

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), 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 result was announced—yeas 51, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 356 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Alexander	Fischer	Paul
Barrasso	Gardner	Perdue
Blackburn	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Roberts
Braun	Hoeven	Romney
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Inhofe	Sasse
Cassidy	Isakson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Kennedy	Shelby
Cramer	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Cruz	McConnell	Tillis
Daines	McSally	Toomey
Enzi	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young

NAYS—41

Baldwin	Hassan	Rosen
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Schatz
Brown	Hirono	Schumer
Cantwell	Kaine	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Sinema
Carper	Leahy	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Udall
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warner
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Peters	Wyden
Gillibrand	Reed	

NOT VOTING—8

Bennet	Jones	Sanders
Booker	Klobuchar	Warren
Harris	Rounds	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 487.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Robert J. Luck, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative 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 Robert J. Luck, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

Rick Scott, Steve Daines, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Marco Rubio, Lindsey Graham, John Hoeven, Roy Blunt, Mike Rounds, John Thune, John Cornyn, Deb Fischer, John Barrasso, James E. Risch, John Boozman, Tim Scott, Mitch McConnell.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 488.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Barbara Lagoa, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative 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 Barbara Lagoa, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

Rick Scott, Steve Daines, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Marco Rubio, Lindsey Graham, John Hoeven, Roy Blunt, Mike Rounds, John Thune, John Cornyn, Deb Fischer, John Barrasso, James E. Risch, John Boozman, Tim Scott, Mitch McConnell.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 454.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Adrian Zuckerman, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Romania.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative 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 Adrian Zuckerman, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Romania.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Pat Roberts, James M. Inhofe, Chuck Grassley, Richard C. Shelby, Roger F. Wicker, John Cornyn, Cory Gardner, James Lankford, Mike Braun, John Hoeven, Roy Blunt, John Barrasso, James E. Risch, John Thune.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls be waived.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

AFRICA

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, this past weekend, I was the first Senator in a really long time to fly into Somalia's notoriously dangerous capital city. I will tell you, at first glance, it looks like things in Mogadishu have gotten back to normal. But the situation on the ground, after you fly in and get out of the plane and you get on the ground, you see it is really quite a different story.

There is a reason why our recollection of Somali history focuses on the Black Hawk Down incident—the terrible Battle of Mogadishu—and then—

President Bill Clinton's decision to evacuate American troops from the Horn of Africa.

Somalia's legacy is rooted in years of violence that overwhelmed the world's most elite military forces, froze the economy, and left the Somali people very much alone in the world—at least until 9/11, when Western powers were forced to focus on multiple fronts in the War on Terror.

I was fortunate enough last weekend to visit our Djibouti-based troops at Camp Lemonnier. Our base there was established in the wake of 9/11, and since then, has expanded to support AFRICOM's mission in the Horn of Africa. Their leadership is committed to not repeating the mistakes of the past. They have developed the best unmanned aerial system force in the world.

It is amazing what they are doing with these UAVs. Between that program and our impressive intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities, the military has stepped up their ability to keep our troops safer in the world's most volatile theater.

I was pleased to know that the 101st Airborne out of Fort Campbell—which is located in Montgomery County, TN, and also there on the Kentucky border—are supporting the vital post-Benghazi East Africa Response Force mission and that the Nashville-based 118th Air Wing unit of the Tennessee Air National Guard plays a vital role in regional security operations.

It brought home to me the point of why we have to get the NDAA finished, why we have to get these resources to our men and women in uniform who are fighting every day and need 21st-century warfare in order to keep us safe.

The work they are doing there—and of course I can't say exactly what it is that they are doing—should make us all really humbled and grateful for those who choose to serve.

Our mission in Africa is changing. Things are shifting a little bit. As we urge our local partners in Africa to take ownership over their own security, the chattering class is at it again and what we will hear from people is: Well, I think we have done enough for Africa. Don't you think we have given enough?

