Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. ENZI):

S. Res. 121. A resolution congratulating Israel and Egypt on the 40th anniversary of

the signing of the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 22

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 22, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of dental services under the Medicare program.

S. 91

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 91, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize per diem payments under comprehensive service programs for homeless veterans to furnish care to dependents of homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 172

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 172, a bill to delay the reimposition of the annual fee on health insurance providers until after 2021.

S. 178

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 178, a bill to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China.

S. 191

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 191, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to include in periodic health assessments, separation history and physical examinations, and other assessments an evaluation of whether a member of the Armed Forces has been exposed to open burn pits or toxic airborne chemicals, and for other purposes.

S. 203

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 203, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the railroad track maintenance credit, and for other purposes.

S. 211

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 211, a bill to amend the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 to secure urgent resources vital to Indian victims of crime, and for other purposes.

S. 215

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 215, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes, and for other purposes.

S. 237

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 237, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit nurse practitioners and physician assistants to satisfy the documentation requirement under the Medicare program for coverage of certain shoes for individuals with diabetes.

S. 253

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 253, a bill to coordinate the provision of energy retrofitting assistance to schools.

S. 258

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 258, a bill to prohibit oil and gas leasing on the National Forest System land in the Ruby Mountains Ranger District located in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Elko and White Pine Counties, Nevada, and for other purposes.

S. 266

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 266, a bill to provide for the long-term improvement of public school facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 295

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 295, a bill to establish the Rural Export Center, and for other purposes.

S. 296

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 296, a bill to amend XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 319

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 319, a bill to improve the reproductive assistance provided by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to severely wounded, ill, or injured members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their spouses or partners, and for other purposes.

S. 349

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 349, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to request nominations for, and make determinations regarding, roads to be designated under the national scenic byways program, and for other purposes.

S. 380

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 380, a bill to increase access to agency guidance documents.

S. 386

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 386, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the per-country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants, to increase the per-country numerical limitation for family-sponsored immigrants, and for other purposes.

S. 433

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 433, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve home health payment reforms under the Medicare program.

S. 454

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 454, a bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish the Office of Rural Broadband, and for other purposes.

S. 456

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 456, a bill to provide for the adjustment of status of certain nationals of Liberia to that of lawful permanent residents, and for other purposes.

S. 465

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 465, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to make reforms to the benefits for Public Service Officers, and for other purposes.

S. 500

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 500, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish, fund, and provide for the use of amounts in a National Park Service Legacy Restoration Fund to address the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service, and for other purposes.

S. 504

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. 504, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to authorize The American Legion to determine the requirements for membership in The American Legion, and for other purposes.

S. 506

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. 506, a bill to support State, Tribal, and local efforts to remove access to firearms from individuals who are a danger to themselves or others pursuant to court orders for this purpose.

S. 546

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 546, a bill to extend authorization for the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 through fiscal year 2090, and for other purposes.

S. 576

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 576, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a presumption of herbicide exposure for certain veterans who served in Korea, and for other purposes.

S. 578

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 578, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five-month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title for individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

S. 582

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 582, a bill to ensure that the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network works with Tribal law enforcement agencies, protects against all forms of terrorism, and focuses on virtual currencies.

S. 598

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 598, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase certain funeral benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 631

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 631, a bill to provide for the admission of the State of Washington, D.C. into the Union.

S. 677

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 677, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to provide for the participation of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 684

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr.

ROBERTS) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 684, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high-cost employer-sponsored health coverage.

S. 692

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 692, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

S. 696

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 696, a bill to designate the same individual serving as the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service as the National Nurse for Public Health.

S. 703

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 703, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to address health, safety, and environmental hazards at private military housing units, to prohibit the payment by members of the Armed Forces of deposits or other fees relating to such housing units, and for other purposes.

S. 726

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 726, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ensure the safety of cosmetics.

S. 741

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 741, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to require group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans to provide for cost sharing for oral anticancer drugs on terms no less favorable than the cost sharing provided for anticancer medications administered by a health care provider.

S. 758

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 758, a bill to ensure affordable abortion coverage and care for every woman, and for other purposes.

S. 791

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 791, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for clarification regarding the children to whom entitlement to educational assistance may be transferred

under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program, and for other purposes.

S. 817

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 817, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove silencers from the definition of firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 820

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 820, a bill to strengthen programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004.

S. 850

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 850, a bill to extend the authorization of appropriations to the Department of Veterans Affairs for purposes of awarding grants to veterans service organizations for the transportation of highly rural veterans.

S.J. RES. 11

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 11, a joint resolution to prohibit the unauthorized use of United States Armed Forces in hostilities with respect to Venezuela.

S. CON. RES. 5

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 5, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

S. RES. 59

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 59, a resolution recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal.

S. RES. 74

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 74, a resolution marking the fifth anniversary of Ukraine's Revolution of Dignity by honoring the bravery, determination, and sacrifice of the people of Ukraine during and since the Revolution, and condemning continued Russian aggression against Ukraine.

S. RES. 111

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 111, a resolution recognizing the heritage, culture, and contributions of Latinas in the United States.

