

turn supports as many as 30 American jobs.

So I am extremely proud to be a co-sponsor of the Great American Outdoors Act, I am proud of the work our colleagues have put in to get it this far, and I look forward to seeing it passed.

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

TAXPAYER FIRST ACT OF 2019— MOTION TO PROCEED—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 1957, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 75, H.R. 1957, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modernize and improve the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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.

JUSTICE IN POLICING ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, yesterday at the Fountain of Praise Church in Houston, TX, a funeral service was held in honor of the life of George Floyd, whose death has moved hundreds of thousands of people across America and around the world to peacefully march against police violence. Today, his brother Philonise Floyd will testify in front of the House Judiciary Committee.

It is hard to imagine the courage it takes, so soon after the tragic, awful, and brutal loss of a family member, to not only grieve in the national spotlight but to turn that pain into action. There have been many reasons for Americans to be shocked and outraged, angry and frustrated with the injustice they have seen in their country, but the entire Floyd family has given the Nation reason to hope.

Now, Democrats in the House and Senate have proposed legislation that

would directly respond to the issues of racial bias and excessive force in our police departments. The Justice in Policing Act would ban the use of chokeholds, limit the transfer of military equipment to local departments, make it easier to hold police misconduct accountable, and institute a whole lot of reforms to help prevent that misconduct in the first place. It is a comprehensive proposal, and many of the experts on racism, discrimination, and inequality in police departments have had large input into the bill.

We need action on the Justice in Policing Act as soon as possible, and we Democrats in the Senate will work like hell to make it happen. The moment calls for bold and broad-scale change. We need wholesale reform, not piecemeal reform. We cannot approach this debate by cherry-picking one or two reforms and calling the job complete. It is my worry that is what our Republican colleagues intend to do. We need a strong bill. The Justice in Policing Act is where we should begin.

The Senate is a collaborative institution, at least by design, but there is one person alone who decides what legislation reaches the floor, and that is Leader MCCONNELL. For 2 weeks I have asked him to commit to a debate and a vote on a police reform bill by July 4—an open debate and certainly an ability to vote on the Justice in Policing Act. I still have not received an answer.

Is it too much to ask that, as hundreds of thousands, if not millions, are in the streets, when the vast majority of Americans think we need reform, that the leader spend some floor time here so we can debate this issue and maybe move forward for the first time in a long time? I don't think so. But our leader is silent, missing in action, as he is on so many different major issues that face America.

After House and Senate Democrats released the draft legislation on Monday, yesterday, Senate Republicans announced they would put together “a working group” to prepare their own set of proposals. Working groups are all fine and well, but it is critical that we pursue comprehensive reform, not seek the lowest common denominator, and it is critical that we get a real commitment to consider strong legislation on the floor.

Unfortunately, in the aftermath of other recent moments of national strife, particularly the mass shootings, President Trump, Leader MCCONNELL, and Senate Republicans make the right noises—let's study it; let's consider it—but never follow through.

Leader MCCONNELL once promised that a debate on expanding background checks would be “front and center” on the Senate floor after shootings in Dayton and El Paso. “What we can't do is fail to pass something,” he said. Yet there was no debate on expanding background checks, and the Republican majority in the Senate did exactly what Leader MCCONNELL said that it could not—it failed to pass anything on gun safety.

So while I welcome ideas from our Republican colleagues, we need a hard and fast commitment from the Republican leader to put real, broad-scale police reform on the Senate floor before July 4.

Americans, please, be watching the Senate. Watch the leader. Watch the Republicans.

Is this going to be another situation just like with gun control, just like with background checks, where they talked a good game, tried to let the issue fade away, and did nothing? The Nation—the Nation—will not let this issue fade away, I assure my Republican friends.

CORONAVIRUS

There is another major crisis in the country at the moment as well. COVID-19 continues to kill and infect Americans. Case numbers are rising in Western States—Arizona, New Mexico, California, and Oregon. The massive disruption to economic activity initially left more than 40 million—40 million—Americans without work.

This week it became official: The United States has been in recession—the first one in many years—since February.

In truth, the issues of racial justice and COVID-19 are not unrelated. The COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately kills Black Americans. Communities of color have less access to quality healthcare, greater food insecurity, greater percentages of poverty, and a disproportionate number of our front-line essential workers—41.2 percent—are African American and Latino. Yet you are starting to hear my friends on the other side strum sunny chords because one jobs report wasn't quite as awful as it might have been, awful as it was.

The President made a revolting comment that the recent jobs report was a great day for George Floyd and equality, even though it showed African-American unemployment continuing to rise. What a horrible comment.

Everyone is rooting for our country to return to normal as quickly and as safely as possible and for our economy to rebound with similar speed, but unemployment sits at 13 percent—higher than any point since the great recession—and the President and my Republican colleagues are ready to declare victory.

After saying that another COVID relief bill was likely in June, Leader MCCONNELL has told the Republican caucus not to expect another relief bill until late July at the earliest—late July at the earliest, as millions are out of work, millions risk being removed from their homes, millions can't feed their families.

Racial justice, civil rights, a global pandemic, an economic disaster—this is truly a time of historic challenge, and Leader MCCONNELL and the Senate Republicans are missing in action. No

commitment to consider comprehensive police reform. No urgency to provide our country the desperately needed relief from COVID-19. Instead, Leader McCONNELL is likely to schedule votes next week on two circuit court nominees—Justin Walker and Cory Wilson—both of whom have expressed deep-seated antipathy toward our healthcare law. And I am not aware of either of them embracing civil rights, voting rights so desperately needed in this country.

That is right—in the middle of a public health crisis, the Republican majority is planning to confirm rightwing judges who have spoken out against our healthcare law. Watch what they do, not what they say. And what they are doing is regressiveness—it is not even a lack of moving us forward; they attempt to move us backward with rightwing judges who want to turn the clock back.

FBI MISCONDUCT INVESTIGATION

Even more shocking—do you think it can get worse? It does with this Republican majority. The Judiciary Committee tomorrow will hold a hearing. The Republican chairman will continue his pursuit of President Trump's wild conspiracy theories about the 2016 election, asking for scores of subpoenas to chase down alleged misconduct by the FBI.

Let me get this straight: The Republican Party will eagerly focus on law enforcement that affects President Trump, but they aren't ready to commit a focus on law enforcement, on racial equality when Americans demand it? I don't hear anyone other than the President and his acolytes demanding a reinvestigation as it affects President Trump on a largely discredited conspiracy theory. But that is what our Republican Senate friends are doing, showing how removed they are from the national needs and the national sentiment.

Senate Republicans are ready to issue nearly 100 subpoenas to trash the FBI to protect President Trump, but they can't commit to debate on one bill to reform police departments to protect African Americans. Instead of addressing the real challenges African Americans face, the Republican conspiracy caucus is obsessed with viciously attacking the FBI for protecting our national security while Putin interfered in our democracy. What a bizarre and outrageous inversion of our Nation's priorities.

Now I am glad my friend from Illinois is here because it was his leadership that will cause, in the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senate Democrats to request subpoenas for Trump administration officials like Rick Gates, George Papadopoulos, and Michael Flynn, among others. These officials at one time or another have pled guilty to offenses related to Putin's interference in the election. If the Republican conspiracy caucus wants to waste the Senate's time dredging up old conspiracy theories, we are at least going to try to

show and get the story straight and not just call a list of witnesses that they want. It is just crazy. Kangaroo court, kangaroo hearing.

Let's see if the Republicans have any—any—strength of conviction about what they are doing. If they did, they would allow the witnesses that Senator DURBIN and the other members of the Judiciary Committee have proposed to come forward and tell their side of the story—quite contradictory to the witnesses that the Republican majority and the Republican chairman are calling.

PROTESTS

That is one crazy conspiracy theory, but yesterday the country was treated to another one. We seem, in Trump land, in the Trump world, to live in a world of conspiracy theories. Some crazy, discredited, rightwing blogger—sometimes with Russian information—tweets or writes something, and then President Trump goes right ahead and tweets it and talks about it.

I am not in the habit of responding to every Presidential tweet—something I am sure my Republican colleagues are familiar with—but yesterday morning, the President tweeted a vicious attack on a 75-year-old constituent of mine who was seriously injured in Buffalo, NY. The President said he might have belonged to a radical group and that the event might have been a setup because the man “fell harder than was pushed.”

It was disgusting, even for a President known for disgusting attacks. How small a man do you have to be to slander a 75-year-old protester recovering in a hospital? This is the President of the United States, you have to remind yourself from time to time. This is what the President of the United States is doing—acting like a little 12-year-old schoolyard bully.

Apparently, the conspiracy theory the President repeated on Twitter was originally posted on an anonymous blog and then amplified by a reporter who used to work for a Russian state media organization.

It feels like it shouldn't need to be said, but it has to be in a democracy where we believe in facts and truth: The President has an obligation to check out information before giving a platform to crazy conspiracy theories. He is the President, not just some guy. He can't shrug his shoulders and say: Hey, I am just asking questions. He has access to national intelligence.

I call on the President to apologize. I don't expect he will. He never does. So I will just say to my Republican colleagues: You know how wrong his behavior is. You know it. Say so. Say so. Say something. How much do you let this President get away with? How long will you grimace inside or whisper to each other how crazy he is but not say a thing? You, my Republican Senate colleagues, may be the one check left on this President. Where are you? Where are you?

I applaud the few Republicans who have spoken out, but just far too many

have danced the familiar “hear no evil, see no evil” routine. Leader McCONNELL was directly asked and couldn't conjure a word of criticism for the President.

If Republicans can't call out the President on this instance, then what the heck are they doing here? If we can't do legislation on the floor, even during one of the greatest national crises this country has faced, then what the heck are our Republican friends doing here?

On COVID, on police reform, and all too often when the time comes to place a check on the President, the Republican majority is simply missing in action.

GEORGIA PRIMARY

Madam President, one final word on the Georgia primary—yesterday, the State of Georgia held its primary election. Across numerous counties and dozens of polling locations, Georgians waited 3, 4, and in some cases up to 7 hours to cast a ballot. I saw the pictures of the long lines. Numerous polling places failed to open on time; new voting machines may have malfunctioned. Most disgracefully, many of the problems we saw yesterday occurred in precincts with high populations of people of color.