My response this week to those who have made that statement has been: No, we have not done enough. We have invested more than a decades' worth of time, money, and manpower. We have lost men, lost ground, regained that ground, expanded our abilities, and have achieved moderate regional stability. But most importantly, we have confirmed the Horn of Africa is still a geopolitical powder keg.

The same forces that swept the Horn into anarchy in the 1990s and allowed terrorism to metastasize in the 2000s are now triggering instability all across that continent.

For a long time, Somalia managed to limp along as a failed state because a

traditional government has never acted as their main arbiter. Powerful clans decided for themselves who would control territory and resources, and the clans are still very evident in that country. The victors, in turn, weaponized access to clean water, food, and healthcare in order to keep citizens in line.

Violent extremist organizations like al-Shabaab, ISIS, and factions of al-Qaida have been watching, and now they are employing the same tactics to destabilize existing governments in and beyond the Horn, in northeast Nigeria, and in the Sahel and the Lake Chad regions of West Africa.

We may have eradicated the physical caliphate, but mom-and-pop terror shops are thriving. What is more, the digital caliphate is alive and well, and it will take more than ground forces to wipe it out.

Many of my colleagues may be tempted to assume that these insurgent hotbeds have lowered Africa's stock in the eyes of global powers, but we shouldn't be fooled about that in this era of great power competition. It is going to sound mighty familiar to all of us, but China and, to a lesser extent, Russia are doing all they can to actually buy their way into strategic dominance. This is some of what we heard and what we learned this week. For example, China has made inroads by agreeing to hold 80 percent of the government of Djibouti's debt. Think about that. China has gone to this country and they have said: Look, we will hold this debt for you, 80 percent of it.

In turn, Djibouti has accommodated China's first overseas military outpost and granted them access to crucial shipping lanes. They have also bought into China's Smart City Program, those all-seeing cameras that I encountered at every intersection at Djibouti City. In other words, the Chinese must feel like they have struck gold. They have a huge port going in. They are helping to turn this into an intermodal transit system with a port, with a railway. By the way, we are going to put these cameras up to help you keep your community safe. And what is China doing? China is collecting all that data. They are scanning all of these faces. They are watching everything that comes into these ports and are monitoring everything that goes on the rails.

China is doing this not only with Djibouti but with other countries in Africa. They are trying to secure this coastline in Africa for themselves to expand their reach.

For 12 years, the United States and our partners have worked together to bring stability to the Horn of Africa. The State Department and USAID have laid the groundwork for education, for health development, institution building, and permanent democratic transition. Yet the region remains vulnerable. Our role is going to change because, yes, we look at it as great power

competition through the military. But we also look at the way China and Russia are pushing into their economic sectors. Great power competition is not just playing out in the Indo-Pacific or in Eastern Europe; it is playing out right now on the African Continent. Instead of playing defense, as we do in other theaters, we have the opportunity to be on offense when it comes to Africa.

If we decide that now we have had enough, these threats—from the military, that sector, and from the economic sector—will degrade American influence and will threaten the homeland and will imperil the delicate and completely reversible balance that we have fought so hard to gain. Our Nation's security cannot afford to give ground, to cede ground, on the Continent of Africa.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BRAUN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise to talk about something that is really important, I think not only to our Nation and our planet but to me and my family personally.

As cochair and cofounder, along with Senator JOHN BOOZMAN of Arkansas, of the Senate Recycling Caucus, I am proud to stand side by side with all the Members of our caucus on the matter of recycling and its importance.

Today Senator BOOZMAN and I have introduced a resolution to commemorate tomorrow, November 15, as America Recycles Day. I would say that every day should be America Recycles Day. For a lot of our families, that is what it is. I don't have any idea how many millions or tens of millions of families recycle every day, but it is a lot of people, and we need even more.

For more than two decades, communities across our country have come together on November 15, and they do so to observe America Recycles Day and to celebrate their commitment to recycling.