S. RES. 112

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 112, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States condemns all forms

of violence against children globally and recognizes the harmful impacts of violence against children.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 863. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the grade and pay of podiatrists of the Department of Veterans Affairs; considered and passed.

S. 863

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CLARIFICATION OF GRADE AND PAY OF PODIATRISTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) GRADE.—The list in section 7404(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “PODIATRIC SURGEON (DPM)” and inserting “PODIATRIST”; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to “Physician and surgeon grade.” the following new item:

“Podiatrist grade.”.

(b) PAY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 7431 of such title is amended—

(A) by striking “physician and dentist” each place it appears and inserting “physician, podiatrist, and dentist”;

(B) by striking “physicians and dentists” each place it appears and inserting “physicians, podiatrists, and dentists”;

(C) by striking “physician or dentist” each place it appears and inserting “physician, podiatrist, or dentist”;

(D) by striking “physicians or dentists” each place it appears and inserting “physicians, podiatrists, or dentists”;

(E) by striking “Physician and Dentist” each place it appears and inserting “Physician, Podiatrist, and Dentist”; and

(F) in subsection (e)(1)(A), by inserting “podiatrists and” before “dentists.”.

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.—Section 7433 of such title is amended by striking “physicians and dentists” each place it appears and inserting “physicians, podiatrists, and dentists”.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading of subchapter III of chapter 74 of such title is amended by inserting “; PODIATRISTS,” after “PHYSICIANS”.

(4) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 74 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to subchapter III and inserting the following new item:

“SUBCHAPTER III—PAY FOR PHYSICIANS, PODIATRISTS, AND DENTISTS”.

(5) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 7433 of such title is further amended—

(A) by striking subsection (b);

(B) in subsection (a)—

(i) by striking “(1) The Secretary” and inserting “The Secretary”; and

(ii) by redesignating paragraph (2) as subsection (b); and

(C) in subsection (b), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking “In prescribing” and inserting “RECOMMENDATIONS AND VIEWS.—In prescribing”; and

(ii) by striking “this paragraph” and inserting “this subsection”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 120—OPPOSING EFFORTS TO DELEGITIMIZE THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND THE GLOBAL BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT, AND SANCTIONS MOVEMENT TARGETING ISRAEL

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 120

Whereas the democratic Jewish State of Israel is a key ally and strategic partner of the United States;

Whereas, since Israel's founding in 1948, Congress has repeatedly expressed our Nation's unwavering commitment to the security of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state;

Whereas United States policy has long sought to bring peace to the Middle East and recognized that both the Israeli and Palestinian people should be able to live in safe and sovereign states, free from fear and violence, with mutual recognition;

Whereas support for peace between the Israelis and Palestinians has long-standing bipartisan support in Congress;

Whereas it is the long-standing policy of the United States that a peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict should come through direct negotiations between the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority, with the support of countries in the region and around the world;

Whereas it is a hallmark of American democracy for citizens to petition the United States Government in favor of or against United States foreign policy;

Whereas cooperation between Israel and the United States is of great importance, especially in the context of rising anti-Semitism, authoritarianism, and security problems in Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa;

Whereas the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement (BDS Movement) targeting Israel is a campaign that does not favor a two-state solution and that seeks to exclude the State of Israel and the Israeli people from the economic, cultural, and academic life of the rest of the world;

Whereas the BDS Movement targets not only the Government of Israel, but also academic, cultural, and civil society institutions in Israel, as well as individual Israeli citizens of all political persuasions, religions, and ethnicities, and in some cases even Jews of other nationalities who support Israel;

Whereas the BDS Movement does not recognize, and many of its supporters explicitly deny, the right of the Jewish people to national self-determination;

Whereas a founder of the BDS Movement has denied the right of the Jewish people in their homeland, saying, "We oppose a Jewish state in any part of Palestine. No Palestinian, rational Palestinian, not a sell-out Palestinian, will ever accept a Jewish state in Palestine.";

Whereas university-based BDS efforts violate the core goals of the university and global cultural development, which thrive on free and open exchange and debate; and

Whereas the BDS Movement promotes principles of collective guilt, mass punishment, and group isolation, which are destructive of prospects for progress towards peace and a two-state solution: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) opposes the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement (BDS Movement) targeting Israel, including efforts to target United States companies that are engaged in commercial activities that are legal under United States law and all efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel;

(2) affirms that the BDS Movement undermines the possibility for a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by demanding concessions of one party alone and encouraging the Palestinians to reject negotiations in favor of international pressure;

(3) urges Israelis and Palestinians to return to direct negotiations as the only way to achieve an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;

(4) supports the full implementation of the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-296; 128 Stat. 4075) and new efforts to enhance governmentwide, coordinated United States-Israel scientific and technological cooperation in civilian areas, such as with respect to energy, water, agriculture, alternative fuel technology, civilian space technology, and security, in order to counter the effects of actions to boycott, divest from, or sanction Israel; and

(5) reaffirms its strong support for a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict resulting in two states—a democratic Jewish State of Israel and a viable democratic Palestinian state—living side-by-side in peace, security, and mutual recognition.

