

Senator from Arizona modify her request to add that when the Senate receives the papers on H.R. 2030, and if the text is identical to S. 1057, the bill be considered read three times and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator from Arizona so modify her request?

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. President, I would gladly modify my request. It seems that our House colleagues—again, both sides of the aisle—will be passing an identical version of our bill tonight. As we talked about, this is urgent. It is urgent for Arizona. It is urgent for all the seven States that rely on the Colorado River. So the fastest way we can get this legislation to the President's desk is what I support. I support this modification.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the modified proposal?

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

The bill (S. 1057) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1057

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan Authorization Act”.

#### SEC. 2. COLORADO RIVER BASIN DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law expressly addressing the operation of the applicable Colorado River System reservoirs, immediately upon execution of the March 19, 2019, versions of the Agreement Concerning Colorado River Drought Contingency Management and Operations and the agreements attached thereto as Attachments A1, A2, and B, by all of the non-Federal parties thereto, the Secretary of the Interior shall, without delay, execute such agreements, and is directed and authorized to carry out the provisions of such agreements and operate applicable Colorado River System reservoirs accordingly.

(b) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section shall—

(1) be construed or interpreted as precedent for the litigation of, or as altering, affecting, or being deemed as a congressional determination regarding, the water rights of the United States, any Indian Tribe, band, or community, any State or political subdivision or district of a State, or any person; or

(2) exempt the implementation of such agreements and the operation of applicable Colorado River System reservoirs from any requirements of applicable Federal environmental laws.

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. President, I want to thank you, and I want to thank Senator CORTEZ MASTO and all of our colleagues for supporting this critical legislation. It is now going to allow immediate action to increase the water security for Arizona and all of the seven Colorado River Basin States.

We just introduced this legislation last Tuesday. By acting so quickly, the Lower Basin States will be able to im-

mediately begin saving hundreds of thousands of acre-feet of water behind Hoover Dam, and this will dramatically reduce the risk of reaching critically low reservoir levels and ensure that Mexico's water contribution to Lake Mead will be made beginning next year.

We worked hand in hand with Chairman GRIJALVA to develop this legislation. As I said, we have identical bills passing now in the House and the Senate on the same day. I want to thank our House colleagues, Chairman GRIJALVA, Ranking Member BISHOP, and I want to thank all the staff on both sides of the House and the Senate. This bipartisan, bicameral effort only came into fruition because of their hard work over these last years and days to make this happen. Thanks again to everybody.

This is a really great day for the Colorado River Basin and for Arizonans.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in 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.

### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

#### TRIBUTE TO MARY SKEENS

• Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I wish to recognize a friend and colleague, Mary Skeens, who has been a tireless advocate for affordable housing for West Virginians. Mary is retiring as the executive director of Community Works where she has spent the last 12 of her 40-year housing career.

A native of Kentucky, Mary realized at an early age that not every family in a warm, secure home. Her pressing concern for the living conditions of her classmates and peers led her into a career in housing. In 1990, her husband, Jim, had a desire to return to his family farm in Roane County, WV. This allowed Jim to return to his Mountaineer roots, and Mary embraced her new adopted home State and entered the housing profession.

Mary started her housing career as manager at a senior living high-rise apartment complex in Dunbar. She was later offered a position at the West Virginia Housing Development Fund as the head of the community development office overseeing the newly-created HOME Program during President Clinton's Administration. Mary worked with nonprofit housing agencies all over West Virginia in an effort to qual-

ify as them as community Housing Development Organizations, also known as a CHDOs. Over the next 10 years, Mary worked with numerous housing providers to develop many worthwhile projects that serve West Virginians to this day, creating domestic violence shelters, affordable multifamily rental complexes, and affordable housing subdivisions in underserved areas of our State. Mary is well known throughout West Virginia for her housing finance skills and her ability to provide much-needed technical assistance.

In 2007, Mary became executive director of Community Works in West Virginia. This agency was newly created and in its early years of operation. Community Works is a licensed mortgage lender providing home ownership loans, owner occupied rehabilitation loans, and a commercial loan program to its nonprofit housing member organizations. Mary stepped in and grew the agency by expanding its reach. This agency's work can be seen in most every housing development in the State through its loan programs and outreach. In addition to providing affordable financing opportunities, Mary has overseen many initiatives to improve housing policy and awareness that will affect this industry for years to come. She has also dedicated much time serving on many housing related boards of directors, and, as a result of her work, was inducted into the West Virginia Affordable Housing Hall of Fame in 2012.

Mary has accomplished so much in her years of service to West Virginia's housing community. I would like to thank Mary for aiding our State and its residents by providing safe, decent, and affordable housing to so many citizens who could not have afforded it otherwise.

Thank you for working with me and my staff over the years to serve as a resource on housing policy. I wish you well in your retirement. It is truly an honor to call you a friend and fellow West Virginian.●

#### RECOGNIZING THE EMPORIUM SENIOR CENTER AND THE CLEARFIELD SENIOR CENTER

• Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I recently visited two senior centers in Pennsylvania, the Emporium Senior Center in Cameron County and the Clearfield Senior Center in Clearfield County, to discuss issues on the minds of older Pennsylvanians and those who serve them. We spoke about the need to protect Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security; the importance of bringing down the high cost of prescription drugs; and how to prevent con artists from scamming older adults out of their hard-earned savings.

We must continue to support senior centers and other gathering places for older adults. For many, senior centers are a hub for services and a place where older Americans find a sense of community and belonging. They are the