Of course, in past years, the Voting Rights Act would have empowered the Federal Government to oversee and approve the changes that the State of Georgia made to its election process—changes that may well have caused this election disaster. But the Roberts Court, in one of the most misguided decisions in recent Supreme Court history, gutted the Voting Rights Act in the Shelby County decision and opened the door for the confusion we saw yesterday.

The idea that seems to be in the Court's mind—at least the majority of the Court—that the need for section 5 preclearance had passed is clearly refuted by what happened in Georgia yesterday. We have legislation passed by the House that would fix this problem and protect voters against racial discrimination and disenfranchisement, but it has been gathering dust here in the Senate, condemned to Leader McCONNELL's all too full legislative graveyard. Once again—once again—the Republican majority is missing in action, and this time it is on voting rights.

The right to vote in a free and fair election is sacrosanct in this country. Yesterday, Georgia failed miserably for the second election in a row. There ought to be an immediate investigation, and the errors ought to be corrected before the general election. The Senate should take up H.R. 4 and at the very least deliver the necessary resources to election officials in the next COVID relief bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip is recognized.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, one of the things that we have really seen

during the COVID-19 pandemic is the value of telehealth. As a resident of a rural State, I have long been a proponent of telehealth for the access it gives to rural communities.

If you live in a major city, you usually don't have to think too much about where you will find a doctor if you need one. If you need a cardiologist, for example, you don't spend a lot of time worrying whether you will be able to find one within driving distance. In fact, there is a good chance you will have a choice—a wide range of choices for cardiologists. If you have a heart attack, you know you are in reach of at least one hospital and maybe several.

That is not always the case for Americans in rural areas. In the smallest towns in America, access to specialty care can be a challenge. The only providers may be a primary care provider, a nurse, or a pharmacist. These providers are essential to rural families, but sometimes specialty care is needed. When there isn't a specialist close by, telehealth can help get these rural providers and their patients the medical care they need from a remote location through the use of technology.

The coronavirus has highlighted the fact that telehealth is a valuable resource for every American. During the pandemic, we have seen healthcare providers of all types turn to telehealth to continue serving their patients without running the risk of spreading the virus. Telehealth has always allowed patients to access a variety of services that might have been risky to obtain at an office or hospital during the height of the pandemic.

Telehealth's usefulness will extend long beyond the coronavirus crisis. While telehealth has particular value for rural areas, rural, urban, and suburban areas alike experience provider shortages and a lack of access to care. The Association of American Medical Colleges estimates that there will be a shortage of up to 122,000 doctors in the United States by the year 2032. Even in areas without shortages, telehealth can make life easier for patients by reducing the number of times that they have to visit a doctor's office for care.

While there will always be a need to see a doctor in person, for many patients, some office visits can be replaced with telehealth appointments. That can make a big difference for individuals whose health requires them to see a doctor frequently. It is also a convenience for patients in the workforce or caring for children or other family members who may need to be able to access services quickly and easily.

I was very pleased when Congress expanded access to telehealth in the coronavirus relief bills that we passed.

We advanced the principles of value-based insurance design by allowing high-deductible health plans to cover telehealth services prior to a beneficiary's reaching his or her deductible.

We also permitted the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human

Services to waive certain Medicare restrictions on telehealth during a public health emergency, which has been hugely helpful to both seniors and the providers who care for them. With this waiver authority, providers can be paid for seeing patients in their homes, regardless of whether the patient lives in a rural area.

We also expanded the types of services that are reimbursable via telehealth under Medicare. In addition to video, providers are able to offer telehealth appointments using audio-only technology, which is helpful for patients who don't have access to internet or to a smart device.

Congress's coronavirus legislation also increased telehealth access for community health centers, rural health clinics, home health hospice, and home dialysis for the duration of the pandemic.

I would like to see us make many of these measures permanent. I will be pushing for that in the Senate over the coming months, along with the CONNECT for Health Act, which I have cosponsored with Senators SCHATZ, WICKER, CARDIN, WARNER, and HYDE-SMITH for the last several Congresses.

This legislation, which influenced many of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act telehealth provisions, addresses restrictions that limit the use of telehealth in Medicare, including by providing waiver authority for the Secretary of Health and Human Services. In addition, the legislation would remove restrictions that affect Medicare reimbursement for Indian Health Service and facilitate the use of telehealth for emergency medical services and mental health care.

I will also continue to urge passage of the bill I introduced in March to increase telehealth services in nursing facilities. My Reducing Unnecessary Senior Hospitalizations Act, or what we call the RUSH Act, would allow Medicare to establish agreements with a medical group to provide care to nursing home patients remotely, with the goal of reducing instances of avoidable trips to the emergency department. Access to on-demand support from providers equipped to treat seniors would enable a nursing home's on-site staff to immediately address a patient's needs without waiting for emergency room transport or for a doctor to arrive. As a result, patients would be more likely to receive early intervention and avoid hospital visits, which can pose significant risk to the elderly, especially, of course, during the current pandemic.

Reducing the costs that come from untreated medical complications or expensive emergency room visits would also be a win for taxpayers and for the Medicare Program. One healthcare provider in my home State of South Dakota conducted a telehealth pilot program to provide specialized care to nursing home patients and ended up saving Medicare more than \$342 per beneficiary per month. That is a sig-

nificant savings. It is a savings that came from providing nursing home patients with better and faster care.

One of the many reasons I push so hard to expand access to high-speed internet in rural areas and to ensure that rural communities have access to 5G is because of the opportunities this provides for the expanded use of telehealth, which translates into greater access to care for rural Americans.

I will continue to do everything I can to make telehealth more available to underserved patients in rural communities and to the country as a whole. The coronavirus pandemic has highlighted just how valuable a resource telehealth can be for literally every American, and we should ensure that all Americans can access its benefits.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority whip.

DACA

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I would like to follow up on the speech just made on the floor by my colleague from South Dakota because his observations about shortages when it comes to healthcare across America affect not just his State, South Dakota, but certainly affect Illinois and many other States as well.

We are in desperate need of additional doctors and nurses and dentists and medical professionals. We are in need of more technology—telehealth, of course, is one of those technologies—to make sure we expand the reach of Medicare in the United States. In the midst of this coronavirus pandemic, we understand that now more than ever. That is why I have introduced legislation called the Health Heroes 2020 Act with specific design to dramatically expand the number of healthcare professionals.

There is one way to reach that goal, I believe, and that is to incentivize medical students and dental students in America to make a commitment to serve in areas of greatest need in this country for at least 2 years and to remain in a reserve, if needed, for medical emergency. What would they receive in return? Forgiveness of the cost of their medical education.

Do you know that most doctors and dentists who graduate have a minimum of \$240,000 in additional student debt over and above the undergraduate experience—\$240,000 in debt when they become licensed doctors and dentists? Some have even more. Imagine if those young men and women with all this talent and all this determination want to serve in the areas of greatest need but throw up their hands and say: I have to pay off this loan. I have no choice but to go to a different place.

If we had the National Health Service Corps expanded to provide loans for the cost of medical education, with the incentive that those new medical professionals would serve in areas of great need, it would certainly help to solve a major problem in America. We feel it in the inner cities, but we feel it as intensely, if not more so, in the rural and

smalltown areas of the Senator from South Dakota's State and my State of Illinois. Could we work together to do this? Could we work to come up with the money to make sure these medical professionals are there?

When we talk about doctors and nurses, don't overlook the need for dentists. There are millions of people in my great State of Illinois who do not have ready access to dental care. The Illinois Dental Society once or twice each year has a free dental service weekend, and they—usually on a Saturday—will allow any patient to come in and have dental care given to them for nothing. People wait in a queue, in a line overnight for this opportunity.

Can you imagine having a problem with your teeth, some pain or discomfort or perhaps a disfigurement, and being unable to afford the care you need? For many of these people, this is their last chance, to wait in line all night to get in for free dental services from the Illinois Dental Society. I have seen it. It is remarkable, and my hat is off to the dental society and the dentists who provide these services. What an eye-opener to see all of these people who are in desperate need of dental care.

We need more dentists. We need to make certain that they are accessible and affordable for Americans wherever they may live. I support the suggestion of the Senator from South Dakota when it comes to telehealth, but let's make sure we have the men and women on the front end of the process who are still an important and critical and essential part of the kind of professional medical service and dental service we all need.

There is another way to help make sure we have enough dentists and doctors. It is to make sure that those who are currently in the United States in dental school or medical school, who are protected by DACA, have a chance to remain in this country.

By way of background, 20 years ago, I introduced a bill called the DREAM Act. The DREAM Act was designed for those brought to the United States as children, infants, and toddlers, who were brought into this country perhaps on a visitor's visa and overstayed their visa and didn't file the necessary documents and soon became undocumented in America. They didn't leave. They grew up here. They were little kids who grew up in this country going to our schools, being part of America, and believing America was their future.

Usually, sometime in their adolescence, their parents would sit down and tell them the grim reality that they have no legal right to be in this country. Despite the fact that they knew no other country, spoke no other language, pledged allegiance to the same flag we do, they were technically not legally in America.

We introduced the DREAM Act to give them a chance. If they completed school and had no serious criminal issues, they would be given a chance to

become American citizens. The bill went back and forth. It would pass the House one year and pass the Senate the next year. It would come up the majority of the Senate but not 60 votes.

It languished until I appealed to the President of the United States—then Barack Obama—and asked him if he would consider creating by Executive order some protection for these young people, and he did. This was the DACA Program, and under DACA, these same Dreamers I mentioned earlier would pay a substantial filing fee, go through a criminal background check, and be given, for 2 years, the—be spared of any threat of deportation and be given the right to legally work in this country.

How many young people showed up for this Obama DACA Program and went through it successfully? There were 800,000. There were 800,000 from all around the country just to get a chance to go to school, to complete their dream, and to even serve in America's military. They just want to be part of this country—800,000.