SENATE RESOLUTION 121—CONGRATULATING ISRAEL AND EGYPT ON THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE EGYPT-ISRAEL PEACE TREATY

Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. ENZI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 121

Whereas Muhammad Anwar al-Sadat, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and Menachem Begin, Prime Minister of Israel, met with President Jimmy Carter at Camp David, Maryland from September 5 to September 17, 1978;

Whereas these negotiations resulted in two agreements, known as the "Camp David Accords", which were signed on September 17, 1978;

Whereas those accords provided a framework for peace between Israel and Egypt that stands as a landmark, ending a generation of war and violence;

Whereas the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty was signed on March 26, 1979, at the White House in Washington, D.C., ending 31 years of war between the two nations;

Whereas the peace treaty was duly implemented, resulting in—

(1) the normalization of diplomatic and commercial ties between Egypt and Israel;

(2) the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Sinai Peninsula and the establishment of a demilitarized zone;

(3) the free passage of Israeli ships through the Suez Canal; and

(4) Egypt becoming the first Arab state to officially recognize Israel;

Whereas President Sadat and Prime Minister Begin were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1978;

Whereas President Sadat was assassinated on October 6, 1981, by Khalid Islambouli, a member of Egyptian Islamic Jihad;

Whereas President Carter was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002, in part for his vital contribution to the Camp David Accords and following peace process;

Whereas Congress, on December 4, 2018, passed legislation awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to President Sadat;

Whereas the Camp David Accords and resulting peace treaty have proven to be an enduring achievement, furthering the interests of peace and stability in a volatile region of the world;

Whereas the United States has proudly supported the participants of this historic agreement over the last four decades of peace; and

Whereas March 26, 2019, marks the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Governments and people of Israel and Egypt for 40 years of peace based on the Camp David Accords;

(2) encourages the Governments of Egypt and Israel to continue to serve as examples of honest statesmanship and peacebuilding;

(3) commends the example set for the world in seeking peaceful and long-lasting resolutions to conflict; and

(4) requests the President to issue a proclamation to observe the anniversary with appropriate ceremonies and programs.

AMENDING TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE, TO CLARIFY THE GRADE AND PAY OF PODIATRISTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 863.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 863) to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the grade and pay of podiatrists of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 863) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 863

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CLARIFICATION OF GRADE AND PAY OF PODIATRISTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) GRADE.—The list in section 7404(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "PODIATRIC SURGEON (DPM)" and inserting "PODIATRIST"; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to "Physician and surgeon grade." the following new item:

"Podiatrist grade."

(b) PAY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 7431 of such title is amended—

(A) by striking "physician and dentist" each place it appears and inserting "physician, podiatrist, and dentist";

(B) by striking “physicians and dentists” each place it appears and inserting “physicians, podiatrists, and dentists”;

(C) by striking “physician or dentist” each place it appears and inserting “physician, podiatrist, or dentist”;

(D) by striking “physicians or dentists” each place it appears and inserting “physicians, podiatrists, or dentists”;

(E) by striking “Physician and Dentist” each place it appears and inserting “Physician, Podiatrist, and Dentist”; and

(F) in subsection (e)(1)(A), by inserting “podiatrists and” before “dentists.”

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.—Section 7433 of such title is amended by striking “physicians and dentists” each place it appears and inserting “physicians, podiatrists, and dentists”.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading of subchapter III of chapter 74 of such title is amended by inserting “, PODIATRISTS,” after “PHYSICIANS”.

(4) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 74 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to subchapter III and inserting the following new item:

“SUBCHAPTER III—PAY FOR PHYSICIANS, PODIATRISTS, AND DENTISTS”.

(5) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 7433 of such title is further amended—

(A) by striking subsection (b);

(B) in subsection (a)—

(i) by striking “(1) The Secretary” and inserting “The Secretary”; and

(ii) by redesignating paragraph (2) as subsection (b); and

(C) in subsection (b), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking “In prescribing” and inserting “RECOMMENDATIONS AND VIEWS.—In prescribing”; and

(ii) by striking “this paragraph” and inserting “this subsection”.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, March 26, 2019; 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 use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Bade nomination under the previous order; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 until 2:15 to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McCONNELL. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of our Democratic colleagues.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, it is my great honor and pleasure to be joined on the floor today by my senior Senator from Rhode Island, the ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator JACK REED. We are here today on the Senate floor to speak about the perils that climate change poses to America’s national security.

I am going to frame my remarks around a fact and a proposition.

The fact, as reported in the 2017 climate science report, is that the oceans of the world are absorbing more than 9 zettajoules of heat energy each year.

The proposition is one that I think most of us agree with—that America is and remains the world’s indispensable Nation, exceptional and exemplary.

Let’s unpack that fact a little bit. More than 9 zettajoules of heat energy go into the ocean every year.

First, what is a zettajoule? A zettajoule is sextillion joules, or 10 to the 21st power joules. That is a lot of zeros. More practically, 9 zettajoules is around a dozen times humankind’s total annual energy consumption.

More kinetically speaking, the added heat in our oceans is equivalent to four Hiroshima-sized nuclear bombs exploding in the oceans every second—every second. So every minute, 240 Hiroshima blasts in the ocean—in the time of my remarks, probably 3,000 Hiroshima explosions—with the oceans capturing all of that heat energy.

