

The bipartisan legislation is fiscally responsible. It helps grow the economy; it cuts redtape; and it makes our communities safer. It will spur economic growth by creating jobs and by authorizing vital projects.

In my home State of Wyoming and across the Rocky Mountain West, access to consistent water supply is essential for ranchers and farmers. The water that we need in our home States to grow crops and raise cattle has to be delivered on time.

In several communities, the water reservoirs that serve farmers and ranchers happen to be old. These aging reservoirs and irrigation systems need maintenance or full rebuilding. This bill makes these projects a significant priority.

The legislation will also establish a new Army Corps of Engineers program for construction of new, small water storage projects or the expansion of existing ones. It will also authorize the Army Corps of Engineers to carry out sediment removal projects in water reservoirs. This improves water quality, and it increases water quantity.

The bill authorizes projects to maintain shipping lanes, to deepen ports, to upgrade aging dams, and to increase water storage across the West. Maintained shipping lanes ensure that American-made goods are shipped from the heartland to the coasts and around the world. Deepened ports result in increased commerce. If our major ports are dredged and deep, then more ships can use them to export more goods.

These projects that we are getting ready to adopt tonight will all create jobs and expand commerce in America's cities and the heartland. To ensure these important projects get moving, the bill cuts redtape to speed up the Army Corps of Engineers' process.

The Water Resources Development Act is going to expedite the permitting, the construction, the repair, and the maintenance of many Army Corps projects. Communities can't afford to wait years and years for flood management or water storage projects to be completed. They need them now.

Finally, this legislation will make communities safer. The critical infrastructure projects included here will help prevent damaging floods by maintaining dams and levees. Floods can take a terrible toll in property damage and on human life.

The legislation allows the Army Corps of Engineers to focus efforts on fixing aging flood management infrastructure. It prioritizes the dams and levees most at risk.

I would like to really thank the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee chairman, PETER DEFAZIO, and the ranking member, SAM GRAVES, for working with us to get this legislation to the finish line.

I want to thank Infrastructure Subcommittee Chair CAPITO and Ranking Member CARDIN for their work as well.

I say to the Presiding Officer, as I wrap this up and thank you for your in-

volvement, I want to thank every member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, and specifically the ranking member, TOM CARPER—whose staff has worked so closely with mine—for working with me on this bill. I am so grateful for his partnership as we have worked together over the last 4 years as I served as chair and he served as ranking member. We have not always agreed on every issue, but we have respected the positions of each of us. We have worked and found common ground, found solutions, and I believe made a real difference for the economy and, most importantly here, the environment.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

CYBER SECURITY

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise today to express concern over a monumental breach to the Nation's national security infrastructure.

Last week, the Washington Post, among other publications, reported hacks of several government agencies by way of the SolarWinds platform over several months.

The New York Times, on the 17th of this month, had a headline that included these words: "Officials Warn of 'Grave Risk.'" But in that report, the New York Times indicated that at least 40 companies, government agencies, and think tanks had been infiltrated. The infiltrated agencies include the Departments of Defense, State, Homeland Security, Treasury, Commerce, Energy, and Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration, as well as the National Institutes of Health. That is about seven different entities, if you include the Department of Energy as one entity, in the hacking of different parts of the Department, and there could be more.

All the reporting indicates that the hackers are affiliated with Russian intelligence. Russia has proven itself both capable and willing to invade and exploit our digital infrastructure for its own ends.

While Secretary of State Mike Pompeo confirmed that Russia was behind this damaging breach of our systems, President Trump is casting doubt—and that might be an understatement.

Even in the waning days of his administration, our national security continues to suffer at the hands of the President's deference to Vladimir Putin.

I have to say for the record, I hope this number changes, but only about 10 Republican Senators have expressed concerns. I hope that number grows exponentially in the next couple of days.

