

the Senate, Kentucky was the only State without its own national wildlife refuge. We had plenty of history and heritage. We just needed a little help to preserve it.

With the support of hunters, boaters, and outdoorsmen in the Jackson Purchase region, I led the establishment of the Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge. It was a huge step to protect local species and our treasured Kentucky pastimes. This refuge has continued to grow over the years. Thanks to the Land and Water Conservation Fund and many willing sellers, it now makes thousands of acres available for appreciation, recreation, and tourism.

Like many public lands, these wildlife areas make great neighbors. In a single year, more than 50 million visitors come to America's wildlife refuges nationwide and spend billions in nearby communities.

Decades later, another Kentucky community was looking to safeguard its own natural treasure. The Green River, which flows through Kentucky and meets the Ohio River near Henderson County, is one of the most biodiverse waterways on the entire continent. I was proud to take the lead once again, and alongside strong local supporters and a broad coalition of groups, we sent a bill to President Trump, and he signed it into law. We welcomed the Interior Secretary to Western Kentucky last year to cut the ribbon on the Green River National Wildlife Refuge.

But Kentuckians know that ribbon cuttings are just the beginning. Our State has newly designated public lands that need attention to get off the ground. We have well-established public lands that have opportunities to grow and improve, and we have places like the Daniel Boone National Forest, established more than 80 years ago, that need our careful attention and upkeep.

This legislation before the Senate will help all of them. It will help us repair levees at the Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge. It will also help our two wildlife refuges continue to grow. It will help Mill Springs Battlefield and Camp Nelson continue to teach the history of emancipation and the Civil War to new generations. It will help us make infrastructure upgrades at Mammoth Cave National Park for the safety of 2 million annual visitors. It will help enhance the Land Between the Lakes and its \$600 million economic impact. It will fund transportation and structural maintenance in the Daniel Boone National Forest, which supports more than 900 jobs. It will help us rehabilitate the Cumberland Gap and give future Americans the opportunity to literally follow in the footsteps of our early explorers.

Kentucky is proud of our public lands. We are proud of the role our natural inheritance plays in our vibrant present and our promising future. Of course, we are only just one State. Every one of my Senate colleagues has

renewing a national dialogue, although dialogue is always important. It is about making real and meaningful progress. And the way to do that is with comprehensive police reform legislation in Congress.

House and Senate Democrats have already drafted legislation that would ban the use of choke holds and other tactics that have taken the lives of Black Americans like George Floyd and Eric Garner; that would also ban the use of no-knock warrants in drug cases, which is one of the reasons for the death of Breonna Taylor; that would limit the transfer of military equipment to police departments; and, crucially, that would make it easier to hold police accountable for misconduct, as well as institute several reforms to prevent that misconduct in the first place.

The moment does not call for cherry-picking one or two things to do; it calls for bold, broad change—whole-scale reform, not piecemeal reform. I know the inclination of some of my Senate colleagues would be to cherry-pick a few small improvements and say the job is done. It will not be. We need to start—start—with the Justice in Policing Act, a strong, comprehensive bill that people, particularly Senators BOOKER and HARRIS, the CBC, spent a lot of time with experts who have studied this issue for many, many months and years.

For too long, when major issues wash over the country, the waves of change and progress crash against the rocks of a disinterested Republican Senate majority.

When Americans watched in horror as another spate of mass shootings rocked the Nation, they rose up and demanded change. President Trump and Senate Republicans initially tried to make the right noises. Leader MCCONNELL promised that a debate on expanding background checks would be “front and center” in the Senate after shootings in Dayton and El Paso, but, predictably, that debate never came to pass.

That seems to be the M.O. of our Republican friends. When there is a national crisis, major issues, people in the streets worried and concerned and wanting change, we hear words, and then the strategy is delay and, at the end, do nothing. We cannot go through these same motions again.

This is about the original sin of America that we must try to deal with head-on. There are Americans in the streets, shouting at the top of their lungs for change, young people, idealistic people—the best of America. The Senate must pursue comprehensive reform, not the lowest common denominator and certainly not more empty rhetorical resolutions.

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. Mr. President, the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery catapulted the issues of racial justice, police violence, and systemic racism to the forefront of this Nation's conscience. These issues are not new. Some are even older than the Nation itself. The anger felt by hundreds of thousands of protestors is about that historical and pervasive injustice. It is rooted in our decades-long failure to reform police departments and the yawning gap between our ideal of equal justice under law and the reality of equal justice for only some.

America is an experiment. The Founding Fathers said that. We know it deep in our bones. An experiment means you can change, and some of the best observers of the difference—I think de Tocqueville was one of these—of America and the difference between us and other countries—we are willing to change.

I am touched and moved—I was with the demonstrators on Saturday in New York, in Brooklyn—by how many people were there—great diversity—and how many were young and idealistic and doing things for just the right reasons—not selfish reasons but for the betterment of the country, to make us a more perfect union.

We must seize this moment. We cannot let it pass. This isn't about simply

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#### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Of course, there is another crisis in the country crying out for action and leadership.