What was going to happen to this program when a new President named Donald Trump came to office? The very first time I met President Trump was just minutes after he had been sworn in as President. There was a lunch for him—an inaugural lunch—in Statuary Hall, and I went up to him and introduced himself.

I said: Mr. President, I am begging you, do what you can to extend the protection of DACA to these 800,000 young people. They are counting on it.

He leaned over, and he looked at me, and he said: Oh, Senator DURBIN, don't worry. We are going to take care of these young people.

Well, that was the President's assurance, but unfortunately he didn't keep his word. He decided, unfortunately, to abolish the DACA Program, saying that President Obama had no authority by Executive order to give this kind of protection.

Then a number of people filed a case in court saying that the Executive order of the President should or should not be sustained. It had to be contested in court. Luckily, for the DACA recipients—800,000 of them—while the court case has been pending, they have been protected by court order from being deported. But the decision is going to be made by the Supreme Court, and it could be made next week or in the 2 weeks that follow. So in the month of June, the fate of 800,000 of these young people will be decided across the street in the Supreme Court.

These are the young people who have become an important part of America. When the Republican Senator from South Dakota talks about shortages in medical personnel, I hope he knows that 41,000 of those DACA recipients are currently providing vital healthcare services in this pandemic that we are facing as a nation, and if they are judged to be deported and illegal to work in this country and leave, it will leave a gap in the medical serv-

ices that this country desperately, desperately needs.

Some of these young people are incredible. Their stories are nothing short of amazing. I would like to tell you of one here at this moment—Mariana Galati. This is her photograph. Today, I want to tell you that she is the 122nd Dreamer whose story I have told on the Senate floor.

Mariana came to the United States from Mexico when she was 5 years old. She grew up in Camden, NJ. It wasn't an easy life. She grew up in a single-parent household, and her mother did not speak English. Here is what she told me about it:

I had to fend for myself at a young age. I feel like I never got to have a childhood. I tried to never let that backdrop define me or stop me from my dreams.

What was her dream? To become a nurse. While working at a bakery, she went to a technical school to become a medical assistant, and then in 2012 President Obama created DACA. Mariana was able to work as a medical assistant. Here is what she said about DACA:

Before DACA, I had no future, or purpose, or chance of a better life. The fear with DACA is that it can go away—an expiration date approaching that means that I would have to go back to the way things were. Now I understand why we are called Dreamers—it is because before DACA all we could do was dream of the life we wanted to have—a dream about being "someone."

While working as a medical assistant, Mariana is studying to become a nurse. She is now a junior at Rutgers University Nursing School. Here is what she said about that experience:

To be a nurse is a way of living. I do not look at it as a job, it is beyond that for me—it's a calling. Advocating for and giving people a voice is a reward within itself. Helping people in their time of need where they are most vulnerable is a privilege.

Mariana is currently on the frontlines of fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. She is a registered medical assistant at the Jefferson Cherry Hill Hospital COVID-19 testing center. She faces exposure to that virus every day that she goes to work. She takes every shift that she is offered. She said:

I have to be there. I want to be there. I am not scared, but I am scared at the same time. I know what the risks are.

I want to thank Mariana Galati for her service. She is an immigrant health hero. She is putting herself and her family at risk to save American lives. She shouldn't have to worry about whether she is going to be deported next week.

We can do better for Mariana and for thousands of other DACA recipients just like her. They are counting on those of us who serve in the Senate to solve this crisis that President Trump created.

I cannot imagine, as I tell the 122nd story of a Dreamer on the floor of the Senate, that anyone listening believes we would be a better country if Mariana were deported. That is the option that the President has created. He has

failed and refused to consider any solution or any effort to rescue people like Mariana and to give them a chance to be part of America's future.

When we look at those in essential services, medical and social services, it turns out that one in six of them are immigrants to this country. I know it is not a popular thing to say to this administration, but I have to remind him that we are a nation of immigrants. My mother was an immigrant to this country, and her son has been fortunate enough to be elected Senator and represent the great State of Illinois. That is my story. That is my family's story, but it is also America's story.

We are in this together. People from across the world have come to this country to be part of its future. Mariana is an example—a young woman who could have thrown up her hands and said: I am undocumented. I am not going to have any way of legally being part of America. My dreams are just going to be put on hold.

But she didn't. She was determined to make the best of her life. Then when President Obama created DACA, a door opened for her that she couldn't have imagined. She had the opportunity to move from medical assistant to become a nurse. She is studying at Rutgers for that purpose.

Really, Mr. President, do you think New Jersey or America would be better if Mariana is deported out of this country?

As soon as next week, maybe even next Monday, the U.S. Supreme Court is about to rule on the future of DACA. The President of the United States can solve this problem if they decide that DACA is to be abolished. He can fix this himself.

There is another person who has a critical role, too, and that is Senator McConnell, the Republican leader in the Senate. He has the power to bring this issue to the floor of the Senate for a debate and a vote.

The House of Representatives has already passed the Dream and Promise Act, which would solve the challenge that would be created if the Supreme Court abolishes the DACA Program. Are we overwhelmed with business in the U.S. Senate, as I peer at an empty Chamber with my wonderful speech being the only thing as an item of business at this moment? We have time. We have more than enough time to deal with this issue. For 800,000 protected by DACA, it is literally a life-and-death issue.

I would appeal to Senator McConnell to use his power as the Republican leader to solve this problem, to address this issue, to say that, if you qualify for the DACA Program, you are going to be protected until the end of the year or, beyond that, given an opportunity to become citizens of the United States, a goal which I have been seeking for the 20 years that I have worked on the Dream Act.

We know that we need the help of wonderful young people like Mariana

Galati to make this a better nation. The question is whether the President ever will realize that or whether Senator McConnell would make room in our schedule for us to debate this issue.

Let's get this right. Let's make sure that we have sensible immigration policies in America. The notion of abolishing DACA and saying to Mariana, "you will now be deported back to a country you cannot even remember," is not the answer.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

H.R. 1957

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, the Senate has taken up and will be voting soon—I hope successfully—on watershed environmental legislation that will provide for municipal, county, State, and national parks and public spaces in America for generations to come.

This is legislation I have been working on for years—legislation that I pushed hard to advance as chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and legislation for which I am now a cosponsor.

The bill is going to repair public spaces, making them usable by all, while creating new public spaces that reflect the continuing story that is our great country.

In my view, when the Senate debates this kind of legislation, the debate also has to include a discussion about a particularly important topic, and that is jobs.

A major component of this bill is, of course, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which puts funding into natural wonders all over the country, in cities and in rural areas. Today, I want to speak for a moment specifically about those rural areas and rural economies.

The economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has hit so many of our rural communities like a wrecking ball. These are communities that have been struggling going back a long time, and building back up after COVID-19 is going to be enormously challenging. So the Senate ought to be looking at every good idea that can help get these rural economies moving again.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund isn't just about opening up the country's treasured areas for everyone to enjoy and to help people get outdoors. It has a proven track record of boosting the economy in communities near those lands. The Land and Water Conservation Fund is the ultimate win-win approach because with this program you focus on recreation that involves protecting our natural wonders and jobs. That is a big step forward. So

what I wanted to do was just spend a few minutes talking about how we could do even more.

For some time now, I have been working with my colleagues from the Pacific Northwest—Senator CRAPO, Senator MERKLEY, and Senator RISCH—trying to help secure two economic lifelines for the rural communities of the Northwest and for much of our Nation. I am talking about Secure Rural Schools and Payments in Lieu of Taxes Programs. They are known as SRS and PILT.

In the West, there are a lot of areas that have long depended on resource extraction and a lot of areas made up of Federal lands. So we went through a lot of boom-and-bust cycles that defined those economies for generations, and nearly always those boom-and-bust cycles proved to be harmful and unsustainable. So some time ago—a number of years ago—former Senator Larry Craig and I wrote the bill that created the Secure Rural Schools Program. It provided years and years of reliable revenue for rural counties so they could plan budgets and provide services for people who live in their borders.

But after a while, Secure Rural Schools got caught up in the knock-down, back-and-forth fiscal battles that happen in Congress too often. So once in a while, the program would lapse. It then meant that from all over the country, county leaders from rural communities came to Washington and had to plead for extensions of the Secure Rural Schools Program that has always been successful and a model.

It involves local input. Extending this program should have been a no-brainer all along. It expired just last year before Congress stepped up at the last minute to reauthorize the program, but these start-and-stop authorizations do nothing for certainty.

I remember one year that to keep the Secure Rural Schools Program up, the distinguished Senator from Alaska, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and I were involved in selling off the helium reserves. That gave us some money—some key money—for the Secure Rural Schools Program in the West. I remember when we sold off the helium reserves to get money for Secure Rural Schools, a number of editorial writers out West had a lot of fun with it and basically said: Well, we always knew RON WYDEN was full of a lot of hot air.

The point is, we have got to end that cycle, that boom-and-bust cycle, instead of going through these routines at the end of the period, when Secure Rural Schools was helping the roads and schools.

I worked with Senator CRAPO to propose reforms that would upgrade the Secure Rural Schools Program into a stable, predictable source of funding for rural counties. Our bill would establish a permanent endowment fund, like funding for county economic development and roads and schools. That is where the money goes. It goes into

economic development. It goes into roads and schools.

By the way, when you are helping those rural communities with their budget, when they have those funds secure, it frees up money for them for important things like mental health. We have certainly seen a demand for mental health increase dramatically in the last few months.

After Congress makes an initial investment into the fund under our proposal, which would establish a permanent endowment to provide funding for county economic development into roads and schools—Congress makes that initial investment into the fund—the principle will be invested, and the interest will be used to make SRS payments to counties. So you have Senator CRAPO, Senator MERKLEY, Senator RISCH, and I proposing a way to move away from this roller coaster in the West to upgrade Secure Rural Schools into a stable, predictable source of funding. You have a permanent endowment fund that provides money for the roads and the schools and the counties, and the principles are invested, and the interest will be used to make SRS payments to counties.