I have to ask: What if this breach occurred under a Democratic President—

President Obama, for example? Would there be more than 10 statements or 11 or 12? This should be categorically, roundly condemned by every U.S. Senator of either party.

These hacks renew the urgency for additional resources for defensive cyber security across our government. This need is not a new one. In fact, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, known as CISA, C-I-S-A, was stood up within the Department of Homeland Security in 2018 precisely to shore up the U.S. Government's defenses against such hacks, such intrusions.

However, as we all know, just days after the 2020 Presidential election, President Trump fired CISA's Director, Chris Krebs, for contradicting the President's own false claims regarding the election.

The President has failed to take this hack, this attack on our security, this attack on our government seriously. This hack raises serious questions about the nature of cyber espionage and what constitutes hostile acts by another country.

These are questions I look forward to exploring as we learn more about the scope and nature of this latest breach. While both of our countries certainly engage in espionage, we must be vigilant in the protection of our own data and technology from foreign interference, and we need to hear more from Senators on both sides of the aisle about this attack.

The second and related issue is the reporting just in the last day or so, reports that the President may be seeking to invoke the Insurrection Act to impose martial law and refuse to step down from the Presidency next month. The reporting indicates that these discussions took place in the Oval Office.

I would argue—I think most Americans would argue—that even the mere discussion of martial law, the mere mention of it, the mere invocation of the whole notion of martial law is both harmful and dangerous.

Republican Senators, so far, have not condemned these actions that blatantly violate democratic norms. Maybe one, maybe two—I hope that number grows as well—but the silence from the majority party in the Senate on this report is deafening. I would hope that every Senator would roundly condemn the mere mention of martial law.

Attempting to seize election machines—that would be the effect of the invocation of martial law if it were operationalized—election machines in a number of States seized by the government of the United States.

I have got to ask the question: In America? In the United States of America? Is that what the White House is really discussing?

All that America expects—and it is not much—is that Senators of both parties would condemn, in the strongest possible terms, even the discussion of martial law.

The Army Secretary and the Army Chief of Staff released a joint statement clarifying, based on these dangerous actions proposed by the President's team, that "there is no role for the U.S. military in determining the outcome of an American election."

It is hard to believe that those officials in our government who help defend our country would even have to say that based upon what the reporting indicates.

So I hope that, even in this holiday season, it is made very clear by every Member of the U.S. Senate that this will not be tolerated and has to be condemned. We can't just say: Oh, well, it is another outrage, another insult. It should be condemned, just like the actions of the Russian Government should be condemned as well.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I just want to make a couple of brief comments about the legislation we are going to be voting on, we hope, tonight.

I will talk about, for purposes of time, not the spending bill or the spending portion, the so-called omnibus. I will talk about the COVID-19 relief provisions. I won't go through all of them, obviously, but there is a lot of good news for many Americans in this legislation.

The consensus on unemployment benefits will help a lot of Americans: \$300 per week for all Americans receiving unemployment benefits through March 14. The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program is extended to help self-employed individuals, gig workers, and others in nontraditional employment.

The economic impact payments for Americans across the country: \$600 for individuals making up to \$75,000 a year and \$1,200 for couples making up to \$150,000 per year, as well as a \$600 payment for each dependent child. That means a family of four would receive \$2,400 in direct payments.

The Paycheck Protection Program, so-called PPP: \$284 billion for the first and second PPP forgivable loans.

There is more money for transportation, more money for health, and, in particular, money for the procurement of vaccines and therapeutics, as well as money for vaccine distribution.

Education is funded for more than \$80 billion; emergency rental assistance, \$25 billion; the Postal Service, \$10 billion; childcare, \$10 billion—both very important.

The ones I am especially grateful for, even though on a lot of these I would vote for higher numbers—a lot of us would—are the nutrition provisions: \$26 billion in agriculture and nutrition funding. Half of that will be used for direct payments to farmers who have suffered losses due to the impact of the pandemic. The remaining 13, the other half of the 26—\$13 billion will be used to combat food insecurity, which is on

the rise due to the economic impact of the pandemic.

