The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable Raphael G. Warnock, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Gracious God, You are from everlasting to everlasting. Reveal Your glory in our Nation and world. Let Your light so shine through our Senators that people will see the good things our lawmakers accomplish because of Your might. May these people then praise You for Your bountiful goodness.

Holy God, empower us to escape from our fragmentary and broken selves into the exemplary unity You desire for us all. Lead us away from doubt and disillusionment, from cynicism and despair. Lead us toward faith and hope, certainty and love.

We pray in Your marvelous Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. Leahy). The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, Tuesday, April 27, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable Raphael G. Warnock, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

Patrick Leahy, President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today, the Senate will take up a series of votes to confirm three highly qualified nominees to the Biden administration: Jason Miller for Deputy OMB Director, Janet McCabe for Deputy EPA Administrator, and Colin Kahl for Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

And then, later this afternoon, the Senate will move forward with the process to take up the bipartisan water infrastructure bill. I expect the Senate will do so with significant bipartisan support.

The water infrastructure bill is as noncontroversial as it gets. It was approved by the Environment and Public Works Committee on a unanimous consent vote—every single Democrat, every single Republican—thanks to the good work of Chairman CARPER and Ranking Member CAPITO. This water infrastructure bill is also a core component of the Republican infrastructure proposal released last week. So I hope this legislation will serve as a starting point for our two parties to collaborate on infrastructure when and where we can. At the moment, Senators Carper, Duckworth, and Cardin continue discussions with Republican Senators about possible amendments.

But let me be very clear: The Senate must conclude its work on the water infrastructure bill before the end of the week.

This is not a controversial bill or a complicated new program. In too many communities, access to clean, safe, and affordable drinking water is not a guarantee. Surely, we can all agree that in America clean drinking water should be a fundamental guarantee.

The Senate must take first necessary steps to invest in communities with aging water infrastructure by passing this bill, and we must do so this week.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now on nominees, yesterday, I highlighted a number of accomplishments the Senate
Democrat majority made during the first hundred days of the Biden administration. Thanks primarily to the American Rescue Plan, the most sweeping Federal recovery effort in decades, shots are going into arms; money is flowing to folks’ pockets; and businesses, schools, and restaurants are starting to reopen.

Americans—finally—finally—have some reason for hope. Jobs are coming back. The economic recovery is accelerating, and the pace of vaccinations has far exceeded even President Biden’s own goals. After one of the most difficult years in recent memory, the first hundred days of the Biden Presidency and the new Senate Democratic majority have seen the country turn a corne.

Slowly but surely, we are proving to the American people that government and the Senate can work for them.

As President Biden prepares to take stock of where we have come from and where we still need to go, with a joint address to Congress, it is worth looking back at some of the accomplishments of these first 100 days. Among those accomplishments is the fact that the Senate has confirmed the most diverse Cabinet in history, faster than under both Presidents Trump and Obama, and all of them with bipartisan support. Eleven are people of color, and 10 are women. Among them, we have a former veterans, a small business man, even a musician—a far cry from the, shall we say, less economically diverse Cabinet chosen by the former President. Now, more than ever before, we have a Cabinet that looks like America.

In our Nation’s history, the Treasury Secretary has only ever been a White man—an unbroken streak of 77 White men in row. This Senate confirmed the first woman to serve as Treasury Secretary in our history, Janet Yellen. The list of firsts goes on: the first African American to serve as Defense Secretary, the first woman to serve as EPA Administrator, the first ever indigenous American, and the first ever openly gay Secretary to lead any Cabinet Agency.

Last week, the Senate confirmed Vanita Gupta, to Associate Attorney General—the first woman of color and the first civil rights attorney ever to hold that position.

Last month, Dr. Rachel Levine became the Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services, the first openly transgender Federal official in American history.

Federal Agencies have enormous influence over the policies that affect the day-to-day lives of the American people. Whether registering for Social Security, filing for unemployment or veterans’ benefits, or seeking a small business loan, average folks interact with these Cabinet Agencies every single day, hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of times.

Having capable, experienced, and energetic public servants at the top of these Agencies matters, and it matters, too, that they come from different backgrounds and have lived different experiences. By confirming historically diverse nominees, we are showing the American people that their government represents them and that all of their voices matter.

We also know that a Cabinet with diverse views will produce policies that better reflect the needs of a diverse Nation.

I am proud of the nominees we have confirmed over the first hundred days. As we move forward, the Senate will continue working with the White House on confirming nominees and judicial appointments that reflect the diversity and dynamism of our great country.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1364

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct.

The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1364) to provide for the recognition of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, and for other purposes.

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will now be placed on the calendar.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

FENTANYL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, now on another matter, this week the Senate is set to vote on President Biden’s nominee to be Deputy Administrator of the EPA. This nominee actually needs no introduction for my fellow Kentuckians and our neighbors in coal country. But for those less familiar, Janet McCabe was the chief author of the Clean Power Plan that President Obama unveiled back in 2015. Well, 6 years and thousands of coal industry jobs later, Ms. McCabe is set to join an administration whose job-killing policies would make the Obama EPA blush. Of course, President Biden is dead on Coal predates his administration. Back in 2008, as a candidate for the Vice Presidency, he insisted there would be “no coal plants here in America. Build them, if they’re going to build them, over there.” Obviously, meaning some other country.

Sadly, this was one area where the Obama administration, unfortunately, kept its promises. It was a terrible time to be a working American whose livelihood the Democrats happened to dislike. But our new President’s leftward sprint is set to make these bad old days merely the warmup act.

NOMINATION OF JANET GARVIN MCCABE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, now on another matter, this week the Senate is set to vote on President Biden’s nominee to be Deputy Administrator of the EPA. This nominee actually needs no introduction for my fellow Kentuckians and our neighbors in coal country. But for those less familiar, Janet McCabe was the chief author of the Clean Power Plan that President Obama unveiled back in 2015. Well, 6 years and thousands of coal industry jobs later, Ms. McCabe is set to join an administration whose job-killing policies would make the Obama EPA blush. Of course, President Biden is dead on Coal predates his administration. Back in 2008, as a candidate for the Vice Presidency, he insisted there would be “no coal plants here in America. Build them, if they’re going to build them, over there.” Obviously, meaning some other country.

Sadly, this was one area where the Obama administration, unfortunately, kept its promises. It was a terrible time to be a working American whose livelihood the Democrats happened to dislike. But our new President’s leftward sprint is set to make these bad old days merely the warmup act.
Remember, rejoining the Paris climate agreement was a day one priority for this administration—this unenforceable deal whose own signatories largely ignored their commitments for the past 5 years, the deal that proved unable to keep China from significantly increasing its greenhouse gas emissions and proved unnecessary for the United States to decrease our own. We decreased our own.

But despite it all, the administration is rushing back in to signal virtue on the international stage. Here at home, they are rolling out policy after policy that would cost American families quite dearly.

The President signed away thousands of jobs by canceling the Keystone XL Pipeline. The authors of the Green New Deal boast about the radical social engineering they have seeded into the administration’s legislative proposals. The infrastructure plan they have rolled out would pick winners and losers in automotive manufacturing and aim to purge the electrical grid of the most reliable and affordable forms of domestic power.

Of course, despite it all, carbon emissions don’t respect national boundaries, so all the unilateral sacrifices this administration is eager to impose on blue-collar families won’t make a dent in global emissions if our adversaries just keep on roaring right past us.

And now the Biden climate team is hoping to add a proven veteran from the War on Coal, The President campaigned suggesting he wouldn’t owe the far left anything, but he is choosing to govern like he owes them everything.

I will oppose the McCabe nomination and would urge my colleagues to do the same.

FOREIGN POLICY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, now on one final matter, yesterday I discussed how this administration’s wishful thinking has set them up for foreign policy failure in Central Asia and the Middle East. The likely catastrophe in Afghanistan may well consume the administration and distract from the challenges proposed by competition with Russia and China.

The President’s meager defense budget proposal suggests his administration isn’t taking strategic competition very seriously to begin with. Russia and China have spent years—years—investing in the United States. He warned that if we fail to keep pace, we will be “at risk of losing credibility in the eyes of our adversaries.”

Our nuclear triad has preserved the peace for decades, but crucial components are now decades older than the men and women we have operating them. If we want to maintain effective deterrence, we have to modernize.

Whether this administration likes it or not, we are locked in a race with adversaries who plan literally decades ahead. A lack of resolve will compound on itself and invite disaster. Surely that cannot be the legacy President Biden hopes to leave.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will will have a legislative session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jason Scott Miller, of Maryland, to be Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican whip...
inverted. Needless to say, those inversions resulted in a loss of American jobs and domestic investment. A piece in the Wall Street Journal reported that one accounting firm estimates that the United States lost $50 billion from merger and acquisitions between 2008 and 2016.

The Republicans knew that if we wanted to boost job creation here at home and improve opportunities for American workers, we needed to address the corporate tax rate and put American companies on a more competitive footing internationally, so we cut the corporate tax rate and brought the U.S. international tax system into the 21st century by replacing our outdated worldwide system with a modernized territorial tax system.

It didn’t take long to see the results: Inversions ended. Economic growth outstripped predictions. The poverty rate dropped. Jobs increased. Incomes grew. In fact, income growth in 2019 was the best ever recorded in the United States. Real median household income for African-American, Hispanic, and Asian-American workers hit record highs. In other words, tax reform worked, and, importantly, it worked for the very people that politicians wanted to help—ordinary Americans. By improving the tax situation for American businesses, we improved the job and income situation for American workers, but now the Democrats want to undo all of that.

To pay for their preferred government programs, they want to substantially hike the tax rate on American corporations—once again, putting American businesses at a substantial disadvantage next to their foreign competitors. If the Democrats impose President Biden’s suggested tax hike, the combined average top tax rate on corporations in the United States will be higher than that imposed by every one of our trading partners and competitors, including China.

It is difficult to understand why the Democrats think it is a good idea to put American companies at a disadvantage next to their foreign competitors. If the Democrats impose President Biden’s suggested tax hike, the combined average top tax rate on corporations in the United States will be higher than that imposed by every one of our trading partners and competitors, including China.

Unfortunately, it has become clear that the Democrats are either incapable of grasping or don’t care about the economic consequences of their proposed tax hikes. The Democrats are fixated on imposing a whole host of new government programs, and they are ready to tax Americans and American businesses to pay for them even if ordinary Americans suffer as a result. Presumably, they think that if ordinary Americans are hurt by these tax hikes, they can just offer them some help through a new government program, but I am pretty confident that most Americans would exchange government assistance for the kinds of jobs and incomes that free them from having to depend on government programs.

Substantially increasing the corporate tax rate—and I am talking substantially—would be like walking about; what is at stake is a one-third increase, so it will be a one-third increase in the tax rate—and putting American businesses at a disadvantage on the global stage is not the best way to encourage the creation of new jobs. Increasing the corporate tax rate will have negative consequences for our economy and for hard-working Americans.

It is easy to say “tax the corpora- tion’s tax rate” but tax is businesses hire American workers. If they have to pay more in taxes, they have to pay less in wages. What we saw, as I mentioned before, was the highest wage increases that we have seen in decades, particularly for lower income Americans.

But apparently what is being talked about with this tax hike is just the beginning. President Biden and his Demo- cratic colleagues have a lot more govern- ment programs they want to push and they have a whole raft of tax hikes waiting in the wings to fund them. There is a hike in the top individual income tax rate that would hit small businesses hard. Most businesses—99 percent of the businesses in the State of South Dakota—are organized as passthroughs. That means they pay taxes at the individual rate. Those are farmers and ranchers and small busi- ness people across my State. They are the people who create the jobs in South Dakota. A hike in the top individual income tax rate hits every one of those small businesses that has an income in excess of $400,000. That is money that could be used to hire more workers. There is a hike in the capital gains tax, which would discourage investment and decrease the value Americans can expect from their 401(k)s, a new death tax that would hit middle-class fami- lies and family farms and businesses, and so much more.

These tax hikes may help the Demo- crats usher in parts of the socialist fan- tasy they have been envisioning, but they will do nothing to help American families gain financial stability and se- cure good jobs and lasting, rewarding careers. Working Americans are the ones who will ultimately suffer the most from the Democrats’ tax hike plans.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tem- pore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). Without objection, it is so ordered.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I like to think that infrastructure is in my DNA. My father was Jerry Strobel, a civil engineer who spent his entire ca- reer with the Nebraska Department of Transportation. Now, that was back when it was still called the Department of Roads. He eventually became direc- tor/State engineer and served under two different Governors, Kay Orr and Ben Nelson, one Republican and one Democrat.

My dad used to take my two brothers and me on weekend road trips across Nebraska to check up on our infra- structure—trips that he called “in- spection tours.” Many of the photos that I have from my childhood are of my brothers and me standing on par- tially finished bridges, in front of bulldo- zers, and next to highways that were under various stages of completion. He taught me how to drop a plum line and showed me how to handle his surveying equipment.

Those trips with my dad taught me that infrastructure takes a long time to get from design to permit, and it takes a long time to build. Even short stretches of a single highway can sometimes—well, it can take years to finish. To get the most out of our limited taxpayer resources, we must consider that process to save both time and money.

I learned that reliable infrastructure doesn’t happen by accident, and when I was elected to the Nebraska Legisla- ture, I brought that appreciation with me. As chair of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee, I in- troduced bills like the Nebraska Build Act. The new revenue from that bill has funded over a dozen important in- frastructure projects across Nebraska.

Nebraskans and all Americans know what actual infrastructure is. It is roads and bridges, but it is also ports and airports and railroads and pipe- lines and waterways and broadband. Those things are a core responsibility of government. The people also know what infrastructure is not. If Congress passes a bill to reform Medi- care, that is not infrastructure; that is healthcare.

We all know that words don’t change their meaning overnight to suit one party or the other’s political goals, but President Biden seems to think they do. He is asking us to support an infra- structure proposal that could eventu- ally top $2.7 trillion, which redefines that word to mean policies such as cli- mate research and development or funded home or community care services—things that have nothing to do with what we have traditionally called in- frastructure.

Less than 6 percent of the $2.25 tril- lion that is identified in the Biden pro- poseal would go to roads and bridges. Barely 4 percent would go to broadband, and less than 2 percent is for airports. At the same time, hun- dreds of billions of dollars would be funneled to things like housing, Medi- care, and electric vehicles.

The President wants to enact tril- lions of dollars in new taxes to pay for
all of this. Proposals being discussed include raising the capital gains tax to the highest level in history, as well as forcing American businesses—and then, ultimately, their customers—to pay the highest combined corporate tax rate in the developed world. Congressional Democrats have also proposed getting rid of the estate tax exemption, which would make the Federal death tax apply to hard-working, middle-class families for the first time in decades. This would hit our small, family Main Street businesses and our family farms, making it even more difficult to pass their life’s work on to their children.

Infrastructure has always been bipartisan, and it has always enjoyed widespread support. I would gladly—I would gladly—support a bill that takes our very real infrastructure problems seriously, and I told President Biden that when I met with him at the White House a few weeks ago. But his proposal simply doesn’t do that. The President’s plan asks the Senate to vote for a policy wish list of priorities that no one—no one outside of Washington, DC’s bubble—has ever dreamed of calling infrastructure.

When it comes to real infrastructure, the Senate does have bipartisan roots. We passed the FAST Act by a vote of 83 to 16 under President Obama in 2015. We passed an FAA reauthorization 93 to 6 under President Trump. And the Senate unanimously approved water development bills and my pipeline safety bill last year. I see no reason why the administration can’t tackle this important issue in a bipartisan way once again, and the President, who represented Delaware in the Senate for more than 35 years, knows better than most that we do this every day. We do it on bills like the HAULS Act, which I reintroduced in March to provide more flexibility to ag and livestock haulers and which has won support by both Republicans and Democrats. There is also bipartisan support for my bill to establish an online portal for reporting blocked railroad crossings.

My Democratic colleagues and I find common ground on infrastructure more often than we disagree, and that includes bills like the Rural Spectrum Accessibility Act, which made internet access more widely available in rural areas.

History shows that infrastructure is a bipartisan issue, and it can be once again. But, right now, our friends on the other side of the aisle are pushing this wish list of priorities for their progressive agenda and calling it infrastructure.

For our part, Senate Republicans have made it clear that we are willing to work with the President on a bill that actually addresses our Nation’s ailing infrastructure and makes targeted investments to meet the needs that we have discussed.

We introduced our own framework last week. It draws on our past bipartisan successes, like the FAST Act, and it focuses on roads and bridges, broadband, and other actual infrastructure. It matches or raises the funding levels in the FAST Act, such as $299 billion versus $226 billion for roads and bridges, and provides nearly twice as much funding for transit, rail, and Amtrak grants.

We have spent enormous amounts of money in the last year to deal with COVID–19, and Republicans and Democrats both voted for five bills, totaling around $4 trillion, to address that very real crisis. Another $1.9 trillion passed on a partisan basis in January. That is $8 trillion of new spending in 1 year—$6 trillion of new spending in 1 year. That level of spending is not sustainable. Adding another $2.7 trillion that is in the President’s plan to this spending that we already have is not sustainable.

Our proposal is clear: that funding for infrastructure should be fiscally responsible. It should use existing, proven formula programs as much as possible, and it should make regulations less burdensome. This is what President Biden should be focused on, and I hope that he takes us up on our offer. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICIAL. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NOMINATION OF JANET GARVIN MCCABE

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise in support of confirming Jason Scott Miller to be the Deputy Director for Management at the Office of Management and Budget. Mr. Miller has an extensive track record of tackling difficult management challenges and driving innovation both in government and in the private sector.

OMB is and will continue to be central to the administration’s efforts to combat the pandemic and support economic activity in communities all across our Nation. Mr. Miller’s diverse experience and commitment to getting results for the American people will be an asset to the OMB as it takes on these current challenges and these challenges yet to come.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the confirmation of Jason Scott Miller as Deputy Director for Management at OMB.

VOTE ON MILLER NOMINATION

And, Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on this nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICIAL. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The PRESIDING OFFICIAL. Under the previous order, all cloture time is expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Miller nomination?

The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBRY).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) would have voted “nay.”

The PRESIDING OFFICIAL (Mr. LUJAN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 81, nays 13, as follows: [Rollcall Vote No. 167 Ex.]

S2207

YEAS—81

Baldwin                    Baldwin                    Padilla
                        Bennet                     Portman
                        Blumenthal                 Reed
                        Booker                    Cramer
                        Boxman                     Rosen
                        Brown                     Rubio
                        Brune                     Sanders
                        Cantwell                   Saenz
                        Capito                    Schatz
                        Casey                     Schrier
                        Cassidy                   Shabazz
                        Collins                   Sinema
                        Coons                     Smith
                        Coryn                     Smith
                        Cortez Masto               Stanek
                        Deutch                    Starer
                        Duckworth                 Steyer
                        Durbin                    Tester
                        Ernst                     Thune
                        Feinstein                 Toomey
                        Fischer                  Tumulty
                        Gillibrand               Tuberville
                        Graham                   Valencia
                        Grassley                  Van Hollen

NAYS—13

Blackburn                  Baldwin                  Scott (SC)
                        Barrasso                  Blumenauer
                        Blumenthal                 Brown
                        Booker                    Brown
                        Boxman                     Brown
                        Braun                     Brown
                        Bryant                    Brown
                        Case                      Brown
                        Carper                   Cramer
                        Castetter               Crapo

NOT VOTING—6

Bentin                        Padilla                  Scott (FL)
                        Cramer                     Rounds

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICIAL. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

The Senator from West Virginia.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator CARPER and I be allowed to speak for 1 minute each before the next cloture vote.

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

NOMINATION OF JANET GARVIN MCCABE

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, we are about to vote cloture on Janet McCabe, the No. 2 at the EPA, and I vehemently oppose her nomination to this position.

She is the architect of the Clean Power Plan that basically racked my economy in West Virginia, and she has not backed down from that in her testimony. She is very supportive of that plan and even more.
Her boss at the EPA at the time was Gina McCarthy. Guess where she is now—in the White House. She, again, will be Janet McCabe’s boss in the White House, dictating from there. During her time at the EPA before, she didn’t listen, she wouldn’t come to West Virginia, and she basically showed very little interest in what happens to the people most deeply affected by the policies that she put forward.

So given her past actions and present statements, I cannot support someone who would work to destroy a State’s economy, such as ours was destroyed, and our communities and their livelihoods.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today to urge our colleagues to join me in voting for cloture on the nomination of Janet McCabe to serve as Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Running an Agency like the EPA requires that person to work with and serve people regardless of their political persuasion. Some people strive to be bipartisan. Janet McCabe has a proven record of being bipartisan. That is one of the reasons why nine former EPA Deputy Administrators and Administrators support her nomination, including four Republicans who served in the Reagan, the George H.W. and the George W. Bush administrations.

Janet has served as a senior EPA manager. She is pragmatic and a good listener. That trait comes in no small part from her Hoosier background and the time that she spent with pragmatic people who will do the right thing if they understand what is needed. That is what Janet McCabe will bring with her to the role of Deputy Administrator at EPA, if confirmed. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting yes on this nomination. I yield.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the Clerk shall state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The yeas and nays—yeas 52, nays 42, as follows:

YEAS—52

Baldwin  Brown
Bennet  Bennet
Blumenthal  Blumenthal
Booker  Brown
Browne  Brown
Cantwell  Cantwell
Cardin  Cardin
Collins  Coons
Cortez Masto  Durbin
Duckworth  Duckworth
Grassley  grassley
Hassan  Peters

NAYS—42

Barrasso  Blackburn
Cramer  Rounds

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 42. The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Janet Garvin McCabe, of Indiana, to be Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

RECESS

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:51 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. SINEMA).
I am very grateful that Janet has agreed to serve her country again in this new leadership role, and I am grateful to her family for their willingness to share her again with all of us.

Janet McCabe is a steady hand who has built a 30-year career of leadership in environmental protection. Her dedication and her know-how will be invaluable in protecting clean air and clean water, addressing the climate crisis, and realizing environmental justice for the most vulnerable among us. So it is no surprise that she has garnered support from 48 leading environmental organizations. At the same time, anyone who has worked with Ms. McCabe knows that hard work and pragmatism are her hallmarks. She works well with Democrats. She works well with Republicans and with Independents. And that is why she has the public support of nine former EPA Deputy Administrators and Acting Administrators, including two Republicans. She has earned the support of nine former EPA Deputy Administrators who served in the Reagan administration and who served in the administration of George Herbert Walker Bush and who served in the George W. Bush administration.