The proposal is backed by 100 percent of Oregon's U.S. Senators and 100 percent of Idaho's U.S. Senators—four U.S. Senators, two Democrats and two Republicans, having worked closely with rural groups, the National Associations of Counties, and others to advance this idea.

Our proposal also directs revenue-sharing payments from forest management to be deposited into the endowment each year. That way, the payments to the counties will grow, and the safety net they provide for their constituents can expand.

In my view, these are the basics of an economic toolkit for rural areas. If you focus on roads, if you focus on schools, if you make sure that counties have the money for services so they can, for example, take care of mental health needs, that is the key to building up rural economies and helping to create good-paying jobs for residents.

Now, payments in lieu of taxes is a program that exists for similar reasons. People who live in these rural counties dominated by public lands also deserve support. They, too, rely on local governmental services and deserve a safety net like everyone else. They ought to be able to budget and plan and create jobs like bigger cities can. Our amendment to really promote Secure Rural Schools and PILT would extend PILT for 10 years to give these counties the certainty and predictability they need.

I am going to wrap up here in a moment, but I just hope that the majority leader is going to set up a process for real debate on these ideas and these amendments.

This is a bipartisan proposal. When we have offered in the past—Senator CRAPO, Senator MERKLEY, Senator RISCH, and I and others—to extend this

program, we nearly always get at least 70 votes here in the U.S. Senate because there is an awareness of how important it is that these rural communities have certainty for schools and roads and basic kinds of services that our efforts support.

The COVID-19 pandemic is causing enormous pain everywhere, but we have seen big corporations—we talked about this yesterday in the Finance Committee. Some colleagues think: Well, we ought to cut the unemployment benefits in half, but it is fine to make available trillions of dollars to the biggest corporations in America.

So the COVID pandemic is causing pain everywhere, but it seems to me, with so many resources going to big corporations and powerful interests in intensely populated areas, the U.S. Senate has an obligation to make sure rural economies and rural workers and rural businesses aren't just left behind. Upgrading Secure Rural Schools and extending PILT is a targeted way to advocate for rural communities.

We are going to be home for several weeks in July, and my hope is to be able to have conversations with folks in person in those areas. I haven't been able to do as much of that. I have had 970 townhall meetings in person, just there to be able to respond and answer questions. So I really hope that we are going to be able to do that again soon.

When we have those discussions, you can be very sure that, in those rural communities, front and center will be Secure Rural Schools, and front and center will be Payments in Lieu of Taxes. Folks will zero in on those areas because they will say, as they have to me since Larry Craig, our former colleague from Idaho, and I wrote this program: Ron, what Secure Rural Schools is doing is giving us a chance to make sure we have a real education program.

Before we got that program going, people thought they would have school 3 days a week. So people will say: Ron, we need Secure Rural Schools. We need it for education. It is a key to our roads program.

The roads program for these smaller counties is an absolute key to being able to have rural life. Without those rural roads and without rural schools, the heart of Secure Rural Schools, you can't have rural life. So these two programs are a solution based on providing certainty and predictability to help build thriving economies and good jobs in rural areas.

I am going to keep pushing for support here in the Senate. I know my colleagues Senator CRAPO, Senator MERKLEY, and Senator RISCH are going to continue to do so as well.

I yield the floor.

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

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 20 minutes as in morning business.

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, this week we consider a measure for permanent funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and for our national parks.

I would support this measure joyously if there were a similar program for America's coasts and bays and oceans. As it is, I support this measure but with a heavy and frustrated heart as, once again, the urgent needs of coastal communities go unaddressed. Put bluntly, the Land and Water Conservation Fund massively favors inland and upland States and projects, as indicated by the prevalence of advocates for it here on the floor from landlocked States. It fails to meet the needs of coastal communities.

Over the past decade, for every dollar the fund sent to inland States, per capita, coastal States just got 40 cents. The imbalance against coasts gets worse if you factor in that there is greater coastal than inland economic activity, and the imbalance against coasts worsens further when you factor in that much of the Land and Water Conservation Fund's spending in coastal States is for upland, inland projects. Coasts and saltwater are not treated fairly. The upland freshwater imbalance is not justified, and we ought to make it right.

Look at Rhode Island. People from around the Nation and around the globe visit our wonderful beaches and beautiful Narragansett Bay, and they drive a huge amount of our economic activity. In 2018, Rhode Island's Commerce Corporation reckons 25 million people visited our State, supporting \$100 million in State and local tax revenue and over 86,000 jobs. In total, travelers to Rhode Island generated \$6.8 billion in our economy. Our coast attracts that economic activity. It is a big deal for us.

Rhode Island isn't alone. Over half of Americans live in a coastal county. Nearly 60 percent of the Nation's gross domestic product derives from coastal counties. According to the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association, "more than twice as many people visited America's coasts as visit State and national parks combined; consequently 85 percent of all tourism related revenue in the U.S. is generated in coastal States where beaches are the leading attraction. Beach tourism supports 2.5 million jobs, \$285 billion in direct revenue and . . . \$45 billion in taxes annually."

For all that, the Land and Water Conservation Fund gives 40 cents to coastal States for every dollar that it sends to inland States. That 40 cents is per capita, not adjusted for the great coastal economic activity and greater

coastal tax revenue, and it doesn't adjust for upland uses in coastal States. Coasts are overlooked.

I wish it were just the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Look at the inland-to-coastal disparity in the Army Corps' Flood and Coastal Storm Damage Reduction Fund. Over the past 10 years, the Corps has spent out of that fund, in various years, between 19 and 120 times more on inland work than it has spent on coastal work. Let me repeat that: \$19 to 1 coastal dollar was our coast's best year and 120 inland dollars to 1 coastal dollar was our worst.

Coastal communities are exposed to storms, to sea level rise, to shifting fisheries, to all manner of other conservation and infrastructure challenges, but across the decade, they received less than 3 pennies out of each dollar spent from an Army Corps program that has "coastal" in its name.

This persistent and unfair imbalance against coasts ignores the massive and unique risks that coastal communities, coastal features, coastal infrastructure, and coastal economies now face. Look at the dire warnings of coastal property value crash. Freddie Mac, which is not an environmental group, has estimated that somewhere between \$238 and \$507 billion worth of coastal real estate will be gone, below sea level, by 2100. Freddie Mac warns about that: "The economic losses and social disruption [of that] . . . are likely to be greater in coastal than those experienced in the housing crisis and Great Recession."

Are we listening?

Along the east coast, the First Street Foundation estimates property values already took a \$15 billion hit due to sea level rise. The Providence Journal, using First Street and Columbia University data, reported that Rhode Island lost over \$44 million in relative coastal property value from 2005 to 2017. First Street data show that Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island lost a combined \$403 million during that stretch. Hundreds of millions of dollars are gone already, and the worst is yet to come.

Look elsewhere along the coast. Do you want to know why Senator CASSIDY is so motivated? His entire Louisiana coast is in a declared state of emergency. A recent headline from the Times Picayune said: "'We're screwed': The only question is how quickly Louisiana wetlands will vanish, study says."

That Tulane University study says sea level rise will flood 5,800 square miles of Louisiana coastal wetlands. The report concludes: "This is a major threat not only to one of the ecologically richest environments of the United States but also for the 1.2 million inhabitants and associated economic assets that are surrounded by Mississippi Delta marshland."

That is obvious, but are we listening to Senator CASSIDY?

In Florida, coastal communities already see flooded streets on sunny

days. Researchers project over 2½ feet of sea level rise in the next 40 years affecting 120,000 Florida coastal properties in or near rising seas. Some studies say Miami Beach's iconic South Beach has 2 decades left. Communities in southern Florida are considering abandoning public infrastructure to the sea because of the sticker shock of protecting it.

Fish, manatees, dolphins, sea turtles, and other sea creatures have washed up dead on Florida beaches due to toxic algae as the oceans there warm. The iconic Everglades are imperiled.

Who is listening?

In North Carolina, the Outer Banks face erosion and sea level rise such that the National Parks Service warns that swathes of the area will be inundated. As the Outer Banks wash into the sea, there go millions of annual visitors, thousands of local jobs, and a local economy worth over \$250 million.

Over 5,500 homes in coastal Texas are projected to flood in the next decade. These homes are worth \$1.2 billion.

Coastal South Carolina, just since 2017, has been hit by four different billion-dollar hurricanes.

The list of what our coasts are facing goes on and on, and the projected losses are enormous. Here is Moody's Investor Service's warning for coastal communities issuing bonds:

The growing effects of climate change, including climbing global temperatures, and rising sea levels, are forecast to have an increasing economic impact on U.S. State and local issuers. This will be a growing negative credit factor for issuers without sufficient adaptation and mitigation strategies.

I would like to ask my colleagues, if you are a small community on the coast, where are you going to go to get sufficient adaptation and mitigation strategies for Moody's? Where are we in helping those communities?

Here is the Union of Concerned Scientists: "By the end of the 21st century, nearly 2.5 million residential and commercial properties, collectively valued today at \$1.07 trillion today, will be at risk of chronic flooding."

Chronic flooding makes those properties uninsurable and unmortgageable, which is one of the reasons for Freddie Mac's warning about a coastal property value crash. The Land and Water Conservation Fund is not listening.

Our coastal public lands and resources, like coastal private property, face enormous peril, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund virtually ignores that peril. That is why I am offering a commonsense, bipartisan amendment—not a spoiler amendment, not a partisan amendment, not a "gotcha" amendment, not a poison pill. It is a commonsense, bipartisan amendment. My amendment takes nothing away from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. It leaves the Land and Water Conservation Fund and its upland bias intact. It separately provides coastal revenues dedicated from offshore wind and renewable energy de-

velopment to support coastal States, coastal resiliency, coastal infrastructure, and coastal adaptation.

Unless we do this, millions of dollars in offshore wind energy revenues will bypass coasts and go straight to the Federal Treasury, unlike offshore oil and gas energy revenues, which go in significant part both to Gulf Coast States and, ironically, to the predominantly upland and inland projects of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Don't get me wrong. I don't begrudge our landlocked colleagues their funding. I do begrudge them refusing me the opportunity to add something for coasts. There should be a coastal and saltwater program to balance the upland and freshwater bias of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Our landlocked colleagues are wrong to stop this amendment. It does them no harm. The situation along our coasts is dangerous and worsening. Let me repeat that. The situation along our coasts is dangerous and worsening. I am going to vote for this bill, but I will do so, as I said, with a heavy and frustrated heart.