Let’s go back to the proposition that America is the world’s indispensable and exemplary Nation. Years ago, Daniel Webster probably said it best, describing the work of our Founders as having “set the world an example.” His was not a unique vision of America. From Jonathan Winthrop at the beginning to Ronald Reagan recently, we have called ourselves a city on a hill, set high for the world to witness. From President Kennedy to President Obama, inaugural addresses have noted that the glow of our ideals “light[s] the world.” President Clinton argued that “[p]eople the world over have always been more impressed by the power of our example than the example of our power.”

When Daniel Webster said that our Founding Fathers had set the world an example, he went on to say this: “The last hopes of mankind, therefore, rest with us; and if it should be proclaimed that our example had become an argument against the experiment, the knell”—meaning the death nail—“of popular liberty would be sounded throughout the earth.”

How does the fact of 9 zettajoules and the proposition of America’s role relate to each other? First is the climate chaos mankind will increasingly have to bear. A recent study published by Nature found with 99.9999 percent confidence that Earth is warming due to human activity. I could give you any number of risks, such as global sea level rise or increasing wildfires and

droughts or the unprecedented CO₂ concentrations in our atmosphere. All of this affects human health, human agriculture, and human economy, and all of these risks also have national security consequences.

Through the years, America’s national security experts could not have made it much plainer. Fifty-eight former military and national security leaders sent this letter this month to President Trump warning that “[c]limate change is real, it is happening now, it is driven by humans, and it is accelerating.” They went on to say that the administration’s denial of climate science will “erode our national security.” They warned that the effects of climate change are already being “used by our adversaries as a weapon of war,” citing ISIS’s control of water during climate change-exacerbated drought. This letter urges President Trump to “drop the politics, and allow our national security and science agencies to do their jobs.”

They are not alone. The Pentagon’s 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review described climate change as a “global threat multiplier,” warning that “the pressures caused by climate change will influence resource competition while placing additional burdens on economies, societies, and governance institutions around the world.”

Former admiral Samuel Locklear, as head of U.S. Pacific Command, warned in 2013 that climate change was the biggest long-term security threat in his area of operation, noting the need for the military to organize for, as he called it, “when the effects of climate change start to impact these massive populations.”

“If it goes bad,” he said, “you could have hundreds of thousands or millions of people displaced and then security will start to crumble pretty quickly.”

A recent survey of nearly 300 Active-Duty and veteran servicemembers found that 77 percent “consider it fairly or very likely that military bases in coastal or island regions will be damaged by flooding or severe storms as a result of climate change.”

In response to a provision championed by Rhode Island Congressman JIM LANGEVIN in the House and by Senator REED in the Senate, the last NDAA bill instructed the Department of Defense to provide a report examining the effects of climate change on the military. Of 79 DOD installations evaluated, 53 currently experience recurrent flooding, 43 are experiencing drought conditions, 36 are prone to wildfires, 6 are seeing desertification, and 1 is dealing with thawing permafrost. That is what is happening now. In 20 years, the DOD predicts, an additional seven installations will experience flooding, five more will see drought conditions, and seven will see wildfire risks.

Of course, all of those risks will get worse. This report failed to list the top 10 most vulnerable installations and ignores the Marine Corps, but it nevertheless warned that “[t]he effects of a

changing climate are a national security issue with potential impacts to Department of Defense missions, operational plans, and installations.”

The national security ties to climate change begin with our military.

A second point. Henry Kissinger once told me that the great revolutions of the world have always come from what he called a “confluence of resentments.” I have not forgotten that phrase since he used it, a “confluence of resentments.” The poorest on the planet, those who live closest to the land, who lead subsistence lives, will suffer most the brunt of the coming change, and they will resent it. It is human nature.

If you divide the world into three groups, you can call one group the very poorest, who will starve when, for instance, their fisheries collapse. The middle group is distressed when fisheries collapse but has the resources to find alternative food sources. At the top, the fish in our air-conditioned supermarket may cost a bit more and come from a different part of the ocean, and we may drive home in our air-conditioned SUV with a slightly larger grocery bill, but that will be it for us. The first two groups will resent it when they feel the pain caused by the SUV crowd. If you turn that pain up high enough, good luck defending with those injured people the parliamentary democracy and market capitalism system that brought this on. The injustice will amplify the resentments.

My final point. How does America fare as the exemplary Nation through all of this? Well, very badly. Democracy and capitalism are the hallmarks of our country, and the failure of those institutions to address climate change will not be a good story.

Worse than the failure is the reason for it. The climate denial apparatus that has won unseemly influence in Congress now will surely lose the test of time. The consequences of climate change are determined by laws of chemistry, of physics, and of biology. Those laws can't be repealed or wished away. Propaganda can manipulate people and passions and politics, but it has no effect on the immutable laws of nature. So the fossil fuel industry's denial apparatus will ultimately be exposed as a fraud and a scandal, and history will lament and condemn it as one of the great American frauds and scandals. History's judgment will come harshly, and it will fall harshly on an American democracy that let itself be overborne by this apparatus.

