

and for unity. Our bicameral, bipartisan talks have made great headway. It is time to give our public health experts and healthcare professionals the surge of resources they need at this challenging time.

S. 2657

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, in the meantime, the Senate will continue considering an important package of comprehensive energy legislation. For the first time in more than a decade, we are looking at a thorough update to the laws governing innovation, security, and workforce development all across the American energy sector.

As Chairman MURKOWSKI has noted, 12 years is a long time. The demands we face in researching, producing, refining, storing, and protecting our abundant domestic energy have evolved a great deal since 2007, so it is high time for relevant Federal policy to evolve as well. I am grateful the chairman was willing to take on this important task, and I am glad she and Senator MANCHIN led their colleagues on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee through an overwhelmingly bipartisan process to produce this bill.

As I mentioned yesterday, the legislation aggregates 50 individual bills. It contains input from more than 60 Senators. It covers an exhaustive range of energy-related challenges, from power storage and renewable technologies to carbon capture and electrical grid cyber security.

It has earned the support of a similarly broad range of industry, advocacy, and research organizations. In one joint letter, the Bipartisan Policy Center, the American Nuclear Society, the Nature Conservancy, and 36 other signatories endorsed it as “the culmination of extensive efforts to develop practical legislative solutions.” That is the American Nuclear Society and the Nature Conservancy—that ought to tell you what you need to know about this bill. This is a bipartisan piece of legislation done right. This is how you take practical steps to build consensus on issues that affect every American in every State.

Around this time last year, you will recall we saw a high-profile example of exactly what not to do. The far-left edge of the House Democratic caucus rolled out a massive scheme to forcibly remake much of our economy and our society according to their radical top-down designs.

We all remember the Green New Deal—categorical bans on the most affordable forms of American energy, a dim future for millions of energy jobs, unprecedented Washington mandates on every subject from building codes to personal transportation. We all remember what happened next: This socialist fantasy did not stay confined to ideological fringe; it quickly grew into a broader rallying cry. When the Senate had the opportunity to vote on this

wish list of central planning, only four—just four—of our Democratic colleagues could bring themselves to vote against it. That is quite a remarkable commentary on the state of our politics.

Experts estimated the Green New Deal could have cost our government more than the GDP of the entire world. The Green New Deal could have cost our government more than the GDP of the entire world. Instead, this bipartisan legislation will let us direct responsible and targeted investment in a smart way toward key energy priorities.

The Green New Deal sought to have Washington micromanage everyday life in this country to a degree that the 20th-century Socialists would have drooled over. Instead, this bipartisan legislation will create better policy and regulatory conditions for American workers, American innovators, and American job creators to actually thrive.

Speaking as the senior Senator from Kentucky, I know firsthand that many Americans in the middle of the country suffered badly during the Obama era because Washington bureaucrats decided American energy had to fit their ideological designs. The very last thing we want is to move backward and expand those errors exponentially with radical leftwing experiments that would make the last administration's War on Coal look like child's play.

What Kentuckians and all Americans deserve is for the Federal Government to make prosperity and domestic energy dominance easier—easier—not harder. They deserve investment and support to help the communities that have fueled this country for generations to prosper once again, and that is what this bipartisan bill will actually deliver.

I am proud to support this smart legislation. Clearly, I am not alone, since only three Senators voted against advancing the bill this week. So I would urge all of my colleagues to keep up their support, and let's see this package through to the finish line.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

ADVANCED GEOTHERMAL INNOVATION LEADERSHIP ACT OF 2019—MOTION TO PROCEED—Resumed

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

sume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2657, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to S. 2657, a bill to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, today we vote to begin the consideration of S. 2657, which will serve as the vehicle for the American Energy Innovation Act. This is truly bipartisan energy policy. This innovative package will be the first comprehensive policy update in 13 years. It brings together the strong bipartisan work of the Energy Committee over the last year.

I would like to thank my friend and chairman of the committee, LISA MURKOWSKI, Republican from Alaska, for her leadership and partnership with me over the last 14 months to process these bills and form the basis of the energy package we will be turning to today.