I will continue pushing as hard as I can for the day when we get parity for coastal communities because what we are doing here by refusing this amendment is both shortsighted and unfair.

This is not my first rodeo on this subject. I have to tell you that I am sick to death of people telling me: You are right; we need to do something for coasts. And then, as soon as the Land and Water Conservation Fund passes, they are gone—"zippo," vanished.

My environmental friends say: You are right, SHELDON. Just help us on this, and we will help you with coasts.

And then you don't.

My colleagues say: You are right, SHELDON. Just help us on this, and we will help you with coasts.

And then you don't.

And now, by making the Land and Water Conservation Fund permanent, we are permanently baking in its inland and its upland bias, and there is nothing added for coasts, and everyone is saying: Yes, you are right, SHELDON, but just help us on this, and we will help you with coasts.

Well, my friends, bitter experience tells me otherwise. But you will have my vote, and you will have my help to protect your inland and fresh water resources, as we should, and we from coasts and saltwater States will, again, have to await our day. Today is not our day in coastal States. Today is not our day, but maybe one day—and one day soon, I pray—all this talk will finally turn into action for our coasts. A sense of decency and a sense of urgency would both seem to demand that.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, the Senate is considering landmark legislation. I call it that because it is indeed landmark legislation, but also it is about the great landmarks of our Nation.

We have a chance to lead this country this week with a historic package of bills. The Great American Outdoors Act combines the Land and Water Conservation Fund—our crown jewel of conservation programs—with the Restore Our Parks Act, legislation which would help to make a dent—help to catch up on our deferred maintenance backlog throughout our National Park System. It is more than just our national parks, though; it addresses the needs of our National Forest System, our Bureau of Land Management lands, Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as the Bureau of Indian Education.

This legislation affects all four corners of Colorado, but it also affects every part of this country. In fact, this chart shows a map of the States that get support from the Great American Outdoors Act, shown in green. The States that don't get support from the Great American Outdoors Act are highlighted in orange. It may be hard to see because there are no orange-highlighted States. Every State in the Union receives support through the Great American Outdoors Act, from sea to shining sea.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Restore Our Parks Act, and the Great American Outdoors Act will provide billions of dollars in opportunities for recreation, hiking, fishing, camping, conservation, and access to lands that the public already held but didn't have access to until the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Ninety-nine percent of the land and water conservation funds go to lands the American people already hold, inholdings within a national park. In fact, one of the most recent purchases the Land and Water Conservation Fund performed in Colorado was in Rocky Mountain National Park, acquiring one of the land holdings within the national park, helping to complete the great Rocky Mountain National Park, the third most visited national park in the country.

This legislation gives this Congress a chance to lead on a bill that affects everyone, from Maine to California, from Texas to Alaska, from Maine to Hawaii, Hawaii to Utah, Utah to Alaska, and beyond.

I know there are some who believe this is a Federal land grab. That simply is not true. As I mentioned, 99 percent of the dollars in the Land and Water Conservation Fund go to purchasing inholdings.

There are some who believe this is mandatory spending. Remember how this bill was passed. In 1965, the Land and Water Conservation Fund was authorized at \$900 million a year. It was authorized to take certain dollars over time, and it became \$900 million, but it only reached that level twice in the history of the program.

Throughout the past 55 years, though, dollars had been diverted away from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. What this legislation does through its permanent funding is make sure the dollars we authorized beginning in 1965 and reaffirmed by this Congress in the permanent authorization in the John Dingell Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act by a vote of 92 to 8—to make sure those funds would not get diverted and to stop funds from being syphoned off and instead go to what they were intended to go to in the Land and Water Conservation Fund beginning in 1965. We have an opportunity to stop that diversion.

This is not new. This is paid for—not by the taxpayers but by oil and gas revenues. These dollars are generated from the revenues that come from offshore. Those energy revenues—the boat excise tax, the boat fuel excise tax, and a couple of other allocations—it is not coming from the taxpayers.

It is an opportunity to protect our land, our most precious spaces, to catch up on our deferred maintenance of national parks, and to make sure we are doing that across the country without costing the taxpayers money.

This land is purchased. There is no Federal land grab. There is no eminent domain. They don't use eminent domain for this. There is no premium that the Federal Government gets to buy land to crowd out other people. There is a formula that is used that doesn't allow for premiums. So this, indeed, is another stick in the bundle of property rights for landowners.

We also know the positive impact this bill has right now on our economy. You know, when we started working on this legislation, we were talking about its economic impact and what it would mean, but we were talking about it in terms of the overall outdoor recreation economy, which in Colorado is \$28 billion and growing. There are 5.2 million Americans employed in the recreation economy.

When COVID hit, we saw what happened in western Colorado as ski slopes shut down 2 months early and as hotels and restaurants emptied. This bill will create over 100,000 jobs, restoring our national parks, repairing trails and forest systems. It does so at a time when we have high unemployment rates in those communities surrounded by public lands because of the shutdown as a result of the coronavirus.

This is an economic and jobs package as much as it is a conservation package. For every \$1 million we spend in the Land and Water Conservation Fund, it supports between 16 and 30 jobs. It is our chance to not only protect our environment, to catch up on deferred maintenance, but also to grow our economy when our economy needs the growth.

After spending the last several months in the great indoors, it is time to get out to the great outdoors, and this bill accomplishes both of those goals.

It is historic in another way. We received support from over 850 groups

across the country representing significant spectrums of purposes and ideologies, from sportsmen, to The Nature Conservancy, to all the groups who touted this effort. This is a list of over 850 groups strongly supporting this legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this letter from these 850-plus organizations be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[May 11, 2020]

SUPPORT FOR THE GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOORS ACT

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER MCCONNELL, SPEAKER PELOSI, MINORITY LEADER SCHUMER, AND MINORITY LEADER MCCARTHY: Our organizations, and the members we represent, strongly support passage and subsequent enactment of the Great American Outdoors Act (S. 3422) as quickly as possible. This bill is necessary to support the public lands we all rely upon by achieving the twin goals of protecting America's special places and repairing deteriorating infrastructure. We urge you to vote in favor of this crucial legislation and to oppose any amendments to it.

The bill will help address priority repairs in our national parks and on other public lands by directing up to \$9.5 billion over five years to address maintenance needs within the National Park System, other public land agencies, and Bureau of Indian Education schools. It will also fully and permanently dedicate \$900 million per year already being deposited into the Land and Water Conservation Fund, our nation's most important conservation program, to ensure protection of and access to irreplaceable lands and local recreation opportunities.

This legislation was introduced on March 9 and has the strong bipartisan support of a majority of the Senate. It is consistent with legislation supported by a surpassing bipartisan majority in the House, and the President has specifically requested this bill for his signature, creating an unprecedented opportunity for a historic win for the American public and the places they care about.

The Great American Outdoors Act will ensure a future for nature to thrive, kids to play, and hunters and anglers to enjoy. National parks and public lands provide access to the outdoors for hundreds of millions of people every year and habitat for some of our country's most iconic wildlife. These treasured places also tell the stories that define and unite us as a nation. Funds provided in this bill will secure these vital resources while preserving water quantity and quality, sustaining working landscapes and rural economies, increasing access for recreation for all Americans no matter where they live, and fueling the juggernaut of our outdoor economy.

In 2018, over 318 million national park visits led to \$20.2 billion in direct spending at hotels, restaurants, outfitters, and other amenities in gateway communities, supporting over 329,000 jobs and generating over \$40.1 billion in total economic output. Nationally, outdoor recreation contributes \$778 billion in consumer spending and supports 5.2 million jobs.

The Great American Outdoors Act will ensure that our parks and other public lands continue to preserve our nation's heritage and recreation opportunities, and that local communities and economies in these areas will continue to flourish.

We urge you to support our parks and public lands by voting for the Great American Outdoors Act (S. 3422) as a clean bill with no amendments. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL

American Battlefield Trust; American Conservation Coalition; American Endurance Ride Conference; American Forests; American Hiking Society; American Horse Council; American Littoral Society; American Mountain Guides Association; American Rivers; American Society of Civil Engineers; American Sportfishing Association; American Trails; American Woodcock Society; Appalachian Mountain Club; Appalachian Trail Conservancy; Archery Trade Association; Audubon Naturalist Society; Back Country Horsemen of America; Backcountry Hunters & Anglers; Bonefish & Tarpon Trust; Boone and Crockett Club; City Parks Alliance; Clean Water Action; Cliff Garten and Associates Inc.; Coalition for American Heritage; Coalition to Protect America's National Parks; Coalitions & Collaboratives.

Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation; Continental Divide Trail Coalition; Defenders of Wildlife; Diving Equipment & Marketing Association; Docomomo US; Environment America; Fly Fishers International; GreenLatinos; Heart of the Rockies Initiative; HECHO (Hispanics enjoying Camping Hunting and the Outdoors); Hipcamp; Hispanic Access Foundation; Hispanic Federation; Izaak Walton League of America; Just Get Outdoors; Land Trust Alliance; League of Conservation Voters; Marine Retailers Association of the Americas; Moonshot Missions; Motorcycle Industry Council; National Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds; National Coast Trail Association; National Deer Alliance; National Forest Recreation Association; National Marine Manufacturers Association; National Park Foundation; National Park Hospitality Association.

National Parks Conservation Association; National Recreation and Park Association; National Shooting Sports Foundation; National Trust for Historic Preservation; National Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association; National Wildlife Federation; National Wildlife Refuge Association; Natural Gear Camouflage; Natural Resources Defense Council; Outdoor Alliance; Outdoor Industry Association; Outdoor Recreation Roundtable; Pacific Crest Trail Association; Partnership for the National Trails System; Patagonia; PeopleForBikes; Piragis Northwoods Co; Public Lands Alliance; Quality Deer Management Association; Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association; REI Co-op; Ruffed Grouse Society; RV Industry Association; Scenic America; Sierra Club; Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals; Specialty Equipment Marketing Association.

