

from Alaska and the ranking member, Senator MANCHIN, for their great work of getting these energy provisions that have been—I don't know how many Members, but I am sure just about every Member in our body has had something to do with it and a lot of actual individual legislation. So this was a long effort by our colleague, the chair of the committee, and I thank her for her diligence on this. She has had many of us up to Alaska to look at hydropower and alternative resources and how their grid needs better connectivity and products that can withstand and provide energy in sub-zero weather and all sorts of challenges that they face.

But, clearly, these tools that will be in this legislation will move us forward. So thank you and thanks to Senator MANCHIN for working so diligently to get this finally over the goal line. It is a big moment. Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to the motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on the nomination of Eric J. Soskin.

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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 285 Leg.]

YEAS—48

Alexander	Ernst	Paul
Barrasso	Fischer	Portman
Blackburn	Gardner	Risch
Blunt	Graham	Roberts
Boozman	Grassley	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rubio
Burr	Hoeven	Sasse
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Collins	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Toomey
Cruz	Moran	Wicker
Daines	Murkowski	Young

NAYS—46		
Baldwin	Heinrich	Sanders
Bennet	Hirono	Schatz
Blumenthal	Jones	Schumer
Booker	Kaine	Shaheen
Brown	Kelly	Sinema
Cantwell	King	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Markey	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Peters	Wyden
Gillibrand	Reed	
Hassan	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—6

Enzi	Loeffler	Perdue
Harris	Manchin	Rounds

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote for which cloture was not invoked on the nomination of Eric J. Soskin, and 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 286 Ex.]

YEAS—48

Alexander	Ernst	Paul
Barrasso	Fischer	Portman
Blackburn	Gardner	Risch
Blunt	Graham	Roberts
Boozman	Grassley	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rubio
Burr	Hoeven	Sasse
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Collins	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Toomey
Cruz	Moran	Wicker
Daines	Murkowski	Young

NAYS—46

Baldwin	Heinrich	Sanders
Bennet	Hirono	Schatz
Blumenthal	Jones	Schumer
Booker	Kaine	Shaheen
Brown	Kelly	Sinema
Cantwell	King	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Markey	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Peters	Wyden
Gillibrand	Reed	
Hassan	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—6

Enzi	Loeffler	Perdue
Harris	Manchin	Rounds

The motion was agreed to.

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 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 the nomination of Eric J. Soskin, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Transportation.

Mitch McConnell, Lamar Alexander, Rick Scott, Tom Cotton, Mike Crapo, Cory Gardner, Ron Johnson, James Lankford, Roger F. Wicker, Marco Rubio, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Thom Tillis, Shelley Moore Capito, John Boozman, Joni Ernst, Mike Braun, Pat Roberts.

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 Eric J. Soskin, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Transportation, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

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 Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 48, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 287 Ex.]

YEAS—48

Alexander	Ernst	Paul
Barrasso	Fischer	Portman
Blackburn	Gardner	Risch
Blunt	Graham	Roberts
Boozman	Grassley	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rubio
Burr	Hoeven	Sasse
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Collins	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Toomey
Cruz	Moran	Wicker
Daines	Murkowski	Young

NAYS—44

Baldwin	Brown	Casey
Bennet	Cantwell	Coons
Blumenthal	Cardin	Cortez Masto
Booker	Carper	Duckworth

Durbin
Feinstein
Gillibrand
Hassan
Heinrich
Hirono
Jones
Kelly
King
Klobuchar
Leahy

Markey
Menendez
Merkley
Murphy
Murray
Peters
Reed
Rosen
Schatz
Schumer
Shaheen

Sinema
Smith
Stabenow
Tester
Udall
Van Hollen
Reed
Warner
Warren
Whitehouse
Wyden

NOT VOTING—8

Enzi
Harris
Kaine

Loeffler
Manchin
Perdue

Rounds
Sanders

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 48, the nays are 44.

Upon reconsideration, the motion is agreed to.

The Senator from North Carolina.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 1964

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise and in a moment I will ask unanimous consent to right a wrong that has lingered for over a century and to call up and pass H.R. 1964, the Lumbee Recognition Act. Prior to that, I want to say that I am honored, with my colleague Senator TILLIS, to represent the Lumbee people.

The Lumbee are the largest Native American Tribe east of the Mississippi River, with a membership of over 60,000. They have called the present-day counties of Robeson, Scotland, Hoke, and Cumberland their home in North Carolina. They have been a cohesive part of the community in North Carolina for centuries, and they have developed unique Tribal instructions that have served their membership well in the face of extraordinary adversity.