Thanks to the members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee for their contributions to the development of this legislation.

The American Energy Innovation Act draws from 53 bills from Members from both sides of the aisle, and 39 of those were truly a bipartisan effort. And 63 Members of the Senate have either sponsored or cosponsored a piece of this package.

It truly is a bipartisan product and one that I believe will benefit this country greatly. So far, we have had over 150 amendments filed, several of which are bipartisan, and there is no controversial issue that I know of. I am hoping that we can work together to incorporate some of those amendments from both sides of the aisle.

As it stands, the American Energy Innovation Act will advance the abilities of Department of Energy and the National Laboratories to deliver the much needed technology that American workers can then produce and export across the global marketplace. Not only will it further our ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from energy, transportation, industry, and buildings, but it will also enhance our cyber and grid security and maintain our competitive edge and role as a global leader.

We talk a lot—all of us do—about global climate, and when you think about global climate, then you think about our responsibility and what we emit into the air. For some reason, most people have been led to believe that power generation—whether it be coal-fired powerplants, natural gas-fired powerplants, or anything that has to do with fossil—is contributing all of the greenhouse gas emissions in the United States. That is just not true.

Let me give you the breakdown. Power generation contributes 27.5 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions.

Power generation is how you get your electricity—if it comes from a coal-fired powerplant, gas, or any other type of fossil.

Transportation is how we come and go back and forth to work and how we receive our goods. Whether it is going to be by car, by train, by plane, or by trucks, 29 percent of the responsibility for greenhouse gases goes to transportation.

The industry is where people work, where they make their living, provide for their family, whether it be in a small factory, a large factory, a small business, or a high-tech business. Industry contributes 22 percent of greenhouse gas emissions.

Commercial and residential, which is the building we are in today, which is the beautiful Capitol, and where we live—just the commercial and residential—are 11.5 percent responsible for greenhouse gases.

So you have to have an “all in” policy. One thing doesn’t fit, and we don’t have a silver bullet to fix everything. What we have done is this. You take all of those—power generation, transportation, industry, commercial and residential—and that represents 90 percent of all the greenhouse gas emissions. We are approaching—and, basically, this piece of legislation approaches—every one of those to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions.

If we all work together and pass this truly bipartisan, far-reaching, all-inclusive bill, it will make a world of difference in how we lead the rest of the world in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. That is what we are trying to do.

We do it through innovation. We don’t do it through elimination. Elimination is not practical, responsible, or reasonable. The rest of the world will not follow, and, basically, we have to have baseload fuel. It has to be dependable, reliable, and affordable, but it has to be the cleanest in the world. That is what this bill does.

There is the other 9 percent. You say: Well, that is 90 percent; where is the other 10 percent? That is in agriculture. That is not in our jurisdiction, but they are working very hard in the Agriculture Committee to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and their footprint. Everybody is doing their job.

I believe this package is well balanced, and many of my colleagues’ priorities on both sides of the aisle have been met. This bill represents a critical step in the right direction. I encourage—I truly, sincerely encourage—all of my fellow Members, Democrats and Republicans, to vote yes today on the motion to proceed. Your children will thank us, and your grandchildren and generations after them will definitely thank all of us for doing our job today.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, as the number of confirmed cases of coronavirus in the United States continues to grow, Congress is taking swift action this week to provide our health experts, hospitals, healthcare providers, and State and local governments the funding they need. A bipartisan negotiation between appropriators in the House and Senate is very close to producing an emergency funding bill that will provide between \$7 and \$8 billion to respond to the coronavirus.

This is very close to the amount that I thought was appropriate when I requested it last week—\$8.5 billion—and it is more than four or five times what the administration originally requested. I believe that if we had not pushed them, they would have been totally inadequate to the crisis, as they have been in preparation and planning.

The administration requested \$2.5 billion, which was half, and only half of that was new funding. The rest came from pulling it out of other things, like Ebola, which is very much needed as well. The bill we put together here in Congress is far more appropriate and will actually address our country’s short-term and medium-term needs. This is very, very good news.