Specialty Vehicle Institute of America; Student Conservation Association; Surfrider Foundation; The Archaeological Conservancy; The Brice Institute; The Conservation Alliance; The Conservation Fund; The Corps Network; The Cougar Fund; The Evangelical Environmental Network; The Garden Club of America, Inc.; The Lyme Timber Company; The Nature Conservancy; The Pew Charitable Trusts; The Trumpeter Swan Society; The Trust for Public Land; The Trust for the National Mall; The Wilderness Land Trust; The Wilderness Society; The Wildlife Society; Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership; United States Tour Operators Association; UrbanPromise Ministries; US Water Alliance; Wildlands Network; Winter Wildlands Alliance.

REGIONAL

Accokeek Foundation; American Farmland Trust—Pacific Northwest; Assateague Coast-

al Trust; Blue Mountain Land Trust; Chesapeake Conservancy; Damascus Citizens For Sustainability; Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine; Reclamation; Great Divide Pictures; Great Smoky Mountains Association; Kaniksu Land Trust; MassConn Sustainable Forest Partnership; Montana Conservation Corps; Natchez Trace Parkway Association; National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative; New England Forestry Foundation; Nez Perce Trail Foundation; Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness; Northern Forest Center; Northwest Youth Corps; Northwoods Alliance Inc.; Nuestra Tierra Conservation Project; Old Spanish Trail Association.

Opacum Land Trust; Open Space Institute; Openlands; Partners in Forestry Coop; Partnership for the Delaware Estuary; Potomac Chapter, American Society of Landscape Architects; Potomac Riverkeeper Network; Potomac Valley Audubon Society; Rock Creek Conservancy; San Juan Citizens Alliance; Santa Fe Trail Assoc; Singletrack Trails Inc.; Southeast Tourism Society; Southeastern Climbers Coalition; Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy; Sustainable Northwest; The Anza Trail Foundation; The Lands Council; The Mountain Pact; Upper Saco Valley Land Trust; Western National Parks Association; Western Rivers Conservancy; Wild Salmon Center.

STATE AND LOCAL

10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania; 15 Minute Field Trips; 1785 Inn; 350 Maine; 508 Main St; A Walk in the Woods; AdventureKEEN; Adventures on the Gorge; Ala Kahakai Trail Association; Alachua Conservation Trust; Alamosa Convention & Visitors Bureau; Alaska Alpine Adventures, LLC; Alaska State Parks; Alaska Trails; Alice Austen House; Alice Ferguson Foundation; All Good; Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance; Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley; Amazing Earthfest; American Anthropological Association; American Society of Landscape Architects; American Society of Landscape Architects—Prairie Gateway Chapter; American Society of Landscape Architects—Alabama Chapter; American Society of Landscape Architects—Kentucky Chapter; Anacostia Watershed Society; Andy Laub Films.

Angler Action Foundation; Animaashi Sailing Company; Anza-Borrego Foundation; Aquanauts Adaptive Aquatics, Inc.; Aquashicola/Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy; Arboretum Foundation; Archaeological Society of New Jersey; Archaeology Southwest; Arizona Heritage Alliance; Arizona Land and Water Trust; Arizona Trail Association; Arkansas Hospitality Association; Arkansas Wildlife Federation; Arroyos and Foothills Conservancy; Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce; Ashford Conservation Commission; Aspen Valley Land Trust; Atlantic Salmon Federation; Audubon Everglades; Audubon Society of Rhode Island; Audubon South Carolina; Back Country Horsemen of Colorado; Back Country Horsemen of Uwharrie, NC; Backcountry Horsemen of California; Baltimore Tree Trust; Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce; Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.); Bay Area Ridge Trail Council; Bay County Conservancy, Inc.; Bayou Land Conservancy; Bear Warriors United; Bicycle Coalition of Maine.

Big Hole River Foundation; Big Sur Land Trust; Big Thicket Natural Heritage Trust; Bighorn River Alliance; Bird Conservation Fund; Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce; Blue Bike Burrito; Blue Goose Alliance; Blue Ridge Conservancy; Blue Scholars Initiative; Blue Water Baltimore; Bold Archery Design; Boone Area Chamber of Commerce; Boston Harbor Now; Boulder County; Boulder County Parks & Open Space; Bowling Green Area Convention and Visitor Bureau; Brandywine

Conservancy; Bryson City Outdoors Inc.; Bucks County Audubon Society; Building Bridges Across the River; Burney Chamber of Commerce.

Business for Montana's Outdoors; California Habitat Conservation Planning Coalition; California League of Conservation Voters; California Mountain Biking Alliance; California Native Plant Society; California Waterfowl Association; California Wilderness Coalition; Californians for Western Wilderness; Camp Denali; Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife; Capital Region Land Conservancy; Carefree of Colorado; Catawba Lands Conservancy; Catawba Lands Conservancy and Carolina Thread Trail; Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, Inc.; Central Arizona Land Trust; Charleston Audubon; Charlevoix Main Street DDA; Chattahoochee Parks Conservancy; Chelan-Douglas Land Trust; Cherry Republic; Chesapeake Legal Alliance; Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage; Chesterfield Chamber of Commerce; Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives; Chickasaw Nation.

Chispa Arizona; Chuck Robbins Chapter 656 of Trout Unlimited; Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture); Citizens For Water; Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River; City of Michigan City Indiana Department of Parks and Recreation; City of Roseburg; Clean Ocean Access; Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts; College Republicans at Belmont University; Collette Travel; Colorado Mountain Club; Colorado Youth Corps Association; Columbia Land Trust; Community Training Works Inc.; Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association; Concrete Safaris Inc.; Congaree Land Trust; Connecticut Audubon Society; Connecticut Forest & Park Association; Connecticut Land Conservation Council; Connecticut Ornithology Association; Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park; Conservation Alabama; Conservation Council For Hawaii; Conservation Legacy; Conservation Minnesota; Conservation Northwest; Conservation Trust for NC; Conservation Voters of South Carolina; Conserving Carolina; Contour Design Studio LLC.

Cornerstone Studios; Cowboy Trail Rides; Cradle of Texas Conservancy, Inc.; Cycle for One Planet; Cypress Chapter, Izaak Walton League; Dade Heritage Trust, Inc.; Dana Bronfman LLC; Darby Communications; Davidson Lands Conservancy; Delaware Center for the Inland Bays; Delaware Electric Vehicle Association (DEEVA); Delaware Greenways; Delaware Nature Society; Delaware Wild Lands, Inc.; Delta Waterfowl; Denali Citizens Council; Denali Mountain Works; Deschutes Land Trust; Dishman Hills Conservancy; Dolores River Boating Advocates; Door County Kayak Tours, llc.; Downeast Salmon Federation; Dry Creek Trail Riders; E Mau Na Ala Hele; Eagle Valley Land Trust; EarthCorps.

East Bay Regional Park District; East Bay Regional Parks Association; East Coast Greenway Alliance; East Cooper Land Trust; Eastern RI Conservation District; Eastern Sierra Land Trust; Eastham Chamber of Commerce; Ecological Connections; Edward Hopper House; Elks Run Watershed Group; Empire Chamber of Commerce; Enchanted Circle Trails Association; Endangered Habitats League; Eno River Association; Environment California; Environment Colorado; Environment Connecticut; Environment Florida; Environment for the Americas; Environment Georgia; Environment Maine; Environment Maryland; Environment Massachusetts; Environment Michigan; Environment Minnesota; Environment Missouri; Environment Montana; Environment NC; Environment Nevada; Environment New Jersey; Environment New Mexico; Environment Oregon; Environment Texas; Environment Virginia; Environmental Justice Center at Chestnut Hill.

United Church; Estes Park ATV rentals; Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance; Excelsior Sewing LLC.; Experience Learning; Explore Asheville; Flathead Lakers; Flathead Land Trust; Florida Bay Forever; Florida Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects; Florida Keys Environmental Fund, Inc.; Florida Trail Association; Florida Trust for Historic Preservation; Florida Wildlife Federation; Foothills Conservancy of North Carolina; Footloose Montana; Forest issues Group; Forests Forever; ForeverGreen Trails; Forterra; Four Corners Back Country Horsemen; Frankfort-Elberta Area Chamber of Commerce; Friends of Acadia; Friends of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore; Friends of Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee; National Wildlife Refuge.

Friends of Blackwater, Inc.; Friends of Friendship of Salem; Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park; Friends of Ironwood Forest; Friends of Johnston, Inc.; Friends of Katahdin Woods and Waters; Friends of Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens; Friends of Lafitte Greenway; Friends of Lower Haw River State Natural Area; Friends of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge; Friends of Metro Parks; Friends of Nevada Wilderness; Friends of Nulhegan Basin Fish and Wildlife Refuge, Inc.; Friends of Quincy Run Watershed; Friends of Shiloh National Park; Friends of the A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge; Friends of the Big Sioux River; Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands Inc.; Friends of the Cheat; Friends of the Chickasaw National Recreation Area; Friends of the Desert Mountains; Friends of the Heinz Refuge; Friends of the Inyo; Friends of the Mariana Trench; Friends of the Mississippi River; Friends of the Moshassuck; Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail; Friends of the Oregon Caves and Chateau; Friends of the Rappahannock; Friends of the San Pedro River, Inc.; Friends of the Sonoran Desert.

Friends of the Upper Delaware River; Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge; Friends of Women's Rights National Historical Park, Inc.; Gaia Graphics Associates; Gallatin Valley Land Trust; Gathering Waters; Wisconsin's Alliance for Land Trusts; Genesee Valley Audubon Society; George Grant Chapter Trout Unlimited; Georges River Land Trust; Georgia Chapter—American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA); Georgia Conservation Voters; Georgia River Network; GERRY Outdoors; Gilroy Growing Smarter, Gilroy Historical Society; Golden Properties; Goulding's Lodge; Grand Canyon Conservancy; Great Basin Institute; Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association; Great Outdoor Store; Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust; Greater Hells Canyon Council; Greater Lovell Land Trust.