First, I want to thank all of those who have worked hard to make America Recycles Day a success for all of these years. I have been a huge advocate of recycling for the past 50 years. I first recycled, I think, when I was a lieutenant JG in the Navy stationed in Moffett Field in California, which is close to Palo Alto. I took my recyclables to a warehouse there in Palo Alto and have never stopped. I don't go to the one in Palo Alto anymore, but we recycle all over Delaware. Frankly, when I go around the country, I recycle. I recycled on the train this morning, somewhere around Baltimore, coming down from Wilmington.

I really welcomed the opportunity to collaborate—I want to say more than a decade ago—with Senator Olympia Snowe of Maine. Together, we helped create the Senate Recycling Caucus in 2006. Since the retirement of Senator Snowe 6 years ago, I have been fortunate enough to have as my running mate and cochair Senator BOOZMAN of Arkansas.

In this year alone, our caucus has held four briefings to learn more about the current state of recycling in this country and to discuss ways in which the Federal Government might play an even more important role in encouraging additional recycling in the years to come.

The State and local governments are heavily involved in recycling, and there is a huge role for them—I say this as former Governor—a huge and important role for State and local governments to be involved in this, but there are also opportunities for the Federal Government to play a constructive role. We are doing that, and hopefully we will be able to do that even better in the days to come.

My sister and I were born in a coal mining town in West Virginia. We grew up later on in Virginia, where I was a Boy Scout and a Civil Air Patrol cadet. In scouting, we were taught to “leave no trace.” When we were hunting or fishing, my dad, a big hunter and fisherman, used to say basically to leave no trace behind so no one would actually know we were there. I think that admonition is one that has stuck with me throughout my life.

I believe we have a moral obligation to be devoted stewards of our environment and our planet and to leave our planet in even better shape than we found it.

Lately, I have been thinking about another quote. This one I really like is from Martin Luther King that a lot of people have heard. It goes something like this: “Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve.” This call to service reminds me of recycling because almost anyone can help better protect our environment by reducing the waste we produce, and we can do that, in part, by recycling.

I have a chart here that indicates just some of the things I recycled of late. This is not a green Ford Explorer. I bought my wife a car—actually, she bought it years and years ago, probably 15 years ago. We call it the Ford “exploder.” It never exploded. It was a great car. She used it for 9 or 8 years or so and passed it down to our son, Christopher. He used it for a couple of years and passed it down to Ben, who used it for about 3 years. Finally, it just gave up the ghost. I took it one day to a place where they recycled cars. I drove in. They put it on a huge machine that actually weighed it. I think of—you know, you get on a scale to weigh yourself. Well, this was like a scale for vehicles, including our Ford Explorer. They wrote out a check literally before I left to actually pay, I think \$900, for

recycling the Explorer. People do that every day in Delaware and other places as well.

We have a waste facility in our State of Delaware, and one of the things they oversee is recycling. About every month, from spring to the fall, they hold recycling events. A lot of times they are in school parking lots, maybe high school parking lots. They do them on Saturdays.

One Saturday I called ahead, and I asked: Do you guys recycle dehumidifiers? We had a dehumidifier. It was about 20 years old. It had been in our basement forever. They said: Yes, we do that—which is great, and we checked on paints, paint thinners, oil-based paints, and stuff. They said: We are doing hazardous materials recycling. So I took several cans of paint thinners.

We had all these outdoor lights from our house over the years that kind of died out on us, and I didn’t know what to do with them. Sure enough, they took these household lights, as well as all kinds of cords and everything, paints and stuff.

Every Monday in my neighborhood, we have big canisters outside where we can recycle all kinds of things. I always had water bottles in there and other kinds of cans and so forth, newspapers, you name it—actually, compost too. If you actually add up what we put in our big recycling bin every Monday for pickup, you look at what we put in our compost in our backyard, and you compare that to the actual amount of trash that is picked up at our house on Thursdays, there are many times more recyclables and compostables than there is actually trash.

