

still not transmitted the articles to this body for a trial, has still not appointed managers for a trial, has still not exhibited the articles before this body for a trial.

We now have the longest delay in American history in providing notice to this body and actually moving forward with a trial, and now I think we have a better sense of what was urgent. What was urgent was fulfilling the partisan vendetta that the Speaker of the House and the Democrats have against this President. What was urgent was overturning the results of an election that they have never accepted. That is what was urgent.

But now—now that it is time to actually try the case—well, now the Speaker and the Democrats aren't so sure. In fact, now they don't seem to want a trial. Now, when it is time to put up or shut up, actually put the evidence forward to be judged, Speaker PELOSI is saying that she may withhold the articles indefinitely and prevent this body indefinitely from carrying out its constitutional responsibilities—after, of course, a bipartisan coalition in the House of Representatives voted against impeachment.

I think we can probably see, the longer we wait, why the Speaker is so reluctant now to have a trial. It was a purely partisan process in the House. She had Democrats abandon her and vote with Republicans in a bipartisan coalition against impeachment. The articles don't even allege a crime. This was the first time in American history in the impeachment of a President in which no crime was even alleged in the articles, no evidence of a crime even presented. No wonder she doesn't want to have a trial. No wonder she is now sitting on the articles and will not permit a Senate trial to begin.

Well, here is the problem with that: The Constitution of the United States is really clear. The House has the power to impeach. They have done that. But the Senate—and the Senate alone—has the power to try.

The Constitution, article I, says that the Senate has the sole power to try impeachment cases, to adjudicate what has happened in the House, to examine the facts, and to render a judgment of some sort. Now the House Speaker is attempting to prevent the Senate from carrying out its constitutional responsibilities, its constitutional prerogative.

All of this division and rancor—all of this bitterness that she has put the country through now for months on end—she apparently wants to continue indefinitely and deny this body its constitutional responsibility to conduct a trial.

It has been 19 days. It could be 90 days. It could be 190 days. There is nothing that will stop the Speaker from sitting on these articles indefinitely. They could persist into the President's second term, if and when he is reelected. That is the situation we are now facing.

If Americans are sick of this impeachment saga, this partisan circus now, just wait until we are still sitting here in October or January of next year or January of the year following or who knows when without a trial, without adjudication, without any resolution. That is why it is time for this body to act.

It is time for the Senate to act to preserve the Constitution's separation of powers, to preserve the Constitution's guarantees—the right to due process, the right for the President to be heard, the right for the American people to have these Articles of Impeachment adjudicated, resolved, as the Constitution commits to and provides for. That is why today I am introducing a resolution to update the Senate's rules to account for this unprecedented attempt by the Speaker of the House to delay, to deny, to obstruct a trial in the U.S. Senate.

Let's be clear. This has never been done before. It has not even been thought of before. Nobody had thought, before Speaker PELOSI launched this gambit 19 days ago, that the House could sit on Articles of Impeachment indefinitely in order to stop a Senate trial.

If the Constitution is going to remain in effect, if the Senate is going to have the power, as the Constitution provides, to try cases, if the President is going to get his day in court, if the American people are going to have the ability to have this issue resolved, to see the facts, to get a verdict, the Senate has to act.

Today I am proposing new rules in the U.S. Senate that will set a time limit on the actions of the House. It will give the House Speaker 25 days from the date that the articles are adopted and published to transmit those articles here to the Senate, to exhibit them as the House rules and Senate rules currently speak of and anticipate, and if that is not done, if in 25 days the House Speaker has not acted so that the Senate is able to move forward with a trial, then, under my resolution and the change in the rules that I propose today, the Senate would be able to introduce a motion to dismiss these articles for lack of prosecution.

In the real world, when a prosecutor brings a case but refuses to try it, the court has the ability and the defendant has the right—a constitutional right, I might add—to have those indictments, those charges, dismissed. That is precisely the action that I am proposing today.