Greater Munising Bay Partnership/Alger County Chamber; Greater New Jersey Motorcoach Association; Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance; Greater Yellowstone Coalition; Green Horizon Land Trust, Inc.; Green Valleys Watershed Association; Greens N Grains; Greensboro Land Trust; Greenwood SC Chamber of Commerce; Groundwork Lawrence; Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust; Guam Preservation Trust; Guardians of the Brandywine; Harriet Tubman Boosters, Inc.; Hawaii Audubon Society; Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources; Henderson County Tourism Development Authority; Hendry-Glades Audubon Society; Henrys Fork Wildlife Alliance; Hill Country Conservancy; Hill Country Land Trust; Historic Atlanta; Historic Boston Inc.; Historic Madison, Inc.; Historic Pullman Foundation; History Nebraska; Hoosier Environmental Council; HospitalityMaine; Hudson Highlands Land Trust.

Idaho—Montana Chapter of American Society of Landscape Architects; Idaho Coali-

tion of Land Trusts; Illinois Division of the Izaak Walton League; Illinois Environmental Council; Indiana Chapter ASLA; Indiana Dunes Tourism; Indiana Forest Alliance; Indiana Parks Alliance; Indigo Bluffs RV Park & Resort; Institute for Ecological Health; Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake; International Inbound Travel Association; Izaak Walton League—Cypress Chapter; Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance; James River Association; Jefferson County Convention & Visitors Bureau; Jefferson County Democratic Party; Jefferson County Open Space; John Burroughs Association; Joshua's Tract Conservation & Historic Trust, Inc.; Kalmiopsis Audubon Society; Kansas Land Trust; Katmai Conservancy; Kennebec Land Trust; Kentucky Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus; Kentucky Travel Industry Association; Kern Audubon Society; Kestrel Land Trust; Kingsport Chamber; Kingston Greenways Association; LA Conservation Corps.

Lafayette Flats Boutique Vacation Rentals; Lafayette Inn; Lake Charles/SWLA CVB; Lake Hopatcong Foundation; Land Trust of Napa County; Landmarks Illinois; LANL Foundation; League of Women Voters Iowa; Lemhi Regional Land Trust; Leominster Trail Stewards; Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc.; Lewis and Clark Trust, Inc.; Linn County Conservation Board; Littleton Conservation Trust; Loon Echo Land Trust; Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust; Los Angeles River State Park Partners; Los Padres ForestWatch; Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy; Louisiana Hypoxia Working Group; Louisville Tourism; Lowcountry Land Trust; Lowlives Respectable Citizens Club; Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust; Lower Nehalem Community Trust; Lummi Island Heritage Trust.

LuvTrails Inc; LWV Mid-Hudson Region; MA Association of Conservation Commissions; Magic City Fly Fishers Trout Unlimited 582; Mahoosuc Land Trust; Mahoosuc Pathways, Inc.; Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust; Maine Audubon; Maine Conservation Voters; Maine Outdoor Brands; Maine Outdoor Coalition; Maine Outdoors; Maine Recreation and Parks Association; Maine Tourism Association; Mainspring Conservation Trust, Inc.; Manassas Battlefield Trust; Maple Street Bed and Breakfast; Maryland League of Conservation Voters; Maryland Native Plant Society; Massachusetts Historical Society; Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition; Mayfly Outdoors; Mayo Civic Association, Inc.; McKenzie River Trust; MCM Company, Inc.; Mendocino Land Trust; Miami Waterkeeper; Michigan Bed & Breakfast Assoc; Michigan League of Conservation Voters; Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District; Mile High Youth Corps; Miles Partnership; Mill Basin Civic Association; Millennium Development; Milwaukee Preservation Alliance; Milwaukee Riverkeeper; Minnechaug Land Trust; Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society; Minnesota Office of School Trust Lands.

Minnesota School Trust Lands Commission; Miriam's Inspired Skin Care; Missouri Life magazine; Missouri Parks Association; Missouri Prairie Foundation; MN House District 10B; Mojave Desert Land Trust; Molokai Land Trust; Monmouth Conservation Foundation; Monocacy National Battlefield Foundation; Monson Conservation Commission; Montachusett Regional Trails Coalition; Montana Association of Land Trusts; Montana Outdoors Foundation; Montana Trout Unlimited; Montana Wilderness Association; Montana Wildlife Federation; Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area; Mormon Trails Association; Morris County Tourism Bureau; Mountain Mamas; Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust; MS Tourism Association; Musconetcong Watershed Associa-

tion; Mystery Ranch; Natchitoches Convention and Visitors Bureau; National Aquarium; National Aviation Heritage Alliance; National Pony Express Assoc.; Native Fish Society; Native Prairies Association of Texas; Natural Lands; Natural Resources Council of Maine.

Nature for All; Naturesource Communications; NEMO Equipment, Inc.; Nevada Outdoor School; New Hampshire Audubon; New Hampshire Rivers Council; New Jersey Audubon; New Jersey Campground Owners and Outdoor Lodging Association; New Jersey Conservation Foundation; New Jersey Highlands Coalition; New Jersey Recreation & Park Association; New Jersey Sustainable Business Council; New Mexico Archaeological Council; New Mexico Horse Council; New Mexico Wild; New River Conservancy; New York League of Conservation Voters; New York-New Jersey Trail Conference; Nisqually Land Trust; No Barriers USA; Norcross Wildlife Foundation; North American Grouse Partnership; North Carolina Coastal Land Trust; North Carolina Friends of State Parks; North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Coalition; North Carolina Wildlife Federation; North Cascades Institute.

North Country Trail Association; North Florida Land Trust; North Shore Community Land Trust; North Shore Land Alliance; Northern Forest Canoe Trail; Northern Prairies Land Trust; Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative; Northern Virginia Conservation Trust; Northstar Canoes; Northwest Rafting Company; Northwest Watershed Institute; Norwell Conservation Commission; NW WI Equestrian Friends Network; NY/NJ Baykeeper; NYH2o; Ocmulgee Mounds Association; Ocmulgee National Park & Preserve Initiative; Ocmulgee Outdoor Expeditions, LLC; Ohio Mayors Alliance; Ohio Veterans Outdoors, Inc.; Opossum Creek Retreat LLC; Oregon Chapter of American Society of Landscape Architects; Oregon Desert Land Trust; Oregon Equestrian Trails; Oregon Outdoors Coalition; Otsego County Conservation Association; Our Montana, Inc.; Outdoor Afro; Outdoor Alliance California; Outdoor Gear Builders of WNC; Outer Banks Visitors Bureau; Over Mountain Victory Trail Association; Pacific Forest Trust; Pacific Northwest Trail Association; Pajarito Environmental Education Center; Park Rx America; Park Watershed; Parks & Trails New York; Parks California; Paula Lane Action Network (PLAN); Pawtuxet River Authority; Peace River Audubon Society.

Pee Dee Land Trust; Peninsula Open Space Trust; PennEnvironment; Pennsylvania Council of Churches; Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation; Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society; Peoria Audubon Society; Petersburg Battlefields Foundation; Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever; Pie Ranch; Piedmont Land Conservancy; Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance; Pinelands Preservation Alliance; Platte Land Trust; Pocono Heritage Land Trust; Prairie Rivers of Iowa; Preservation New Jersey; Preserve Arkansas; Presumpscot Regional Land Trust; Public Land Solutions; Quimby Family Foundation; R&R Fly Fishing Guide Service; Rangeley Area Chamber of Commerce; Rappahannock League for Environmental Protection; Rappahannock Tribe; Red Rooster Coffee House; Revolution House Media; Rhode Island Bicycle Coalition; Rio Grande Valley Broadband of the Great Old Broads for Wilderness.

River Through Atlanta Guide Service; RiverLink; Rocky Mountain Conservancy; Rocky Mountain Field Institute; Rocky Mountain Youth Corps; Ruffwear; Rutabaga Paddlesports; Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust; San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust; San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society; San

Diego Audubon Society; San Diego Mountain Biking Association; San Juan Back Country Horsemen; San Luis Valley Great Outdoors; Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation; Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority; Santosha on the Ridge; Save Historic Antietam Foundation, Inc.; Save Our Heritage Organization (SOHO); Save The Lakes Rhode Island; Save the Redwoods League; Scenic Galveston, Inc.; Scenic Rivers Land Trust; Scenic Virginia; Schuylkill Headwaters Association; Scottsbluff/Gering United Chamber; Sea and Sage Audubon Society; See Plymouth; Sequoia Riverlands Trust; Sereia Films; Sevier County.

Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition; Sheridan Community Land Trust; Shine Beer Sanctuary & Bottleshop; Shirley Heinze Land Trust; Sierra Foothills Audubon Society; Siskiyou Outdoor Recreation Alliance; Skagit Audubon Society; Sleepy Creek Watershed Association; Smith River Alliance; Snake River Fund; Snowy Mountain Chapter Trout Unlimited #610; Soap Creek Outfitters LLC; Society for Historical Archaeology; Society for the Protection of NH Forests; Sonoma Land Trust; Soul River Inc.; South Carolina Wildlife Federation; South Coast Tours; South Dakota Hotel & Lodging Association; South Florida Wildlands Association; Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative; Southern Nevada Conservancy; Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association; Speak Up Wekiva, Inc.; Spice Acres in the CVNP; St. Croix River Association; St. Mary's River Watershed Association; Studio ray; Superior Hiking Trail Association; Susquehanna National Heritage Area; Tangled Up In Hue; Teens to Trails; Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning; Tennessee College Democrats; Tennessee College Republican Committee; Tennessee Conservation Voters; Texas Land Conservancy; Texas Land Trust Council; The Carpenters' Company; The Cultural Landscape Foundation; The Custer Beacon.