Her professional experience includes service in both Federal and State government, and that includes impressive tenures in both Indiana and Massachusetts government agencies, as well as years of service as an EPA employee. Based on that experience, Ms. McCabe knows that in order for any Federal Agency to be successful, its leaders must work closely and collaboratively with State and local partners, no matter which party is in charge.

Her pragmatic and inclusive style has also inspired support of the electric power industry. The Edison Electric Institute, which represents all U.S. investor-owned electric companies, enthusiastically supports Janet McCabe’s nomination. This is an organization—listen to this—that speaks for companies that provide power to 220 million Americans. That is right—roughly two-thirds of all Americans. Let me put it another way. Edison Electric Institute’s members generate electricity for two-thirds of all Americans, and they have thrown their support behind the nomination of Janet McCabe for this post.

According to EEI president Tom Kuhn, he says Janet McCabe “has a strong commitment to public service and a solid track record of engaging with diverse stakeholders, including industry, as demonstrated by her time at the helm of both the Air Program at the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and EPA’s Office of Air and Radiation.”

That is a quote.

Ms. McCabe has their support because she has demonstrated time and again that environmental and economic progress go hand in hand. Let me say that again. She demonstrated time and again that cleaner air, clean water, environmental progress, and economic progress go hand in hand. They are inextricably linked. That ethic has earned Ms. McCabe the support of the American Chemistry Council, the Association of Equipment Manufacturers, and the BlueGreen Alliance, which represents some of our largest labor unions.

Ms. McCabe knows that while working to protect clean air and clean water and address climate change, the Agency must seize the opportunity to protect and create good-paying jobs across our country. She understands that the environmental and climate challenges we face are not just a problem. They offer economic and competitive opportunities. President Biden’s American Jobs Plan embraces these principles, and Janet McCabe has the experience and the intelligence to work with her Agency colleagues to translate them into action at EPA. President Biden’s American Jobs Plan embraces these principles, and Janet McCabe has the experience and the intelligence to work with her Agency colleagues to translate them into action at EPA.

The Association of Equipment Manufacturers put it very well when they wrote last month, and this is their quote:

Ms. McCabe will bring the leadership and collaborative spirit needed to address difficult environmental challenges and improve regulatory processes. We can continue to build, power, and feed our country in an innovative and sustainable way.

Ms. McCabe will help ensure that everyone—everyone who has a stake in our environment and economy—has a seat at the table. She has built a reputation of listening to everyone—everyone—addressing real economic concerns, making sure government policy helps people and communities at the local level.

Ms. McCabe embodies these values in her current role as director of Indiana University’s Resilience Institute, where she works every day to help mayors and to help farmers and communities of all sizes and shapes prepare for and adapt to climate change.

I will borrow once again from Janet McCabe’s colleague from the University of Indiana, Fred Cate, who said of her career success, and I quote him again:

“...she understands that at the end of the day, if you don’t bring along finance and industry and local buy-in, then we won’t get things done.”

I couldn’t have said it better.

As Deputy Administrator, Janet’s role will be the equivalent of a chief operating officer. She will be primarily focused on EPA internal policies and procedures—the day-to-day running of the Agency—and will not play a significant role in crafting new public policies.

One of her key tasks will be to restore the Agency’s organizational health, which suffered during the previous administration, as respect for science and career staff advice declined and morale deteriorated. There is no person better suited to overseeing this internal restoration than Janet McCabe. Under her leadership I have every confidence that EPA will recover and soar.

I am very grateful that Janet has agreed to serve her country again in this new leadership role, and I am grateful to her family for their willingness to share her again with all of us.
His personal integrity and work ethic is an inspiration to all public servants, and her willingness to engage all points of view is a boon to all who have strong interest in EPA’s work.

So in closing, I want to urge my colleagues—all of my colleagues—to vote to confirm her today so that she can put her robust talents to work for all the American people.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the McCabe nomination?

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) would have voted “nay.”

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

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 169 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Baldwin  Heineich  Reed
Bennet  Hickenlooper  Rosen
Blumenthal  Hirono  Sanders
Booker  Kaine  Schatz
Brown  Kelly  Schumer
Cantwell  King  Shaheen
Cardin  Klobuchar  Sinema
Casper  Leahy  Smith
Casey  Lujan  Tester
Collins  Menendez  Van Hollen
Cortez Masto  Merkley  Warner
Duckworth  Murkowski  Whitehouse
Durbin  Murphy  Wyden
Feinstein  Murray  Warren
Gillibrand  Ossoff  Whitehouse
Grassley  Padilla  Wyden
Hassan  Peters

NAYS—42

Barrasso  Graham  Moran
Blackburn  Hagerty  Portman
Boozman  Hawley  Risch
Braun  Hoeven  Romney
Burr  Hyde-Smith  Rubio
Capito  Inhofe  Sasse
Cassidy  Johnson  Scott (SC)
Cornyn  Kennedy  Sullivan
Cotton  Lankford  Thune
Crapo  Lee  Tillis
Cruz  Lujan  New Mexico
Daines  Manchin  Tuberville
Ernst  Marshall  Wicker
Fischer  McConnell  Young

NOT VOTING—6

Blunt  Rounds  Scott (FL)
Cramer  Paul  Shelby

The nomination was confirmed.

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 bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the underscored Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar.

April 27, 2021

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) would have voted “nay.”

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

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 169 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin  Heineich  Reed
Bennet  Hickenlooper  Rosen
Blumenthal  Hirono  Sanders
Booker  Kaine  Schatz
Brown  Kelly  Schumer
Cantwell  King  Shaheen
Cardin  Klobuchar  Sinema
Casper  Leahy  Smith
Casey  Lujan  Tester
Collins  Menendez  Van Hollen
Cortez Masto  Merkley  Warner
Duckworth  Murkowski  Whitehouse
Durbin  Murphy  Wyden
Feinstein  Murray  Warren
Gillibrand  Ossoff  Whitehouse
Grassley  Padilla  Wyden
Hassan  Peters

NAYS—42

Barrasso  Graham  Moran
Blackburn  Hagerty  Portman
Boozman  Hawley  Risch
Braun  Hoeven  Romney
Burr  Hyde-Smith  Rubio
Capito  Inhofe  Sasse
Cassidy  Johnson  Scott (SC)
Cornyn  Kennedy  Sullivan
Cotton  Lankford  Thune
Crapo  Lee  Tillis
Cruz  Lujan  New Mexico
Daines  Manchin  Tuberville
Ernst  Marshall  Wicker
Fischer  McConnell  Young

NOT VOTING—6

Blunt  Rounds  Scott (FL)
Cramer  Paul  Shelby

The nomination was confirmed.

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 bill clerk read the nomination of Colin Hackett Kahl, of California, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) would have voted “nay.”

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

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 170 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Baldwin  Heineich  Reed
Bennet  Hickenlooper  Rosen
Blumenthal  Kaine  Schatz
Booker  Kelly  Schumer
Brown  King  Shaheen
Cardin  Klobuchar  Sinema
Casper  Leahy  Smith
Casey  Lujan  Tester
Collins  Menendez  Van Hollen
Cortez Masto  Merkley  Warner
Duckworth  Murkowski  Whitehouse
Durbin  Murphy  Wyden
Feinstein  Murray  Warren
Gillibrand  Ossoff  Whitehouse
Grassley  Padilla  Wyden
Hassan  Peters

NAYS—44

Barrasso  Cashion  Hauser
Blackburn  Crapo  Hoeven
Boozman  Cruz  Hyde-Smith
Braun  Daines  Inhofe
Burr  Hickenlooper  Johnson
Capito  Fischer  Kennedy
Cassidy  Graham  Lankford
Collins  Grassley  Lee
Cornyn  Hagerty  Lummis

NOT VOTING—7

Blunt  Rounds  Scott (FL)
Cramer  Paul  Shelby

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 44.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider on the McCabe nomination is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Colin Hackett Kahl, of California, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

The Senator from Maryland.

Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, shortly, we are going to be taking up S. 914, the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act, and I would urge my colleagues to approve this legislation promptly.

The Environment and Public Works Committee reported this legislation by a unanimous vote. We don’t get too many unanimous votes here on substantive, important legislation, and we were able to get that passed because this bill is truly bipartisan.

I want to congratulate the leadership of the Environment and Public Works Committee, Chairman CARPER, for the management of the committee to bring us together, and Senator CAPITO, the ranking Republican member. The two of them set the climate for us to work together to bring out a drinking water and wastewater infrastructure bill. I also want to point out our counterpart in regards to the Subcommittee on Infrastructure, Senator CRAMER, who is the ranking member—I am the chair—and Senator DUCKWORTH, who is the chair of the Water Subcommittee, and Senator LUMMIS. All six of us worked together so that this Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act really does represent the views of all the Members of the Senate, and it is a bill that is desperately needed by our communities.

Water infrastructure is critically important to our Nation. It is important for drinking water. It is important for how we treat our waste, wastewater. The needs are tremendous. The American Society of Civil Engineers gives us a report card grade of D in 2021. The gaps are billions of dollars a year necessarily to bring our water infrastructure up to standard.

This legislation will move us in the right direction. It authorizes $35 billion for water infrastructure, which is desperately needed in our communities. It will allow us to upgrade aging infrastructure, address the threat of climate
change, invest in new technologies, and help marginal communities in dealing with these needs.

COVID–19 has made the challenges even more dramatic for our communities. Water utilities have incurred additional expenses that I think that is obvious. They had to deal with the protective equipment for their workers to deal with COVID–19. They had workers who were out as a result of COVID–19. They had to deal with changing the way they operate failed— their business. There was a demand for greater water during COVID–19, just the washing of our hands frequently. It requires us to have access to more clean water.

The ability of our customers to pay their bills was challenged during COVID–19. As we know, American families’ incomes were very stressed and are still stressed as a result of COVID–19. The gap between the ability of the public support for water infrastructure and what ratepayers are asked to pay is greater than ever. We haven’t made the money available from the public side for water infrastructure, and to put more pressure on the rate when customers are already having a difficult time paying their bills is not a viable proposition. That makes S. 914 even more urgent.

I want to talk about a couple provisions that are included in S. 914 that are bipartisan that I worked on that I think are extremely important parts of this legislation.

One, working with Senator WICKER, we have in this bill a pilot program that will establish 40 grants around the Nation so that we can establish programs to help low-income households. By way of comparison, this is similar to the LIHEAP program that we use to help our low-income families deal with their utility bills for heating their homes and air-conditioning their homes. This will provide similar help for low-income families in dealing with the price of their water bills.

Having been through Maryland and some of our centers, I can tell you that there are many communities where individuals literally cannot afford their water bills. It is an essential utility. We need to do something to fill the gap. So this bill will establish a program so that we can take some of the pressure off of the ratepayers and therefore allow local utilities to be able to invest to do some of their improvements without adversely affecting low-income families. This pilot program, to me, is long overdue, but I am pleased to see it is included in this legislation.

Another provision that is included in this legislation is legislation that I have authored with Senator CAPITTO, the Clean Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program. The two of us recognize that in the State of West Virginia and the State of Maryland, we have extreme weather events that are affecting our ability to handle drinking water and wastewater. That is true in every State in the Nation. I could tell you about Maryland and the community of Ellicott City, where they have had two 100-year floods in a period of less than 2 years.

These frequent, extreme weather events are happening in this Nation on a regular basis, and it is putting additional stress on our water infrastructure. The President had a recent summit on climate, and this is one of the issues that were brought up.

Wastewater treatment plants and drinking water systems— we need to increase their resiliency and add that ability. That is what this provision will do by providing grants that will assist in planning, designing, construction, implementation, operation, or maintenance of the facilities.

Stormwater runoff is one of the largest sources of pollutants in our environment. We have over 600,000 miles of rivers and streams in America, 13 million acres of lakes, ponds. I can speak personally about the impact that runoff has on the Chesapeake Bay, a national treasure. The fastest growing source of pollutant into the Chesapeake Bay comes from storm runoff.

This grant program on resiliency will help all of us plan for how we deal with water infrastructure in a way that can deal with our modern challenges.

Another provision in this bill comes from legislation that was authored by Senator BOOZMAN and myself, the Water Resources Research Amendments Act. This provides help for research so that we can find effective and efficient new ways to deal with water treatment facilities.

In Maryland, we are proud that we have the Maryland Water Resources Research Center at the University of Maryland, College Park, that does this type of research that will help us to the next generation of how we can use technology to help deal with our water infrastructure in America.

The bottom line is that S. 914 is a bill that will help preserve and provide drinking water to the people of this Nation and deal with wastewater. It is a very important bill for water infrastructure. It is bipartisan. It will be on the floor. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, which is clearly part of building America back better. I hope we can act on this bill this week and send it to the House and get this bill to the President for his signature. I can tell you, our local water systems desperately need the help.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). The Senator from Arizona.

Ms. SINEIRA, Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a bipartisan Senate resolution recognizing the thousands of Arizonans and millions more across America who go to work every day to serve their fellow citizens, protect our communities, and make our country a stronger place.

America’s public servants work across our uniformed services, as well as in Federal, State, and local governments, to advance our country’s health and safety. If we ever needed a reminder of the importance of our public servants, the past year has provided one. Throughout the coronavirus pandemic and resulting economic downturn, public service has provided care for our heroes, coordinated urgent medical supplies for our communities, and helped keep our small businesses open.

Along our borders with Mexico and Canada, Border Patrol agents tackled challenging conditions to provide security, limit the spread of COVID–19, and protect our communities from criminal activity. At ports of entry, Customs officers worked to maintain cross-border trade and commerce to keep fueling American jobs.

VA employees cared for our veterans and are playing a critical role in delivering vaccines to veterans, veterans’ spouses, and caregivers and dependents.

Postal employees continued to deliver the mail, keeping everyday families connected and helping employers remain open.

To all of our firefighters, police officers, public health officials, and teachers, you deserve our thanks every day, but moments of crisis often help to remind us how much we rely on all of you.

When Kingman, AZ, recently experienced a cyber attack, it was local officials, alongside members of the National Guard, who mobilized to contain the damage and get the city back online.

Through these moments of sacrifice and service, these men and women show that public service is not about winning partisan political battles or getting your fame out on cable news. It is about serving a cause greater than ourselves.

In Arizona we are no strangers to dedicated public servants who left their marks on our State and country—from Sandra Day O’Connor, the first woman to lead the Arizona State Senate and to be appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court, to my personal hero, Senator John McCain, who dedicated his life to public service, both in uniform and here in the U.S. Senate.

Beginning this Sunday, America will mark Public Service Recognition Week, and I am honored to again introduce this year’s bipartisan Public Service Recognition Week resolution with my friend Senator LANKFORD of Oklahoma.

On the Subcommittee on Government Operations and Border Management, Senator LANKFORD and I work closely together to strengthen Americans’ confidence in our government by making the government work better for everyday Americans. That is a goal we share with all of America’s public servants, and I am pleased to report last year the Senate came together across party lines to approve our resolution and honor public service.
Our bipartisan resolution recognizes the crucial work of Federal, State, and local employees and public servants across the country, and it particularly recognizes the work of the millions of public servants who have overcome the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic.

As Senator LANKFORD has often said to our country’s public servants, “America could not succeed without you.”

Public service is a noble calling, and millions answer that call every day, often underpaid and underappreciated. I am honored to thank these employees for keeping our communities and our Nation safe and secure, and for serving as examples to the next generation of public servants who will continue their legacy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, in Colorado we have come out of one of the worst wildfire seasons that we have ever seen. In fact, you can’t really call it a season. I think, when the fires are still going on when the snow falls, but that is exactly what happened this year, incredibly.

Three of the largest fires in our history all happened in the same year, and these fires displaced thousands of people in my State. They obscured the views of our mountains and forests for weeks at a time. They forced families to pack their entire lives into duffel bags while their homes went up in flames. They shut down major highways for weeks and paralyzed local economies and blanketed our communities with smoke.

If you ask anyone in Colorado why this is happening, they will tell you it is because our State is becoming hotter and drier each year. If you ask farmers and ranchers in Colorado—and a lot of them are Republican—they will tell you they are facing drought that is longer and more intense than their parents or grandparents ever had to deal with.

Our mountain towns will tell you that they are struggling with ski seasons that are growing shorter each year. Our water officials will tell you that they are planning for a future with a lot less water to go around, and there wasn’t enough water to begin with. And the reason for all of this is climate change.

That is why in Colorado, a purple State, a swing State in the middle of the country, there is absolutely a consensus that we have a moral responsibility to deal with climate change as a threat to our economy, to our environment, and to our way of life.

That responsibility extends to the U.S. Senate, but for most of the time I have been here, we have treated climate change like it was going to somehow solve itself or, in some cases, that it didn’t even really exist. And nothing could be further from the truth. This is a problem for all 50 States and every American. It is a problem for humanity, and we can’t deal with it in an enduring way unless the hundred people in this body take action, until a hundred people here are willing to lead on climate change, yes and also global, yes, and is crying out for the leadership of the Senate.

There is nobody else to ride to the rescue. We have to do this, and we can start tomorrow by voting to reverse a gas operation vote and hope the bipartisan vote tomorrow on voting to reverse—the last administration’s terrible, counterproductive, self-destructive policy on methane pollution.

Methane is the fastest rising something people ever think about, and it is one of the most powerful greenhouse gases behind climate change. It can be over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide, and it is responsible for a quarter of all the warming that the planet has seen since the Industrial Revolution.

Today, one of the biggest sources of methane pollution is the oil and gas industry in my State and in the great State of Texas, where the senior Senator is from, and where methane leaks into the atmosphere from old pipes, broken vents, and outdated practices like burning excess gas.

Methane pollution is terrible for the environment because it accelerates climate change. It is terrible for our health because it puts toxins in the air we breathe, especially for the nearly 10 million Americans who live near oil and gas wells. It is also terrible for industry because it makes their fuel much dirtier and it cuts into their bottom line.

That is why years ago—I think it was 2014—in Colorado, under the leadership of then-Governor Hickenlooper, now Senator HICKENLOOPER, we adopted as a State the country’s first-ever rules to limit methane pollution for oil and gas facilities. Governor Hickenlooper worked by bringing environmentalists and industry leaders together to craft a policy that reflected the consensus in my State around climate change and our economy. Our approach worked so well that the EPA and the Bureau of Land Management drew on it for methane rules at the Federal level.

When the last administration went after the rules at BLM, our late friend and great leader, Senator Harkin, led a bipartisan effort in the Senate to keep them in place. At the time, the Trump administration claimed that the Federal methane rules destroyed energy production and killed jobs. That was never true, to be polite.

In Colorado, our natural gas production has grown. Our oil production has nearly doubled. Our innovation and jobs have increased. Today, there are 52 different businesses in my State hiring people to repair pipelines, to track pollution, and to develop new technologies to reduce pollution. This has strengthened our economy.

Colorado’s approach worked so well that we have gone back and strengthened—our methane rules another three times in 2017, in 2019, and 2020, each time with support from both environmental groups and industry.

I think instead of learning from our example, the Trump administration went ahead with its plans to dismantle methane rules at the Federal level, and it did that over the objection of leading oil and gas operators and across the country. And the result was a self-inflicted wound on our economy and our environment, and it compromised our leadership in the world.

Now I hope we will pick up the pieces in a bipartisan way because here is what I think: We are not going to solve climate change until we have an American climate policy, just like we once had something we called U.S. foreign policy, where every President who was at the helm—whether Republican or Democrat, they roughly knew what their job was with respect to the Soviet Union, with respect to the transatlantic alliance. There were differences, of course, and we made lots of mistakes with that principle, but it was an important organizing principle—that thing we called American foreign policy.

And we are going to need something similar called American climate policy. We didn’t win the Cold War 2 years at a time, and we can’t accept the politics in here, where I put in my ideas for healthcare and 2 years later they get ripped out, and we put in somebody’s ideas for infrastructure, and 2 years later they get ripped out. We can’t tolerate it for those things—for education, for taxes. People want predictability. They don’t want us to succumb to the political antics of Washington, DC, and this floor they were Republican or Democrat, they roughly knew what their job was with respect to the Soviet Union, with respect to the transatlantic alliance.

But when it comes to climate change, that is really true, because we can’t fix it 2 years at a time. I often hear people say that we have to act urgently on climate change. We do. It is true. But we are also calling for the kind of policy that is stable, that’s durable—one that will last through changes in the majorities in the Congress and changes with who is in the White House, so that we can actually pass off that durable solution to our kids and grandkids, who can then pick up the baton.

So let me say this. You cannot accept, if you want to fix climate change, the broken politics that we have here. You can’t accept that we have a majority in this body to keep them in place. At the time, the Trump administration claimed that the Federal methane rules destroyed energy production and killed jobs. That was never true, to be polite.

So let me say this. You cannot accept, if you want to fix climate change, the broken politics that we have here. You can’t accept that we have a majority in this body to keep them in place. At the time, the Trump administration claimed that the Federal methane rules destroyed energy production and killed jobs. That was never true, to be polite.

In Colorado, our natural gas production has grown. Our oil production has nearly doubled. Our innovation and jobs have increased. Today, there are 52 different businesses in my State hiring people to repair pipelines, to track pollution, and to develop new technologies to reduce pollution. This has strengthened our economy.

Why do we care? Well, because we don’t have a backup plan. We are running out of time, and we can’t accept the politics we’ve had. We didn’t win the Cold War 2 years at a time. We didn’t win the great space race 2 years at a time. We can’t win the American climate policy 2 years at a time.
I expect the President will call on Congress to pass his so-called infrastructure bill, which is similar to the COVID–19 relief bill in that it is a partisan bill having very little to do with the title of the bill itself. Only about 5 percent, in fact, goes toward roads and bridges, something we would all define as infrastructure.

