I think the resulting weekend event, which included dozens of troops, hundreds of Scouts, was a tremendous success. It was the type of mutual project that has bonded us over our lifetimes.

Scott did many things in his career before joining my team. He served as operations director of the Northwest Christian Evangelistic Association; as executive director of the Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation; as a reporter and editor of the Gresham Outlook.

He got involved in many volunteer roles, including with the Gresham Breakfast Lions Club, the Gresham Early Risers Kiwanis Club, and he has volunteered millions of hours just so much to serve the Civil Air Patrol and is now a lieutenant colonel in the Civil Air Patrol.

Looking back to 2009, I can't imagine how we would have gotten our Oregon team off the ground or built the operation we have today without Scott Maguire.

Over the years, he has kept the computers computing and the supplies supplied, but he has done so much more. He pioneered and built our Oregon internship program, which has been a pipeline for hundreds of Oregonians who have been going on to do great things serving in State and national government, in community organizations, and in business to make that intern program the best possible.

Scott cultivated strong relationships with Oregon's colleges, and he could work with them. He was always on the search to give young Oregonians with a passion for public service the opportunity for public service. He cared deeply about their experience and success throughout their time in our office but in the time beyond as well.

Scott stepped in to serve as my field representative for a number of Oregon counties, organizing the townhalls they hold in those counties every year to hear from our constituents. He has not only helped to plan in organizing these events but saved them from going off the rails as unexpected challenges arose.

Back in 2017, when we were debating the future of the Affordable Care Act, we knew that citizens were passionate and angry, so we anticipated a large turnout, planning for 1,000 attendees—twice what was ever seen before. And imagine our shock when 4,000 Oregonians showed up. Constituents were packed in like sardines. Hundreds crowded into a courtyard outside watching through the windows, but there was Scott swooping in to save the day.

He reworked the sound system. He opened the windows. He figured out how to put speakers outside the windows so everyone could hear and participate. Crisis averted. That was just another day for Scott, working behind the scenes and taking care of things that most people don't even know were going wrong to ensure things were running smoothly.

Last year, before the pandemic shut down so much of our lives and our offices went remote, we saw massive shortages on essentials like hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, and tissues. But Scott, seeing the crisis developing, raced around the metro area to gather supplies to keep the members of our team healthy and safe. That is who Scott Maguire is: the kind of person who goes above and beyond for everyone in every situation; the kind of person who is prepared and always goes out of his way to do a good turn daily for others; the kind of person who, regardless of who you are, treats you like a VIP.

I speak for all members of Team Merkley, for all the interns who have come through our office, for all the folks Scott has worked with over the years, when I say that he will be deeply missed, and it will not be the same without him.

We wish our dear friend Scott Maguire and his wonderful wife Beth all the best as they begin a new chapter of their lives together.

I picture Scott, who has had a business, Shorty's BBQ, catering barbecue, Texas style, during his years in Oregon—you will probably see him firing that grill up a lot more often in the years ahead. It will be a chapter undoubtedly filled with loving friends, family, great traveling adventures, and, of course, as much barbecue as they can possibly handle.

We will miss you, Scott Maguire.

TRIBUTE TO LAURA UPDEGROVE

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I have two other team members who are leaving.

Laura Updegrove is leaving us to work with the Biden administration. She came to us after serving in various foreign policy roles at the State Department, the Department of Defense, and the White House. She joined our team 4 years ago to bring her extensive expertise to bear on our foreign policy portfolio, and I am sure glad she did.

During her tenure in my office, I have been astonished, time and again, by the depth and breadth of her knowledge, her work ethic, her strong organizational and management skills, and the way she approaches each and every task with a very positive attitude. Those traits make her not only a top-notch legislative staffer but a terrific partner as we work to address a variety of issues.

On two occasions, we had the chance to travel on international issues—one trip to many different countries in Africa to better understand the root causes and impacts of the four famines on that continent and to understand how American policy could be changed to assist in these desperately difficult situations.

Then, some years ago, we had the genocide carried out against the Rohingya people in Burma. Aung San Suu Kyi came and spoke to the United Nations, and she said: We have nothing to hide. Come and see for yourselves. So Laura went to work in organizing the congressional response, the congressional trip. We really thought we were going to see exactly what had gone on in those villages, and she worked incredibly hard to arrange everything from boats to helicopters to get us to the right places. Then, the day before we left, Burma denied us the ability to see those villages.

We had backup plan after backup plan to explore what had happened both in Burma and the conditions at the refugee camps in Bangladesh. She reworked everything in a short period of time to direct attention by our congressional delegation and through our delegation to the world to the traumatized, difficult circumstances of a community that was the subject of genocide by Burma. Again, the whole goal was to figure out how the United States could do more to help. Laura really understood and cared about and helped with the plight of people in some of the most difficult circumstances around the world.

The same passion and dedication and strategic thinking that Laura dedicated as a policy staffer are also what have made her an outstanding legislative director for the past 2 years. She has not only continued to lead our efforts on critical issues from rules reform to social justice but has been a daily example of the power of teamwork and mentorship to other staffers.

Her departure is a big loss for Team Merkley but a really big win for the Biden administration, particularly the State Department, where she will be able to utilize her enormous talents on behalf of our country and on behalf of our country's building a better world.

Laura, we wish you all the best.

TRIBUTE TO BEN WARD

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, our third team member who is leaving is Ben Ward.

I think of Ben as our appropriations wizard. He knows that system inside out, and he is the master of Tribal issues and natural resources issues and so much more. He is heading off to serve as the Office of Management and Budget's Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs. I think the whole world noticed his extraordinary talents, and we are looking forward to continuing to work with him as we strive to make the appropriations efforts as effective as possible.