James Madison, in the *Federalist Papers*, warned of “moments in public affairs when the people [can be] misled by artful misrepresentations of interested men.” By that, of course, he meant people with a conflict of interest. He went on to say that misled people “may call for measures which they themselves will afterwards be the most ready to lament and condemn.” We have certainly been misled by artful

misrepresentations of the interested men of the fossil fuel industry.

It may be hard for us in our world of air-conditioning, SUVs, and imported fresh fish to contemplate resentment and revolution, but the harms to the oceans of 9 zettajoules of heat—4.5 Hiroshima explosions worth of heat per second that we are adding to the oceans—those harms are on a collision course with our destiny as a city on a hill. We urgently need to show the world that market capitalism and democracy don't fail when presented with big problems if we are to head off a confluence of resentments that we are now making inevitable.

With that, I yield to my distinguished senior Senator, Mr. JACK REED. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, let me commend Senator WHITEHOUSE for his consistent efforts to illuminate and discuss the problem of climate change, which affects not just the United States but the entire world. It is a pleasure to join him and once again call attention to this urgent threat.

We know that climate change impacts our health, our communities, our economy, and our infrastructure, but today I would like to focus on how climate change is affecting our national security—some of the points Senator WHITEHOUSE also made.

Beginning with the 2008 National Defense Strategy, the administration of President George W. Bush stated that “changes with existing and future resource, environmental, and climate pressures may generate new security challenges . . . These risks will require managing the divergent needs of massively increasing energy demand to maintain economic development and the need to tackle climate change.”

With increasing frequency in recent years, climate change has been commonly referred to as a threat multiplier. Simply put, climate change can and will exacerbate conditions in regions with already tenuous stability.

Numerous intelligence assessments have reached the same conclusion. Climate change will have broad impacts for U.S. national security interests over the next 30 years and beyond.

In their words, the National Intelligence Council has found that “rising sea levels, flooding, droughts, higher temperatures, and more frequent extreme weather events will increasingly threaten military capabilities and facilities on both U.S. and foreign territory, including military bases and training ranges.”

Furthermore, the National Intelligence Council identified six key pathways: threats to the stability of countries, heightened social and political tensions, adverse effects on food prices and availability, increased risks to human health, negative impacts on investments and economic competitiveness, and potential climate discontinuities and secondary surprises.

The former Secretary of Defense, Jim Mattis, has stated to the Senate Armed

Services Committee that “where climate change contributes to regional instability, the Department of Defense must be aware of any potential adverse impacts.” He also noted that “climate change is impacting stability in areas of the world where our troops are operating today.”

More recently, Gen. Joe Dunford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was asked about climate change at an event held by Duke University's Program in American Grand Strategy. He said:

When we look at, when I look at, climate change, it's in the category of sources of conflict around the world and things we have to respond to. So it can be great devastation requiring humanitarian assistance/disaster relief, which the U.S. military certainly conducts routinely. In fact, I can't think of a year since I've been on active duty that we haven't conducted at least one operation in the Pacific along those lines due to extreme weather in the Pacific. And then, when you look at source of conflict—shortages of water and those kind of things—those are all sources of conflict. So, it is very much something that we take into account in our planning as we anticipate when, where and how we may be engaged in the future and what capabilities we should have.

The Department of Defense has already observed many negative impacts to readiness and resources due to extreme weather as a result of climate change.

The Congressional Budget Office has concluded “costs associated with hurricane damage will increase more rapidly than the economy will grow”—\$39 billion annually by 2075.

In 2017, the Government Accountability Office found that “weather effects associated with climate change pose operational and budgetary risks” to the Department of Defense.

The GAO also found that “even without knowing precisely how or when the climate will change—[DOD] knows it must build resilience into its policies, programs, and operations in a thoughtful and cost-effective way.”

Last year, the Pentagon also submitted its screening level vulnerability assessment surveys to Congress. It found that roughly half of all military installations that responded stated they had experienced adverse impacts from climate change: damage from high winds, flooding due to storm surge and non-storm surge events, extreme temperatures, droughts, and wildfires. However, that figure is likely much higher because the other half of military installations around the globe didn't even respond to the survey. Oddly enough, those military installations that said they had not experienced negative impacts from climate change were very close to other installations, which said they had. Clearly, this is a broad problem for our military.

The Department's most recent report on climate change was like an introductory primer and carried about as much value as a phonebook. It failed to provide many required elements, such as a top 10 list of the most vulnerable

installations from each military service. Instead, the report focused on 79 installations important for mission assurance and found that about two-thirds of them are—in their words—“vulnerable to current or future recurrent flooding [and] more than half are vulnerable to current or future drought, and wildfires.”

Perhaps the most recent and high-profile impacts occurred this month when a particular type of storm in the Midwest, called a bomb cyclone, left at least one-third of Offutt Air Force Base underwater from flooding.

Just a few months ago, Hurricane Michael made a direct hit on Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida, which was only shortly after the astonishing 1,000-year event of Hurricane Florence in North Carolina, which caused severe damage at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune. In other words, the amount of observed rain during Hurricane Florence had a 1-in-100 chance of occurring each year.