I am hopeful that the President will finally announce a plan to address the crisis at our southern border because, so far, the administration has been staggering. The largely ignored fact that the southern border is real; it is big; and it is growing. We are breaking all the wrong kinds of records, including the numbers of unaccompanied children, total monthly border crossings, and the capacity levels at our care facilities.

In March, we saw the highest number of border crossings on record, more than 172,000 individuals. That was a dramatic increase from the already eye-popping 100,000 in February. February, 100,000; course, trust me, it is going to get nothing but worse.

Nearly 19,000 of these individuals were unaccompanied children, the highest numbers we have ever seen in a single month. Sometimes people will say: That child came to America all by himself or herself. I want to disabuse my colleagues of any notion that a child—small child—would make that trip to the United States by themselves. The administration has turned over to criminal organizations that are paid by the head to transport them from their country of origin into the United States and, unfortunately, these human smugglers, known in my part of the country as “coyotes,” care nothing for the welfare of those children. It is only the money that they could produce by transporting them to the United States that they care about.

It is true we know that a spike in migration is not an entirely new phenomenon and, sadly, neither is the dramatic increase in the number of children, but the current surge is unlike any we have experienced in at least the last 20 years, according to Director Mayorkas.

These eye-popping numbers are compounded by a deadly pandemic. We have never seen that before. The pandemic, of course, has made once routine tasks like transporting and caring for migrants incredibly dangerous to the men and women who are performing those duties.

In an effort to downplay the seriousness of the border crisis or to defer attention from it altogether, the administration has spent literally no time talking about it, especially when compared to the time and energy that it has dedicated to things like climate change.

In fact, the Biden administration has spent the first several weeks of the new administration saying that there is anything wrong at the border. Then they came up with some creative euphemisms to describe what has happened. They called it a challenge. They called it a situation. They called it a mess. Well, as long as you didn’t call it a crisis, they didn’t seem too bothered by it.

A month ago, the President tapped the Vice President to lead efforts to address the crisis, which was a positive sign, until I realized Vice President Harris acted as though the President had handed her a hand grenade and had pulled the pin because she couldn’t get away from it fast enough, saying the well, her job is purely diplomatic in nature, She hasn’t made a single trip to the border and, apparently, does not plan to do so at all.

The President has given lip service to ensuring migrants not to come, but those statements mean absolutely nothing when all of the other signals being sent by this administration are: There is a green light and a welcome mat out for migrants to come to the United States.

The situation is such that we are reaching a breaking point, and the Vice President and President could recognize that if they took the time to learn from those people I have learned from, the experts who do these terribly difficult jobs along the border.

As you can imagine, I have spent a lot of time listening to those folks because I represent them. I visited border communities and heard from the Border Patrol officers, mayors, county judges, and NGOs, nongovernmental organizations, that are doing the best they can dealing with overwhelming numbers.

I had the opportunity to actually talk to some of the migrants themselves about their journeys to our border and what brought them here. In the Rio Grande Valley, I spoke with three young mothers holding their crying infants less than a mile from the river they crossed into the United States. They had just undergone preliminary health screenings and were waiting for buses to take them to a processing center.

And, please, our colleagues should understand these migrants are not trying to get away from the Border Patrol. They are literally walking up to the Border Patrol and turning themselves in because they realize that is the next step to their being placed into the interior of the United States and completing their journey.

As you can imagine, each of these mothers was hopeful. They made it to the United States and knew that as a family unit with young children they would be cared for by our government and then released into the United States. The very same day the mothers paid $3,600, she said, to get here. Another paid $6,000. This is big business for the smugglers and the criminal organizations that charge thousands of dollars to bring migrants to the U.S. border.

I think it is important to note that this is not just a Mexico-Central American phenomena. A couple of months...
ago, when I was down at the Del Rio sector of the Border Patrol, the Border Patrol Chief showed us a slide with the names of 54 different countries represented by the people who were detained coming across the Del Rio sector just so far this year—54 different countries.

As I said, many of these “customers” are children traveling with no parents. We know the journey is not a safe or easy one. In fact, it is dangerous, and it is hard, and many children arrive in critical condition after enduring days, weeks, and months on the road. And the tragic fact is, some of these children don’t make it. They die en route.

I have heard horrific stories of physical and sexual abuse that occurs at the hands of the criminals, cartels, and human smugglers, and others traveling in a large caravan of immigrants. At the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in Dallas, which is now serving as a shelter for migrant boys, I talked to one young man who endured a 3-month-long trek on foot from Central America to the United States. He told us he slept in the jungles along the way and that food was scarce. As you can imagine, he was happy now to be in a shelter where three square meals a day with a roof over his head.

These stories are not unique. Many of us have seen the heartbreaking video of a young boy abandoned by smugglers in the Rio Grande Valley, dropped from the top of the wall into the interior of the United States. And we have read the story about a young girl who drowned trying to cross the Rio Grande River. And we have seen where the smugglers who care so little for the welfare of the people they are smuggling into the United States—and in one instance they threw a 6-month-old child into the river, knowing the Border Patrol would be diverted in order to save the child, which thankfully they did, while they skedaddled into the United States.

I think it is heartbreaking that these children are enduring this sort of trauma, and it is infuriating that cartels and criminal organizations are getting richer in the process.

So make no mistake, there is a crisis at the border and the policies of the Biden administration helped make it worse. Despite warnings from folks on both sides of the aisle, the administration reversed policies of the previous administration without any alternative plan in its place. Making matters worse, they entirely failed to prepare for the obvious consequences. Now the question is, What are they going to do to address it?

I believe the American people deserve to hear from President Biden his outline of a plan to address the border crisis and to manage this surge of humanity in a fair and humane way. If the President is still working on that portion of his speech, I would like to make a friendly suggestion.

There is a grassroots plan out there that was built from bottom up by the Senators and Congressmen most familiar with the crisis. It includes input from the men and women who dealt with migration surges in the past and who are working around-the-clock to manage the consequences of uncontrolled movement of migrants across the border as called for in the Bipartisan Border Solutions Act.

Senator SINEMA from Arizona, who also represents a border State, and I have introduced this legislation here in the Senate. We are proud to work with the bipartisan coalition that includes one Democrat, HENRY CUELLAR of Laredo and TONY GONZALES, a Republican in the 23rd Congressional District. He represents, I believe, the largest single section of the U.S.-Mexico border of any Member in Congress. Our bill seeks to address the most urgent problems on the border today. There is more we can and should do, but at least this would address the most urgent problems.

First, it would establish four regional processing centers along the border to expedite the processing of migrants. Right now, the smugglers know that if they flood the zone with children, the Border Patrol are going to have to go off the frontline in order to take care of the children, leaving drugs, people smuggling narcotic and other migrants—narcotics which, by the way, contributed to roughly 88,000 drug overdoses in America alone in the last 12 months.

Our bill would provide protections for migrant children who come into the country without a parent or any relatives.

It would help reduce the immigration court backlog and remove a major pull factor for migrants who do not have a legitimate asylum claim. But it would, more importantly, speed up the process for the most vulnerable migrants who do have a valid asylum claim.

I think these are commonsense reforms that should earn the support of members from both Chambers in Congress, as well as a number of respected outside organizations.

We would be glad to receive the support of the administration or at least a port of the administration or at least a phone call so we can begin conversations. Ignoring this crisis will not make it go away. We have spent the last couple of months demonstrating that inaction will only make it worse.

As I said, we have seen surges in the past but never like this. The busiest months are usually April, May, and June, not February and March, which indicates, by historical trends, it is going to get worse and worse and worse. If our facilities and our personnel are overwhelmed today, which they are, and we haven’t yet reached the normal busy season, how much worse are things going to get? How many more children will die in the hands of these criminals on their way to the United States before we decide to take action?

As the Presiding Officer and I have discussed before, there is nobody else to solve these problems except us. On something as important as this, it seems like a logical area for Republicans and Democrats to work together to try to take at least some modest steps to address this crisis. I hope the President will work with us and be part of the solution and not part of the problem.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I was listening intently to the Senator from Texas, who is certainly familiar with the problems on the border. It happens that I spent 30 years down there as a builder and developer many years ago. I got to know the border people. They are trying to do a great job down there against some pretty impossible odds.

You know, one thing I always think about is, it has nothing to do with Central American citizens or Mexicans; it is the people from the Middle East, terrorists from all over. Open borders doesn’t work. So I applaud him for his efforts on that.

DRINKING WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 2021

Mr. President, this week we have a real opportunity before us to pass the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021. If you listen only to the national media, you would think that Congress can’t get together on much of anything, but this bill is a real example of how that is not always the case. The reason is simple: Everyone agrees that we need clean, safe, drinking water and to support State and local projects to protect water quality.

There are tangible benefits for communities too. Just consider what the bill does for my State of Oklahoma. First, it will increase the Federal funding for local projects by over $315 million in the next 5 years, an increase of 123 percent.

More than that, the State retains the control to direct funds to projects they have identified. It is called local support. It is kind of a unique concept. It demonstrates clearly that we who are representing an area know more about the area than people who don’t represent the area.

This will increase funding for local projects. It will also provide needed resources to help Oklahoma achieve its comprehensive water plan, meeting its needs for the next 40 years.

A month ago, the Water Quality Division director of the State of Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, Shellie Chard, testified before the EPW Committee to highlight the challenges specific to rural States like my State of Oklahoma.

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water. She highlighted the need for assistance to small, rural States in complying with government regulations, and this bill does that by giving small and rural States access to Federal funding and assistance in complying with government regulations that are often overwhelming for them.

The bill also empowers rural communities to work with technical experts at nonprofit entities and State agencies to implement best practices and more efficiently comply with the Federal regulations. When a small town like Meridian, OK, needs help addressing harmful contaminants in their water system, local rural water organizations can provide consistent help and expertise, and they do. They are out there. They want to help. Dedicating resources to help our rural communities will ensure they spend more of their time and their money on community projects, not navigating a bureaucracy.

More than just taking care of our water infrastructure today, this bill has an eye on the future by reauthorizing the Water Resources Research Act. The Water Resources Research Act funds cutting-edge water research at universities across the country, including Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. OSU will receive research funding over the next 4 years to study wastewater reuse, produced water from oil and gas operations, and more.

The bill will also more than double the funding for the enhanced aquifer recharge program. This program does essential work to refill the groundwater aquifers, especially in areas with water shortages, to sustain a reliable municipal water supply.

I thank my colleagues Senator CARPER and Senator CAPITO for working together to move this bill through the normal process and bring it to the floor. This is what bipartisanship means, and we do see this every day, in spite of what you might get from the media. I look forward to this bill being passed and enacted into law quickly. It is important that this not be the end of our bipartisan infrastructure work.

**Surface Transportation Plan**

Mr. President, we also need to reauthorize the new surface transportation plan before October 1. I know that it can be hard work because I did it twice with Senator Boxer. We did the MAP-21 program; that was in 2012. We did the FAST Act in 2015. We were successful because we focused on actual infrastructure—roads, highways, bridges, waterways, and the like.

Senator CAPITO rolled out a meaningful infrastructure package this last week. It is bold and focused on what our country actually needs.

While President Biden and the Biden administration recognize the Republican plan as a starting point, sadly, Senate Democrats dismiss it outright, without even waiting to read it. And why? Because the extreme left wants to hijack the popularity of infrastructure to pass their Green New Deal agenda.

You know, I had the honor of being with the President and the Vice President for their first week in office. At that time, they were talking about the infrastructure package of the administration. I told the President at that time that one of the problems I have with what I feel is going on is that the package is going to be using the popularity of infrastructure repair. That is popular. People want roads. They want highways. They want infrastructure. But they want to use that popularity to get their agenda passed.

Now, in the infrastructure package that the President came out with, only about 7 percent of that actually addresses roads, highways, and bridges. So that is not what we want. We do have a bill coming out of the committee.

The proof is in the numbers. The Biden plan would spend more on electric vehicle charging ports and subsidies for electric vehicles on roads, bridges, and airports combined. You know, I didn’t believe that when I first saw it. How can he come out with something that would actually spend more just on electrical vehicles than it does on roads, highways, and bridges? But that is exactly right because it would be $157 billion for roads, highways, and bridges but $174 billion for electrical vehicle support.

If this is familiar to you, that is because it is. Remember then-President Obama’s American “Recovery” Plan that was supposed to be a massive investment in infrastructure with “shovel ready jobs”? Well, less than 5 percent of that bill went into infrastructure. The rest of the $800 billion went to finance the Obama climate agenda. I guess history really does repeat itself because that same thing is happening today. Worse, it trades responsible policy methods with a tax-and-spend approach.

A lot of people here may be too young to remember this, but I remember when the biggest problem we had in the highway trust fund was that we had too much money, that we had too much surplus.

I ask the Presiding Officer, can you believe that, because you haven’t been here that long? But that actually was the problem. The highway trust fund was actually more than it needed to be. I can remember back during the Clinton administration, I was pretty upset when he took several billion dollars out of that program. The surplus was there, but nonetheless we knew that leaner times were coming and that we would end up with a highway program that we would not be able to pay for out of the highway trust fund if we let people take money out of that trust fund.

But, anyway, a lot of people here may be too young to remember that, but that actually did happen.

One of the unique things about our highway system is the “user pays; user benefits” model. At a recent EPW hearing that we had—that was just 2 weeks ago—every single witness was in agreement that users who benefit should pay into the system. They all agreed that the extreme left wants to hijack the popularity of infrastructure to pass their fair share to maintain and improve our infrastructure. But, instead, the Biden plan takes the tax-and-spend approach, increasing the deficit and raising our corporate tax rate, undoing the historic tax cuts that were put in place under the previous administration, the Trump administration.

People hear that, and they don’t fully appreciate just what it means. They think that corporate tax rates won’t affect them. But the people hurt the most by the higher corporate tax rate tend to be in the most vulnerable categories. That is because higher taxes on job creators not only hurts American competitiveness around the world, but it means lower wages, lower GDP growth, and fewer jobs to go around.

In fact, the nonpartisan CBO found that 70 percent of the savings businesses got when they lowered the corporate tax rate in the Trump tax cuts went straight to worker wages, and the Biden plan would undo that very successful program. A study done by Rice University found that raising the corporate tax rate back to 28 percent, like the Biden plans do, will actually kill 1 million jobs in just 2 years.

Before the pandemic, the economy was growing fast, thanks in large part to the historic tax cuts and the regulatory reforms that drove the record job growth.

In fact, we had the best economy in my lifetime, prior to the pandemic. We had a year that couldn’t be beat. And now, 12 months into the pandemic, as many States are just now allowing businesses to reopen, the administration is looking to raise taxes on job creators who can get our economy back on track.

The White House said it was serious about infrastructure investment, and I am committed to working with the President and my colleagues in the Senate to do this. It can be done this year, just as it has been many times in the past, but it needs to be real infrastructure and not just a big-spending liberal climate bill.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote for this motion to proceed to the bipartisan Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021, otherwise known as DWWIA.

As the ranking member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, I’ve been working closely with Chairman CARPER, and Senators DUCKWORTH, LUMMIS, CARDIN, and CRAMER to craft meaningful legislation that addresses our country’s aging
drinking water and wastewater systems. Every city and town can tell you all about it.

This bill authorizes more than $35 billion for water resource development projects across the country, with a focus on upgrading aging infrastructure, addressing the emerging threats of extreme weather events, including those resulting from climate change, and cyber security vulnerabilities. This bill also includes measures to invest in innovative technologies, and it provides for marginalized communities. All of these things will help our communities keep their water safe and clean.

Something I am particularly proud of is how this bill provides flexibility to both rural and urban areas and lets them decide how they can best address their needs.

The most significant investments in this bill are in the drinking water and clean water SRFs for solving funds. We know the SRFs maximize authority for the States to determine how best to address drinking and wastewater challenges, utilizing a revolving loan fund to facilitate additional future investments.

For rural States like West Virginia, we offer several solutions to unique water challenges. I will add here that we have a lot of great water in West Virginia. First, the bill invests $55 billion for those currently being served by intrastate water systems. Those are the systems that service fewer than 1,000 people and that have typically been abandoned by the operator. We have quite a few of those. Towns in the southern coalfields of West Virginia, like those in McDowell County, have historically struggled with this.

Since many of these households cannot connect to municipal water systems in an economic or technologically feasible way, the funding will go to a grant program to help them implement environmentally sound, decentralized wastewater systems. This language is something that I worked on previously with my colleague from New Jersey Cory Booker when he was on the committee in the last Congress.

The most pressing water issue, from a human health and environmental perspective in Appalachia, is undoubtedly straight piping. This practice is common in other exceptionally rural and remote areas around the country. So with new septic tanks installed, the grant program is working to improve quality of life and addresses public health and environmental concerns about straight piping waste into rivers and streams.

Infrastructure resiliency and sustainability is also a priority in this bill. In rural areas especially, some of the pipes are nearly 100 years old. I have actually heard about wooden pipes. Small towns often don’t have the revenues to spend on expensive drinking water and wastewater infrastructure upgrades. That is why this legislation creates grants for small public water systems to replace components, to identify and prevent leaks, and to install meters.

This is based off of language I introduced last Congress in the Assuring Quality Water Infrastructure Act. I was joined there by Senator Ben Cardin of Maryland to address the needs of small water systems that are facing operational challenges in maintaining drinking water services. Every State has them.

In West Virginia, that is often the result of old infrastructure or the lack of adequate mapping of where these assets actually exist. It is hard to fix leaks when you can’t find them. Reports have shown—this stunned me when I saw this—that only one-quarter of the water that West Virginia water systems pay to have treated and pumped even reaches a faucet—one quarter. That is how much water leaks out. I think about other States that have water shortages, and here we are in a State like ours, which has an abundance of water.

Water is a precious resource, and wasting that much of it because of leaky pipes and faulty infrastructure is absolutely unacceptable. The $250 million over 5 years will help to provide the technical assistance and infrastructure investments that these small systems, serving 10,000 people or fewer, need to address to get those challenges off their backs and to get on sure fiscal footing as they better serve their customers.

Of course, we don’t want to forget about our midsize and large drinking water systems. Another program that I worked on last Congress, again, with Senator Cardin, addresses the resiliency of drinking water and wastewater systems.

Adapted from the Clean Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Act, these programs, totaling $370 million over 5 years, will help protect public water systems from a host of threats, both natural and manmade.

In West Virginia and in many other parts of the country, the greatest threats to drinking and wastewater infrastructure come from flooding. These investments will harden infrastructure against these threats and protect taxpayers from paying for the same infrastructure again and again.

I just discussed physical resiliency, but we must also ensure the resilience of our water utility workforce, those workers who ensure the continued operation and maintenance of drinking water and wastewater systems every day. Section 211 of DWWIA focuses on the resilience of America’s water utility workforce by addressing recruitment, training, and retention challenges. This is a topic very important to me, and I worked, again, with my colleague from New Jersey Senator Booker, on this issue.

I cannot help but think that we regularly take for granted the public health services provided by this Nation’s water utility workforce. We just don’t really think about who is actually working there and providing the service that we sometimes take for granted.

Unfortunately, a large portion of the men and women who are in our water treatment facilities are getting older and they are retiring, and that is why we need to make sure that we have the next generation of water workers ready.

This bill increases funding authorized to $25 million over 5 years for the program that helps water systems grow their workforce through apprenticeships, through training programs, and it also helps with their retention efforts. This program has been extremely popular with water systems around the country, and Congress has recognized this by funding it beyond the authorization level.

We have heard from the water community that other circuit rider programs have been a tremendous asset in providing technical assistance. It only makes sense for the EPA to similarly provide the tools and investments necessary to help our drinking water and wastewater systems face these challenges head-on. After all, this is the workforce that will ensure the operation and maintenance of all our infrastructure investments this package creates.

Additional technical assistance can also help systems with operations—it is much more complicated than what it used to be—and prevent outages and costly compliance issues. Section 206 establishes and authorizes a circuit rider program designed to help owners and operators of small- and medium-sized publicly owned works.

We have heard from the water community that other circuit rider programs have been a tremendous asset in providing technical assistance. It only makes sense for the EPA to similarly provide the tools and investments necessary to help our drinking water and wastewater systems face these challenges head-on. After all, this is the workforce that will ensure the operation and maintenance of all our infrastructure investments this package creates.

Another concern for us was the alarming trend in cyber security threats in water systems. In February, you all might remember, hackers accessed a Florida water treatment facility computer system and were able to remotely raise the level of sodium hydroxide in the water. That is not just scary; it is alarming.

This has huge national security implications on top of the obvious public health concerns. Thankfully, that hack was detected and the system was returned to normal before the public was ever at risk. But in this day and age, water infrastructure resiliency also has not been addressed in cyber security issues. So we made sure that these vulnerabilities could be addressed under resiliency grants.

While water infrastructure investments are critical to ensuring we are not wasting water and our water is clean, it is also critical from an economic development perspective. Berkeley County—close here to Washington,
I yield the floor. The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be able to complete my remarks, given the time constraints.

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

NOMINATION OF COLIN HACKETT KAHL

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to the nomination of Colin Kahl to serve as Undersecretary of Defense for Policy.

Our Nation needs leaders at the Department of Defense who are not driven by a partisan agenda and are committed to making sure our troops have all the resources and support they need to succeed. We need leaders who understand that our adversaries are regimes like those in Communist China and Iran and that our friends are countries like Israel and its partners in the Middle East.

That is not Dr. Kahl. I have grave misgivings about his lack of support for one of our great allies, Israel, weakness toward Communist China and desire to rejoin the disastrous Iran Deal.

The Undersecretary of Defense for Policy serves as the Defense Secretary’s top national security adviser, a position that requires sound judgment and an even temperament. Dr. Kahl’s history of partisan rhetoric makes him unfit for this position.

For all these reasons, I oppose Mr. Kahl’s nomination and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I rise today to oppose Colin Kahl’s nomination for Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, and I advise my colleagues to do the same, as we are getting ready to take a vote on this very important position in the Pentagon. That, to me, is one of the most important positions we have at the Department of Defense.

While I have many policy disagreements with Dr. Kahl, which I have discussed at length with him, I want to say I have a long history of working across the aisle, with Democrats and Republicans, on defense issues, even with those with whom I don’t agree on their policies. As a matter of fact, the Presiding Officer and I have a very strong working relationship, and we don’t agree on a lot of issues, particularly on issues of the military.