The Friends of Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge; The Good Talk, LLC; The Jersey Shore Partnership; The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County (TLC); The Land Conservancy of New Jersey; The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County; The Mountaineers; The Oblong Land Conservancy; The Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund; The Open Space Council for the St. Louis Region; The Otos Group, LLC; The Piedmont Environmental Council; The Star-Spangled Banner Flag House; The Trustees; The UNPavement; The Vital Ground Foundation; The Wetlands Conservancy; The Wetlands Initiative; The Wilderness Society—Wyoming; The Wildlands Conservancy; The ZaneRay Group; Three Rivers Land Trust; Tishomingo County Tourism Council; TOGETHER Bay Area; Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed; Partnership; Town of Athol, Massachusetts; Open Space And Recreation Committee; Town of Littleton Parks and Rec; Town of Lyme Open Space Commission; Town of Palmer Conservation Commission; Trail Angels; Trails Inspire, LLC; Trails Utah.

Transylvania County Tourism Development Authority; Travelers' Rest Connection; Traverse City Tourism; Treeline Coffee Roasters; TreePeople; Triangle Greenways Council; Triangle Land Conservancy; TripHero; Tropical Audubon Society; Trout Unlimited; Pat Barnes Chapter, Helena, MT; Troyer Group; Upstate Forever; Urbana Park District; Utah Restaurant Association; Valley Creek Restoration Partnership; Valley Forge Park Alliance; Valley Forge Trout Unlimited; Vancouver Audubon Society; Vast Horizons Music, Inc.; Ventana Wilderness Alliance; Vermillionville Living History Museum; Vermont Conservation Voters; Vermont River Conservancy; Vinalhaven

Land Trust; Virginia Conservation Network; Virginia Eastern Shore Land Trust; Virginia League of Conservation Voters; Visit Moffat County / Moffat County Tourism Association; Visit Southern WV; VisitLEX; Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado; Voyageurs National Park Association; Walker Basin Conservancy; Wallowa Land Trust.

Ward 8 Woods Conservancy; Ward Walker 7 Oaks Ranch; Warm Springs Watershed Association; Washington Association of Land Trusts; Washington Conservation Voters; Washington Environmental Council; Washington Trails Association; Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition; Washington Wildlife Federation; Washington's National Park Fund; Water Stone Outdoors; West Sound Cycling Club; West Virginia Environmental Council; West Virginia Highlands Conservancy; West Virginia Land Trust; West Virginia Rivers Coalition; West Virginia Wilderness Coalition; Western Foothills Land Trust; Western Pocono Trout Unlimited; WestSlope Chapter Trout Unlimited; Wetland Strategies and Solutions, LLC; Whatcom Land Trust; Whitted Bowers Farm; Wilbarger Creek Conservation Alliance; Wildlife Management Institute; Willington Conservation Commission; Willistown Conservation Trust; Wilmington Rowing Center; Wimberley Valley Watershed Association; Windham Regional Commission; Wisconsin Environment; Wissahickon Trails; Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts; Wood River Land Trust; Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association; Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council; WV Citizen Action Group; Wyoming Outdoor Council; Wyoming Pathways; Wyoming Untrapped; Wyoming Wilderness Association; Wyoming Wildlife Advocates; Yellowstone River Parks Association Inc; Yellowstone Safari Company; YMCA of the Rockies; York Land Trust.

Mr. GARDNER. There is another historic feature I am particularly grateful for, and that is, the previous Secretaries of the Interior have signed a letter to Congress urging the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act. This letter includes two Secretaries of Interior from Colorado—Senator Ken Salazar, who was Secretary of the Interior under Barack Obama from 2009 to 2017, and Secretary Gale Norton, who was the Interior Secretary under President George W. Bush from 2001 to 2006. This letter was sent to us on June 3, 2020. It is a historic letter with six previous Secretaries of the Interior signing on to it, including Secretaries Zinke, Jewell, Kempthorne, Norton, and Babbitt.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this letter from the Secretaries of the Interior be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

JUNE 3, 2020.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI, MINORITY LEADER MCCARTHY, MAJORITY LEADER MCCONNELL AND MINORITY LEADER SCHUMER: During our time as Secretaries of the Interior, we had the privilege and responsibility of stewarding some of America's most incredible landscapes and natural and cultural treasures. Now, more than ever, we are all cognizant of the critical role of public lands in our lives, as places to recreate, to recharge and to seek solace in the midst of great uncertainty—and, also, to create jobs.

Together, we write to strongly urge swift passage and enactment of the Great Amer-

ican Outdoors Act (S. 3422) without any amendments. This bill (and its expected House companion) is critically needed to support the public lands upon which all Americans rely. The Great American Outdoors Act will advance the protection of America's special places and invest in the repair and restoration of deteriorating infrastructure. The bill will help address priority repairs in our National Parks and on other public lands by directing up to \$9.5 billion over five years to address maintenance needs within the National Park System, other public land agencies, and Bureau of Indian Education schools. It will also fully and permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund, our nation's most important conservation program, as authorized at \$900 million every year to ensure protection of and access to our public lands.

The Great American Outdoors Act will help ensure a better, brighter future for nature and for all of us. As Secretaries, we have all experienced how public lands managed by the Department provide vital functions like wildlife habitat while preserving water quantity and quality, sustaining working landscapes and rural economies, increasing access for recreation opportunities, and stimulating the outdoor economy. Nationally, outdoor recreation contributes roughly \$778 billion in consumer spending and supports 5.2 million jobs. The Great American Outdoors Act will ensure that our parks and other public lands are maintained and enhanced so that they can continue to provide these critical benefits for generations to come.

We are pleased to see strong bipartisan support from the House and Senate—and from the President—for the Great American Outdoors Act. Americans need these public lands. And Americans need your continued leadership to deliver this historic legislation into law.

Sincerely,

RYAN ZINKE,
Secretary of the Interior 2017–2019.

KEN SALAZAR,
Secretary of the Interior 2009–2013.

GALE NORTON,
Secretary of the Interior 2001–2006.

SALLY JEWELL,
Secretary of the Interior 2013–2017.

DIRK KEMPTHORNE,
Secretary of the Interior 2006–2009.

BRUCE BABBITT,
Secretary of the Interior 1993–2001.

Mr. GARDNER. We have a chance to lead. We have a chance to show the American people that Congress can work together. We have a chance to show the American people that indeed Republicans and Democrats can come together for the good of their country to provide great things for future generations. Despite the bickering seen on nightly talk shows, this Congress can come together and pass the Great American Outdoors Act, which can restore faith in our government to do what people hope we will do, and that is to come together and to work together and to inspire each other with those dreams of previous generations who protected our lands and had the idea and forethought to create national parks, to create national forests, to say that there are places in our great land

that can and should be enjoyed for generations to come.

It is also about ballparks and swimming pools because not all of these dollars go to purchase land. In fact, here is a photo of a ballpark in Pueblo, CO. Runyon Park was funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. We have swimming pools across Utah and Alaska that were funded through it as well. States determine a great portion of it.

Listed here is Paradise Sports Park in Paradise, UT. It sounds like a great place. In 2015, \$80,000 was used for that park in Paradise.

In Alaska, the Kenai Peninsula, there is the Kenai soccer park in the city of Kenai, which received \$321,000 from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Let's lead. Let's inspire. Let's show the American people that, indeed, from sea to shining sea, across America, the beautiful, the Great American Outdoors Act can stand as a testament to a Congress that realizes generations ahead of us need for us to work for them as well.

I will end this with a quote from the Father of Rocky Mountain National Park, who said: "Within National Parks is room—glorious room—room in which to find ourselves, in which to think and hope, to dream and plan, to rest and resolve."

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting the motion to proceed, the rollcall vote we are about to take. I would encourage my colleagues to vote yes.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). All time has expired.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, 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 North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROMNEY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 79, nays 18, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 116 Leg.]

YEAS—79

Alexander	Cantwell	Cramer
Baldwin	Capito	Daines
Bennet	Cardin	Duckworth
Blackburn	Carper	Durbin
Blumenthal	Casey	Ernst
Blunt	Collins	Feinstein
Booker	Coons	Fischer
Boozman	Cornyn	Gardner
Braun	Cortez Masto	Gillibrand
Brown	Cotton	Graham

Grassley	Merkley	Sinema
Harris	Murkowski	Smith
Hassan	Murphy	Stabenow
Hawley	Murray	Sullivan
Heinrich	Perdue	Tester
Hirono	Peters	Thune
Hoeven	Portman	Tillis
Jones	Reed	Udall
Kaine	Roberts	Van Hollen
King	Rosen	Warner
Klobuchar	Rubio	Warren
Leahy	Sanders	Whitehouse
Loeffler	Schatz	Wicker
Manchin	Schumer	Wyden
McConnell	Scott (FL)	Young
McSally	Scott (SC)	
Menendez	Shaheen	

NAYS—18

Barrasso	Johnson	Risch
Cassidy	Kennedy	Romney
Crapo	Lankford	Rounds
Cruz	Lee	Sasse
Enzi	Moran	Shelby
Inhofe	Paul	Toomey

NOT VOTING—3

Burr	Hyde-Smith	Markey
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The motion was agreed to.

TAXPAYER FIRST ACT OF 2019

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1957) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modernize and improve the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

AMENDMENT NO. 1617

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.)

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 1617.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL], for Mr. GARDNER, proposes an amendment numbered 1617.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading be dispensed with.

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

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for the substitute amendment.

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 amendment No. 1617 to Calendar No. 75, H.R. 1957,

a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modernize and improve the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, John Hoeven, John Thune, Cory Gardner, Pat Roberts, Lindsey Graham, Susan M. Collins, John Boozman, Kevin Cramer, Thom Tillis, Rob Portman, Roy Blunt, Lamar Alexander, Todd Young, Steve Daines, Shelley Moore Capito, David Perdue.

AMENDMENT NO. 1626 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1617

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have an amendment at the desk, and I ask the clerk to report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 1626 to amendment No. 1617.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask that the reading be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the end add the following:

"This Act shall take effect 1 day after the date of enactment."

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 1627 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1626

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 1627 to amendment No. 1626.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask that the reading be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

Strike "1 day" and insert "2 days"

AMENDMENT NO. 1628 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1617

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have an amendment to the text of the underlying bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 1628 to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 1617.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask that the reading be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the end add the following.

"This Act shall take effect 3 days after the date of enactment."

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.