We like to do that where I live. Hopefully, we will learn from other communities and States, and hopefully they will learn from us.

One of the reasons I love recycling so much flows from my belief that all of us can do our part to preserve limited resources and reduce landfill input, while at the same time helping our environment and creating jobs.

Mine is a little State. I tell people, even today, that we are the 49th largest State. That means only Rhode Island is smaller than us. We are about 100 miles long and 50 miles wide, so recycling is particularly important. We just doesn’t have a lot of space for landfills. We have about 1 million people, and it is just a matter of having enough space. That space limitation is actually what prompted Delaware to pass the Universal Recycling Law in 2010. It requires that all waste haulers who provide residential trash collection also have to provide for the collection of recyclables. Think about that. That was the law we passed about 9 years ago, I think under the leadership of either Governor Markell or Governor Minner. We started a little bit of recycling. We started getting serious about it when I was Governor. They really ramped it up in the last decade, which is wonderful.

Since the law’s passage, the First State—that is Delaware, if you didn’t know—has continued to recycle somewhere around 40 percent of all of our waste, most recently recycling a little bit more than 43 percent in 2017.

I have a friend who, when you ask him how he is doing, he sometimes replies: Compared to what? Well, compared to more than a decade ago, in 2006, the First State diverted about half as much—23 percent of our waste from landfills. So we pretty much doubled that over the last 10 years. Hopefully, we will come close to doubling it again in the years to come.

Today the recycling industry faces unprecedented challenges, especially with respect to plastics. The United States used to ship a lot of our recyclables, as you know, to China, but beginning in 2017, China decided to ban 24 types of what are called scrap imports and deployed strict contamination requirements for the scraps they will accept. They didn’t want to have glass mixed up with metals, mixed up with plastic and paper. They are looking to reduce contamination like that, and they made their rules a whole lot stricter in that regard.

Now, because of the policies China implemented in March of this year, local governments and municipalities are facing an uphill challenge to keep their recycling programs alive. According to the EPA, the United States recycles less than 22 percent of our discarded materials, which makes me feel better in Delaware because we are like twice the national average now.

According to a peer-reviewed study published in 2017, more than 90 percent of plastic has never been recycled. Let me say that again. According to a peer-reviewed study published in 2017—2 years ago—more than 90 percent of plastic has never been recycled. That means we have only recycled about 9 percent of our plastic around the world. Of the 8.3 billion metric tons of plastic produced, 6.3 billion tons—that is about three-fourths of all that is produced—becomes waste. The rest gets recycled; the lion’s share of it does not. Most of it ends up in landfills, and too much of it, unfortunately, ends up in our oceans and environment.

I have a couple of our colleagues on the Environment and Public Works Committee. The Presiding Officer is one of them, and we have Senator BOOZMAN. The three of us are all members on the committee. I think Senator DAN SULLIVAN from Alaska and Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE—a Republican and a Democrat—have been working hard, along with TOM UDALL from New Mexico, who is on the Commerce Committee, to try to address some of these plastic contaminations.

If we continue down this path, the world economic forum predicts that we are on track to have plastic pollution in our oceans outweigh the fish in our world’s ocean by 2050. Let that sink in for just a minute. By 2050, if we continue on the track we are on, we are

going to end up having more plastic pollution by weight than fish in our world's oceans. That is not a good thing.

Last time I checked, Delaware is blessed with more five-star beaches than any other State in America. If we don't begin to change our recycling habits, the waves that grace our pristine beaches will be better known for washing up plastic waste than giving surfers those big waves to ride.

Almost every year I participate in something called Delaware's Annual Coastal Cleanup, along with thousands of people. We start down at Fenwick Island—right in the southernmost part of Delaware, a great beach town, and right north of the Ocean City, MD, line—to clean up our beaches and our waterfronts, from the Delaware and Maryland line all the way up almost to Pennsylvania in the north.