I serve on the Armed Services Committee, and I take these matters very seriously. They are some of the main reasons I ran for the Senate over 6½ years ago. I focus a lot on military personnel, uniform and civilian, whom we put in the Pentagon and who have this enormous responsibility to oversee the Department of Defense.

Whether they are Assistant Secretaries, Under Secretaries, admirals, or generals, I try to understand where they are coming from, and I have a record of strongly supporting almost all of them, whether they have been in the Obama administration, the Trump administration, or even in the Biden administration. For example, I not only supported the Secretary of Defense, Lloyd Austin, knowing that I wasn’t going to agree with him on everything, but I actually introduced him at his confirmation hearing because I served with him in the military, and I know he is a man of honor and character. I strongly supported the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Kath Hicks, given her background and knowledge.

Yet some nominees I have not and I will not support, particularly in this regard to Secretary Austin’s appointment to our Nation’s defense. I will object to these people because, like Dr. Kahl, I don’t believe he has the temperament or judgment to do the job.

Like I said, I have looked at and focused on dozens and dozens of members with regard to their temperament and judgment who need Senate confirmation to the Department of Defense. The vast, vast majority, Democrat or Republican, I have supported but not this one. And this is a really important position. The Under Secretary of Defense for Policy is essentially the No. 3 position in the Pentagon.

As I mentioned, it is my view and, I believe, the view of most of my colleagues, at least on this side of the aisle, that Dr. Kahl does not have the temperament or judgment. In fact, I believe that he has no business to be a liability to our national security and our defense and not to be viewed favorably by the men and women he is supposed to lead.

Let me talk about temperament and give a little bit of background.

Not even a year ago, a number of Senate Democrats—my colleagues and I—wrote of the official who was nominated by the Trump administration for this same position, the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, BG Anthony Tata. The letter that was signed by a number of my Senate Democratic colleagues, many of whom are on the Committee on Armed Services, focused on that nominee’s record of “offensive and inflammatory comments which would disqualify you from serving in your current position and the position for which you have been nominated.” That is one of the quotes. Remember, this was for the same position but with the Trump administration.

This letter also read that he had made inflammatory remarks regarding the President—that would be President Obama—and inflammatory remarks regarding rhetoric for Members of Congress as well. Again, that was last year. This is the standard that was being used.

This letter goes on to read:

Your multiple past statements cannot be dismissed as simple aberration.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD this letter dated July 24, 2020.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:
Your letter to committee leadership appears to be a conveniently timed retraction by someone who has suddenly realized his nomination is in jeopardy. But your multiple past tweets make this simply as an aberration. No one with a record of repeated, repugnant statements like yours should be nominated to serve in a senior position of responsibility at the Pentagon. Your views are wholly incompatible with the U.S. military’s values.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We call on you to withdraw your nomination.

Mr. SULLIVAN. You have almost the identical situation here. What happened with General Tata is that his nomination, for a lot of these reasons, was withdrawn by the Trump administration. Yet now you have the same, almost identical issues with this nominee, and when I showed this letter to my Democratic colleagues, they were like, “Oh, no. That’s OK.” It is not OK. It is not OK.

So let’s talk about temperament and tweets with Dr. Kahl.

Really, the issue here is, is he more of a political hack who is tweeting all of the time—he tweets quite a lot—or is he somebody with the temperament of a partisan internet troll, or is he a measured national security professional who can lead the Pentagon in the No. 3 position? Unfortunately, I think it is the former issue, not the latter. He has a long history of tweets. Just like that my colleague on the other side of the aisle objected to last year for this same position with the Trump administration’s nominee, who was withdrawn for these reasons, here is just a small example of Dr. Kahl’s tweets. These are the same issues that my colleagues were concerned about. There have been a lot of attacks on Members of Congress. OK. That is fine. We are in the public arena.

Here is what he wrote:

The GOP used to pride itself as the party that puts values front and center in U.S. foreign policy. Now they are the party of ethnic cleansing.

OK. I don’t think we are the party of ethnic cleansing. That is pretty strong stuff.

He tweeted more:

Let’s not mince words. The Trump administration kidnapped children. The Republican Party, in terms of national security, are now part of a “death cult.”

He retweeted the now discredited Lincoln Project attacks. I know a lot about them. It spent a lot of money in my race. It is a very discredited group of people, by the way. Very disturbed are some of their leaders at the Lincoln Project.

He calls and tweets that the President of the United States, the Commander in Chief, is a moron, is repugnant, is a coward. He went on to call my colleagues in the Senate many additional things that I won’t repeat here. He did this in the context of that the Lynch Project.

No matter what your views are of my colleagues or of the former President, words matter, and attacks matter. If you can’t refrain from making them, maybe you don’t belong in the No. 3 position in the Pentagon. That was the conclusion that probably everybody made last year, so why should it be different with this candidate? It shouldn’t be different.

Don’t get me wrong. It is a free country. You are allowed to tweet and criticize the Commander in Chief and Members of Congress all the time. That is fine. That is what America is. That is what democracy is. But that doesn’t mean you get a free pass to be the No. 3 guy at the U.S. Department of Defense, which is what he wants.

So that is temperament, and I don’t think it is a good temperament with which to lead the Pentagon at all.

Let’s talk about judgment, especially policy judgment. The questions of temperament are often closely aligned with but they are not the same as judgment. Particularly as it relates to policy. Judgment is being able to assess a situation, use history as a guide, and take appropriate action.

I think this nominee lacks judgment, which is something you would want in the next Vice President Biden’s National Security Advisor. Let me provide a few examples.

First, as many know, he was a staunch advocate for the Iran nuclear deal and, I believe, an advocate on being soft on Iran.

By the way, it is not always said in public, but a bipartisan majority of U.S. Senators and a bipartisan majority of Members of the House all opposed the Iran deal. I mean, appealing the world’s largest state sponsor of terrorism, these leaders—leaders with the blood of thousands of American troops on their hands—is not smart policy judgment. Dr. Kahl, particularly as it relates to policies. Judgment is being able to assess a situation, use history as a guide, and take appropriate action—he criticized it.

Dr. Kahl, in 2015, argued for sanctions relief on Iran, claiming that the vast majority of the relief would go to butter, not guns. Well, we know how that turned out. That money went to arming terrorists and the continuation of Iran’s proxies around the Middle East and around the world who were committing terrorism.

Dr. Kahl said that pulling out of the Iran nuclear deal was “a dangerous delusion.”

He said: The “hawks in Congress”—and I think he meant that as an insult. By the way, I view that not as an insult, particularly after the Obama-Biden administration out defense spending by 25 percent and drastically reduced readiness—who are supporting pulling out of the Iran deal “won’t be satisfied until they get the war they have pushed for decades.” Really? I didn’t want war with Iran. Those who supported the JCPOA—a bipartisan majority of the U.S. Senators—didn’t want a war with Iran. We just thought the JCPOA was misguided.
After the U.S. strike that killed Iranian terror commander Qasem Soleimani, Kahl tweeted the following:

"Trump has started a war with Iran and Iraq.

Really? I think what the President and the Admin did when they killed Soleimani was establish deterrence, which we had lost in the Middle East when this terrorist killed thousands and wounded thousands of U.S. service men and women and never had to pay consequences. We reestablished it and said if you kill Americans, you are going to pay.

Guess what. That war never happened, although Kahl predicted it.

Even Iran's Foreign Minister, Mohammad Zarif, acknowledged in these tapes that we have been talking about here on the Senate floor that the killing of Soleimani “was when the United States delivered a major blow to Iran more damaging than if it had wiped out an entire city in an attack.” That was from the Foreign Minister of Iran’s knowing that what we did was very significant.

Dr. Kahl, if you look at his tweets, would have done that because I thought it would have “brought the war that thehawks want.” We didn’t want a war, and we didn’t get a war.

Just like John Kerry, who is now being accused of leaking secrets that Israel had—one of our most important allies—to Iran, the world’s largest state sponsor of terrorism, I believe he is soft on Iran.

We are going to get to the bottom of the Kahl issue. This is a long, long story. I alleged what he did, but if he did it, if he sold out Israel for Iran, he needs to resign and be fired. We are going to get to the bottom of that.

Let me mention one other issue. It is a sensitive one—I admit it—but I think it is also an important one with Dr. Kahl.

At his confirmation hearing, he said that one of his priorities was to “stamp out systemic racism within the ranks of the military.”

Now, look, I care about this issue, and every organization has bad people in it. I spoke on the Senate floor last year about some of these issues. I put forward legislation last year in the NDAA that looks at why we aren’t having promotions of African Americans at higher ranks and at the highest ranks of the military. This is an issue I care about, but when he said this in his confirmation hearing—systemic racism within the ranks—I was very curious. Has he served in the ranks, maybe? No, he hasn’t. I have for 26 years—still serving. Where did he get the information? That is a broad statement about our troops whom you want to lead.

During the hearing, Dr. Kahl admitted he had no credible evidence to back up that kind of statement.” Well, that is a real lack of judgment.

You are besmirching a bunch—a big portion of the force, with no credible data to back it up, and you want to be the No. 3 leader in the Pentagon?

This is judgment, and this is one of the many reasons I am going to vote against him, and I hope that my colleagues do.

Let me end with one final thing. Dr. Kahl made a statement in his confirmation hearing about the requirements of the job. The position of undersecretary of defense for policy, while it’s a political appointment, is not a political job. It’s a policy job, one that requires (whoever is in the position) to be bipartisan.

Well, given his judgment, given his temperament, I don’t believe Dr. Kahl has lived up to his own assessment of what is required to serve in the Pentagon’s most important defense role. I don’t believe he has the qualifications for this position. There are plenty of good policy experts—Democrats, I am sure, who do—and I would encourage my colleagues to vote against this nomination for these reasons.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 7 minutes prior to the vote on the Kahl nomination.

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

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about Colin Kahl, the President’s nominee to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

The most basic responsibility of our government and our military is to protect the national security of the American people, which requires helping our allies and constraining our enemies. The Pentagon's policy chief is responsible for those evaluations.

Unfortunately, I have come to believe that Colin Kahl's judgment is irreparably marred by obsessive animosity toward Israel. I can think of no other way to explain his years of consistently wrong views regarding the Middle East—and not just wrong but impulsive and reckless.

He has repeatedly spilled out his conspiracy theories and attacks on Twitter and other public venues. He views the world through a cracked lens.

And I challenge my Democratic colleagues to explain one simple thing: What other explanation, other than animosity to the world's only Jewish state, could account for all of these staggeringly wrong judgments?

I would like to begin with a topic the Senate has been united on: our opposition to anti-Semitism and to anti-Semitic conspiracy theories.

In 2019, this body came together unanimously to pass a resolution that I authored, along with Democratic Senator Tim Kaine, condemning anti-Semitism as a unique form of bigotry that distorts people's judgments.

Recently, a top admirer of the Ayatollah Khamenei acknowledged what the world long knew—that in 2018, in an operation right out of a Hollywood action movie, Israel seized Iran's national nuclear archive. The archive proved that Iran had been keeping nuclear weapons blueprints and materials on the shelf. The nuclear deal, of which Kahl was a principle architect, had been flawed from the start.

Kahl responded to the news of the raid by suggesting on Twitter the archive was fabricated by Israel, with the aim of dragging American boys and girls into another Middle East war. This was a pernicious, anti-Semitic conspiracy theory, a blood libel, not just pernicious but wrong.

That was not the only time Kahl leveled troubling conspiracy theories about Israel and Iran. He suggested on Twitter that Trump’s policies regarding the Iran deal and Jerusalem were linked to donations from Jewish billionaire Sheldon Adelson. This is not the judgment of anyone who should be anywhere near power or policy.

Just like his views on Iraq, the administration made was to move our Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. There was an active debate within the Trump administration, I leaned in vigorously with the President, and the President agreed with me. And what I would say to our friends and our enemies that we stand unshakably with the nation of Israel.

Kahl spent years fighting against the move, fighting against moving our Embassy. According to reports from 2012, Kahl was personally responsible for trying to remove language from the Democratic Party platform embracing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. The President, and the President agreed with me, and what I would say to our friends and our enemies that we stand unshakably with the nation of Israel.

Turning to current topics, the Obama-Biden team shamefully, repeatedly attacked Chairman Mendendez for trying to "kill" and use “poison pills” to block appeasement of the Iranian regime.

To return to current topics, the Obama-Biden team shamefully, repeatedly attacked Chairman Mendendez for trying to "kill" and use “poison pills” to block appeasement of the Iranian regime.

Now there are new reports on a taped phone call that then-Secretary of State Kerry may have leaked Israeli attacks to Iran’s Foreign Minister of Iran’s foreign minister, and Bob Corker, and I have been that, with whom he is personally close. If verified, these reports would mean he maliciously endangered not just Israeli national security but American lives. If these reports are true, John Kerry should resign, and if he doesn’t resign, President Biden should fire him.

Colin Kahl was prominent in shaping Obama-Biden policies on Israel and
Iran, and he has been credibly accused of weaponizing and leaking classified information.

I recently joined 17 other Senators in a letter to FBI Director Wray, requesting that the FBI immediately investigate whether he did so. But we are not going to have an answer before we vote today, and I don’t see how he can be principally advanced without it.

On issues of foreign policy, this body is often united when standing up against our enemies and standing for our friends. This nominee, I believe, is the right man to advance an anti-Israel nominee who would serve in the entire Biden administration.

Many of our friends on the Democratic aisle like to say they support the nation of Israel. Well, this is a chance to demonstrate you mean it because you cannot vote to confirm a rabid, anti-Israel, conspiracy-theory-tweeting radical to the No. 3 position in the Department of Defense and then claim you are a reliable friend of Israel.

Colin Kahl’s record is extreme, fringe, and radical. He has a lifelong fringe, and radical. He has a lifelong hostility to the State of Israel, and he has demonstrated a willingness to endanger Israeli lives and American lives to advance that hostility.

I urge our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to oppose this nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

The nomination was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum shall be immediately notified of the Senate's decision.

The senator called the roll.

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:

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 the debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 34, S. 914, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize programs under those Acts, and for other purposes.


The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The following Senators from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMMER), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELEY).

The yeas and nays revealed—yeas 92, nays 2, as follows:


The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 92, the nays are 2.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

DRINKING WATER AND WASTE-WATER INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 2021—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Cloture having been invoked, the Senate will resume legislative session and consideration of the motion to proceed, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to S. 914, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize programs under those Acts, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.
Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, I know of no further debate on the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

The motion was agreed to.

DRINKING WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 2021

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 914) to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize programs under those Acts, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1460
(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.)

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, I call up amendment No. 1460, and I ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Illinois [Ms. DUCKWORTH] for Mr. Carrington proposes an amendment numbered 1460.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

COVID–19 HATE CRIMES ACT

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I rise today to discuss the COVID–19 Hate Crimes Act. I was a cosponsor of this bill, which was introduced by Senator HIRONO and passed the Senate on April 22, 2021, by a vote of 94 to 1. I was in Minnesota to attend the memorial service for Daunte Wright when the bill came up for a vote, but I would have voted in favor of the bill had I been present.

I have been alarmed by the sharp increase in hate crimes against members of the Asian-American Pacific Islander, AAPI, community during the pandemic. According to Stop AAPI Hate, there have been approximately 3,800 incidents of anti-Asian bias across the country in the last year, and that number only includes what has been reported. As we saw with the recent mass shootings in Atlanta, in which six of the eight victims were women of Asian descent, these crimes are horrifying and heartbreaking.

I have also talked to constituents in my State who have experienced verbal attacks, physical abuse, and threats to their businesses simply because they are members of the AAPI community. What they have endured is not right. These are hate crimes, and it is time for us to stand together, to denounce hate, and take action.

When I first arrived at the Senate, I worked hard to pass the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act. As a prosecutor, I was at the White House when President Bill Clinton introduced the bill, and 9 years later, I got to cast one of the deciding votes to make the bill a reality. Since then I have worked with Senator MCKWORSKI to introduce the bipartisan Justice for Victims of Hate Crimes Act, to help ensure that Federal prosecutors can effectively enforce the Federal hate crimes law. After places of worship were targets of violence in my State, I joined my colleagues in cosponsoring legislation to strengthen protections for religious institutions that was signed into law in September 2018.

The COVID–19 Hate Crimes Act will ensure that the Department of Justice invests the resources needed to fully investigate hate crimes against Asian Americans and will support local law enforcement to report and respond to hate crimes. While there is more we must do to root out hate and bias in our country, this bill is an important step forward, and I am grateful to Senator HIRONO for her work in leading this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO LORI HOUSMAN

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career and retirement of Lori Housman after 20 years of service at the Congressional Budget Office. Throughout her time at CBO, Lori has been a cornerstone of the Medicare unit. Her expertise in Medicare’s payment policy for physicians, as well as her patience and good humor, has been essential to the Congress as it has developed legislation in this complicated area.

During her time in public service, Lori has worked on legislation that dramatically changed how Medicare operates, including the Affordable Care Act and the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015, commonly referred to as MACRA. Lori’s tireless dedication to providing the Congress with objective analysis embodies the best of CBO’s commitment to serving both sides of the aisle with expertise, professionalism, and fairness. Her exemplary work in analyzing legislation is matched by her warmth toward and genuine interest in others, earning her the admiration of congressional staff. Her efforts over the years have surely helped to make the Medicare Program better for tens of millions of Americans.

To her colleagues, Lori is a constant source of knowledge, support, and kindness. She has trained many groups of CBO analysts and managers throughout her tenure, teaching them to think critically about how legislation can be translated into analytical models and how to explain how legislation can be clarified to better reflect the intent of the Congress. In addition to her contributions to CBO’s analytical work, her colleagues at CBO congressional staff are grateful for her patience and generous spirit, especially in extraordinary circumstances.

As chairman of the Finance Committee, I, along with Ranking Member CRAPO, thank Lori for her service, and we wish her a relaxing, well-deserved retirement with her husband Van on their boat, Pigs Flew.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CENTENNIAL OF CONNECTICUT LIONS CLUBS

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, today I rise to recognize Lions Clubs International as it celebrates 100 years of outstanding service in Connecticut.

In the winter of 1921, Lions Clubs International, now the world’s largest service organization, dispatched an organizer to Connecticut to form the first Lions Club in New England, the Bridgeport Host Lions Club. Throughout their century of service, these volunteers have worked diligently to help set up a fresh-air camp for Bridgeport’s youth, create a vision clinic at Bridgeport Hospital, purchase x-ray devices at St. Vincent’s Medical Center, provide dental services for the indigent at Park City Hospital, and a litany of other community projects. Lions Clubs in New Haven, Greater Hartford, New Britain, New London, Greenwich, Waterbury, Meriden, Torrington, and Bristol would soon follow. Today, approximately 160 clubs with over 4,600 Lions are serving their communities, many collaborating with local governments to act as dependable volunteer arms.

As a future Connecticut resident, Helen Keller, would have a profound impact on the mission and very future of Lions Clubs International with her simple plea: “Will you not help me hasten the day when there shall be no preventable blindness; no little deaf, blind child untaught; no blind man or woman unaided?” I appeal to you Lions, you who have your sight, your hearing, you who are strong and brave and kind. Will you not constitute yourselves Knights of the Blind in this crusade against darkness?” Connecticut Lions not only embraced her message, but also did much more, donating monies and time to support their communities locally and globally. Lions Clubs across the State have sponsored parades, festivals, and school projects, as well as raised funds for building equipment to improve the quality of life for children, the disabled, seniors, and veterans. Connecticut Lions have taken families in need shopping to make their holidays brighter. In support of the health and well-being of their communities, Lions Clubs have donated ambulances, school buses and other vehicles, and vital
equipment to our local emergency response teams, senior centers, and social services agencies.

Perhaps the most critical area of focus for Lions Clubs has been in vision care. In their "crusade against darkness," they have raised enormous sums for research into blindness and eye disease. The Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation was chartered in 1956, establishing an eye research clinic under the auspices of Yale University, and later helped establish a second research facility with the University of Connecticut. Thanks to the work at these clinics, thousands of children and adults have benefitted from quality care and research.

Connecticut Lions have also established three District Lions Low Vision Centers to improve the quality of life and independence of those suffering from low vision. I have personally visited one of these centers and listened to healthcare providers and patients discuss the important and valuable centers these are.

For those still struggling with hearing and vision issues, the Connecticut Lions have supported the Connecticut Radio Information System with donations, volunteers, and other assistance. Guide and service dogs have been sponsored by Connecticut Lions, helping to restore the independence of the blind and visually impaired in their communities.

Connecticut Lions have also been deeply involved in providing relief from disaster and tragedy. In the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, Connecticut Lions secured sizeable grants from Lions Clubs International Foundation to purchase and distribute critically needed equipment for our first responders and healthcare workers. When Hurricane Sandy devastated much of the State’s shoreline, our Lions Clubs provided meals for first responders and volunteers who worked tirelessly to rescue people and restore services following the storm. Immediately following the Sandy Hook tragedy in December 2012, the Newtown Lions established a community fund to address the short-term and long-term needs of individuals arising from that tragic event. To date, they have raised more than $11 million for those affected by posttraumatic shock disorder, including many children of Sandy Hook Elementary. Connecticut Lions recognized the desperate need of Hurricane Katrina victims, donating thousands of dollars and making multiple trips with shipments of vital supplies. Connecticut Lions have collected and provided food year-round, working with meal centers, food banks, and food share programs to distribute directly to our homeless and those in need. Police and first responders in many towns were provided with "Homeless Kits."

In the face of tragedy and immense need, Connecticut Lions have never forgotten the importance of looking to the future. Connecticut’s youth have been a significant part of Lions Club service programs. Leadership, Experience, Opportunity—LEO—Clubs give our youth an opportunity to serve their communities and develop their leadership skills. The Lions Quest program brings schools, families, and communities together to promote the development of new young people through social and emotional learning, character development, and a commitment to community service. The International Peace Poster Contest has provided an opportunity for millions of students of all ages to express a message of peace through art and creativity. Outstanding students striving to reach higher academic achievement have been provided significant scholarships as rewards for their incredible work.

