

that made their own States unique. America's hundreds of millions of acres of public lands are the result of hundreds of years of exploration and conservation. Today, the Senate will act to ensure this inheritance will stand the test of time for generations of Americans yet to come.

The Great American Outdoors Act will bring much needed resources to the long-deferred maintenance and upkeep in parks and other public lands all across our country. It will secure permanent support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and its mission of expanding access to national treasures.

This major legislation is only before us because of the persistent effort on the part of several of our colleagues. So one last time, I thank Senator GARDNER and Senator DAINES for their outstanding leadership, and Senators PORTMAN, MANCHIN, ALEXANDER, and WARNER, among other colleagues on both sides, for all their work to bring this bipartisan project to completion.

I hope, following our action, the House will take it up and pass it quickly. The President has already said he is eager to sign it. We should not let this historic opportunity pass us by. I look forward to passing this monumental legislation later today.

#### 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— Resumed

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

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.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### JUSTICE ACT

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, in the wake of recent tragic deaths of several

African Americans at the hands of the police, our country has reached a turning point.

Americans of every race, background, and political persuasion are calling for change. Too many Americans feel unsafe right now. Too many Americans live in fear that what happened to George Floyd could happen to their own fathers, sons, and brothers. Too many Americans see in law enforcement officers individuals to be feared rather than trusted.

Americans are ready for all of that to end. They want reform and increased accountability. They want to make sure that we are holding our law enforcement officers to the highest standards. And they want their fellow Americans to feel confident that what happened to George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and too many others will not happen to their loved ones.

Members of Congress have been listening. I have been listening. Today, I am proud to rise in support of Senator SCOTT's policing reform bill, which I am cosponsoring.

Senator SCOTT's Just and Unifying Solutions to Invigorate Communities Everywhere Act, or the JUSTICE Act, is the product of a lot of serious work—years of it, in fact. The JUSTICE Act is an extensive bill that addresses various aspects of policing reform. One important section of the bill is the George Floyd and Walter Scott Notification Act, which would correct deficiencies in law enforcement reporting of use-of-force incidents.

Right now, the FBI National Use-of-Force Data Collection receives data on only about 40 percent of law enforcement officers. That needs to change. The only way we can understand the scope of the problems we are facing is to have full and accurate data. A complete data picture will allow us to pinpoint problems, identify troubled police departments, and develop best practices for use of force and deescalation training.

There are many, many police departments across our Nation that are doing an exemplary job of policing, that have excellent relationships with the community, and that are already implementing a lot of best practices. But there are also more troubled police departments.

Police departments that fail to train their officers properly overlook officer misbehavior. We need to identify those police departments and demand their reform. Collecting full and accurate data on use-of-force incidents will help us do that.

One policing measure that has been found to reduce both officers' use of force and complaints against police officers is body cameras. Body-worn cameras record every officer interaction with the community, which encourages appropriate behavior and helps to create an accurate record of events. These cameras keep both citizens and police officers safer. But implementing the use of these cameras can be costly, as

can storing the copious data that accumulates. So the JUSTICE Act will create a new grant program to help local police departments purchase body-worn cameras and associated data storage. Funding eligibility will be conditional on the department's implementation of best practices for these cameras, and any department that fails to properly use the cameras that it has purchased using the grant program will face a reduction in Federal funding.

Another important section of the JUSTICE Act focuses on police deescalation and duty-to-intervene training. Sometimes police end up using force in situations where it could have been avoided simply because they lack the necessary training to deescalate a situation without the use of force. It may be understandable that well-meaning but overwhelmed police officers in dangerous circumstances have sometimes resorted to the use of force too quickly, but that is not a situation we can accept.

Every police officer in this country should be given the kind of training that will ensure that use of force is restricted only to those situations where it is absolutely needed.

I expect to see a lot of support for this bill from my Republican colleagues here in the Senate. I wouldn't be surprised if this bill receives a lot of support from law enforcement, as well, because most of our Nation's law enforcement officers want to implement policing best practices. They want to develop strong relationships with the communities they protect, and they want to avoid use-of-force incidents that place both officers and suspects in jeopardy.

I met with local law enforcement leaders in my home State of South Dakota last Friday. What I heard from them was a real desire to do everything they can to serve every member of their communities. They have already been participating in forums to listen to community concerns in the wake of George Floyd's death, and they are supportive of JUSTICE Act measures to help departments expand their minority hiring, to improve deescalation training, and to develop and promulgate best practices. I wouldn't be surprised if they and a lot of other law enforcement agencies end up backing this bill.

I really hope Democrats will come to the table as well. Senator SCOTT has produced a bill that should have the support of every Member of the Senate, and I hope that it will.

We have made a lot of progress as a nation when it comes to overcoming the sins of our past, but it would be a mistake to think that because we have made progress, our work is over. There is still much to be done and many wounds to heal.

We must make those tasks a priority. We must continue to work toward a more perfect Union, toward the full realization of our founding promise that all men are created equal, and toward