It is time to update the Senate's rules to account for this unprecedented attempt at obstruction, at denial, at delay. It is time for the Senate to act.

The House has a simple choice in front of it—or it should. That choice is to send the Articles of Impeachment to this body to be tried before this body, to exhibit the evidence that it has to make the case that it can, however poor that case may be, but to make the case that it can and to allow the Amer-

ican people the right to have this resolution achieved, the right to have the evidence tried, the right to have the verdict rendered.

It is time for the Senate to act to ensure that the constitutional balance of power, the constitutional separation of powers, and the basic functioning of this government of our Republic are able to go forward. This is a matter of great urgency. There is nothing more serious than an attempt to overturn the results of a democratic election and to remove from office a sitting President, and that is exactly what is happening now.

It is imperative that we act. The country deserves it. It is imperative for future Congresses and for the future of the country that the Constitution not be subverted in this rush by Speaker PELOSI and House Democrats to remove this President from office without evidence, on no basis, and solely for political purposes. We must defend the Constitution, and we must act now to do so.

#### RELEASING A FEDERAL REVERSIONARY INTEREST IN CHESTER COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 377, S. 3076.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3076) to release a federal reversionary interest in Chester County, Tennessee, to manage certain Federal land in Bath County, Virginia, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. I further 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 with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (S. 3076) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 3076

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

#### SECTION 1. CHESTER COUNTY REVERSIONARY INTEREST RELEASE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(2) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of Tennessee.

(3) STATE FOREST LAND.—The term “State forest land” means the approximately 0.62-acre parcel of land in Chickasaw State Forest that is identified as “State Forest Land” on the map prepared by the Forest Service entitled “State Forest Land Detail Map” and dated December 13, 2019.

(4) WEBB PROPERTY.—The term “Webb property” means the approximately 0.90-acre parcel of land owned by Kirby and Leta Webb

identified as “Webb Property Lot 1” on the map entitled “Webb Property Detail Map” and dated December 13, 2019.

(b) RELEASE OF REVERSIONARY INTEREST.—

(1) RELEASE.—On the transfer of ownership of the Webb property to the State for inclusion in the Chickasaw State Forest and the transfer of the State forest land to the State or a non-State entity, by request of the State, the Secretary shall release to the State, without consideration, the reversionary interest of the United States in and to the State forest land described in paragraph (2).

(2) DESCRIPTION OF REVERSIONARY INTEREST.—The reversionary interest referred to in paragraph (1) is the reversionary interest of the United States in and to the State forest land that—

(A) requires that the State forest land be used for public purposes; and

(B) is contained in a deed—

(i) granting from the United States to the State the State forest land;

(ii) dated August 12, 1955; and

(iii) registered on pages 588 through 591 of book 48 of the record of deeds for Chester County, Tennessee.

(c) SALE OF MINERAL RIGHTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to any valid existing rights of third parties, as soon as practicable after the date on which all actions described in subsection (b)(1) have been carried out, the Secretary shall offer to sell to the State the undivided mineral interests of the United States in and to the State forest land.

(2) TERMS OF SALE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall determine—

(i) the mineral character of the State forest land; and

(ii) the market value of the mineral interests referred to in paragraph (1), as determined by an appraisal conducted in accordance with subparagraph (C).

(B) PAYMENT OF COSTS.—As a condition of any sale under this subsection, the State shall pay to the United States—

(i) any administrative costs incurred by the United States in selling to the State the mineral interests referred to in paragraph (1), including the costs incurred by the Secretary in making the determinations required under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) an amount equal to the market value of the mineral interests referred to in paragraph (1), as determined under subparagraph (A)(ii).

(C) APPRAISAL REQUIREMENTS.—An appraisal conducted under subparagraph (A)(ii) shall be—

(i) consistent with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions and the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice; and

(ii) subject to the approval of the Secretary.