We are proud of our Connecticut Lions who are, each one, a solid citizen contributing significantly to their community and beyond. They strive for new ways to serve others and to address the needs of their communities. We are proud to support their role at recognizing needs, planning projects, organizing fundraisers, and rolling their sleeves up to get the job done. "Where there is a need, there is a Lion!" For 100 years, our Connecticut Lions have proudly demonstrated their motto: "We Serve."

TRIBUTE TO DAVE LEE

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, today I rise to honor and pay tribute to Dave Lee, a radio host and Minnesota legend who is retiring after 32 years at WCCO radio on April 30, 2021.

Hailing from Hatton, ND, Dave did not always know he would be a radio personality. He spent his summers in high school throwing hay bales, picking potatoes, and hoeing beets. When a friend recommended he audition for KRAD, a local radio station in East Grand Forks, Dave was just hoping to earn enough money to attend college, but the station saw a spark in him and offered him 9-hour country music shift. From there, he volunteered to help out with sports coverage, and when he graduated college, he stayed at the station. As he puts it, “When you are passionate about something, it never feels like you are going to work.”

That is how Dave’s voice was introduced to the airwaves, and after years at KRAD in East Grand Forks and an interview weekend as a weekend host of News Talk 830 on WCCO. He didn’t know at the time, but WCCO would be his home for the next 32 years. Dave went on to join the legendary Roger Erickson as cohost of the morning drive and then took on solo duties when Roger retired in 1997.

For many Minnesotans, Dave’s voice was as much a part of their morning as their cup of coffee. Commuters counted on him for traffic updates, students looked to him for snow day announcements, and all could rely on him for honest news reporting and engaging interviews. Over the course of his career, he interviewed an impressive roster of personalities, from Boston Celtics legend Bill Russell, to baseball pitcher Nolan Ryan, to actress Julie Andrews. He also had countless incredible interviews with elected officials Democrats and Republicans alike. Dave was always a consummate professional, talking about the policy fight or issue of the day, but sometimes his interviews were just plain fun. I still have great memories of joining him at the WCCO booth at the Minnesota State Fair and “Minnesota Hospital” soap opera spoof skit, when Dave even dressed the role of Nurse Helen and Sid Hartman played the infamous “Dr. Kidney Hartman.”

For years, we have also been treated to Dave’s sports coverage. He did the play-by-play for the Minnesota Goldens for a decade and occasionally filled in as announcer for the Minnesota Twins. He brought his running commentary to the television broadcasts of the Minnesota State High School Boys and Girls Basketball Tournaments and covered University of St. Thomas football games on WCCO.

His joyful and informative commentary made him a six-time winner of Minnesota’s Sportscaster of the Year, and he earned three Emmy Awards for his reporting on television. He is also a recipient of the Edward R. Murrow Award, several awards from the Associated Press, and a nomination for the National Association of Broadcasters’ Marconi Radio Award.

To so many Minnesotans, Dave was a titan of Minnesota radio, providing information and entertainment with his signature warm demeanor. And it was with that same kind spirit that Dave did so much to give back, raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for the University of Minnesota Children’s Hospital. After all Dave has done for our community, I have to admit, he deserves the chance to start sleeping in. That is why I rise today to extend my sincere appreciation to Victoria Cech, who is planning on retiring from her position as the executive director of the Montana Healthcare Research and Education Foundation. The citizens of my State are truly grateful for her tireless efforts to improve the health of all Montanans.

During her tenure at the foundation, Victoria was responsible for managing our State’s hospital and frontier community health improvement programs, both of which provide vital support to our State’s critical access hospitals. Why is this important? Because Montana has the distinction if not losing a single critical access hospital since the program’s inception. It is the work of the foundation and Victoria’s tireless leadership that has contributed to this great success.

TRIBUTE TO VICTORIA CECH

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I rise today to extend my sincere appreciation to Victoria Cech, who is planning on retiring from her position as the executive director of the Montana Healthcare Research and Education Foundation. The citizens of my State are truly grateful for her tireless efforts to improve the health of all Montanans.

During her tenure at the foundation, Victoria was responsible for managing our State’s hospital and frontier community health improvement programs, both of which provide vital support to our State’s critical access hospitals. Why is this important? Because Montana has the distinction of not losing a single critical access hospital.
But her work did not stop there. She continued to lead efforts to improve care in Montana by expanding two of the area health education centers managed by the foundation. These efforts led the charge in addressing behavioral health in the state, even drawing national attention to Montana when the foundation partnered with the National Council for Behavioral Health and Lady Gaga’s Born This Way Foundation to complete the Teen Mental Health First Aid pilot program at Jefferson High School in Boulder.

Patient safety and quality improvement are also major focuses of the foundation. Victoria pioneered these efforts, leading a quality improvement team that moved Montana’s hospitals into the highest ranked position within the Hospital Improvement Innovation Network hosted by the American Hospital Association’s Health Research & Education Trust.

In 2014, Victoria was at the helm of the foundation when our country saw its first Ebola patient. The foundation was managing the hospital preparedness program—HRN—which it continued to expand. With five Montana residents under Ebola surveillance, the preparedness program quickly ramped up to raise awareness in hospitals across the state. That preparedness work has expanded dramatically since then, bringing in four full-time trainers who played a large role in helping Montana prepare for and manage the coronavirus pandemic.

All 50 States are also experiencing an epidemic of addiction and opioid use that has hit Montana particularly hard, especially on the high line. The Montana Hospital Association and its foundation took this reality to heart and worked to expand its education and engagement work to move the needle on reversing opioid addiction. Under Victoria’s leadership, the foundation was successful in securing a Rural Communities Opioid Response Program grant that is currently helping to address opioid addiction along the Canadian border and increasing engagement in our Tribal communities.

With all the work that Victoria has done, she has not overlooked the needs of her team members or those of the Montana Hospital Association. When the pandemic halted in-person education in Helena area schools, Victoria looked for a solution to support the parents at the association and ultimately converted the educational center into a classroom for virtual learning, dubbed the MHA Learning Center. Staffed by a full-time teacher, parents could now go to work knowing their children would not slip in their classwork and instead continue to make educational gains.

A lifelong learner, her passion for education will continue after her retirement as she supports her husband and president of Carroll College, John Coch, in positioning the college to be a national leader in higher education.

Victoria is a gifted leader who has had a meaningful impact on the lives of all Montanans, and we are very grateful for her dedication to keeping folks healthy across the Big Sky State.

Congratulations, Victoria Cech, on your much deserved retirement.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON APRIL 26, 2021

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 814. A bill to promote security partnership with Ukraine, and for other purposes.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 1361. A bill to provide for the recognition of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. REED for the Committee on Armed Services:

Air Force nominations beginning with Col. Terrence A. Adams and ending with Col. Frank R. Verdugo, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 6, 2021. (minus 1 nomination)

Navy nomination of Capt. Maria L. Aguayo, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).

Navy nominations beginning with Capt. Joseph B. Honecker and ending with Capt. Anthony E. Rossi, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 24, 2021.

Navy nomination of Capt. Stuart C. Satterwhite, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. (h) Dean A. VanderLey, to be Rear Admiral.

Navy nominations of Rear Adm. (h) Christopher C. French, to be Rear Admiral.

Navy nominations beginning with Rear Adm. (h) William C. Greene and ending with Rear Adm. (h) W. Pappas, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 24, 2021.

Air Force nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. John M. Breaux and ending with Brig. Gen. Constance M. Von Hoffman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 3, 2021.

Air Force nomination of Col. Robert K. Bogart, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nominations beginning with Col. John R. Andrus and ending with Col. Thomas W. Harrell, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 13, 2021.

Air Force nomination of Col. Alfred K. Flowers, Jr., to be Brigadier General.

Navy nomination of Col. Gail E. Crawford, to be Brigadier General.


Army nomination of Maj. Gen. A. C. Roper, Jr., to be Lieutenant General.


Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Michael J. Tailey, to be Major General.

Army nominations beginning with Col. Stephanie R. Ahern and ending with Col. Brandon R. Tegtmeier, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 13, 2021. (minus 1 nominee: Col. Jeffrey A. Vanantwerp)


Army nomination of Col. Shane R. Reeves, to be Brigadier General.

Navy nomination of Vice Adm. Scott D. Conn, to be Vice Admiral.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. Karl O. Thomas, to be Vice Admiral.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. Charles B. Cooper II, to be Vice Admiral.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. Kelly A. Aeschbach, to be Vice Admiral.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. Stephen T. Koehler, to be Vice Admiral.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. John V. Fuller, to be Vice Admiral.


Marine Corps nomination of Lt. Gen. George W. Smith, Jr., to be Lieutenant General.

Space Force nomination of Gen. John W. Raymond, to be Major General.

Space Force nominations beginning with Maj. Gen. DeAnna M. Burt and ending with Maj. Gen. Michael A. Guestlein, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 13, 2021.

Space Force nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Donald J. Cothern and ending with Brig. Gen. Steven P. Whitney, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 13, 2021.

Space Force nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. David N. Miller, Jr., to be Major General.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. William J. Hinton, to be Vice Admiral.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services and are indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Clerk’s desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.
Air Force nomination of Brandon R. Rocker, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Air Force nomination of Damien P. Herbert, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Emily P. Ward and ending with Brian P. Watson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 12, 2021.

Air Force nominations beginning with Rolandis J. Crawl and ending with Brus E. Vidal, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 12, 2021.

Air Force nominations beginning with Miguel A. Zapata, to be Colonel.

Air Force nomination of Lasiar I. Nwoga, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Air Force nomination of Becky M. Bautch, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Air Force nomination of Michelle D. Dimoff, to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Russell W. Gibson and ending with Lyndsey A. Olson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 12, 2021.

Army nomination of Mark C. Turner, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Valerie L. Seery, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of William F. Coryell, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Alfred S. Boone, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Brandon C. Grooms, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of D013410, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Dee R. Yoo, to be Major.

Army nomination of Mark A. Folkerts, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Shaun X. Adams, to be Major.

Army nomination of Russell Giese, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Seth J. Kadavy, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Kenneth Anderson and ending with Todd M. Wolf, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 12, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with Michael J. Ducharme and ending with Jason B. Logan, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 12, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with Timothy L. Baer and ending with Nicola Q. Spletstozer, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 12, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with Everett S. DeLong and ending with Kurt S. Hensel, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 12, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with Brian P. Adams and ending with Elizabeth A. Walker, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 13, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with Artem S. Agouzlik and ending with Patrick J. Zuber, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 22, 2021. (minus 2 nominees: Frederick J. Dellagala, Jr.; Jay P. Dodge)

Army nominations beginning with Brett A. Allison and ending with Barian S. Woodward, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 12, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with Jason W. Deblock and ending with Danny S. Varnadoe, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 12, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with Seth J. Rosenberry, to be Commander.

Army nominations beginning with Stephen H. Murray, to be Captain.

Army nominations beginning with Gregory M. Saracco, to be Captain.

Army nominations beginning with Adam L. Atwood, to be Lieutenant Commander. (Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 1372. A bill to amend and enhance the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act to improve the conservation of sharks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. LUMMIS (for herself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. Daines, Mr. Cramer, Mr. Braun, Mr. Cramer, and Mr. Risch):

S. 1373. A bill to reduce, from 21 years of age to 18 years of age, the minimum age at which a person may obtain a handgun from a Federal firearms license; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. CONEYNY, and Ms. Hassan):

S. 1374. A bill to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support STEM education and workforce development research focused on rural areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VON HOpen, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. ROSEN, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. PADDIE):

S. 1379. A bill to provide for research to better understand the causes and consequences of sexual harassment affecting individuals in the scientific, rural areas, engineering, and mathematics workforce and to examine policies to reduce the prevalence and negative impact of such harassment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Ms. Eckser):

S. 1380. A bill to require automatic sealing of certain criminal records, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Ms. Klobuchar):

S. 1381. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to make amendments to the E-rate program of the Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. Daines, Mrs. Fischer, Mr. Hagerty, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. Lankford, Ms. Lummiss, Mr. McConnell, Mr. Moran, Mr. Portman, Mr. Risch, Mr. Rounds, Mr. Rubio, Mr. Scott of Florida, Mr. THUNE, Mr. Tillis, and Mr. Wicker):

S. 1382. A bill to establish a Vet ZERO Aid Act to prohibit abortion providers from receiving a covered loan under the paycheck protection program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. King):

S. 1383. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop best practices for the establishment and use of behavioral intervention teams at schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HAGERTY:

S. 1384. A bill to repeal section 230 of the Communications Act of 1934 and ensure reasonable, non-discriminatory access to online communications platforms; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARNEN, Mr. LHRAY, Mrs. FLEINSTEIN, Mr. CASHEY, Mr. REED, Ms. SMITH, Mr. TUBBINDER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. MERKLEY): S. 1385. A bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to establish additional requirements for dealers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):
S. 1386. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to provide for efforts relating to Move Over laws; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. Cramer, and Mr. ROVEN):
S. 1387. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the credit for electricity produced from certain renewable resources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. TILLIS):
S. 1388. A bill to require the Federal Trade Commission to study the role of intermediaries in the pharmaceutical supply chain in providing Congress with appropriate policy recommendations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. TUBBINDER):
S. 1389. A bill to provide relief to workers impacted by COVID-19 and support for reopening businesses for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KENNEDY:
S. 1390. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve mental health services for students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KENNEDY:
S. 1391. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide best practices on student suicide awareness and prevention training and local educational agencies, local educational agencies, and tribal educational agencies receiving funds under section 529A of such Act to establish and implement school-based student suicide awareness and prevention training policy; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BRAUN:
S. 1392. A bill to establish the Federal Rainy Day Fund to control emergency spending; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. CRAPO):
S. 1393. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out training for employment of the Department of Veterans Affairs relating to exposure of veterans to toxic substances; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. ROMNEY, and Ms. HASSENFELD):
S. 1394. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to include teacher preparation for computer science in elementary and secondary education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):
S. 1395. A bill to promote scientific research, technology development opportunities for connected technologies that advance precision agriculture capabilities; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. TUBBINDER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. DURBIN):
S. 1396. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish State and Indian Tribes grants for community colleges and universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Minority-Serving Institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKY, Mr. TETTER, Ms. DADIES, Ms. WARNEN, and Mr. CRAMER):
S. 1397. A bill to amend the Health Service Act with respect to the collection and availability of health data with respect to Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Ms. WARNEN (for herself, Mr. MARKET, Mr. BOOKER, MR. SANDERS, and MR. WYDEN):
S. 1398. A bill to establish universal child care and early learning programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, MR. RUBIO, and Mr. CARPER):
S. 1399. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow qualified distributions from health savings accounts for certain home care expenses; to the Committee on Finance.

S. Res. 180. A resolution supporting the designation of the week of April 26 through April 30, 2021, as ‘‘National Specialized Instructional Support Personnel Appreciation Week’’; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS
S. 115
At the request of MS. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 115, a bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on the effects of the COVID–19 pandemic on the travel and tourism industry in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 127
At the request of MR. REED, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 127, a bill to support library infrastructure.

S. 189
At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 189, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 198, a bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to incorporate data on maternal health outcomes into its broadband health maps.

S. 339
At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 339, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to list fentanyl-related substances as schedule I controlled substances, and for other purposes.

S. 388
At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 388, a bill to suspend certain United States assistance for the Gov- ernment of Honduras until corruption, impunity, and human rights violations are no longer systemic, and the perpetrators of these crimes are being brought to justice.

S. 452
At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from New York (Ms. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 452, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Willie O’Ree, in recognition of his extraordinary contributions and commitment to hockey, inclusion, and recreational opportunity.

S. 632
At the request of Mr. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 632, a bill to amend chapter 11 of title 35, United States Code, to require the voluntary collection of demographic information for patent inventors, and for other purposes.

S. 697
At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 659, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to promulgate regulations relating to commercial motor vehicle drivers under the age of 21, and for other purposes.

S. 762
At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 697, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the Bicentennial of Harriet Tubman’s birth.

S. 762
At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from
California (Mr. Padilla) was added as a cosponsor of S. 762, a bill to provide the National Credit Union Administration Board flexibiility to increase Federal credit union loan maturities, and for other purposes.

S. 848

At the request of Mr. Braun, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. Warnock) was added as a cosponsor of S. 848, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to improve the service obligation verification process for TEACH Grant recipients, and for other purposes.

S. 865

At the request of Mr. Menendez, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. Burr) was added as a cosponsor of S. 865, a bill to recognize the right of the People of Puerto Rico to call a status convention through which the people would exercise their natural right to self-determination, and to establish an organism for congressional consideration of such decision, and for other purposes.

S. 910

At the request of Mr. Merkley, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Warner) was added as a cosponsor of S. 910, a bill to create protections for financial institutions that provide financial services to cannabis-related legitimate businesses and service providers for such businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 978

At the request of Ms. Smith, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. Hyde-Smith), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. Graham) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. Tuberville) were added as cosponsors of S. 978, a bill to provide for the adjustment or modification by the Secretary of Agriculture of loans for critical rural utility service providers, and for other purposes.

S. 986

At the request of Ms. Smith, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. Fischer) was added as a cosponsor of S. 986, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a 5-year extension of the carbon oxide sequestration credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1006

At the request of Mr. Johnson, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. Marshall) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1006, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to list fentanyl-related substances as schedule I controlled substances.

S. 1032

At the request of Mr. Warnock, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Van Hollen) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1032, a bill direct the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library to obtain a statue of Shirley Chisholm for placement in the United States Capitol.

S. 1090

At the request of Mr. Menendez, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1040, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care from the Department of Veterans Affairs to include veterans of World War II.

S. 1129

At the request of Mr. Lee, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Toomey), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. Sullivan) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. Crapo) were added as cosponsors of S. 1129, a bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to provide for the portability of professional licenses of members of the uniformed services and their spouses, and for other purposes.

S. 1166

At the request of Mr. Toomey, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. Kennedy) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1166, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently allow a tax deduction at the time an investment in qualified property is made.

S. 1192

At the request of Mr. Menendez, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. Wyden) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1192, a bill to ensure that sales, exports, or transfers of F-35 aircraft do not compromise the qualitative military edge of the United States or Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 1196

At the request of Mr. Lee, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. Blackburn) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1196, a bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to permanently provide services and their spouses, and for other purposes.

S. 1209

At the request of Mr. Cardin, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Klobuchar) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. Crandon) were added as cosponsors of S. 1209, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to modify the maximum paycheck protection program loan amount for farmers and ranchers, small proprietary independent contractors, and self-employed individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 1254

At the request of Mr. Cardin, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Coons) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. Duckworth) were added as cosponsors of S. 1255, a bill to require the Minority Business Development Agency of the Department of Commerce to promote and administer programs in the public and private sectors to assist the development of minority business enterprises, and self-employed individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 1266

At the request of Mr. Whitehouse, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Ms. Warren) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1266, a bill to designate certain National Forest System land and certain public land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior in the States of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming as wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, wilderness areas, and biological connecting corridors, and for other purposes.

S. 1302

At the request of Ms. Collins, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. Kennedy) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1302, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 1327

At the request of Mr. Warren, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. Brown) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1327, a bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to add additional demographic reporting requirements, to modify the goals of the Federal Reserve System, and for other purposes.

S. 1331

At the request of Mr. Lujan, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. Peters) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1331, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation, acting through the Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, to prepare a Federal motor vehicle safety standard for advanced drunk and impaired driving prevention technology, and for other purposes.
At the request of Mr. Heinrich, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Booker) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1337, a bill to address the impact of climate change on agriculture, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. Warren, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. Warnock) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 46, a resolution calling on the President of the United States to take executive action to broadly cancel Federal student loan debt.

At the request of Mr. Van Hollen, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Cardin) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. Rubio) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 154, a resolution congratulating the people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the centennial of the founding of the Jordanian state.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. Collins (for herself, Mr. Peters, and Mrs. Shaheen):

S. 1378. A bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to allow for the retirement of certain animals used in Federal research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Ms. Collins. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleague from Michigan, Senator Peters, in introducing the Animal Freedom from Testing, Experiments, and Research Act, known as the After Act, to promote the adoption or retirement of animals used for research by Federal agencies.

In fiscal year 2019, the Federal government experimented on approximately 30,000 animals for research purposes. These experiments occurred across fourteen different federal agencies. The animals used were mainly cats, dogs, monkeys, and rabbits. Tracking these animals following experimentation is challenging. In many instances, animals no longer needed for research are killed when many agencies lack formal retirement or adoption policies. Recent peer-reviewed studies indicate that research animals that are adopted, however, often thrive in their new environments.

In 2013, led by Senators Harkin, Alexander, Cantwell and myself, the Senate passed the CHIMP Act, which allowed for the retirement of hundreds of primates that were formerly used in National Institutes of Health (NIH) experiments. In addition, the Departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs, FDA, and NIH recently enacted successful animal retirement policies. While I am encouraged by the Senate’s past work on primates and the recent policies enacted by a few federal agencies, there are many other Federal agencies, including the Agriculture Department, NASA, and the Environmental Protection Agency, that lack formal policies for animals used in experiments.

The After Act builds on successful policies at DOD, VA, and NIH by directing all Federal agencies to promulgate regulations that would facilitate the retirement of laboratory animals. The bill provides flexibility for each agency to devise its own policy, with the goal of ensuring that such animals, whenever possible, are retired and not killed. The After Act requires that animals be evaluated by a licensed veterinarian and pronounced both mentally and physically healthy before leaving an agency. This will help ensure a smooth transition to a new environment.

Our legislation also encourages Federal agencies to work with non-profit organizations to help place retired animals in sanctuaries and shelters across the country, not just those closest to the research facility. This would allow a State like Maine, which does not have Federal research labs that use animals, to play a role in retiring these animals and providing homes for them.

Mr. President, I urge all of my colleagues to join in support of this important bipartisan legislation, the Animal Freedom from Testing, Experiments, and Research Act.

By Mr. Durbin (for himself, Mr. Carper, Mrs. Shaheen, Mr. Blumenthal, Ms. Warren, Mr. Leahy, Mrs. Feinstein, Mr. Casey, Mr. Reed, Ms. Smith, Mr. Booker, Ms. Gillibrand, and Mr. Merkley):

S. 1385. A bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to establish additional requirements for dealers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. Durbin. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows.