While initial reporting indicated at Tyndall that roughly 17 F-22s were destroyed or severely damaged after being left at the base during Hurricane Michael, fortunately, the actual damage to aircraft turned out to be minimal. However, the fact that over a dozen advanced fighters costing roughly \$130 million per aircraft had to be abandoned in the first place is a fundamental flaw in readiness and aircraft maintenance.

Despite the minimal damage to aircraft, the projected cost to rebuild Tyndall is still roughly \$4.1 billion. The underlying issue that must be addressed is that hangars and other facilities are not adequately designed and built to withstand an increased trend of heavy winds above 130 miles per hour or other extreme weather. Meanwhile, the estimated cost to rebuild what was at Camp Lejeune—according to the Commandant of the Marine Corps—is roughly \$3.7 billion.

Fortunately, at Camp Lejeune, several hangars survived and did not flood. This is because they were appropriately designed in the first place.

These glaring examples of Offutt Air Force Base, Tyndall Air Force Base, and Camp Lejeune clearly demonstrate that we must plan for climate adaptation now or we will pay much, much more in the future.

General Neller, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, recently wrote to the Secretary of the Navy saying that the Marine Corps “faces fiscal challenges without precedent” given that “Hurricane Florence damage is negatively impacting Marine Corps readiness.”

To put some of that in context, the Commandant said the “total recovery cost is 9 percent of our annual budget; the building repair cost is 150 percent of our total annual building repair budget; and the building replacement cost is four years’ worth of non-Guam MILCON.” The Commandant closed the letter by warning that the next hurricane season is only 3 months away.

Beyond these most recent events, climate change continues to cost DOD significant resources, measured in taxpayer funding and negative impacts on readiness.

In 2017, the trio of hurricanes—Maria, Irma, and Harvey—cost the Department over \$1.3 billion in military construction and facilities sustainment restoration and modernization alone. Hurricane Harvey was the third 500-year flood in the Houston area in the last 3 years—we are getting 500-year floods every 3 years in parts of the United States—and it left four times more than the entire flow of the Mississippi River on the city of Houston, TX.

At Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, there were 81 black flag training days. These are days where training is canceled due to heat. That was in 2012. In 2016, there were 226 black flag days.

The Marine Corps experienced 478 heat-related injuries in 2013. By comparison, there were 688 in 2017 and 744 in 2016.

In Alaska, three locations of early warning radar infrastructure have been damaged and moved due to coastal erosion that was not expected to occur until 2030.

In 2016, a 10,000-acre wildfire in California closed the south side of Vandenberg Air Force Base, stalling the launch of an Atlas V rocket. Wildfires also led to training range closures for multiple months in North Carolina, South Carolina, Idaho, Florida, and New Mexico.

In Arizona last summer, a heat wave caused 40 flights to be canceled, with clear implications for DOD aircraft, ships, and vehicles that must be able to continue to operate in extreme hot and cold temperatures. Yet current adaptation measures attempted by DOD have yet to be comprehensive or entirely successful.

In what could be the beginning of a startling trend, the Air Force recently had to cancel a fiscal year 2018 military construction project in Alaska due to “thawing permafrost under the existing facility causing significant settling” with the facility foundation.

Warming Arctic temperatures at Thule Air Force Base in Greenland have caused extensive airfield pavement repairs at a cost of over \$30 million, which is roughly the cost of one Army Combat Training Center rotation. So instead of getting brigades down to Ft. Irwin for the training exercises they need, we are going to have to repave and repave bases that are exposed to some of these climate effects.

Meanwhile, melting ice caps continue to open up new sea lanes in the Arctic—a topic that the Presiding Officer knows better than anyone else in this body—increasing commercial traffic and prompting several countries, including Russia, to vie for influence and control over the region.

Notably, the current force structure of the Navy is not adequately postured to respond and operate in the Arctic,

and the GAO recently found that even the Navy admits “significant limitations for operating surface ships in the Arctic.”

Protecting our national security requires tough decisions that are made through a careful evaluation of risks, which, as I have described, must include the real risks posed by climate change.

I am concerned by many actions coming by the current administration, not only to downplay these risks but also to actively undermine the scientific consensus on climate change. Instead of heeding the warnings of scientists, including those from the 13 Federal Agencies that worked on the “National Climate Assessment,” the administration is working to create a climate security panel led by a noted climate denier to contradict these warnings.

I will continue—and I know others will continue—fighting any efforts to cast doubt on the fact that climate change is real and that it is human-caused. We need to be able to acknowledge these basic facts so that we can quickly come together to work toward meaningful solutions.

Again, let me thank Senator WHITEHOUSE for inviting me to join him today to highlight the impacts of climate change on national security. The dangers of inaction are many, and as ranking member of the Armed Services Committee, I will be continuing to sound the alarm on this critical issue.

I have tried to emphasize the effects of climate change on our training facilities, on our bases here in the United States, and on our regions that are close by, where we prepare our forces to be sent overseas. But if you look overseas in areas that are suffering drought, in areas where agricultural land is diminishing, and in areas where farming used to be the mainstay of the population and now has disappeared and the population is unemployed, if you look at places like Pakistan, which has significant environmental problems, significant financial problems, and significant problems with terrorist organizations, if you look in thousands of places around the globe, those are real threats that are being accelerated by climate change that our military will have to adapt and adjust to.

