

Let's continue the bipartisan momentum as we move into next week, but today I want to thank my colleagues who have worked together to bring this bill to the finish line. I look forward to seeing the anti-Asian hate crimes bill passed by this Chamber today and move one step closer to reaching the President's desk.

#### WASHINGTON, D.C. ADMISSION ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on DC statehood, another matter, today the House of Representatives will pass a bill granting the District of Columbia official statehood. I applaud my House Democratic colleagues for taking this important step toward recognizing the full citizenship of more than 700,000 residents of the District of Columbia.

This is a matter of just representation. Our system of government is designed to give everyone in our country a voice in forging their own destiny. Most citizens do that by voting for Members of Congress and Senators from their States to represent them in this temple of democracy to advocate for their interests and to voice their concerns.

The District of Columbia has more residents than Vermont and Wyoming and nearly the same as Delaware, Alaska, and several other States, and they bear the full responsibilities and duties of citizenship, like residents in all those other States. DC residents can be summoned for jury duty. They have served in every war since the American Revolution. They pay Federal income taxes, just like residents from every other State. You can learn that from any license plate outside this building. Yet they are denied real representation in Congress—in the words DC borrowed from the Founding Fathers, “taxation without representation.”

Sadly, the debate over DC statehood has taken a rather dark turn. Some of my colleagues on the other side, rather than fashion any argument on the merits, have taken to denigrating the basic worth of residents of the District of Columbia—a part of our country that is 47 percent African American.

One Member of the minority party went so far as to say lawmakers should “go out to where the real people are across the country and ask them what they think [about DC statehood].” “[Get] out to where the real people are.” Bigotry, bigotry, bigotry. I shouldn't have to remind my colleagues that it is shockingly inappropriate to imply that lives and occupations and rights of DC's residents are somehow less than their fellow citizens in other “more real” and almost always more White parts of the country.

We all know that the minority party opposes DC statehood because it fears giving political power and representation to American citizens if they might not vote for Republicans. It smacks of the effort going on right now in Republican legislatures all across the country to pass laws that overwhelmingly

make it harder for minorities, poorer Americans, and younger Americans to vote.

The far right, the hard right—which seems to be so dominant in the party on the other side—is so afraid of losing political power and so unwilling to appeal to anyone who doesn't already agree with them that their strategy has become to restrict voting rights and deny equal representation in Congress to hundreds of thousands of Americans. So DC statehood, unfortunately, is part of a continuing thread of not allowing people their right to vote, to representation, that seems to be growing in the Republican Party, particularly here in the Senate and in legislatures throughout the country, unfortunately.

Self-government, voting rights: These are not Democratic rights. These are not Republican rights. They are American rights. They are issues of fairness and democracy. It is not about right and left; it is about right and wrong.

DC statehood is an idea whose time has come.

#### CLIMATE LEGISLATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, now on climate, this year's celebration of Earth Day comes with an ambitious new goal from the Biden administration: The United States should aim to cut its greenhouse gas emissions in half by the end of the decade. It is a great goal. I fully support it.

Not only is President Biden finally returning the United States to a position of global leadership in the fight against climate change, but he is showing that America is ready to ramp up our climate ambition beyond—beyond—the Paris Agreement.

Now, it will take extraordinary action to meet the marker that President Biden laid down, but he was exactly right to do it. If we need any reminders about what America can achieve when it puts its mind to something, President Kennedy committed to landing on the Moon over the course of a single decade. If America could reach that lofty goal in the name of ingenuity, in the name of exploration, surely we can achieve this goal in the name of saving the planet on which we live.

Now, I believe the best way to achieve this ambitious goal is through bold action by this Congress through legislation to reduce carbon pollution while creating millions of jobs and economic prosperity in a new clean energy economy. Any legislation without a serious and bold climate component will make it much, much harder to achieve President Biden's goal, and we must work to have a strong green climate component in the American Jobs Plan.

The Democratic majority here in the Senate is eager to get to work. One of the very first things I did when Democrats took the majority was to instruct every committee chair—the new committee chairs—to hold hearings on the

climate crisis to begin preparing for landmark legislation. I repeat once again that any infrastructure bill we consider here in the Senate must include green infrastructure, create green jobs, and make significant progress toward the reduction of greenhouse gases.

Luckily, the Senate will have an opportunity to address another serious climate-related issue next week. The Senate will consider a Congressional Review Act bill before the end of the work period to reimpose critical regulations concerning the release of methane into our atmosphere.

Methane gets less attention than its big bad brother, carbon dioxide, but in truth, methane is like carbon dioxide on steroids. Over 20 years, a ton of methane will warm the atmosphere more than 86 times as much as a ton of carbon dioxide, but because it breaks down much faster than carbon dioxide, the gains we make in the reduction of methane emissions can reduce global warming even faster. Many of the things we need to do to reduce methane emissions are fairly cheap and cost-effective, like plugging leaks in fossil fuel infrastructure. So this made common sense, especially when our globe is at risk.

The Obama administration had instituted these commonsense rules of the road to encourage that sort of activity. It was widely supported, even by industry. The Trump administration, so typically and so unfortunately, reversed those rules in an act of pure idiocy. The Senate Democratic majority will soon put a bill on the floor to revert back to the original policy, which should never have been tampered with in the first place.

Reducing methane emissions will be only the first of many actions this Senate will take to combat climate change.

#### ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, one final issue. It has come to my attention that President Biden intends to have the United States formally recognize the Armenian genocide, becoming the first sitting U.S. President to do so. Great news. It is a long time coming and a step that I have called on Presidents of both parties to take.

Each year, I gather with Armenian Americans in Times Square to commemorate the annual anniversary of this atrocity. Every year, my heart breaks for the victims of the genocide and their descendants. There are very few left, but some very elderly people are sitting in the audience each year, reminding us how painful and how real that genocide was. The Turkish Government's idea of saying there was no genocide just defies history. I have seen the victims. I have talked to the victims.

Saturday marks the 106th anniversary of the Armenian genocide. I am so relieved, grateful, and moved that we