S. 1385
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE

This Act may be cited as the “Puppy Protection Act of 2021.”

SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DEALERS

(a) HUMANE TREATMENT OF DOGS BY DEALERS.—Section 13(a) of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2143(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(9) In addition to the requirements under paragraph (2), the standards described in paragraphs (1) and (3) shall, with respect to dealers, include requirements—

“(A) that the dealer provide adequate housing for dogs that includes—

“(i) complete a screening program for known prevalent inheritable diseases that may be disabling or likely to significantly affect the tallest dog in an enclosure to stand on his or her hind legs without touching the roof of the enclosure;

“(ii) with respect to dogs over 8 weeks in age, primary enclosures that, with the nose to the base of the tail, provide at least—

“(I) 12 square feet of indoor floor space per each dog measuring more than 25 inches long;

“(II) 20 square feet of indoor floor space per each dog measuring more than 25 but less than 35 inches long; and

“(III) 30 square feet of indoor floor space per each dog measuring not less than 35 inches long;

“(iv) enclosures that are not stacked or otherwise placed on top of or below another enclosure; and

“(v) temperature control that—

“(I) is appropriate for the age, breed, and condition of each dog in the enclosure; and

“(II) is between 45 and 85 degrees Fahrenheit, when dogs are present in the enclosure;

“(B) that appropriate and nutritious food be provided to each dog at least twice per day, in an amount sufficient to maintain the good health and physical condition of each dog;

“(C) that each dog has continuous access to potable water that is not frozen and is free of feces, algae, and other contaminants;

“(D) that each dog has adequate exercise, including, for each dog over the age of 12 weeks—

“(i) except as provided in clause (ii), unrestricted access from the primary enclosure of the dog during daylight hours to an outdoor exercise area that—

“(I) is at ground-level;

“(II) is a solid surface;

“(III) is enclosed by a fence or other structure;

“(IV) is properly controlled for the safety of the dog; and

“(v) allows the dog to extend to full stride, play, and engage in other types of mentally stimulating and social behaviors; or

“(E) if the dealer obtains a certification from the attending veterinarian stating that a dog should not have unrestricted access to an outdoor exercise area for a specific medical reason, an alternative exercise plan prescribed by the veterinarian that meets the applicable requirements under section 3.8 of title 9, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

“(E) that each dog has meaningful socialization with humans and compatible dogs for at least 30 minutes each day that—

“(i) includes positive interaction with a human such as petting, stroking, grooming, feeding, playing with, exercising, or other touching of the dog that is beneficial to the well-being of the dog; and

“(ii) does not include time spent in veterinary care;

“(F) that each dog receives adequate veterinary care, including—

“(i) prompt treatment of any disease, illness, or injury by a licensed veterinarian;

“(ii) a thorough, hands-on examination by a licensed veterinarian at least once each year, which shall include a dental exam;

“(iii) core vaccinations recommended by the latest version of the American Animal Hospital Association Canine Vaccination Guidelines; and

“(iv) medications to prevent intestinal parasites, heartworm disease, fleas, and ticks that are approved by a licensed veterinarian for canine use;

“(G) with respect to safe breeding practices for dogs, including—

“(i) prompt treatment of any disease, illness, or injury by a licensed veterinarian;
lifespan or quality of life of the mother or the offspring;
(ii) prohibiting breeding, unless each dog bred—
(1) has been screened by a licensed veterinarian prior to each attempt to breed; and
(2) is found in the screening under subclause (i) to be free from health conditions that may be harmful to, or likely to significantly affect the lifespan or quality of life of, the mother or the offspring;
(iii) prohibiting the breeding of a female dog to produce—
(1) more than 2 litters in any 18-month period; or
(2) more than 6 litters during the lifetime of the dog;
(iv) that a female dog of any small breed (having a maximum weight range at maturity that is less than 40 pounds) not be bred—
(1) before reaching the age of 18 months; or
(2) after reaching the age of 9 years;
(v) that a female dog of any large breed (having an expected weight range at maturity that includes 40 or more pounds) not be bred—
(1) before reaching the age of 2 years; or
(2) after reaching the age of 7 years; and
(vi) that any canine caesarean section be performed by a licensed veterinarian;
(H) that dogs be housed with other dogs, unless health or behavioral issues make group housing unsafe; and
(I) to make all reasonable efforts to find humane placement for retired breeding dogs—
(1) such as with an adoptive family, rescue organization, or other appropriate owner for that dog; and
(2) respect including selling at auction or otherwise placing a retired breeding dog with another breeder for breeding purposes.

SEC. 3. CRASH AVOIDANCE TECHNOLOGY.

(a) In General.—Subchapter II of chapter 301 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"30129. Crash avoidance technology."

(b) Clerical Amendment.—The analysis for subchapter II of chapter 301 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 30128 the following:

"30129. Crash avoidance technology."

SEC. 4. MOVE OVER LAWS.

(a) Highway Safety Programs.—Section 402 of title 23, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(o) Move Over Law.—In this subsection, the term "Move Over law" means a State law intended to ensure first responder and motorist safety by requiring motorists to change lanes or slow down when approaching an authorized emergency vehicle that is parked or otherwise stopped on a roadway.

(2) Compliance with Move Over Laws.—For each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026, subject to the availability of funds in the applicable highway safety plan of a State under subsection (k), as approved by the Secretary, a State may use a portion of the amounts received under this section to conduct safety campaigns for the purpose of reducing roadside deaths and injury.

(3) Grant Amount.—The allocation of grant funds to a State under this subsection for a fiscal year shall be in proportion to the number of Move Over law deaths in the State under section 402 for fiscal year 2009."

(c) Sense of Congress relating to funding.—It is the sense of Congress that the national priority programs under section 405 of title 23, United States Code, should receive new and additional funding in comparison to the funding level for all national priority programs under section 405 of title 23, United States Code, for the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act.
SEC. 4. REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL VEHICLE FleETS.

(a) CRASH AVOIDANCE TECHNOLOGY.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, in accordance with section 30129 of title 49, United States Code, the head of each Federal agency shall ensure that each new passenger motor vehicle (as defined in section 30129 of that title) and commercial motor vehicle (as defined in section 31101 of that title) purchased or leased as part of a Federal fleet of the agency is equipped with—

(1) a forward collision warning and automatic emergency braking system that—

(A) alerts the driver if the distance to a vehicle ahead or an object or person, including a pedestrian, a bicyclist, or any other road user, in the path of travel ahead is closing too quickly and a collision is imminent; and

(B) automatically applies the brakes if the driver fails to do so; and

(2) a lane departure warning and lane keeping assist system that—

(A) warns the driver to maintain the lane of travel; and

(B) corrects the course of travel if the driver fails to do so; and

(3) a blind zone detection system that—

(A) warns the driver if another vehicle, an object, or a person, including a pedestrian, a bicyclist, and any other road user, is in the blind zone of the vehicle; and

(B) provides an additional alert if the driver attempts to change the course of travel while an object or an object, an object, or a person, including a pedestrian, a bicyclist, and any other road user, is in the blind zone of the vehicle.

(b) DIGITAL ALERT TECHNOLOGY.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the head of each Federal agency shall ensure that each vehicle in a Federal fleet of the agency—

(1) if the vehicle is used for emergency response activities, is equipped with digital alert technology that is capable of sending alerts to civilian drivers to protect first responders on the scene and en route; and

(2) is equipped with digital alert technology (which may be provided by an aftermarket device) that is capable of receiving alerts regarding nearby first responders.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 180—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF APRIL 26 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2021, AS ‘‘NATIONAL SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL APPRECIATION WEEK’’

Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. ERNST, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. Kaine, and Ms. SMITHE) proposed the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. Res. 180

Whereas there are more than 1,000,000 specialized instructional support personnel serving the school and students of the United States, including—

(1) school counselors;

(2) school social workers;

(3) school psychologists; and

(4) other qualified professional personnel, such as—

(A) school nurses;

(B) psychologists;

(C) social workers; and

(D) occupational therapists;

(E) physical therapists;

(F) art therapists;

(G) dance and movement therapists;

(H) music therapists;

(I) speech-language pathologists; and

(J) audiologists;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel provide school-based prevention and early intervention services to reduce barriers to learning;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel work with teachers, school leaders, and parents to ensure that all students are successful in school;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel encourage multidisciplinary collaboration to promote student and school success;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel provide educational, social, emotional, and behavioral interventions and activities that support—

(1) student learning; and

(2) teaching;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel help to create environments that are safe, supportive, and conducive to learning;

Whereas safe and supportive school environments are associated with improved academic performance;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel encourage the development of social skills by students;

(1) the development of social skills by students;

(2) the development of social skills by students;

(3) the physical wellness of students;

(4) the physical development of students; and

(5) the behavioral, emotional, and mental health of students; and

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel serve all students who struggle with barriers to learning: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of April 26 through April 30, 2021, as ‘‘National Specialized Instructional Support Personnel Appreciation Week’’;

(2) recognizes that specialized instructional support personnel implement evidence-based practices to improve student outcomes;

(3) commends—

(A) those individuals who work as specialized instructional support personnel; and

(B) the individuals and organizations that support the efforts made by specialized instructional support personnel to promote and improve the availability of specialized instructional support services;

(4) encourages Federal, State, and local policymakers to work together to raise awareness of the importance of specialized instructional support personnel in school climate and education efforts;

(5) recognizes the important role of specialized instructional support personnel in efforts to improve mental health, reduce drug use, and improve overall community safety for students; and

(6) encourages experts to share best practices so that others can replicate the success of those experts.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1460. Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 914, to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize programs under those Acts, and for other purposes.

SA 1461. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KING, and Mr. ROUNDS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 914, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1462. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 914, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1463. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. TILLIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 914, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1464. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 914, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1465. Mr. PADILLA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 914, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1466. Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. PETERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1460 proposed by Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) to the bill S. 914, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1467. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. KELLY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 914, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1468. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1460 proposed by Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) to the bill S. 914, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1469. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1460 proposed by Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) to the bill S. 914, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1470. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1460 proposed by Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) to the bill S. 914, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1460. Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 914, to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize programs under those Acts, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ‘‘Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021’’.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definition of Administrator.

TITLE I—DRINKING WATER

Sec. 101. Technical assistance and grants for emergencies affecting public water systems.

Sec. 102. Drinking water State revolving loan fund program.

Sec. 103. Source water petition program.

Sec. 104. Assistance for small and disadvantaged communities.

Sec. 105. Reducing lead in drinking water.

Sec. 106. Operational sustainability of small public water systems.

Sec. 107. Midsize and large drinking water system infrastructure resilience and sustainability program.
Sec. 101. Technical Assistance and Grants

Sec. 102. Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Funds

Sec. 103. Assistance for Small and Disadvantaged Communities

Sec. 104. Assistance for Small and Disadvantaged Communities (a) Existing Programs.—Section 1459A of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–1a) is amended—

By redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (e); and

By adding at the end the following:

"(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(i) an eligible entity; or

"(ii) the State of an eligible entity, on behalf of that eligible entity."
which the eligible individual seeks to connect, the public water system to which the eligible individual seeks to connect has agreed to the connection; and

(2) the property owner of the household of the eligible individual to the public water system meets all applicable local and State regulations, requirements, and codes.

(2) Report.—(A) In general.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the Administrator shall provide grants to eligible entities to carry out lead reduction projects that are demonstrated to exist or are known, or suspected, to contain lead, for the purpose of improving the general welfare of communities based on the affordability criteria established by the applicable State under section 1452(d)(3), low-income homeowners, and landlords or property owners providing housing to low-income renters; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “an individual provided”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (5)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “to provide assistance” and all that follows through the semicolon at the end and inserting “to replace lead service lines, with first priority given to assisting disadvantaged communities based on the affordability criteria established by the applicable State under section 1452(d)(3), low-income homeowners, and landlords or property owners providing housing to low-income renters”; and

(ii) by striking “shall” and inserting “shall and”;

(B) in paragraph (6)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “any publicly owned portion of”;

(ii) in subparagraph (C), in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(I) by striking “may” and inserting “shall”;

(ii) by inserting “and may, for other homeowners, after “low-income homeowner’’; and

(iii) by striking “a cost that” and all that follows through the semicolon at the end and inserting “cost to the homeowner’’;

(iii) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at the end;

(iv) in subparagraph (E), by striking “other options” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “feasible alternatives for reducing the concentration of lead in drinking water, such as corrosion control; and’’; and

(v) by adding at the end the following:

(‘‘(F) shall notify the State of any planned replacement of lead service lines under this program and coordinate, where practicable, with other relevant infrastructure projects.’’);

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) by inserting “except for subsection (d)” after “this section’’; and

(B) by striking “$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021” and inserting “$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021’’;

(4) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively; and

(5) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

(‘‘(d) LEAD INVENTORY UTILIZATION GRANT PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means—

(i) an owner or operator of a public water system that assists or is seeking to assist eligible individuals with the costs associated with connecting the household of the eligible individual to a public water system

(ii) a nonprofit entity that assists or is seeking to assist eligible individuals with the costs associated with connecting the household of the eligible individual to a public water system.

(B) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term ‘eligible individual’ means—

(i) an owner or operator of a public water system

(ii) a nonprofit entity

(iii) in subsection (a)(2)(A), a State shall submit to the Administrator a report that describes the implementation of the use and deployment of amounts made available under the competitive grant program.

(4) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this paragraph affects the distribution of amounts made available under subsection (k), including any methods used by the Administrator for distribution of amounts made available under that subsection as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this subsection.’’)

SEC. 105. REDUCING LEAD IN DRINKING WATER.

Section 1459B of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–1ba) is amended by adding at the end the following:—

(‘‘(f)应当—In the case of a grant under the program and coordinate, where practicable, with other relevant infrastructure projects.

(‘‘(d) LEAD INVENTORY UTILIZATION GRANT PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means—

(i) an owner or operator of a public water system

(ii) a nonprofit entity

(iii) in subsection (a)(2)(A), a State shall submit to the Administrator a report that describes the implementation of the use and deployment of amounts made available under the competitive grant program.

(4) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this paragraph affects the distribution of amounts made available under subsection (k), including any methods used by the Administrator for distribution of amounts made available under that subsection as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this subsection.’’).

SEC. 105. REDUCING LEAD IN DRINKING WATER.

Section 1459B of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–1ba) is amended by adding at the end the following—

(‘‘(d) LEAD INVENTORY UTILIZATION GRANT PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means—

(i) an owner or operator of a public water system

(ii) a nonprofit entity

(iii) in subsection (a)(2)(A), a State shall submit to the Administrator a report that describes the implementation of the use and deployment of amounts made available under the competitive grant program.

(4) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this paragraph affects the distribution of amounts made available under subsection (k), including any methods used by the Administrator for distribution of amounts made available under that subsection as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this subsection.’’).

(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall establish a pilot program under which the Administrator shall provide grants to eligible entities to carry out lead reduction projects that are demonstrated to exist or are suspected to exist, based on available data, information, or resources, including existing lead inventorying of those eligible entities.

(3) SELECTION.—
“(A) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant under the pilot program, an eligible entity shall submit to the Administrator an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Administrator may require.

“(B) PRIORITIZATION.—In selecting recipients under the pilot program, the Administrator shall give priority to—

“(1) an eligible entity that meets the affordability criteria of the applicable State established under section 1452(d)(3); and

“(2) an eligible entity that is located in an area other than a State that has established affordability criteria under section 1452(d)(3).

“(d) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the Administrator first awards a grant under the pilot program, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report describing—

“(A) the recipients of grants under the pilot program;

“(B) the existing lead inventorying that was available to recipients of grants under the pilot program; and

“(C) how well the inventory collected in paragraph (1) was in locating lead service lines of the eligible entity.

“(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the pilot program $10,000,000, to remain available until expended.

“SEC. 106. OPERATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY OF SMALL PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS.

Part E of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 1459E. OPERATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY OF SMALL PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(A) a State; (B) a unit of local government; (C) a public corporation established by a unit of local government to provide water service; (D) a nonprofit corporation, public trust, or cooperative organization that owns or operates a public water system; (E) an Indian Tribe that owns or operates a public water system; (F) use of information that provides technical assistance to public water systems; and (G) a Tribal consortium.

“(2) OPERATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY.—The term ‘operational sustainability’ means the ability to improve the operation of a small system through the identification and prevention of potential water losses due to leaks, breaks, and other metering or infrastructure failures.

“(3) PROGRAM.—The term ‘program’ means the program established under subsection (b).

“(4) SMALL SYSTEM.—The term ‘small system’, for the purposes of this section, means a public water system that—

“(A) serves fewer than 10,000 people; and (B) is owned or operated by—

“(i) a unit of local government; (ii) a public corporation; (iii) a nonprofit corporation; (iv) a public trust; (v) a cooperative association; or (vi) a Tribal consortium.

“(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administrator shall establish a program to award grants to eligible entities for the purpose of—

“(1) increasing resilience to natural hazards and extreme weather events; and (2) reducing cybersecurity vulnerabilities.

“(c) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall use grant funds received under this section to carry out projects that—

“(1) increase resilience to natural hazards and extreme weather events; (2) reduce cybersecurity vulnerabilities; and (3) enhance the operational sustainability of 1 or more small systems.

“(d) ADDITIONAL REQUIRED INFORMATION.—Before the award of funds for a grant under the program to a grant recipient, the grant recipient shall submit to the Administrator—

“(1) if the grant recipient is located in a State that has established a State drinking water treatment revolving loan fund under section 1452, a copy of a written agreement between the grant recipient and the State in which the grant recipient agrees to provide a copy of any data collected under the proposed project to the State agency administering the State drinking water treatment revolving loan fund (or a designee); or (2) if the grant recipient is located in an area other than a State that has established a State drinking water treatment revolving loan fund under section 1452, a copy of a written agreement between the grant recipient and the Administrator in which the eligible entity agrees to provide a copy of any data collected under the proposed project to the Administrator (or a designee).

“(e) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under the program shall use the grant funds to carry out projects that—

“(1) increase resilience to natural hazards and extreme weather events; (2) reduce cybersecurity vulnerabilities; and (3) enhance the operational sustainability of 1 or more small systems through—

“(A) the development of a detailed asset inventory, which may include drinking water system maps, plans, treatment systems, distribution lines, hydrants, pumps, control systems, and other essential infrastructure; (B) the development of an asset map, including a map that uses technology such as—

“(i) geographic information system software; and (ii) global positioning system software; (C) the deployment of leak detection technology; (D) the deployment of metering technology; (E) training in asset management strategies, techniques, and technologies for appropriate staff employed by—

“(i) the eligible entity; or (ii) the small systems for which the grant was received; (F) the deployment of strategies, techniques, and technologies to enhance the operational sustainability and effective use of water resources through water reuse; and to—

“(G) the development of efficiency in the conveyance of, or desalination plants; or (H) the development of other strategies, techniques, and technologies that the Administrator may determine to be appropriate under the program.

“(f) COST SHARING.—(1) In general.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Federal share of the cost of a project carried out using a grant under the program shall be 90 percent of the total cost of the project.

“(2) WAIVER.—The Administrator may increase the Federal share under paragraph (1) to—

“(g) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report that describes the implementation of the program, which shall include a description of the use and deployment of assets made available under the program.

“(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

“SEC. 107. MIDSIZE AND LARGE DRINKING WATER SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM.

Part E of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300 et seq.) as amended by section 103 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 1459F. MIDSIZE AND LARGE DRINKING WATER SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means a public water system that serves a community with a population of 10,000 or more.

“(2) NATURAL HAZARD; RESILIENCE.—The terms ‘resilience’ and ‘natural hazard’ have the meanings given those terms in section 1433(b).

“(b) RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM.—The term ‘resilience and sustainability program’ means the Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program established under subsection (b).

“(c) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall establish and carry out a program, to be known as the ‘Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program’, under which the Administrator, subject to the availability of appropriations for the resilience and sustainability program, shall award grants to eligible entities for the purpose of—

“(1) increasing resilience to natural hazards and extreme weather events; and (2) reducing cybersecurity vulnerabilities.

“(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall use grant funds received under this section to carry out a project that increases resilience to natural hazards and extreme weather events, or reduces cybersecurity vulnerabilities, through—

“(1) the conservation of water or the enhancement of water-use efficiency; (2) the modification or relocation of existing drinking water system infrastructure that is at risk of being significantly impaired by natural hazards or extreme weather events, including risks to drinking water from flooding; (3) the design or construction of new or modified desalination facilities to serve existing communities; (4) the enhancement of water supply through the use of alternative water management and source water protection; (5) the enhancement of energy efficiency or the use and generation of renewable energy in the conveyance or treatment of drinking water; (6) the development and implementation of measures to—

“(A) increase the resilience of the eligible entity to natural hazards and extreme weather events; or
(B) to reduce cybersecurity vulnerabilities;

(7) the conservation of water or the enhancement of a water supply through the implementation of water reuse measures; or

(8) the formation of regional water partnerships to collaboratively address documented water shortages.

(d) Application.—To seek a grant under the resilience and sustainability program, an eligible entity shall submit to the Administrator an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Administrator may require, including—

(1) a proposal of the program or project to be planned, designed, constructed, implemented, operated, or maintained by the eligible entity;

(2) an identification of the natural hazard risks, extreme weather events, or potential cybersecurity vulnerabilities, as applicable, to be addressed by the proposed program or project;

(3) documentation prepared by a Federal, State, regional, or local government agency of the natural hazard risk, potential cybersecurity vulnerability, or risk for extreme weather events to the area where the proposed project is to be located;

(4) a description of any recent natural hazards, cybersecurity events, or extreme weather events that have affected the community water system of the eligible entity;

(5) a description of how the proposed program or project would improve the performance of the community water system of the eligible entity under the anticipated natural hazards, cybersecurity vulnerabilities, or extreme weather events; and

(6) an explanation of how the proposed program or project will enhance the resilience of the community water system of the eligible entity to the anticipated natural hazards, cybersecurity vulnerabilities, or extreme weather events.

(e) Report.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report that describes the implementation of the resilience and sustainability program, which shall include a description of the use and deployment of amounts made available to carry out the resilience and sustainability program.