There is a lot in here that is positive for American families, for workers, for small businesses, and for so many other needs. It took way too long. This is months overdue. There are gaps in it.

I think this is a 3-month bill to help folks get through January, February, and March. I think we will need another bill after that. And, obviously, I am very disappointed we don't have dollars in here to help nursing homes, which I fought very hard for. We will keep up that fight.

It doesn't have the direct help to State and local governments, even though there are provisions that will help States but not nearly enough.

So it is far, far from perfect, but I think it is important that we pass it to provide direct help to people who have challenges, whether it is with employment or running a small business or supporting their families.

The last point I will make on this is that we gather here today—and we hope the vote will be tonight before midnight, but we don't know. But it is just ironic that today is the 21st of December, the winter solstice, the darkest day of the year.

I was noting this weekend Elizabeth Dias wrote an op-ed, a very thoughtful op-ed, in the New York Times about winter and all of the ways different cultures have dealt with the darkness and the severity of winter. But here is what she says, and I hope it provides a context for what we are about to pass and what we must do in the months ahead when the virus is still raging and the death number keeps climbing. Here is what Elizabeth Dias says:

The great irony of winter is that the moment darkness is greatest is also the moment light is about to return. Each year the winter solstice comes with the promise that the next day will be brighter.

In this season of hope and this holiday season, we hope and we pray that this legislation will bring some light to people's lives, that it will give them a sense, in addition to having a vaccine available now, that brighter days are ahead.

We can't underestimate the darkness that has engulfed so many families, but we hope tonight that we provide at least a measure of light to all the darkness that so many families have faced.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to engage in a colloquy with my friend and colleague from the State of Delaware, TOM CARPER.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I have just recently been talking about a number of pieces of legislation that

have come through the Environment and Public Works Committee: the water resources act, the USE IT Act, the act called DERA to eliminate and reduce emissions from diesels, as well as additional legislation on HFCs.

My partner in all of those is here on the floor now, and I would just like to ask him if he would—since he has been such a great partner for the last 4 years that I have chaired the committee—talk about this as an accomplishment for the environment, for the committee, and for the Senate and for the country.

So I am just kind of curious, from his standpoint, where he sees things as a sign of success.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, if my colleague will yield.

As Senator CASEY leaves, I thought his point about longest night and every day that follows will be brighter, and some of the provisions that Senator BARRASSO and I, along with JOHN NEELY KENNEDY, have included in the Nation's major budget piece of legislation ensure that it will be brighter.

One of the pieces of legislation, as Senator BARRASSO knows, deals with the phasedown of HFCs, hydrofluorocarbons. They are 1,000 times worse for climate change than carbon dioxide. Under the legislation that we have offered, it will phase down their utilization over the next 15 years by 85 percent. What is that worth? It is worth a half a degree Celsius—just this one thing, just this one provision.

A lot of people on this planet think the biggest challenge that we face on this planet right now, an existential threat, is the fact that our planet is getting warmer and that we need to do something about it. In this legislation, we do take a big bite out of it.

And my hope is what it will be is that it will serve as a source of encouragement for other Democrats and Republicans, maybe an Independent or two, to take other steps as we come back into the new year with the new administration and make further progress.

One of the great things that I love about our HFC legislation—thanks, colleague.

One of the great things, Mr. Chairman, that I love about our HFC legislation is that it shows that you can do good things for our planet and create jobs. That is what I said: do good things for our planet in the battle against climate change and create jobs. How many jobs? Tens of thousands of jobs—in this country, in this country; billions of dollars' worth of economic growth—in this country—and at the same time doing good things with respect to climate change.

Interestingly, it is not every day you find legislation supported by the National Association of Manufacturers, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, most major environmental groups, and co-sponsored by, gosh, two-thirds of the Senate—Democrats and Republicans alike.