While we are still waiting for the numbers from this year, last year, in 2018, my fellow volunteers and I—thousands of us—together collected 2.7 tons of waste, including plastic water bottles, straws, takeout containers, tires, and you name it. This was from just one weekend of work along 70 miles of coastline.

Sadly, those 2.7 tons of trash collected last year in Delaware pale in comparison to what we are seeing around the world. Our 2.7 tons of trash is like the tip of the iceberg, compared to all the rest of this washing up in places around the world.

I think we might have one more chart. Some of you have also heard of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, which now covers a surface area on the Earth 250 times larger than my whole State of Delaware and contains a whopping 80,000 tons of trash. Here it is. Can you imagine? Look at all that trash.

It is out in the Pacific Ocean, and I would like to say that it is getting smaller. I don't think it is, but it needs to, and we need to be a part of that in making some progress.

As we celebrate America Recycles Day tomorrow, I just want to encourage you to join Senator BOOZMAN and join our colleagues and their constituents and join us in looking for new ways to dramatically increase recycling in our country and around the world. We need solutions that are a win-win for our economy on the one hand and for our environment on the other hand. I believe recycling is one of those win-win solutions.

By the way, you may be surprised to learn that recycling and manufacturing industries are beneficial for our economy, accounting for more than 750,000 jobs and approximately \$6.7 billion in tax revenues. That reminds me of one of my favorite sayings: "It is possible to do good and to do well at the same time." It is possible to clean up our planet and make the planet safer and create jobs and economic opportunities.

It is not a Hobson's choice. It is not one or the other. We can do both. I be-

lieve that if we work hard, we work together, and we work to leverage points of consensus rather than points of disagreement, we will continue to make progress. Recycling is something that I think every American can do to make a difference.

I once read somewhere how many aluminum cans we drink and use and consume. It could be tea, it could be soda, it could be milk or variety of waters, but if people just would recycle their aluminum cans, it would have a terrific effect on, believe it or not, carbon dioxide. It is put up in the air. So that affects climate change as well.

There are a lot of good effects. Recycling is something that every American can do to make a difference. I would ask you to start today. If you have already gotten started, figure out how to do better. On America Recycles Day, our children and our grandchildren will be glad that we did it in the years to come.

Again, I am grateful to be here today with my dedicated cochair, my compadre, Senator BOOZMAN. I thank him for his leadership and for providing, with our staff, great ideas to make this particular America Recycles Day an even bigger and better thing than before.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I thank Senator CARPER and his staff and my staff for the tremendous job that they have done in recent years in really trying to educate, through the caucus, the rest of the staff and Members as to the importance of recycling. As a result of their efforts, it really is making a big difference.

We hear a lot about Republicans and Democrats not getting along on this and that, not getting anything done, and I think this is a great example of something that is very, very important. It is not glamorous, but it is things like this that really can make a huge difference, as Senator CARPER alluded to. We appreciate him and appreciate his friendship.

Well, tomorrow, November 15, is America Recycles Day. So we are asking Americans to join us as we come together and reaffirm the importance and the benefits of recycling on this occasion. We all know that recycling is a commonsense way for us to be responsible stewards of our environment. Recycling also strengthens our economy and creates hundreds of thousands of well-paying jobs throughout our country. This is something that I believe everyone can agree is truly a win-win situation.

Most Americans are familiar with traditional recycling efforts at their city and county levels, which encourage citizens to recycle household goods or business goods, such as paper, soda cans, and bottles. However, recycling is much broader than these common practices. Recycling is a \$200 billion industry in our country, and it entails much, much more than just traditional municipal recycling programs.

My State of Arkansas is home to many examples of companies that are contributing to a robust and growing commercial recycling industry. I will give you an example.