(f) Authorization of Appropriations.—

(1) In general.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the resilience and sustainability program $5,000,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

(2) Use of Funds.—Of the amounts made available under paragraph (1) for grants to eligible entities under the resilience and sustainability program—

(A) 50 percent shall be used to provide grants to eligible entities that serve a population—

(i) equal to or greater than 10,000; and

(ii) fewer than 100,000; and

(B) 50 percent shall be used to provide grants to eligible entities that serve a population equal to or greater than 100,000.

(3) Administrative Costs.—Of the amounts made available under paragraph (1), not more than 2 percent may be used by the Administrator for the administrative costs of carrying out the resilience and sustainability program.

SEC. 108. NEED ASSESSMENT FOR NATIONWIDE RURAL AND URBAN LOW-INCOME COMMUNITY WATER ASSISTANCE.

(a) Definitions.—In this section and section 109—

(1) Community water system.—The term "community water system" has the meaning given the term in section 1401 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f).

(2) Large water service provider.—The term "large water service provider" means a community water system, treatment works, or municipal separate storm sewer system that serves more than 100,000 people.

(3) Medium water service provider.—The term "medium water service provider" means a community water system, treatment works, or municipal separate storm sewer system that serves more than 10,000 people and not more than 100,000 people.

(4) NSED.—The term "NSED", with respect to a qualifying household, means the expenditure of household income on access to public drinking water or wastewater services.

(5) Qualifying household.—The term "qualifying household" means a household that—

(A) includes an individual who—

(i) the holder of an account for drinking water or wastewater service that is provided to that household by a large water service provider, a medium water service provider, or a rural water service provider; or

(ii) separate from an account that holds an account with a large water service provider, a medium water service provider, or a rural water service provider for the cost of drinking water service provided to that household by the respective large water service provider, medium water service provider, or rural water service provider; and

(B) is determined—

(i) by a large water service provider, a medium water service provider, or a rural water service provider to be eligible for assistance through a low-income ratepayer assistance program;

(ii) by the Governor of the State in which the household is located to be low-income, based on the affordability criteria established by the State under section 1452(d)(3); or

(iii) by the Administrator to experience drinking water and wastewater service costs that exceed the metrics of affordability established in the most recent guidance of the Administrator entitled "Financial Capability Assessment Guidance" (C); and

(iv) in the case of a household serviced by a rural water service provider, by the State in which the household is located to have an annual income that does not exceed the greater of—

(I) an amount equal to 150 percent of the poverty level of that State; and

(II) an amount equal to 60 percent of the State median income for that State.

(6) Rural water service provider.—The term "rural water service provider" means a community water system, treatment works, or municipal separate storm sewer system that serves not more than 10,000 people.

(b) Study; report.—

(1) In general.—The Administrator shall conduct, and submit to Congress a report describing the results of a study that examines the prevalence throughout the United States of municipalities, public entities, or Tribal governments that—

(A) are served by rural water service providers, medium water service providers, or large water service providers that service a disproportionate percentage, as determined by the Administrator, of qualifying households with need; or

(B) as determined by the Administrator, have taken on an unsustainable level of debt due to customer nonpayment for the services provided by a large water service provider, a medium water service provider, or a rural water service provider.

(2) Affordability Inclusions.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a definition of the term "affordable access to water services";

(B) a description of the criteria used in defining "affordable access to water services" under subparagraph (A); and

(C) a definition of the term "lack of affordable access to water services";

(d) Fiscal Year.—In defining the methodology and criteria used in defining "affordable access to water services" under paragraph (1), the determination of the prevalence of a lack of affordable access to water services, as defined under subparagraph (C); and

(e) any additional information with respect to the affordable access to water services, as defined under subparagraph (A), provided by rural water service providers, medium water service providers, and large water service providers.

(3) Consultation.—The Administrator may enter into an agreement with another Federal agency to carry out the study under paragraph (1).

SEC. 109. RURAL AND LOW-INCOME WATER ASSISTANCE PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) Definitions.—In this section—

(1) Eligible entity.—The term "eligible entity" means—

(A) a municipality, Tribal government, or other entity that—

(i) owns or operates a community water system, treatment works, or municipal separate storm sewer system; or

(ii) as determined by the Administrator, has taken on an unsustainable level of debt due to customer nonpayment for the services provided by a community water system, treatment works, or municipal separate storm sewer system; and

(B) a State exercising primary enforcement responsibility over a rural water service provider under the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.) or the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), as applicable.

(2) Pilot program.—The term "pilot program" means the pilot program established by the Administrator under subsection (b)(1).

(c) Grants; funding; requirements.—

(1) Grants.—The Administrator shall establish a pilot program to award grants to eligible entities to implement programs to assist qualifying households with need in maintaining access to drinking water and wastewater treatment.

(2) Requirements.—In establishing the pilot program, the Administrator shall ensure that the data from the needs assessment directly contributes to the structure of the pilot program by informing the
types of assistance and criteria used for priority consideration with the demonstrated need from the study conducted under section 108(b)(1) and the water services needs assessment.

(3) Use of Fund Limitations.—A grant under the pilot program—
(A) shall not be used to replace funds for any comparable program; but
(B) may be used to supplement or enhance an existing program, including a program that receives assistance from other Federal grants.

(4) Terms.—The term of a grant awarded under the pilot program shall be subject to the appropriations act.

(5) Types of Assistance.—In establishing the pilot program, the Administrator may include provisions for—
(A) Federal financial assistance;
(B) a lifetime rate;
(C) bill discounting;
(D) special hardship provisions;
(E) a percentage-of-income payment plan; or
(F) debt relief for the eligible entity or the community water system owned by the eligible entity or the community water system that is determined by the Administrator to be in public health and safety need.

(6) Requirement.—The Administrator shall award grants under the pilot program to eligible entities that own or operate a community water system that serves a disproportionate percentage, as determined by the Administrator, of qualified households with need, as identified in the water services needs assessment, in awarding grants under the pilot program to support implementation of the program.

SEC. 110. LEAD CONTAMINATION IN SCHOOL DRINKING WATER.
Section 164(j) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–24) is amended—
(1) in paragraph (b), by striking the provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1452(d)(3) or section 603(i)(2) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(d)(3)) or section 603(i)(2) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–24) and inserting the applicable State under section 1452(d)(3) or section 603(i)(2) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(d)(3)) and section 603(i)(2) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–24), respectively;
(2) in paragraph (c), by striking the following:
(II) in clause (i), by striking “or” at the end and inserting “or the remediation of lead contamination in drinking water;”;
(iii) any public water system that is located in a public school or child care program with objectives similar to the objectives of the pilot program, as determined by the Administrator;
(4) Reporting Requirements.—
(A) in general.—In addition to any other applicable Federal or agency-specific grant reporting requirements, as a condition of receiving a grant under the pilot program, an eligible entity (or a State, on behalf of an eligible entity) shall submit to the Administrator a report, in a manner determined by the Administrator, the use of funds grants by the eligible entity, including—
(i) key features of the assistance provided by the eligible entity;
(ii) sources of funding used to supplement Federal funds; and
(iii) eligibility criteria.
(B) Publication.—The Administrator shall publish each report submitted under subparagraph (a).
(C) Technical Assistance.—The Administrator shall provide technical assistance to each eligible entity, and each State, on behalf of an eligible entity, that receives a grant under the pilot program to support implementation of the program.
(D) Report.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which grant funds are first disbursed to an eligible entity (or a State, on behalf of an eligible entity) under the program, and every year thereafter for the duration of the terms of the grants, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report on the results of the pilot program.

SEC. 110B. LEAD CONTAMINATION IN SCHOOL DRINKING WATER.
Section 164(j) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–24) is amended—
(1) in subsection (b), by striking the provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1452(d)(3) or section 603(i)(2) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(d)(3)) and section 603(i)(2) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–24), respectively;
(2) in subsection (c), by striking the following:
(E) not more than 8 shall be to eligible entities that own or operate a community water system that serves a disproportionate percentage, as determined by the Administrator, of qualified households with need; and
(F) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “of which—
(1) not more than 8 shall be to eligible entities that own or operate a large water service provider;
(2) not more than 8 shall be to eligible entities that own or operate a large water service provider that serves not more than 500,000 people;
(3) not more than 8 shall be to eligible entities that own or operate a large water service provider that serves more than 500,000 people; and
(4) not more than 8 shall be to eligible entities that own or operate a community water system, treatment works, or municipal separate storm sewer system that serves a community consistent with the affordability criteria established by the applicable State under section 1452(d)(3) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(d)(3)) or the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (42 U.S.C. 1383(t)(2)), as applicable; by striking the following:
(B) not more than 8 shall be to eligible entities that own or operate a medium water service provider;
(C) not more than 8 shall be to eligible entities that own or operate a medium water service provider that serves not more than 500,000 people;
(D) not more than 8 shall be to eligible entities that own or operate a large water service provider that serves more than 500,000 people; and
(E) not more than 8 shall be to eligible entities that own or operate a community water system, treatment works, or municipal separate storm sewer system that serves a community consistent with the affordability criteria established by the applicable State under section 1452(d)(3) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(d)(3)) or the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (42 U.S.C. 1383(t)(2)), as applicable.
(7) Criteria.—In addition to any priority criteria established by the Administrator in response to the findings in the water services needs assessment, in awarding grants under the pilot program, the Administrator shall give priority consideration to eligible entities that—
(A) serve a disproportionate percentage, as determined by the Administrator, of qualified households with need, as identified in the water services needs assessment;
(B) are subject to State or Federal enforcement actions relating to compliance with the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) or the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(d)(3)) or the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (42 U.S.C. 1383(t)(2)), as applicable;
(C) maintain or participate in an existing community water system, treatment works, or municipal separate storm sewer system that serves a community consistent with the affordability criteria established by the applicable State under section 1452(d)(3) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(d)(3)) or the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (42 U.S.C. 1383(t)(2)), as applicable.
(8) Authorization of Appropriations.—
There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection—
(A) $30,000,000 for fiscal year 2022;
(B) $35,000,000 for fiscal year 2023;
(C) $40,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;
(D) $45,000,000 for fiscal year 2025; and
(E) $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2026.

SEC. 111. INDIAN RESERVATION DRINKING WATER PROGRAM.
Section 2001 of the America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (42 U.S.C. 300j–3c: note; Public Law 115–270) is amended—
(1) in subsection (a)—
(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency” and inserting “The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency”;
(B) by striking “to implement” in the matter preceding paragraph (1) and all that follows through the period at the end of paragraph (2) and inserting “to implement eligible projects described in subsection (b);”;
(2) in subsection (b), by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:
(2) that will—
(A) improve water quality, water pressure, or water services through means such as connecting existing systems, improving, or obtaining water from a public water system as defined in section 1401 of
the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f); or

"(B) improve water quality or sanitation or wastewater services at a treatment works (as defined in section 212 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1292));"

(3) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c) and inserting in paragraph (2) the words "and the Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021, the Administrator shall carry out a study that examines the state of the drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, including technology that could address cybersecurity vulnerabilities, that enhances or could enhance the treatment, monitoring, affordability, efficiency, and safety of drinking water provided by a public water system.

"(2) REPORT.—The Administrator shall submit to Congress a report describing—

"(A) each recipient of a grant under the program during the previous 1-year period;

"(B) a summary of the activities carried out using grants awarded under the program.

"(5) FUNDING.—

"(A) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the program $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026, to remain available until expended.

"(B) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than 2 percent of the amount made available for a fiscal year under subparagraph (A) to carry out the program may be used by the Administrator for the administrative costs of carrying out the program.

SEC. 112. ADVANCED DRINKING WATER TECHNOLOGIES.

Part E of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300t et seq.), as amended by section 107, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(B) FEDERAL SHARE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), the Federal share of the cost of a project carried out using a grant under the program shall not exceed 90 percent of the total cost of the project.

"(ii) WAIVER.—The Administrator may increase the Federal share under clause (i) to the extent if the Administrator determines that an eligible entity is unable to pay, or would experience significant financial hardship if required to pay, the non-Federal share.

"(4) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the Administrator first awards a grant under the program, and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report describing—

"(A) each recipient of a grant under the program during the previous 1-year period; and

"(B) a summary of the activities carried out using grants awarded under the program.

"(D) PRIORITY.—In selecting projects to carry out under this section, the Administrator shall give priority to projects that—

"(1) respond to emergency situations occurring due to or resulting in a lack of access to clean drinking water that threatens the health of Tribal populations;

"(2) would serve a Tribal population that has expressed an interest in obtaining the drinking water provided by the public water system, including technologies that could address cybersecurity vulnerabilities, as determined by the Administrator, that enhance treatment, monitoring, affordability, efficiency, or safety of the drinking water provided by the public water system, including technologies not identified in the study conducted under subsection (a);

"(3) serve at least one rural area.

"(4) IN GENERAL.—

Subject to the availability of appropriations, not more than 2 percent of the amount made available for a fiscal year under subparagraph (A) to carry out the program may be used by the Administrator for the administrative costs of carrying out the program.

SEC. 113. CYBERSECURITY SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS.

Part B of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300t–5 et seq.), is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(i) the term ‘appropriate Congressional committees’ means—

"(1) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;

"(2) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

"(3) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives;

"(4) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

"(B) the Director of the Office of Management and Budget;

"(C) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

"(D) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

"(2) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means the Director, in coordination with the Director, shall develop a prioritization framework to the extent practicable, the Administrator shall incorporate consideration of—

"(1) PRIORITIZATION FRAMEWORK.—The term ‘Prioritization Framework’ means the prioritization framework developed by the Administrator under subsection (b)(1)(A).


"(3) IDENTIFICATION OF AND SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS.—

"(i) PRIORITIZATION FRAMEWORK.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021, the Administrator, in coordination with the Director, shall develop and implement a prioritization framework to identify public water systems (including sources of water for those public water systems) that, if degraded or rendered inoperable due to an incident, would lead to significant impacts on the health and safety of the public.

"(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the Prioritization Framework to the extent practicable, the Administrator shall incorporate consideration of—
TITLE II—CLEAN WATER

SEC. 201. RESEARCH, INVESTIGATIONS, TRAINING, AND INFORMATION.

(a) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 100(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1254(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(a)” and inserting “(7)” and

(2) in paragraph (7)—

(A) by striking “2023” and inserting “2021”; and

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting “, and”;

(3) C ONSULTATION REQUIRED.—In developing the Prioritization Framework pursuant to paragraph (1), the Administrator shall consult with such Federal or non-Federal entities as determined to be appropriate by the Administrator.

(4) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report—

(A) describing the implementation of the grants authorized under subsections (b)(3), (b)(4), and (g) of section 104 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1254(b)), which shall include a description of the grant recipients and grant amounts made available to carry out those subsections.

(5) USE OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts made available for grants under paragraph (1), not more than 2 percent may be used to pay the administrative costs of the Administrator.

SEC. 202. WASTEWATER EFFICIENCY GRANT PILOT PROGRAM.

Title II of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 222. WASTEWATER EFFICIENCY GRANT PILOT PROGRAM.

"(a) Establishment.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administrator shall establish a wastewater efficiency grant pilot program (referred to in this section as the ‘pilot program’) to award grants to owners or operators of publicly owned treatment works to carry out projects that create or improve waste-to-energy systems.

"(b) Selection.—

"(1) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under the pilot program, an owner or operator of a treatment works shall submit an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Administrator may require.

"(2) NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS.—The Administrator shall select not more than 15 recipients of grants under the pilot program from applications submitted under paragraph (1).

"(c) Use of Funds.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), a recipient of a grant under the pilot program may use grant funds for—

"(A) sludge digestion and composting;

"(B) installation of anaerobic digesters;

"(C) methane capture;

"(D) methane transfer;

"(E) facility upgrades and retrofits necessary to create or improve waste-to-energy systems; and

"(F) other new and emerging, but proven, technologies that transform waste to energy.

"(2) LIMITATION.—A grant to a recipient under the pilot program shall be not more than $4,000,000.

"(d) REPORT.—

"(1) REPORT TO THE ADMINISTRATOR.—Not later than 2 years after receiving a grant under the pilot program and each year thereafter that result in sewage being released into rivers and other waters; and”;

"(2) in subsection (d)—
"(a) In the second sentence, by striking "the non-Federal share of the cost" and inserting the following:"nural and financially distressed communities (as those terms are defined in subsection (i)(2)(B)(i));" and
(b) by adding at the end the following:"(2) Use of Funds.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under the program shall use the grant funds for planning, designing, or constructing wastewater or stormwater conveyance, or discharge system components that increase the resilience of publicly owned treatment works to a natural hazard or cybersecurity vulnerabilities, as applicable, to be addressed by the proposed project, including (A) natural and engineered green infrastructure; and (B) reclamation and reuse of wastewater and stormwater, such as aquifer recharge zones;"(4) the modification or relocation of an existing publicly owned treatment works, conveyance, or discharge system component that is at risk of being significantly impaired or damaged by a natural hazard; (5) the development and implementation of projects that enhance the resilience of publicly owned treatment works to a natural hazard or cybersecurity vulnerabilities, as applicable; or (6) the enhancement of energy efficiency or the use and generation of recovered or renewable energy in the management, treatment, or conveyance of wastewater or stormwater.
(d) Application.—To be eligible to receive a grant under the program, an eligible entity shall submit to the Administrator an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Administrator may require, including—(1) the description of any project to be located or potential cybersecurity vulnerabilities, as applicable, that is to be located or potential cybersecurity vulnerabilities, as applicable, to be addressed by the proposed project; (2) documentation prepared by a Federal, State, regional, or local government agency of the natural hazard risk of the area where the proposed project is to be located or potential cybersecurity vulnerabilities, as applicable, of the area where the proposed project is to be located; (3) a description of any recent natural hazard risk of the area where the proposed project is to be located or potential cybersecurity vulnerabilities that have affected the publicly owned treatment works; (4) a description of how the proposed project would improve the performance of the publicly owned treatment works under an anticipated natural hazard or natural hazard risk of the area where the proposed project is to be located or potential cybersecurity vulnerabilities, as applicable; and (5) an explanation of how the proposed project would be expected or is expected to reduce the vulnerability of the publicly owned treatment works to a natural hazard risk of the area where the proposed project is to be located or potential cybersecurity vulnerabilities, as applicable. (e) Grant Amount and Other Federal Requirements.—(1) Cost Share.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a grant under the program shall not exceed 75 percent of the total cost of the proposed project.
(2) Grant Amendments.—(A) In General.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), a grant under the program shall not exceed 90 percent of the total cost of the proposed project if the project serves a community that—(i) has a population of fewer than 10,000 individuals; (ii) meets the affordability criteria established by the State in which the community is located under section 603(1)(C); (B) Waiver.—At the discretion of the Administrator, a grant under paragraph (A) may cover 100 percent of the total cost of the proposed project.
(3) Requirements.—The requirements of section 608 shall apply to a project funded with a grant under the program.
(4) Report.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report that describes the implementation of the program, which shall include an account of all grants awarded under the program, including a description of each grant recipient and each project funded using a grant under the program.
(5) Authorization of Appropriations.—(A) In General.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.
(B) Limitation on Use of Funds.—Of the amounts made available for grants under paragraph (1), not more than 2 percent may be used to pay the administrative costs of the Administrator.

SEC. 206. SMALL AND MEDIUM PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS CIRCUIT RIDER PROGRAM.

Title II of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1281 et seq.) (as amended by section 202) is amended by adding at the end the following:}
amended by section 205) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 224. SMALL AND MEDIUM PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS CIRCUIT RIDER PROGRAM."

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall establish a circuit rider program (referred to in this section as the ‘circuit rider program’) under which the Administrator shall award grants to qualified nonprofit entities, as determined by the Administrator, to provide assistance to owners and operators of small and medium publicly owned treatment works to carry out the activities described in section 602(b)(13).

"(b) LIMITATION.—A grant provided under the circuit rider program shall be in an amount that is not more than $75,000.

"(c) PRIORITY.—In selecting recipients of grants under the circuit rider program, the Administrator shall give priority to qualified nonprofit entities, as determined by the Administrator, that would serve a community that—

"(1) has a history, for not less than the 10 years preceding the date of the grant, of unresolved wastewater issues, stormwater issues, or a combination of wastewater and stormwater issues;

"(2) is considered financially distressed;

"(3) faces the cumulative burden of stormwater and wastewater overflow issues; or

"(4) has previously failed to access Federal technical assistance due to cost-sharing requirements.

"(d) COMMUNICATION.—Each qualified nonprofit entity receiving funding under this section shall, before using that funding to undertake activities to carry out this section, consult with the State in which the assistance is to be expended or otherwise made available.

"(e) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the Administrator establishes the circuit rider program, and every 2 years thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report describing—

"(1) each recipient of a grant under the circuit rider program;

"(2) a summary of the activities carried out under the circuit rider program.

"(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

"(g) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts made available for grants under paragraph (1), not more than 2 percent may be used to pay the administrative costs of the Administrator.

"SEC. 225. SMALL PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS EFFICIENCY GRANT PROGRAM.

Title II of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1281 et seq.) (as amended by section 206) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 225. SMALL PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS EFFICIENCY GRANT PROGRAM.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall establish an efficiency grant program (referred to in this section as the ‘efficiency grant program’) under which the Administrator shall award grants to eligible entities for the replacement or repair of equipment that improves water or energy efficiency of small publicly owned treatment works, as identified in an efficiency audit.

"(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The Administrator may award a grant under the efficiency grant program to—

"(1) an owner or operator of a small publicly owned treatment works that has substantial expertise and experience in promoting the safe and effective use of individual household decentralized wastewater systems;

"(2) a nonprofit organization that seeks to assist a small publicly owned treatment works described in paragraph (1) to carry out the activities described in subsection (a).

"(c) USE OF FUNDS.—

"(1) SMALL SYSTEMS.—Of the amounts made available for grants under this section, not more than 2 percent may be used to pay the administrative costs of the Administrator.

"(2) USE OF FUNDS.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

"(ii) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

"(d) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that contains a summary of the activities carried out under this section and the results of the program under this section.

"(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

"(2) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts made available for grants under paragraphs (1) and (2), not more than 2 percent may be used to pay the administrative costs of the Administrator.