I would like to compliment Democrats and Republicans, in the House and the Senate, for making efforts to come together and for being the adults in the room, while President Trump childishly exaggerates, underplays, points fingers of blame, latches on to conspiracy theories, and, most of all, doesn’t lead. This is an example of where America needs leadership, and President Trump’s lack of leadership is glaringly apparent to Americans.

Crucial legislation provides funding for very specific and timely needs. There will be \$350 million for “hot spots”—areas affected by the outbreak. There will be \$500 million to procure pharmaceuticals, masks, protective equipment, and other medical supplies to distribute to States, local governments, and hospitals. There will be \$100 million for community health centers and funding for training and beds. We are replenishing the CDC’s Infectious Disease Rapid Response Reserve Fund so that it can respond quickly to local areas that experience an outbreak.

In total, there is over \$950 million in funding for State and local governments to undertake the many activities they need to respond to the spread of the virus, surveillance for the coronavirus, laboratory testing, contact tracing to identify anyone who may have been infected by a person known to have the virus, infection control at the local level, and more.

This is only one piece of the bill. The rest of the bill will give desperately

needed funds to CDC, HHS, USAID, FDA, and others to do vaccine research and development and much more. The funding level in this bill and the specific use very much reflects the needs of the country as healthcare professionals across America work to confront the spread of the virus.

I want to thank our appropriators on the frontlines: Ranking Member LEAHY and Chairman SHELBY in the Senate and Chair LOWEY and Ranking Member GRANGER in the House. While the Trump administration’s response has been slow and halting, Congress has taken action. While President Trump is playing fast and loose with facts and blaming everyone not named Donald Trump, Congress is taking responsibility in acting like the adult in the room.

Democrats would like to see this emergency funding package passed through the Senate by the end of the week, and we will work with the majority to make sure that that happens. I urge all of my colleagues, in the interest of time, understanding the urgency of the matter, to help us achieve this goal.

Now, yesterday, Vice President MIKE PENCE and his team from CDC, FDA, and HHS met with the Democratic caucus to answer questions about the administration’s response to the coronavirus. We appreciated their willingness to come to our caucus. They stayed. Unlike at some of the previous briefings, they stayed and addressed a lot of our questions. The only problem is they didn’t have as many answers as we needed—answers the American people would have expected at this stage of the epidemic.

One of our top priorities at the moment is testing. We need to know who is infected in order to contain the spread of the virus and treat any American infected by the disease. We asked the administration about the availability of testing kits, but they could not answer how soon hospitals, medical labs, and public health centers would receive the tests and if they would have enough of them to do the amount of testing required fast enough. The best way to deal with testing is to let people do it onsite. Let them go to their local doctor, their local CHC, and get the test and get an answer quickly. Unfortunately, the Vice President and his team had no answers to that. It is a real problem. Our questions at the meeting yesterday should give the administration an urgency to figure this out as soon as possible.

I would also plead with President Trump to begin showing some leadership on the coronavirus. So far, the President’s main concern has been to tamp down concern about the virus. He gives broad assurances that “everything is under control.”

When you show up at your doctor’s office because you think you might have the coronavirus and there is no test, he doesn’t know what to do. He just says: Go home and don’t go to work.

That is not “everything under control,” Mr. President.

If any member of his administration tells the President something optimistic, he repeats it and usually exaggerates it. The disease will magically disappear when the weather gets warm; a vaccine will be ready soon—all misstatements from President Trump.

In a televised meeting with government health experts and pharmaceutical experts, the President repeatedly failed to comprehend that a vaccine would take over a year to develop and test. This is the President of the United States during a crisis. He doesn't even understand the basic rudiments of what is going on. He suggested blithely that we could just use the influenza vaccine for the coronavirus, and he was quickly corrected by Dr. Fauci, one of our health experts. Twenty-four hours later, the President was claiming that pharmaceutical executives would speed up the production of a vaccine as a “favor” to him.