I think that virtually no one in Oregon has gone untouched by the work that Ben has done over the past 5 years. He has worked to get piping money to Central Oregon to assist the farmers. The farmers not only get more water, but more water gets left in the Deschutes River.

He has worked very hard to advance the improvement of Native fishing sites, treaty fishing sites, on the Columbia River and the preparations to

rebuild communities that were wiped out by the building of dams some 70 years ago that have never been properly addressed. He has proceeded to help the Klamath Tribes secure the funds to improve the habitats for their sacred c'waam and koptu fish and to improve the whole, entire water ecosystem in the Klamath Basin for all of the stakeholders.

When we had a big problem with sea lions that were blocking the fish ladders and blocking the mouths of streams and tributaries, he concocted probably more than a dozen plans to try to find one that could move through this legislative process and address the challenge, and he succeeded.

He helped get funding so that we could have more people fighting fires on the frontlines, and he helped to get funding so we could thin the forests and treat the forests so that they would be less likely to burn in the first place.

He helped us get money for the coastal ports so they could be drudged and so they would continue to operate appropriately and safely for the economy of the coastal ports.

He helped us make sure we got help for the diverse agricultural research stations in Oregon and for the mass timber project that is developing whole new categories of engineered wood products that can build buildings that are 14 stories high out of wood rather than concrete and steel, utilizing our incredible supply of amazing wood in the Pacific Northwest. He also assisted our universities in getting funding for all kinds of programs.

The list is almost inexhaustible, but I think we all understand the point. He is incredibly talented at seeing opportunities and is incredibly persistent in seizing those opportunities. That is Ben's way of getting things done. That is why he has been so valued, and that is why we will greatly miss him.

Ben, we wish you all the best as you work on behalf of the Biden administration and the larger OMB process in coordination with the U.S. Senate.

To each of these team members, I say that, once you are a member of Team Merkley, you are never not a member. You will always be part of our family. We so much appreciate what you have contributed to the team and what you have contributed to building a better world.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 4.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, of the District of Columbia, to be Secretary of Homeland Security.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill 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 Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, of the District of Columbia, to be Secretary of Homeland Security.

Charles E. Schumer, Gary C. Peters, Brian Schatz, Robert Menendez, Thomas R. Carper, Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tina Smith, Sherrod Brown, Patrick J. Leahy, Cory A. Booker, Catherine Cortez Masto, Richard J. Durbin, Jeanne Shaheen, Dianne Feinstein, Jack Reed, Christopher Murphy, Martin Heinrich.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call for the cloture vote be waived.

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

Mr. MERKLEY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am particularly glad to see the senior Senator from New Mexico presiding on what, for me, is a sentimental moment, because he has been such a terrific friend and colleague and advocate in the battle of climate change.

I am here today because, at last, it is time to say farewell to my battered ''Time to Wake Up'' image board here and to a run of more than 275 weekly climate speeches. It has been one of the Senate's longer runs, I believe, but I think it is time to say farewell.

This long run began in the dark days of 2012, after Speaker PELOSI had passed a serious climate bill and the Senate had refused to take up anything, not even a blank bill to go to conference with and see what could be done in conference. As some of us remember all too well, when Speaker PELOSI passed that bill in 2009 over on the House side, we had here in the Senate a filibuster-proof Democratic majority. This was climate change, and we just walked away. I was told then that it was because the Obama White House told Leader Reid to pull the plug, that after the ObamaCare wars, the White House was tired of conflict and didn't want another big battle. It was not going to take on any fights it wasn't sure it could win.

Think about that. Think of history's great battles and contests, legislative or otherwise, and consider in how many of those battles either side was sure it would win. If you limit yourself to battles you are sure you can win, you are pretty much sure to miss the most important battles, and we lost this one for that most lamentable of reasons—the failure to try. The fossil fuel industry, sure enough, knew it won this one once it saw the Obama administration walk off the field, abandoning Speaker PELOSI's hard-fought victory.

Then years went by in which you could scarcely get a Democratic administration to put the words ''climate'' and ''change'' into the same paragraph in which we fussed, idiotically, about whether to call it ''climate change'' or ''global warming''; in which the bully pulpit—the great Presidential megaphone in the hands of one of our most articulate Presidents—stood mute. We quavered about polling showing climate as issue 8 or issue 10, ignoring that we had a say in that outcome. When we wouldn't even use the phrase, let alone make the case, no wonder the public didn't see climate change as a priority.

Those were, for me, dark, desolate days, so I made a commitment to speak about climate change every single week we were in session—no matter what. The kitchen was dark; the oven was cold, but maybe, somehow, one little pilot light's clicking on every week would help.

Six years after the Waxman-Markey climate bill passed the House, the Obama EPA finalized its marquee climate regulation, which was quickly killed dead in the starting block by the five Republicans on the Supreme Court.

The Clean Power Plan never even went into effect. It had no regulatory core or backstop that was indisputably within EPA's authority. So when the Clean Power Plan's novelties got smacked down, nothing was left.

John Kerry, bless him, led us into the Paris Agreement, but it wasn't signed until the last year of 8 years of that administration. It being so late, the fossil fuel interests behind Trump hauled us right back out of it.

So there we were, after 8 years in which Democrats sometimes controlled both Houses of Congress as well as the White House, and we had, at the end of the day, no law, no regulations, no treaty.

I am hanging up the ''Time to Wake Up'' poster after more than 275 of these speeches because I am going to trust that we bring more spirit and determination to the climate crisis this time, as President Biden has promised that we will.

His opening Executive orders are a fine start. I appreciate particularly the restoration of the social cost of carbon, but perhaps the most important signal is not any specific policy but the