Nucor, a leading steel producer located in Blytheville, AR, has the capacity to recycle 6 million tons of steel per year—6 million tons—and over 27 million tons nationwide, making it North America's largest recycler. Nucor has also taken its efforts a step further by teaming with local recycling facilities to help tackle some of the biggest challenges associated with the practice in rural communities.

Nucor donated a recycled cardboard baler to Abilities Unlimited, a local nonprofit that runs a nearby recycling facility. This investment has proven mutually beneficial to Nucor and to the community. This facility now provides an outlet for the steel company and community members to recycle in a much more cost-effective manner.

In fact, Nucor plants in Arkansas have the capability to recycle about 60 tons of cardboard annually thanks to this baler. More than 195 tons of cardboard, 21 tons of paper, and 71 tons of mixed plastics have been recycled through this partnership.

Another industry leader leading the way is Walmart. As the world's largest retailer, Walmart has put recycling front and center by raising its packaging standards to include more recycled content and to eliminate specific nonrecyclable packaging materials by 2020. Earlier this year, Walmart announced its intention to achieve 100 percent recyclable, reusable, or industrially compostable packaging by 2025. Its leadership in this arena will help to create more demand for recycled content and open the door for other companies to follow suit.

Lastly, I want to highlight the recycling accomplishments of Bryce Corporation, a trailblazer in flexible packaging. This is the packaging commonly used for chips, juice pouches, pet food, lawn and garden materials, cleaning supplies, and many other products. Bryce employs about 750 people at its Searcy facility and has achieved an environmental footprint that the Central Arkansas community can be very proud of.

At this location alone, Bryce has maintained a 98-percent landfill-free status and has supported the circular economy by recycling over 15 million pounds of plastics each year. The material recycled from this facility is repurposed into other products, ranging from plastic pallets to automotive parts. Bryce Corporation's innovative efforts are a sterling example of recycling done right, and I am grateful for the example it has set for the rest of the country.

Our country has certainly faced its fair share of recycling woes and setbacks, but I have always maintained that in adversity lies opportunity. I believe there is much to be learned from

the meaningful work that these companies are doing in Arkansas, and I commend them on leading on the issue.

The United States has the ability now to improve its waste management and recycling infrastructure and better leverage the economic and environmental benefits of recycling.

I look forward to continue my work with my cochair of the Recycling Caucus, Senator CARPER. Again, I thank him and his staff and my staff, who are doing such a tremendous job, and the other members of the caucus who develop meaningful, long-term solutions that address the challenges facing the industry.

I encourage all Americans to use America Recycles Day as an opportunity to reflect on the critical importance of recycling and to consider what we can do to support our environment through our own individual efforts.

Mr. CARPER. Would the Senator yield for a moment?

Mr. BOOZMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARPER. Thank you for sharing with us the terrific ideas of what businesses around Arkansas and the country are doing to recycle. They do it for a variety of reasons. It is the right thing to do, and a lot of them are committed to being good environmental stewards. It can also be to their economic advantage. Instead of having to pay to have stuff being carted away to a landfill, the ability to recycle materials is, I think, desirable.

We used to have a big Chrysler plant in Delaware, in Newark, close to the University of Delaware and close to the Maryland line. The plant was about 60 years old, and in the middle of the great recession, Chrysler went into bankruptcy, and we lost that plant. It closed, and about 3,000 jobs were gone. We had a GM plant as well about 15 miles from there, just outside of Wilmington, and the same thing happened. About 3,000 jobs were gone, which was just really, really tough.

Having said that—in your words again, in adversity lies opportunity—the folks at the University of Delaware called me. After Chrysler had gone into bankruptcy, they announced that they were selling the plant. They were looking to sell it, and the folks at the University of Delaware and the president of the university, Pat Harker, called me and said: Do you think the Chrysler people might be interested in selling that plant to the university?

It was just about a half mile south of the University of Delaware in Newark.

I called the people at Chrysler and said: You may have an interested buyer here.