They have been teachers, farmers, doctors, small business owners, sheriffs, clerks of court, State legislators, and judges. Many have protected our Nation by serving in the Armed Forces. Their contribution to their community, to the State of North Carolina, and to the country is innumerable.

Their commitment to education is unparalleled. In the 1800s, the State authorized the Tribe to run the State's school district for Lumbee children. The State also authorized the opening of a specially advanced Indian school known as the Normal School to train teachers to teach in Lumbee Indian schools. Although the State provided no money for construction for the facilities, the Lumbees pulled together and constructed an Indian Normal School of their own. Since then, the Indian school has been in operation continuously. Today it is the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

The State of North Carolina recognized the Lumbee Tribe in 1885. Three years later, the Tribe began its quest for full recognition. Over the next 50 years, they repeatedly petitioned the Federal Government for assistance but to no avail.

Then, during the height of the shameful termination era, Congress passed the Lumbee Act of 1956. This partial recognition designated the Lumbees residing in Robeson and adjoining counties of North Carolina as the "Lumbee Indians of North Caro-

lina," while simultaneously blocking the Lumbees from accessing Federal services and benefits available to other federally recognized Tribes. It is nothing short of discrimination.

To put this in context, four other Tribes were terminated by Congress in 1956, like the Lumbees. All have had their Federal recognition status restored. Only the Lumbees have yet to receive the full Federal recognition they deserve. As a matter of fact, in 2018, this Senate recognized Indian Tribes. In 2019, seven Tribes in Virginia were recognized by this Congress and this Senate.

It is unfortunate while the Lumbee Tribe is incredibly resilient, decades of discrimination have caused severe economic consequences for the people. Robeson is one of the poorest counties in the United States. The 1956 law has put them on an unequal footing compared to other federally recognized Tribes and has prevented them from obtaining access to critical services through the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service. This is simply unjust and it is immoral.

To correct this injustice, since 1987, members of North Carolina's congressional delegation from both sides of the aisle have repeatedly come together to introduce the Lumbee Recognition Act, which would grant full Federal recognition to the Tribe.

Over the past 11 years, I have been proud to be the lead sponsor of this legislation in the Senate, and it has always been a bipartisan effort.

This year, the bill was led by a Democratic Member of the House of Representatives, G. K. BUTTERFIELD, and supported by Congressman HUDSON and Congressman BISHOP, both Republicans. Last month, the House passed the Lumbee Recognition bill by voice vote unanimously. Let me say that again—by voice vote unanimously.

You would think that this great deliberative body could process and understand the—really the discrimination that is going on here to these folks. People claim that the Lumbees are not a Tribe. Yet read the statistics—it is the largest Tribe east of the Mississippi River. I think they finally educated the House. But despite the overwhelming support for doing the right thing, Congress has yet to actually do it.

The time for excuses is over. The time for action is now. It is time to finally do what should have been done 130 years ago. It is time for the Federal Government to recognize the Lumbees for the Tribe they are.

I have had a great partner in Senator TILLIS, and I would yield to him for any comments he would like to make.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I thank Senator BURR for his leadership and leaning into this for many years before I even joined the Senate.

I thank Senator Dole for filing this bill that actually even had Senator MCCONNELL's cosponsorship many, many years ago.

I thank the Lumbee people for their patience, but, quite honestly, when you are talking about the ninth largest Tribe east of the Mississippi River—I am sorry—the ninth largest in the Nation and the largest Tribe east of the Mississippi River, a Tribe that has been seeking recognition since 1888—they were recognized as Indian by the State of North Carolina in 1885. In 1956, they were partially recognized.

We heard a unanimous vote coming out of the House. They were prepared to provide recognition. In November, we heard President Trump and Vice President Biden both say they support recognition. So we are so close.

There is a compelling case. It is a century in the making. And the fact that we couldn't get this through today when it passed unanimously out of the House just a month ago I think is a shame.

I appreciate Senator BURR for his patience and his tenacity. We are not going to let this go. Hopefully, it gets done tonight, but we have to recognize that the Lumbee people deserve recognition, they deserve respect. They have been fighting for it for a century, and I am going to fight for it as long as I am in the U.S. Senate.

I yield the floor.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I thank my colleague, and I reiterate that if for some reason there is an objection—and I think there will be tonight—either before we swear in a new Congress or after we swear in a new Congress, I promise my colleagues that this place will come to a grinding halt, and we will take up through regular order the Lumbee Recognition Act. We will debate it for as long as people want to, and we will make the case as to why this discrimination is despicable.

So, at this time, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1964 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues for their time tonight, and I urge all of our colleagues to prepare. This will be back up.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Eric J. Soskin, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Transportation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.