This is a multiphase issue. We have to take steps here at home to preserve our training bases and to make sure that our airfields can operate in all types of weather so that we can have the Marine Corps facilities in Camp Lejeune in A-1 condition.

It is the major force-generating position for the Marine Corps on the Atlantic coast. We have to be able to do that. That is just part of the problem.

The other part of the problem is the potential for conflict overseas. In many countries, it is accelerating because they are losing their quality of life, their economic ability, and all these things. There is drought, severe weather, hurricanes, and storms. There was

huge cyclonic activity just reported last week in parts of Africa. That is causing disruption for families, death, and a host of problems that are causing not particularly stable governments to become less stable.

This is an issue that we must address. I look forward to working with all of my colleagues in order to provide the resources and the direction to do that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The Senator from Oregon.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I understand that this week it is the intention of the majority leader to put on the floor of this Chamber a resolution that is related to taking on the enormous challenge of climate chaos. If I just heard that announced, I would say "well done" because it is way past time for us to wrestle with this calamity affecting all of our States and all countries around the globe.

Temperatures across the planet are going up. All kinds of impacts are being felt. So if the majority leader said, "Yes, we are going to rise to our responsibilities and have a serious debate on the floor; we are going to take a bill to committee; we are going to wrestle with how we in America cannot only take on carbon pollution here but show the type of leadership that mobilizes countries around the world and mobilizes leadership around the world," well, then, I would say "well done."

But, unfortunately, that is not what is about to happen. The majority leader says he doesn't want to talk about climate. So he wants to put a resolution on the floor with no debate in the committee, no serious effort to develop a series of policies to take on this calamity, and just to create a farce out of this Chamber. This Chamber, which I love, is being used in this horrific fashion, taking very serious issues that threaten our economy and threaten our natural resources and making fun of them and choosing to do nothing.

It was Henry David Thoreau who said: "What is the use of a house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on?" But I am sure that when Henry David Thoreau spoke he had no inkling of the challenges we would be facing here in the year 2019.

The challenge in this year of 2019 is that in a single human lifetime the carbon dioxide in the air has gone up 30 percent—trapping enormous quantities of heat, raising the temperature of our oceans, where 90 percent of the heat is trapped, changing the weather that we experience in all kinds of ways, and driving a huge increase in forest fires in our country. If that alone were the impact, that would be enough to take action. In fact, if we just look at that one issue of forest fires, looking at the Fourth National Climate Assessment, it is estimated that the change in cli-

mate has doubled the acres burned by forest fires—just that one issue.

In my home State of Oregon, we really see this. In the Northwest there is a beautiful forest. The landscape, particularly west of the Cascades, has the most incredible old-growth forest and timber stands you would ever see, and it is burning at an unprecedented rate.

Why is that? Well, for one, we have summers that are hotter and dryer than before. That hot, dry period extends for about 2 months longer than before. Then, we have storms that are more likely to have lightning strikes than before. Combine this very dry forest with lightning strikes, and you have a huge problem on your hands. It isn't just some remote forest that is burning. It is our natural resources, our ecosystems, and our timber stands. It is also having an impact on the commerce of our cities and the recreational industry.

That is not the only impact that we see in my home State of Oregon. We also see that the acidification of the Pacific Ocean from carbon dioxide is starting to make it hard for shellfish to make shells. Most significantly, 10 years ago we discovered that the acidity of the Pacific Ocean was killing the newly born oysters as they tried to create a shell and to do so in more acidic water. We have to change the chemistry of the ocean water now. We have to buffer it in order to enable the oyster industry to survive. What kind of canary in the coal mine is that? What kind of warning is it that the shellfish is in trouble because the ocean is becoming too acidic?

You may say: Why does that have anything to do with carbon in the atmosphere? It has everything to do with carbon in the atmosphere, because the ocean waves absorb the carbon dioxide, it becomes carbonic acid, and that acid makes the ocean more acidic.

I stand on the beach in Oregon and look out at the Pacific Ocean. Of course, you can only look out at about 20 miles of the sea, but all you see is water. It is hard to imagine that you would have to go thousands of miles to hit another continent. Yet, that ocean, as vast as it is, has changed its chemistry in our lifetime, not just becoming more acidic but becoming warmer. In fact, we have a calamity ongoing right now off the coast of California, Oregon, and Washington. The kelp is disappearing. With the kelp disappearing, that is a concern for every fisherman. The kelp forests provide a lot of shelter and food for a lot of species. How do we know what impact that will have on our fisheries, which are so important to our coastal economy?

We have the fact that the change in snowpack is affecting our winter sports. The lowered average snowpack just means warmer, smaller trout and salmon streams in the summer. People want to fish. They want healthy streams, not streams that are too tiny and too hot for the salmon and the trout. You see the impact we are hav-

ing on forests, farming, fishing, and on the cities from smoke and on human health as people inhale that smoke. It is not just an impact on the economy. It is an impact on our health and our children's health. That is just in my State.

So I would ask my colleagues across the aisle, every one of them, to say: Do you know what? We have a responsibility to take on issues that are doing great damage.