President Trump, people are sick. People are dying. This virus is wreaking havoc on the economy, and you look at it as a favor to you? It is not about you, Mr. President; it is about America and the crisis and what our Federal Government is doing to help.

The President saying it was a favor to him, stating such blatant mistruths, was a shocking demonstration of just how little the President listens, how little the President learns, and how little leadership he shows at a time when we desperately need leadership.

During a public health crisis of this magnitude, we need steady and confident leadership from President Trump. So far, it has been totaling lacking—unfortunately for America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time is expired.

The question occurs on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

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 Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that 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 (Mr. SASSE). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 90, nays 4, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 64 Leg.]

YEAS—90

Alexander	Fischer	Perdue
Baldwin	Gardner	Peters
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Portman
Bennet	Graham	Reed
Blumenthal	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Harris	Roberts
Booker	Hassan	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rosen
Braun	Heinrich	Rounds
Brown	Hirono	Rubio
Burr	Hoeben	Sasse
Cantwell	Hyde-Smith	Schumer
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cardin	Johnson	Shaheen
Carper	Kaine	Shelby
Casey	Kennedy	Sinema
Cassidy	King	Smith
Collins	Lankford	Stabenow
Coons	Leahy	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Loeffler	Tester
Cotton	Manchin	Thune
Cramer	Markley	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Toomey
Cruz	McSally	Udall
Daines	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Moran	Whitehouse
Enzi	Murkowski	Wicker
Ernst	Murphy	Wyden
Feinstein	Murray	Young

NAYS—4

Lee	Schatz
Paul	Scott (FL)

NOT VOTING—6

Blackburn	Jones	Sanders
Cornyn	Klobuchar	Warren

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill.

ADVANCED GEOTHERMAL INNOVATION LEADERSHIP ACT OF 2019

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2657) to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I have polled the Members of the Energy Committee and now withdraw the committee-reported substitute amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is withdrawn.

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 1407

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.)

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I call up substitute amendment No. 1407.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Alaska [Ms. MURKOWSKI] proposes amendment No. 1407.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be waived.

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

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of March 3, 2020, under “Text of Amendments.”)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

AMENDMENT NO. 1419 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1407

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 1419.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL], for Ms. ERNST, proposes an amendment numbered 1419 to amendment No. 1407.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be waived.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To establish a grant program for training wind technicians)

At the end of subtitle C of title II, add the following:

SEC. 23. WIND ENERGY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

(a) WIND TECHNICIAN TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title XI of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16411 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 1107. WIND TECHNICIAN TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM.

“(a) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this section, the term ‘eligible entity’ means a community college or technical school that offers a wind training program.

“(b) GRANT PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall establish a program under which the Secretary shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities to purchase large pieces of wind component equipment (such as nacelles, towers, and blades) for use in training wind technician students.

“(c) FUNDING.—Of the amounts made available to the Secretary for administrative expenses to carry out other programs under the authority of the Secretary, the Secretary shall use to carry out this section \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2025.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-58; 119 Stat. 601) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1106 the following:

“Sec. 1107. Wind technician training grant program.”.

(b) VETERANS IN WIND ENERGY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title XI of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16411 et seq.) (as amended by subsection (a)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 1108. VETERANS IN WIND ENERGY.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a program to prepare veterans for careers in the wind energy industry that shall be modeled off of the Solar Ready Vets pilot program formerly administered by the Department of Energy and the Department of Defense.

“(b) FUNDING.—Of the amounts made available to the Secretary for administrative expenses to carry out other programs under the authority of the Secretary, the Secretary shall use to carry out this section \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2025.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-58; 119 Stat. 601) (as amended by subsection (a)(2)) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1107 the following:

“Sec. 1108. Veterans in wind energy.”.

(c) STUDY AND REPORT ON WIND TECHNICIAN WORKFORCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall convene a task force comprised of 1 or more representatives of each of the stakeholders described in paragraph (2) that shall—

(A) conduct a study to assess the needs of wind technicians in the workforce;

(B) create a comprehensive list that—