They ended up coming to an agreement on the terms of the purchase, and that old Chrysler plant has been recycled. The plant was largely taken down—not entirely, but largely taken down. The money that the University of Delaware earned and generated from the sale of the recyclables—the construction stuff that the plant was made out of—more than paid for taking down and leveling the plant.

Now the University of Delaware has a site of several hundred acres, and they are redeveloping that as a science, technology, and manufacturing facility with a lot of tenants and more to come. So there really is opportunity in adversity.

The other thing I would say is that we got some shredding machines. I had a picture up there of an old shredding machine, and we bought a new one not long ago. So we ended up with a lot of shredded paper. As it turns out, the weekly recyclers, when they come through our neighborhood and collect, they are happy to take the paper, but they don't want to take the shredded paper. What they said that we ought to do is to put it in our compost.

My wife came up with this idea of composting 10 years ago. Somebody was nice enough to build a 4-by-6 and about 3-foot high bin and then lined it with materials, and we put grass in it, recyclables, leaves, and we ended up with this great mulch. We have, I think, taken what a lot of people have seen as waste product and ended up actually turning it into something to make our lawn and our trees and our shrubs even healthier.

It is all good. I am just thrilled to be on the floor with my friend and to be able to thank those who are recycling and remind others, if you are not, that you are missing out on the fun. Come and join us. You will be glad you did.

Mr. BOOZMAN. I think you make a great point in the sense that we do things for the right reasons. That is so important. Also, it is important, too, that not only can we do it for the right reasons and benefit our environment, but it also can be cost-effective to our businesses.

A good example of that is Walmart. Several years ago, they wanted to reduce their fuel cost and then also reduce the harm in the sense of the landfills and things like that. They looked and saw that on their trucks, the limiting factor was not weight. It was bulk. You know how you go to the store and you buy something and it has got this huge box or whatever and it has got the little bitty product in it. They said, you know, we don't need to be doing that.

So they told their vendors that they would like to go in that direction, and to their credit, the vendors cooperated.

As a result, they were able to put more products on the truck, thus reducing fuel costs—again benefiting the economy—and having less bulk for consumers to deal with eventually. That was putting less pressure on the environment because, you know, some people don't do a good job of recycling.

These things can be so good for not only doing the right thing but also improving the bottom line and making sure that we really are putting less pressure on the environment.

We appreciate your leadership. You have been doing this for a long time, as Governor and now as Senator, helping to put these things together. We very much appreciate it.

Mr. CARPER. If the gentleman would yield the floor for a moment, I said earlier in my remarks, to paraphrase it again, that it is possible to do good and do well at the same time. It really is. I am just happy that more and more people are doing that.

While we are having this conversation, I just want to mention that when we showed up at the recycling event at Glascow High School last Saturday afternoon, they took a bunch of our stuff to recycle—papers, bottles, cans, paint thinners, a dehumidifier, and all kinds of stuff. One thing they wouldn't take was our Styrofoam. We have one place in Delaware—and we are not a big State; 100 miles long and 50 miles wide—we have one place in Delaware that will take Styrofoam.

What I would love to do in the months to come and in the new year is for us to start on recycling projects and focus on that because it is not a problem only in Delaware; there are a lot of places where it is hard to recycle Styrofoam. We can try to figure it out. Maybe somebody around the world or somebody in other States has figured this out and they are doing it. We need to learn from them, find out what works, and do more of that. In my State, we have a hard time dealing with it.

Mr. BOOZMAN. We look forward to having a robust bunch of programs.

It is so important to educate people on what is recyclable because not everyone knows. Different things are recyclable from one area to another area. So we need education on that, and that will make it much more efficient, with people putting in the correct things.

So we have some obstacles to overcome, but the good news is, there are people working together, and we are moving in the right direction.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I think I will yield back the time.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to 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.

REDUCING PANDEMIC RISK

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, we do not have to be reminded of the more than