

Secretary Brouillette has his leadership team in place, and Mr. Menezes has demonstrated that he has the knowledge and the experience needed to succeed as Deputy Secretary.

So I appreciate, and I have shared this with Mr. Menezes, his willingness to serve our country in a new and a higher capacity, particularly as we seek to harness the Department's capabilities to overcome and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

I thank the majority leader for bringing up his nomination. I would urge every Member to vote in favor of it on cloture today and on confirmation tomorrow.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. President, before I yield the floor to my friend and colleague, the ranking member on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I want to take just a very, very, very brief moment and urge us, at this moment, on the 3rd of August, as we are commencing this workweek here, where the expectation from people from Alaska to West Virginia and all points in between is that this Congress is going to come together to be responsive to the needs of the most vulnerable in this country right now—the vulnerability that has come about because of a global health pandemic and the ensuing economic crisis that we see now.

I spent the weekend back home in Alaska. I heard the concerns and the fears of so many for whom things are not getting better. Things are looking worse, and it is bleak. As of today, in the State's largest city, the mayor has recognized that with the numbers increasing as they are, we need to go back to the hunker-down mode. So restaurants and bars are shutting down again—just after they thought, with some level of optimism, they would be able to bring folks back into work, they would be able to fill up the freezers and get the produce and get the great salmon that is coming in off the streams and serve up some great meals. That is not happening.

So that economic picture in our largest community is bleaker and bleaker. And for those who wake up and know that today is the day that they have to pay the mortgage, they have to pay the rent, and they don't know what level of assistance is going to be coming from their Congress—they do know, though, that the unemployment benefits that they had received, the plussed-up amount, that that is not on the horizon for them.

They do know that school is opening up in 20 days, and there is uncertainty with how the schools are going to safely open up for the children and for the faculty, the teachers, the janitors, how they are going to make that work. And, oh, by the way, if this is a schedule where the kids are only in class for a couple days a week, for a shorter time period, how do I deal with the struggles and the challenges of childcare?

The folks at the food bank whom I met with over the weekend who are so

concerned about the food security issues, for them, recognizing that a plus-up in SNAP may be—may be what gets that family through from week to week.

This is not the time for us to figure out what every one of us wants because this is the must-pass bill in this Congress. It is a must-pass bill. But we have to recognize that this can't be about what we need, what I might need for my election, or what I might want to advance as a legacy piece. This needs to be about those for whom the anxiety and the—just the awful place they are in right now; that they know we have been responsive to them; that we are addressing the immediacy of now.

So whether it is what we do with unemployment insurance, whether it is what we do with food security, childcare, a longer term PPP program that will help our businesses, the short-term assistances—but understanding what it means for the longer term—the delay here only hurts the most vulnerable.

So I am urging all of us, let's come together, let's work with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, let's work with our colleagues over in the House, because people in my State are hurting, and they are expecting us to respond.

With that, I know that Senator MANCHIN wished to speak to the nomination of Mr. Menezes. I appreciate his good work on the committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous to be able to complete my remarks.

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

NOMINATION OF MARK WESLEY MENEZES

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the Mark Menezes nomination to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

I agree wholeheartedly with our chairwoman for Energy and Natural Resources. We have a great working relationship, and we have a good friendship that means more than anything to me.

But, basically, every now and then you get a person who comes before you that you know they are there for the good of the public. They are truly public servants, not for private service.

So this person comes across with so much expertise. That is going to play an important role in our national defense and our energy and economic security and our science and research and even in fighting the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and helping to rebuild our economy.

The Deputy Secretary plays a central role in all of these efforts, and I believe that Mr. Menezes is up to the task.

The Deputy Secretary is the second highest ranking officer in the Department of Energy and the Department's chief operating officer on top of that. He is responsible for managing the De-

partment's wide-ranging mission and a budget of over \$35 billion dollars—\$35-billion-dollar budget.

The DOE and its labs can also play a vital role in supporting the scientific research and development needed to rebuild our economy.

In addition, the Department is responsible for maintaining the Nation's nuclear weapons stockpile, overseeing the four power marketing administrations, and ensuring our energy security and protecting the Nation's energy sector from cyber attacks, among other things.

As the Department's second highest ranking officer and its chief operating office, the Deputy Secretary necessarily plays a critical role in all of these important functions.

Mr. Menezes brings an impressive background to the job. Thirty years ago, he was counsel to our former colleague Senator John Breaux; 15 years ago, he was chief counsel to the House Energy and Commerce and played a major role in shaping the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

He has held senior posts at the American Electric Power Company, the Hunton and Williams law firm, and Berkshire Hathaway Energy.

Most importantly, though, for the past 3 years, he has served as the Under Secretary of Energy. As the Under Secretary of Energy, Mr. Menezes has shown he is up to the task and capable of handling the job of Deputy Secretary.

I think that he truly, clearly, demonstrated his knowledge and his firm grasp of the wide range of important issues before the Department during the confirmation hearing, and I am happy to support his nomination in the most bipartisan way.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. President, I would also like to make a few comments on what my good friend Senator MURKOWSKI from Alaska said.

People are depending on us. This is not time to have political battles. People are hurting in West Virginia; they are hurting in Arkansas; they are hurting all over. The uncertainty hurts them more than anything else. We have to make sure that we understand this is a health crisis.