**SEC. 2. ADDITIONS TO ROUGH MOUNTAIN AND RICH HOLE WILDERNESSES.**

(a) ROUGH MOUNTAIN ADDITION.—Section 1 of Public Law 100-326 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 102 Stat. 584; 114 Stat. 2057; 123 Stat. 1002) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(21) ROUGH MOUNTAIN ADDITION.—Certain land in the George Washington National Forest comprising approximately 1,000 acres, as generally depicted as the ‘Rough Mountain Addition’ on the map entitled ‘GEORGE WASHINGTON NATIONAL FOREST – South half – Alternative I – Selected Alternative Management Prescriptions – Land and Resources Management Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement’ and dated March 4, 2014, which is incorporated in the Rough Mountain Wilderness Area designated by paragraph (1).”.

(b) RICH HOLE ADDITION.—

(1) POTENTIAL WILDERNESS DESIGNATION.—In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), certain land in the George Washington National Forest comprising approximately 4,600 acres, as generally depicted as the ‘Rich Hole Addition’ on the map entitled ‘GEORGE WASHINGTON NATIONAL FOREST – South half – Alternative I – Selected Alternative Management Prescriptions – Land and Resources Management Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement’ and dated March 4, 2014, is designated as a potential wilderness area for incorporation in the Rich Hole Wilderness Area designated by section 1(2) of Public Law 100-326 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 102 Stat. 584; 114 Stat. 2057; 123 Stat. 1002).

(2) WILDERNESS DESIGNATION.—The potential wilderness area designated by paragraph (1) shall be designated as wilderness and incorporated in the Rich Hole Wilderness Area designated by section 1(2) of Public Law 100-326 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 102 Stat. 584; 114 Stat. 2057; 123 Stat. 1002) on the earlier of—

(A) the date on which the Secretary publishes in the Federal Register notice that the activities permitted under paragraph (4) have been completed; or

(B) the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) MANAGEMENT.—Except as provided in paragraph (4), the Secretary shall manage the potential wilderness area designated by paragraph (1) in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

(4) WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To enhance natural ecosystems within the potential wilderness area designated by paragraph (1) by implementing certain activities to improve water quality and aquatic passage, as set forth in the Forest Service document entitled “Decision Notice for the Lower Cowpasture Restoration and Management Project” and dated December 2015, the Secretary may use motorized equipment and mechanized transport in the potential wilderness area until the date on which the potential wilderness area is incorporated into the Rich Hole Wilderness Area under paragraph (2).

(B) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out subparagraph (A), the Secretary, to the maximum extent practicable, shall use the minimum tool or administrative practice necessary to carry out that subparagraph with the least amount of adverse impact on wilderness character and resources.

**CONSTITUTING THE MAJORITY PARTY’S MEMBERSHIP ON CERTAIN COMMITTEES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS, OR UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS ARE CHOSEN**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 464, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 464) to constitute the majority party’s membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed

to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 464) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

**ORDERS FOR TUESDAY,  
JANUARY 7, 2020**

Mr. McCONNELL. Now, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, January 7; 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 their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Carranza nomination; that notwithstanding rule XXII, the postcloture time expire at 12:15 p.m. tomorrow; and that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess following the vote until 2:15 p.m. to allow for weekly conference meetings, and that at 2:15 p.m., the Senate proceed to the consideration of Executive Calendar No. 329.

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

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.  
TOMORROW**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:51 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, January 7, 2020, at 10 a.m.

**NOMINATIONS**

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

BRANDON LIPPS, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES, VICE KEVIN W. CONCANNON.

**DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**

JESSIE K. LIU, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR TERRORISM AND FINANCIAL CRIMES, VICE SIGAL MANDELKER, RESIGNED.

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

NEIL JACOBS, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR OCEANS AND ATMOSPHERE, VICE KATHRYN D. SULLIVAN, RESIGNED.

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

KATHARINE MACGREGOR, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, VICE DAVID BERNHARDT, RESIGNED.

**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

DAVID A. WRIGHT, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR