

sale of E15, which is 15 percent ethanol-blended fuel. I spent over a decade advocating the year-round sale of E15, and I was very pleased by the administration's announcement.

However, for corn farmers to see the full benefit of year-round E15 sales, the Environmental Protection Agency needs to start accounting for its unprecedented use of small refinery exemptions. These so-called hardship waivers should be limited only to instances where small refiners would no longer be profitable or competitive by complying with their blending obligation under the renewable fuel standard.

On Friday, the EPA is poised to finalize a supplemental rule that it assures us will deliver on the President's commitments to account for waivers and to truly blend 15 billion gallons of ethanol each year.

However, based on this EPA's track record, it is difficult to trust it will retreat from its aggressive issuance of small refinery exemptions. I hope the EPA proves me wrong, but I think I speak for most of farm country when I say I will believe it when I see it.

On the topic of renewable fuels, I am happy to be able to say that the biodiesel tax credit will be extended for 5 years, through 2022, as part of this year's tax extenders deal. Biodiesel is a good deal for farmers, as it adds value to each bushel of soybeans by making use of the oil from bean processing, and it is a good deal for our environment because the use of this fuel lowers emissions.

MOBILE NOW ACT

Mr. President, as a former chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee and current chair of the Commerce Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet, I have spent a lot of time over the last few years focused on Internet, communications, and data privacy issues.

One big priority of mine has been paving the way for 5G—the next generation of wireless technology—ensuring that rural areas and not just big cities get this technology.

Last year, the President signed the law, my bipartisan MOBILE NOW Act, which was legislation I introduced to help secure adequate spectrum for 5G technology.

STREAMLINE SMALL CELL DEPLOYMENT ACT

Mr. President, earlier this year, Senator SCHATZ and I introduced the STREAMLINE Small Cell Deployment Act to address the other part of the 5G equation. That is infrastructure.

I was thrilled to be home in Sioux Falls to mark a huge milestone for the city and for South Dakota—the unveiling of Sioux Falls' first 5G small cells, which are small antennas that will join traditional cell towers to support 5G technology.

5G has tremendous promise for rural areas, but it will deliver on that promise only if we ensure that 5G cells are actually deployed in these areas. I am proud we have made a good start in

South Dakota. The Sioux Falls mayor, Paul TenHaken, has worked aggressively to remove barriers to telecommunications investment in Sioux Falls.

Advancing 5G will continue to be a priority of mine here in the Senate. We want the United States, not China or South Korea, to win the race to 5G and to seize the economic benefits that 5G will bring.

Another thing I have spent a lot of time working on in the Commerce Committee this year is data privacy. In October, I introduced the Filter Bubble Transparency Act, which is designed to address one aspect of the data privacy problem—the issues that arise from internet companies' use of consumers' personal data to shape what consumers see on their platforms.

I also introduced legislation this year with Senator ED MARKEY to address the problem of annoying, illegal robocalls. I am hopeful that our legislation, the Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence Act—or the TRACED Act—will pass the Senate soon and be on the President's desk before Christmas.

I have worked on a lot of other bills this year to make life better for South Dakotans and American families. I have introduced tax reform bills to help small businesses, update the tax code for the 21st century economy, encourage charitable giving, and permanently protect family farms from the death tax. I have introduced legislation to protect access to healthcare in rural areas, helped Americans repay their student loans, and much more. I will continue to work on these issues in the new year.

As always, my priority will be ensuring that Congress is addressing the challenges facing South Dakota families.

The holidays are a time to reflect on the blessings we have received, and I feel truly blessed to call the great State of South Dakota home. It is an honor and a privilege to represent the people of South Dakota in the U.S. Senate.

To all South Dakotans, I hope you have a wonderful Christmas and a joyous holiday season. I look forward to continuing to represent your priorities here in Washington and in the coming new year.

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.

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

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

CHANGE OF VOTE

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, on roll-call vote No. 380, I was recorded as yea. It was my intention to be recorded as

nay. Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to change my vote since it will not affect the outcome.

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

Ms. HASSAN. Thank you.

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

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

IMPEACHMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, in response to the limited set of relevant witnesses I proposed for a potential Senate trial earlier this week, the Republican leader gave a lengthy speech on the floor yesterday and another speech today. In neither of those speeches could the Republican leader offer one salient argument as to why the witnesses I proposed—all senior Trump administration officials—shouldn't be allowed to testify. Instead, he made what are, in my view, irrelevant and incomplete comparisons to the 1999 Clinton trial.

When faced with the fact that it is only fair to have these witnesses, who were eyewitnesses to the major, major allegations against the President and who had not testified before, the leader can't talk about 2019. He has to go back to 1999 because he has no good argument as to why they shouldn't testify.

We are not asking to be dilatory. We are not asking for a list of 4,000 witnesses. We are simply asking that those who know the truth best come and talk to us here in the Senate and to the American people.

There is one fact that is impossible for the Senate to ignore. In the two Presidential impeachment trials in the history of this body, the Senate heard from witnesses, but Leader MCCONNELL continues to push for no witnesses in the Senate trial. I have yet to hear an explanation as to why less evidence is better than more evidence, particularly when it comes to something as somber, as serious, and as important as impeachment of the President of the United States of America.

Leader MCCONNELL keeps talking about 1999 because he doesn't want to talk about 2019. The two situations are not analogous. Rather than focus on the past, the Republican leader should focus on the present and offer one good reason why relevant witnesses shouldn't testify in an impeachment trial of President Trump, particularly in light of the fact that we have not