A health crisis needs to have its attention. We can't be closing hospitals in the middle of a health crisis. I have three rural hospitals that closed. We have to make sure that they stay open to fight the fight. Also, I am certain of one point. Unemployment is not going to come back full force until people know they have a vaccine or an antibody that will protect them from a fatal disease. They are concerned and worried about that.

With that being said, right now they are asking us to continue on for the next 5 months. We don't have connectivity. You talk about telework, distance learning, telehealth. They can't have any of this if they can't connect. So we have to make sure that one

major infrastructure project has to be connectivity—broadband and high speed. We have been working on hot spots just to get through these 5 months.

There are things we agree on. Democrats and Republicans are coming together as Americans. We agree. We would like to help. They are just arguing over amounts and this and that and the other.

The bottom line is that we have to agree on what we can agree on and meet the needs of the people on the frontlines. That is the most important thing. So I whole-heartedly engage in any type of bipartisan cooperation or bipartisan talks that we can move along to show people that we can put the needs of the public above the partisan divide that we have here and have had for a long time—since I have been here—and for decades.

I am happy to support Mr. Menezes, and I appreciate the bipartisan support we have for him.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The 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 the nomination of Mark Wesley Menezes, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

Mitch McConnell, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Todd Young, Pat Roberts, Lamar Alexander, John Hoeven, Roy Blunt, Mike Crapo, Martha McSally, Tom Cotton, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Rounds, Joni Ernst, Cory Gardner, Thom Tillis, Shelley Moore Capito, James E. Risch.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Mark Wesley Menezes, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) would have voted “yea.”

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (HEINRICH), the Senator from Vermont (LEAHY), and the Senator from Vermont (SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 78, nays 14, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 154 Ex.]

YEAS—78

Alexander	Enzi	Perdue
Baldwin	Ernst	Peters
Barrasso	Feinstein	Portman
Bennet	Fischer	Reed
Blackburn	Gardner	Risch
Blunt	Graham	Roberts
Booker	Grassley	Romney
Boozman	Hassan	Rounds
Braun	Hawley	Rubio
Brown	Hoeven	Sasse
Cantwell	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Capito	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cardin	Jones	Shaheen
Carper	Kaine	Shelby
Casey	Kennedy	Sinema
Cassidy	King	Smith
Collins	Lankford	Stabenow
Coons	Lee	Sullivan
Cornyn	Loeffler	Tester
Cotton	Manchin	Thune
Cramer	McConnell	Udall
Crapo	McSally	Van Hollen
Cruz	Murkowski	Warner
Daines	Murphy	Whitehouse
Duckworth	Murray	Wicker
Durbin	Paul	Young

NAYS—14

Blumenthal	Klobuchar	Schatz
Cortez Masto	Markey	Schumer
Gillibrand	Menendez	Warren
Harris	Merkley	Wyden
Hirono	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—8

Burr	Leahy	Tillis
Heinrich	Moran	Toomey
Hyde-Smith	Sanders	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 78, the nays are 14.

The motion is agreed to.

The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

(At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD)

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS L. BOWLIN

• Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Thomas L. Bowlin, Colonel, USAF, Ret., who in addition to a distinguished career in the U.S. Air Force, has served as the first Director of Government Affairs for the North Carolina National Guard. I thank him for his many years of service to the great State of North Carolina and our great Nation.

Colonel Bowlin began his military career with the U.S. Air Force in 1975. He has served across the United States, as well as in Germany, Hawaii, Pakistan, and Alaska. He was the first USAF officer to attend Pakistan's War College and served in a number of key assignments with increasing levels of responsibility.

Following his retirement from the U.S. Air Force in 2001, Colonel Bowlin continued his dedication to service by beginning a second career and becoming the first Director of Government Affairs for the North Carolina National Guard. He served as an essential component of North Carolina National Guard leadership for nearly two decades where he has advised the adjutant general directly and interfaced with local, State, and Federal officials.

Colonel Bowlin has served roughly 11,500 citizen soldiers and airmen in the North Carolina Army and Air National Guard through many deployments overseas and harrowing natural disasters at home. Tom's contribution to advancing the overall readiness and operational capabilities of the North Carolina National Guard has been vital in maintaining an effective and resilient reserve force. Through operations including Inherent Resolve, Enduring Freedom, and Freedom's Sentinel, as well as during Hurricanes Irene, Matthew, Florence, and Dorian, Colonel Bowlin has ensured that the men and women of the Guard had the utmost preparation of every mission that they embarked upon.

Colonel Bowlin has worked tirelessly on a number of both Federal, State, and local priorities and policy reforms for the North Carolina National Guard. Just to name a few, these range from appropriations for facilities, programs, and assets, family readiness, GI Bill transferability, TRICARE expansion, tuition assistance, occupational licensing, rental agreement protections, and many more, which will continue to benefit National Guard servicemembers and their families for years to come.

As a U.S. Senator, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and a North Carolinian, I am pleased to congratulate Colonel Bowlin on his retirement from the North Carolina National Guard and for his impressive career of military service and steadfast commitment to our country.●

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2021.

The National Defense Authorization Act provides crucial resources for our Armed Forces and our national defense, including a pay increase for our men and women in uniform. I am glad that the Senate was able to come together on a bipartisan basis to pass this legislation to support our servicemembers, strengthen our national security, and invest in critical projects in my home State of Maryland. While there are parts of this legislation that I do not support and will seek to change in conference, I believe that, on balance, this bill serves our national interest.

In particular, I am pleased that this NDAA grants expanded acquisition authority for U.S. Cyber Command,