That damage isn't just wildfires. We are seeing more intense weather events across the country. This is in all kinds of places—severe weather storms, droughts, hail, tornadoes, and, probably most significantly, more powerful hurricanes, like Hurricane Michael and Hurricane Florence just last year in 2018. Of course we saw the trio of hurricanes in 2017.

You say: Are hurricanes connected to all of this? How can that be?

Hurricanes take their energy from the ocean. When the ocean is warmer, it creates a fiercer hurricane. It takes that energy, and it becomes winds that are moving faster and a hurricane that is larger and endures longer when it hits land.

It is estimated that extreme weather events cost Americans nearly a half trillion dollars over the last 3 years. In 2017 alone, between the fires and the hurricanes, damages were estimated at \$300 billion. That is real damage. That is real economic damage happening here in the United States of America. When talking about \$1 billion of damage, that is talking about a lot of families being set back a long way. We are talking about a lot of infrastructure being ripped up, and we are talking about lives lost.

Despite this enormous damage and despite lives lost, the majority leader wants to create a farce over an issue threatening our country and our planet? That is just wrong. It is way beyond wrong—to see the face of a calamity and to do nothing. Well, it could go with all kinds of adjectives—none of them complimentary, not a one.

We should be the opposite here, taking on the responsibility of addressing these issues that are having an impact—having an impact in the heartland, having an impact on our soy and corn crops, having an impact on the coasts, having an impact in the Southeast, with hurricanes, and the Northeast, with Lyme disease and spreading tick infestations, the loss of the moose, and the lobsters heading north along the ocean into Canada.

So we must not bury our heads in the tar sands. We cannot allow the political donations that are present now in our corrupted governmental system to deter us from doing the work we need to do. Yet that appears to be exactly what is happening. We have a broader responsibility here—a responsibility to our sons and daughters. We have a responsibility to our grandchildren and their sons and daughters and their grandchildren.

This contamination of our atmosphere cannot be easily undone. Carbon dioxide stays in the atmosphere for hundreds of years. So we have to prevent it from being put there in the first place. There is so much we can do together. There is so much we can do to say this challenge is real, to say we will work together as Americans to take this on and to help lead the world in ending this horrific damage that will persist for hundreds of years.

There is so much to do. We can create millions of good-paying jobs together for America and export products to the world instead of buying products from the world. We can make sure that as we do that and as we invest in an energy transformation, not only do we create millions of good-paying jobs, but we also make sure that rural America is not left behind, that our former fossil fuel communities are not left behind, and that our frontline urban communities that have so often been left behind are not left behind. We can make an economic renaissance that goes into every corner of our Nation where often economic improvements have not gone before.

These elements are the core elements of the Green New Deal. One is to face reality and together say: Yes, we have a big challenge in front of us of devastating consequences and growing consequences. Maybe it was a theory 20 years ago, but today it is a reality in every town across this country. It is a big calamity. We should say we will work together to take it on. That is the second basic principle, coming together, and then there is a surge of activity to develop alternatives and deploy alternatives to the use of fossil fuels.

The third piece of this puzzle is that in so doing, we will create millions of good-paying jobs. Isn't that what so many leaders run on? I certainly love the idea of good-paying jobs.

My dad, a union mechanic, was able to raise a family and be part of the great middle class of America and be

part of the American dream: buy a house, take the family camping on vacations, participate in having a 40-hour workweek, and get paid overtime if you had to work more. Yet that dream is further and further out of reach. Don't we want to create those better paying jobs in the process of renovating our energy economy?

Years ago, I undertook tearing the insides out of a house in the 1980s and then rebuilt that house. When you rebuild a house, there is plumbing, wiring, framing, sheetrock, windows, and roofing. I would buy a lot of stuff to renovate that house. That type of construction renovation puts a lot of people to work. If construction renovation puts people to work, think about how renovating our entire energy economy puts people to work. That is the third core principle.

The fourth is to make sure those economic gains go to those who have previously been left behind. That is an important message for rural America. That is an important message for urban frontline communities previously left behind. There is so much work to do and so many ways we can make sure these communities participate.

When I go out to Oregon, I do a town-hall in every county every year—36 counties. Twenty-two of them are rural. In political terms, you would describe them as deep red. People are frustrated by the very low wages and the very low number of jobs in those rural communities. Now we have an opportunity to say we have to go to work in an intensive way—a way that can create jobs all across this Nation and all across rural America. Instead, we have the majority leader bringing the issue to the floor as a farce. That is profoundly disturbing.

I encourage all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, let us not miss this opportunity before us—an opportunity for America to lead, an opportunity for America to build its economy, an opportunity for America to

lead the world. We cannot afford to miss that opportunity. America cannot afford for us to miss that opportunity, and the world cannot afford for us to fail.

Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:18 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, March 26, 2019, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

GEN. JOHN W. RAYMOND

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. JEFFREY L. HARRIGIAN

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 7033:

To be general

GEN. JAMES C. MCCONVILLE

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER:

- KENNETH H. MERTEN, OF VIRGINIA
- GEETA PASI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
- TODD D. ROBINSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
- ERIC SETH RUBIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
- MATTHEW HEYWOOD TUELLER, OF UTAH
- ALICE G. WELLS, OF WASHINGTON
- KEVIN M. WHITAKER, OF VIRGINIA