

the task. The lengthy list of testimonials speaking to his fairness and sound judgement span the political spectrum. He is respected by lawmakers, scholars, and lawyers of every legal persuasion and political philosophy. And on a personal note, I can attest to the fact that his brilliance is matched by his kindness. His many achievements have never gone to his head. He has always stayed humble and treated everyone with respect.

It is for these reasons and many more that I was honored to vote for the President's nominee to serve as the next Attorney General of the United States, Judge Merrick Garland.

CONFIRMATION OF MICHAEL STANLEY REGAN

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, now is the time to take substantive action to combat climate change, address environmental justice, and help clean up the Chesapeake Bay. To help address these critical issues, President Biden nominated Michael Regan to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Michael Regan most recently served as secretary of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality. During that time, Mr. Regan led the implementation of North Carolina's Executive Order 80, a landmark effort to address climate change's impact and transition the State's energy economy. Mr. Regan also created North Carolina's first Environmental Justice and Equity Advisory Board to address societal disparities exacerbated by environmental issues during his tenure as secretary.

Mr. Regan has a strong record of bipartisanship, having previously served at the EPA under both Democratic and Republican Presidents. He is committed to rebuilding EPA's Federal workforce, which saw record departures during the Trump administration. During the Trump administration, we saw the EPA workforce shrink to levels not seen since the Reagan administration, and those who resigned or retired include some of the Agency's most experienced scientific veterans, as well as young environmental experts who traditionally would have replaced them, causing a brain drain at the EPA. Maryland is home to many of those Federal employees, and I look forward to working with Mr. Regan to rebuild the civil servant backbone of the EPA.

One of EPA's most critical roles for the State of Maryland is its role in the cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay. We are at a very critical junction in the implementation of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement and our mutual goal of clean water in the Chesapeake Bay by 2025. On December 29, 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency established the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load—TMDL—a historic and comprehensive agreement that includes accountability features to re-

store clean water in the seven jurisdictions within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The agreement is a national and indeed international model for watershed restoration. It sets limits for pollution that equate to a 25-percent reduction in nitrogen, 24-percent reduction in phosphorous, and 20-percent reduction in sediment. As the Bay TMDL states, "The TMDL is designed to ensure that all pollution control measures needed to fully restore the Bay and its tidal rivers are in place by 2025[.]"

I look forward to working with Mr. Regan to make sure that EPA uses every tool available to them, including enforcement measures when necessary, to make sure that all jurisdictions are on track for our mutual goal of clean water in the Chesapeake Bay by 2025.

Furthermore, I am pleased that Mr. Regan has indicated that he will reconstituting the position of Senior Advisor to the Administrator of the EPA for the Chesapeake Bay.

I believe that Michael Regan is a strong choice to lead us into a new era at the EPA. For these reasons, I supported Michael Regan's nomination as the Administrator of the EPA.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS DAVIES

• Mr. DAINES. Madam President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Dennis Davies of Lewis and Clark County for his compassion and dedication to his community during the pandemic. While schools were closed to in-person instruction, Dennis saw that students needed a place to do their work at home. He rose to the occasion and began building desks for young Montanans enrolled in virtual school.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Dennis was inspired by a TV segment that profiled a teacher from Iowa who made desks for students and thought he could do the same for Montana's students.

At first, he paid desk supply expenses out of his own pocket. After the community recognized the service he was providing, donations began rolling in. Now, with the assistance of donated supplies and funds, he is able to expand his operation and build even more desks for kids. Dennis works alongside many Montanans who volunteer their time to help him build and deliver desks, and he hopes to provide 2,000 desks to students across the State. Though that amount may be daunting, he is excited to help do his part to help Montana families get through the pandemic.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Dennis for his compassion and dedication to the people of Lewis and Clark County in this trying time. His kindness and charitable approach to work serves as an inspiration to all Montanans.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:54 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1. An act to expand Americans' access to the ballot box, reduce the influence of big money in politics, strengthen ethics rules for public servants, and implement other anti-corruption measures for the purpose of fortifying our democracy, and for other purposes.

H.R. 842. An act to amend the National Labor Relations Act, the Labor Management Relations Act, 1947, and the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959, and for other purposes.

At 4:14 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 579. An act to make a technical correction to the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act of 2019.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 8. An act to require a background check for every firearm sale.

H.R. 1446. An act to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to strengthen the background check procedures to be followed before a Federal firearms licensee may transfer a firearm to a person who is not such a licensee.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 842. An act to amend the National Labor Relations Act, the Labor Management Relations Act, 1947, and the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. MANCHIN for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

*David Turk, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

By Mr. MENENDEZ for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Wendy Ruth Sherman, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of State.

*Brian P. McKeon, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)