"SEC. 226. GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION AND RECONDITIONING OF INDIVIDUAL HOUSEHOLD DECENTRALIZED WASTEWATER SYSTEMS WITH LOW OR MODERATE INCOME.

Title II of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1281 et seq.) (as amended by section 207) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 226. GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION AND RECONDITIONING OF INDIVIDUAL HOUSEHOLD DECENTRALIZED WASTEWATER SYSTEMS WITH LOW OR MODERATE INCOME.

"(a) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—In this section, the term ‘eligible individual’ means a member of a low-income or moderate-income household, the members of which have a combined income (for the most recent decennial census) that is less than 150 percent of the median household income for the State or territory in which the individual resides.

"(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The Administrator shall establish a program under which the Administrator shall award grants to eligible entities for the purposes of improving general welfare by providing assistance to eligible individuals—

"(i) for the construction, repair, or replacement of a decentralized wastewater system;

"(ii) for the installation of a larger decentralized wastewater system; or

"(iii) for the installation of a larger centralized wastewater system designed to provide treatment for 2 or more households in which eligible individuals reside.

"(c) USE OF FUNDS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report describing—

"(A) a summary of the activities carried out under this section.

"(2) USE OF FUNDS.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the Administrator establishes the program described in subsection (a), the Administrator shall give priority to applicants that have substantial expertise and experience in promoting the safe and effective use of individual household decentralized wastewater systems.

"(ii) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of the amounts made available for grants under this section, not more than 2 percent may be used to pay the administrative costs of the Administrator.

"(d) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report describing—

"(1) each recipient of a grant under the efficiency grant program; and

"(2) a summary of the activities carried out under the efficiency grant program.

"SEC. 227. CONNECTION TO PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS.

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means—

"(A) an owner or operator of a publicly owned treatment works that assists or is seeking to assist low-income or moderate-income individuals with connecting the household of the individual to the publicly owned treatment works; or

"(B) a nonprofit entity that assists low-income or moderate-income individuals with the costs associated with connecting the household of the individual to a publicly owned treatment works.

"(2) PROGRAM.—The term ‘program’ means the competitive grant program established under this subsection.

"(3) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term ‘eligible individual’ has the meaning given the term ‘eligible individual’ in section 225.

"(4) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administrator..."
shall establish a competitive grant program with the purpose of improving general welfare, under which the Administrator awards grants to eligible entities to provide funds to assist qualified individuals in covering the costs incurred by the qualified individual in connecting the household of the qualified individual to a publicly owned treatment works.

"(c) APPLICATION.—

"(1) In general.—An eligible entity seeking a grant program shall submit to the Administrator an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Administrator may by regulation require.

"(2) Requirement.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Administrator receives an application from an eligible entity under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall notify the eligible entity of whether the Administrator will award a grant to the eligible entity under the program.

"(d) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In selecting recipients of grants under the program, the Administrator shall use the following criteria:

"(1) Whether the eligible entity seeking a grant provides services to, or works directly with, qualified individuals.

"(2) Whether the eligible entity seeking a grant—

"(A) has an existing program to assist in covering the costs incurred in connecting a household to a publicly owned treatment works; or

"(B) seeks to create a program described in subparagraph (A).

"(e) REQUIREMENTS.—

"(1) VOLUNTARY CONNECTION.—Before providing funds to a qualified individual for the costs described in subsection (b), an eligible entity shall ensure—

"(i) the qualified individual has connected to the publicly owned treatment works voluntarily and

"(ii) if the eligible entity is not the owner or operator of the publicly owned treatment works to which the qualified individual has connected, the publicly owned treatment works to which the qualified individual has connected has agreed to the connection.

"(2) REIMBURSEMENTS FROM PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS.—An eligible entity that is the owner or operator of a publicly owned treatment works may reimburse a qualified individual that has already incurred the costs described in subsection (b) by—

"(A) reducing the amount otherwise owed by the qualified individual to the owner or operator for wastewater or other services provided by the owner or operator; or

"(B) providing a direct payment to the qualified individual.

"(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the program $46,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

"(2) LIMITATIONS ON USE OF FUNDS.—

"(A) SMALL SYSTEMS.—Of the amounts made available for grants under paragraph (1), to the extent that there are sufficient applications, not less than 15 percent shall be used to provide assistance to communities described in that subsection in areas that are served by publicly owned treatment works that serve fewer than 3,300 people.

"(B) PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS.—Of the amounts made available for grants under paragraph (1), not more than 2 percent may be used to pay the administrative costs of the Administrator.

"SEC. 210. CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND.

"(a) USE OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 603 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1383) is amended—

"(A) in subsection (d), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “and” and providing in subsection (k)” after “State law”;

"(B) in subsection (e), in paragraph (1), the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “,” including for

"(i) capitalization grants, or

"(ii) technical assistance to rural, small, and tribal publicly owned treatment works (within the meaning of section 104(b)(8)(B)) in the State;

"(2) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 104(w) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1254(w)) is amended by striking “treatments works” and inserting “treatment works”;

"(B) CAPITALIZATION GRANT REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 607 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1387) is amended to read as follows:

"(I) by striking clauses (ii) and (iii);

"(II) in clause (i), by adding “or” at the end;

"(iii) by redesigning clause (i) as clause (ii) and

"(iv) by inserting before clause (i) (as so redesignated) the following:

"(A) to provide access to workforce opportunities for—

"(i) individuals entering into the water and wastewater utility sector;

"(ii) individuals seeking to advance careers in the water and wastewater utility sector; and

"(iii) individuals seeking to advance careers within the water and wastewater utility sector; and

"(B) to ensure the sustainability of the water and wastewater utility sector;

"(C) expanding the use and availability of strategies and activities that specifically promote diversity within recruitment, for the water and wastewater utility workforce; and

"(D) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

"(4) WORKING GROUP; REPORT.—

"(i) the Department of Education;

"(ii) other Federal agencies, as determined by the Administrator, including—

"(I) the Department of Labor;

"(ii) the Department of Agriculture;

"(iv) the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

"(v) other Federal agencies, as determined to be appropriate by the Administrator.

"(B) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021, the Administrator, in consultation with the working group established under subparagraph (A), shall submit to Congress a report...
describing potential solutions to recruitment, training, and retention challenges in the water and wastewater utility workforce.

(C) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the duties of the standing committees established under subparagraph (A), the working group shall consult with State operator certification programs.

(5) AGRICULTURE OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

(6) GRANTS TO ALASKA TO IMPROVE SANITATION FACILITIES.—The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Governor of Alaska, shall establish a competitive grant pilot program to provide competitive grants to Alaska to improve sanitation facilities for rural communities.

SEC. 212. GRANTS TO ALASKA TO IMPROVE SANITATION FACILITIES IN RURAL AND NATIVE VILLAGES.

Section 303 of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 (33 U.S.C. 1288a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking “50 percent” and inserting “75 percent”;
(2) in subsection (c), by striking “this section” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: “this section;”
(3) by adding at the end the following:

(1) $4,000,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2024;
(2) $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2025; and
(3) $60,000,000 for fiscal year 2026.

SEC. 213. WATER DATA SHARING PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administrator shall establish a competitive grant pilot program (referred to in this section as the “pilot program”) under which the Administrator may award grants to eligible entities under subsection (b) to establish systems that improve the sharing of information concerning water quality, water infrastructure needs, and water technology, including cybersecurity technology, between States or among counties and other units of local government within a State, which may include—

(A) establishing a website or data hub to exchange water data, including data on water quality or water technology, including new and emerging, but proven, water technology; and
(B) intercounty communications initiatives related to water data.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) DATA SHARING.—The Internet of Water principles developed by the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions shall be applied to water technology, including cybersecurity technology, between States or among counties and other units of local government within a State, which may include—

(A) establishing a website or data hub to exchange water data, including data on water quality or water technology, including new and emerging, but proven, water technology; and
(B) intercounty communications initiatives related to water data.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) DATA SHARING.—The Internet of Water principles developed by the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions shall be applied to water technology, including cybersecurity technology, between States or among counties and other units of local government within a State, which may include—

(A) establishing a website or data hub to exchange water data, including data on water quality or water technology, including new and emerging, but proven, water technology; and
(B) intercounty communications initiatives related to water data.

SEC. 214. FINAL RATING OPINION LETTERS.

Section 502(b)(1)(D)(i) of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3007(a)(1)(D)(i)) is amended by striking “final rating opinion letters from at least 2 regional consortia established under subsection (c)”, and inserting “final rating opinion letters from at least 1 rating agency”.

SEC. 215. WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING REAUTHORIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 503 of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3312) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

(2) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking “use and” and inserting “anomalous use”;
(B) by striking “2020 and 2021” and inserting “2022 through 2026”;
(C) by redesignating subsections (a) and (b) as subsections (b) and (c), respectively; and
(D) by inserting before subsection (b) the following:

SEC. 216. SMALL AND DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY ANALYSIS.

(a) ANALYSIS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall carry out an analysis under which the Administrator shall assess the programs under title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.) and section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12) to identify historical distributions of funds to small and disadvantaged communities and new opportunities and methods to improve on the distribution of funds under these programs to low-income communities, minority communities, rural communities, minority communities, and communities of indigenous peoples, in accordance with Executive Order 13476 (62 Fed. Reg. 9663, April 12, 2001) relating to Federal actions to address environmental justice in minority populations and low-income populations.

(b) REQUIREMENT.—The analysis under subsection (a) shall include an analysis, to the extent practicable, of communities in the United States that do not have access to drinking water or wastewater services.

(c) REPORT.—On completion of the analysis under subsection (a), the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report that describes the implementation of the pilot program and shall include—

(1) the results of the analysis; and
(2) the criteria the Administrator used in carrying out the analysis.

SEC. 217. STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE TECHNOLOGY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) CENTER.—The term “center” means a center of excellence on stormwater control infrastructure established under subsection (b)(1).
(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means—
(A) a State, Tribal, or local government; or
(B) a local, regional, or other public entity that manages stormwater or wastewater resources or other related water infrastructure.

(3) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term ‘eligible institution’ means—
(A) an institution of higher education, an educational institution, or a nonprofit organization—
(a) that has demonstrated excellence in research and developing new and emerging stormwater control infrastructure technologies; and
(b) with respect to a nonprofit organization, the core mission of which includes water management, as determined by the Administrator.

(b) CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE FOR STORMWATER CONTROL INFRASTRUCTURE TECHNOLOGIES.—
(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTERS.—
(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administrator shall provide grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities to establish and maintain not less than 3, and not more than 5, centers of excellence for new and emerging stormwater control infrastructure technologies, to be located in various regions throughout the United States.

(B) GENERAL OPERATION.—Each center shall—
(i) conduct research on new and emerging stormwater control infrastructure technologies that are relevant to the geographical region in which the center is located, including stormwater and sewer overflow reduction, other approaches to water resource enhancement, alternative funding approaches, and other environmental, economic, and social benefits, with the goal of improving the effectiveness, cost efficiency, and protection of public safety and water quality;
(ii) maintain a listing of—
(I) stormwater control infrastructure needs; and
(II) an analysis of new and emerging stormwater control infrastructure technologies that are available; and
(iii) analyze whether additional financial programs for the implementation of new and emerging, but proven, stormwater control infrastructure technologies would be useful;
(iv) provide information regarding research conducted under clause (i) to the national electronic clearinghouse center for public reporting on the Internet website established under paragraph (3)(A)(i) to provide to the Federal Government and State, Tribal, and local governments and the private sector information regarding new and emerging, but proven, stormwater control infrastructure technologies;
(v) provide technical assistance to State, Tribal, and local governments and other stakeholders in the geographical region in which the center is located; and
(vi) coordinate with the other centers to avoid duplication of efforts.

(2) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, an eligible institution shall prepare and submit to the Administrator an application at such time, in such form, and containing such information as the Administrator may require.

(3) NATIONAL ELECTRONIC CLEARINGHOUSE CENTER.—Of the centers established under paragraph (1)(A), 1 shall—
(A) be designated as the ‘national electronic clearinghouse center’; and
(B) in addition to the other functions of that center—
(i) develop, operate, and maintain an Internet website containing information relating to new and emerging, but proven, stormwater control infrastructure technologies; and
(ii) post to the website information from all centers.

(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administrator shall provide grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities to carry out stormwater control infrastructure projects that incorporate new and emerging, but proven, stormwater control infrastructure technologies in accordance with this subsection.

(B) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts made available for grants under subparagraph (A), not more than 2 percent may be used to pay the administrative costs of the Administrator.

(c) STORMWATER CONTROL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT GRANTS.—
(1) GRANT AUTHORITY.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administrator shall provide grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities to carry out stormwater control infrastructure projects that incorporate new and emerging, but proven, stormwater control infrastructure technologies in accordance with this subsection.

(2) STORMWATER CONTROL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.—
(A) PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.—The Administrator may make planning and development grants under this subsection for the following projects:
(i) Planning and designing stormwater control infrastructure projects that incorporate new and emerging, but proven, stormwater control technologies, including engineering surveys, landscape plans, maps, long-term operations and maintenance plans, and implementation plans.
(ii) Developing and implementing standards necessary to accommodate stormwater control infrastructure projects, including those projects that incorporate new and emerging, but proven, stormwater control technologies.

(B) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—
(i) SINGLE GRANT.—The amount of a single planning and development grant provided under this subsection shall not be more than $200,000.

(ii) AGGREGATE AMOUNT.—The total amount of all planning and development grants provided under this subsection for a fiscal year shall be not more than 15 percent of the total amount made available to carry out this subsection.

(B) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—
(i) SINGLE GRANT.—The amount of a single implementation grant provided under this subsection shall not be more than $2,000,000.

(ii) AGGREGATE AMOUNT.—The total amount of all implementation grants provided under this subsection for a fiscal year shall not be more than 5% of the total amount made available to carry out this subsection.

(B) FEDERAL SHARE.—
(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), the Federal share of a grant provided under this subsection shall not exceed 80 percent of the total project cost.

(B) CREDIT FOR IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—The Administrator shall credit toward the Federal share of other than funds provided under this subsection the cost of planning, design, and construction work completed for the project using funds other than funds provided under this section.

(C) EXCEPTION.—The Administrator may waive the Federal share limitation under subparagraph (A) for an implementation project that has adequately demonstrated financial need.

(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the Administrator first awards a grant under this subsection, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report that includes, with respect to the grant covered by the report:
(1) a description of all grants provided under this section;
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(2) a detailed description of—
(A) the projects supported by those grants; and
(B) the outcomes of those projects;
(3) to identify the improvements in technology, environmental benefits, resources conserved, efficiencies, and other benefits of the projects funded under this section;
(4) recommendations for improvements to promote and support new and emerging, but proven, stormwater control infrastructure, including research into new and emerging technologies, for the centers, grants, and activities under this section; and
(5) to address cybersecurity vulnerabilities, that enhances or could enhance the treatment, monitoring, affordability, efficiency, and safety of wastewater services provided by wastewater works (as defined in section 322 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1292)).

(a) Authorization of Appropriations.—
(1) the Administrator is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section (except for subsection (b)) $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

(b) Limitation on Use of Funds.—Of the amounts made available for grants under paragraph (1), not more than 2 percent may be used to pay the administrative costs of the Administrator.

SEC. 218. WATER REUSE INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.
(a) In General.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall establish a Water Reuse Interagency Working Group (referred to in this section as the “Working Group”).

(b) Purpose.—The purpose of the Working Group is to develop and coordinate actions, tools, and protocols to advance water reuse across the United States, including through the implementation of the February 2020 National Water Reuse Action Plan, which creates opportunities for water reuse in the mission areas of each of the Federal agencies included in the Working Group under subsection (c) (referred to in this section as the “Action Plan”).

(c) Chairperson; Membership.—The Working Group shall be—
(1) chaired by the Administrator; and
(2) comprised of senior representatives from such Federal agencies as the Administrator determines to be appropriate.

(d) Duties of the Working Group.—In carrying out this section, the Working Group shall—
(1) with respect to water reuse, leverage the expertise of industry, the research community, nongovernmental organizations, and government;
(2) to foster water reuse as an important component of integrated water resources management;
(3) conduct an assessment of new opportunities to advance water reuse and annually update the Action Plan with new actions, as necessary, to pursue those opportunities;
(4) seek to coordinate Federal programs and policies to support the adoption of water reuse;
(5) consider how each Federal agency can extend the date of termination of the Working Group under paragraph (1).

SEC. 219. ADVANCED CLEAN WATER TECHNOLOGIES STUDY.
(a) In General.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall carry out a study that examines the state of existing and potential future technology, including any advancements to address cybersecurity vulnerabilities, that enhances or could enhance the treatment, monitoring, affordability, efficiency, and safety of wastewater services provided by wastewater works (as defined in section 322 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1292)).

(b) Report.—The Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that describes the results of the study under subsection (a).

SEC. 220. CLEAN WATERSHEDS NEEDS SURVEY.
Title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 609. CLEAN WATERSHEDS NEEDS SURVEY.
"(a) Requirement.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Clean Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021, and not less frequently than once every 4 years thereafter, the Administrator shall—
(1) conduct an assessment of capital improvement needs for all projects that are eligible under section 603(c) for assistance from State water pollution control revolving funds; and
(2) submit to Congress a report describing the results of the assessment completed under paragraph (1).

(b) Authorization of Appropriations.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the initial needs survey under subsection (a) $5,000,000, to remain available until expended.

SEC. 221. WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH ACT AMENDMENTS.
(a) Clarification of Research Activities.—Section 104(b)(1) of the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10303(b)(1)) is amended—
(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “water-related phenomena” and inserting “water resources”; and
(2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”.

(b) Authorization of Appropriations.—Section 104 of the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10303) is amended by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

"(c) Grants.—
(1) not less than 50 percent shall be used to provide 1 grant to a State, unit of local government, or Indian Tribe to carry out activities that would directly support that reseach; and
(2) the remainder shall be provided to 1 appropriate research center.

(c) Coordination.—As a condition of accepting funds under this section, each State, unit of local government, or Indian Tribe that receives funds under this section shall establish a formal research relationship for the purpose of coordinating efforts under this section.

(d) Authorization of Appropriations.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out this section $3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

SA 1461. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KING, and Mr. ROUNDS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him or her to the bill S. 914, to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize programs under those Acts, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. 1. STATE RESPONSE TO CONTAMINANTS.
Section 1459A(j)(1) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-14a(j)(1)) is amended—
(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “an underserved community” and inserting “a community described in subsection (c)(2)”;

SEC. 302. REMEDIATION OF CONTAMINATION OF GROUNDWATER BY PERFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES.

Title V of the Safe Drinking Water Pollution Control Act is amended—
(1) by redesignating section 520 (33 U.S.C. 1251) note as section 521; and
(2) by inserting after section 519 (33 U.S.C. 1277a) the following:

"SEC. 520. REMEDIATION OF CONTAMINATION OF GROUNDWATER BY PERFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES.

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) CONTAMINATED SITE.—The term "contaminated site" means—

"(A) perfluorooctane sulfonic acid or perfluorooctanoic acid (commonly referred to as 'PFOS') (Chemical Abstracts Service No. 1763–23–1); and

"(B) other perfluoroalkyl substances (commonly referred to as 'PFOS') (Chemical Abstracts Service No. 335–67–1);

"(ii) the salts associated with the chemical described in subparagraph (A) (Chemical Abstracts Service No. 1763–23–1); and

"(C) perfluorooctanoic acid (commonly referred to as 'PFOA') (Chemical Abstracts Service No. 56773–42–3, 29081–56–9, and 70225–14–8).

"(2) TOTAL RECOVERY.—The term "total recovery" means—

"(B) the salts associated with the chemical described in subparagraph (C) (Chemical Abstracts Service No. 56773–42–3, 29081–56–9, and 70225–14–8).

"(b) LENDERS.—The term "lender" means—

"(1) the Administrator; and

"(2) the Secretary.

"(c) REMEDIATION ASSISTANCE.—The term "remediation assistance" means—

"(1) the amount of the capitalization grant under title VI to the State in the last fiscal year in which capitalization grants were made; and

"(2) any additional amount as may be designated by Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A)(i)); and

"(d) CLEANUP STANDARDS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Any detection, treatment, and remediation of groundwater contamination described in subparagraph (C) of section 519 (33 U.S.C. 1277a) shall be carried out in accordance with—

"(A) if the Administrator has designated the applicable covered perfluorooalkyl substance as a hazardous substance under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.), the requirements of that Act; and

"(2) total destruction technologies.—In addressing the contamination described in subsection (b) using amounts from a grant under this section, States shall give preference to addressing that contamination using total destruction technologies that create inert byproducts.

"(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

"(i) for fiscal year 2022—

"(A) $1,000,000,000; and

"(B) any additional amount as may be designated by Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A)(i)); and

"(ii) for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2030, $1,000,000,000.

"(f) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority provided by this section terminates on September 30, 2030.

SEC. 1. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL WATER SYSTEMS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term "eligible entity" means a rural water, wastewater, or solid waste disposal facility with respect to which assistance may be provided under a water, wastewater, or solid waste disposal program under section 306(a), 306A, 306C, or 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926, 1926a, 1926c, 1926d).

"(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(b) EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may—

"(1) provide a grant, a zero percent interest loan, or a 1 percent interest loan to, forgive principal or interest or modify any term or condition of an outstanding loan made to, or refinance part or all of any other loan (if the purpose of the loan is an eligible purpose under section 306(a)(1) or 306C of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(1), 1926c)) made to, an eligible entity; or

"(2) reduce or eliminate any fee that is or would otherwise be required to be paid under section 306(a)(1) of that Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(1)) with respect to a loan guarantee provided to an eligible entity, on the condition that the eligible entity receives the benefit resulting from the reduction or elimination of the fee.

"(c) LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may provide assistance to an eligible entity under subsection (b) as the Secretary determines is necessary—

"(1) to ensure that the eligible entity has the necessary resources to maintain public health, safety, or order; and

"(2) to address financial hardships of the eligible entity due to the COVID–19 public health emergency; or

"(3) to promote the financial stability of the eligible entity.
(d) Use of Assistance.—An eligible entity to which assistance is provided under subsection (b) may use the assistance—

(1) for any purpose for which the eligible entity is eligible for assistance under the relevant provision of law referred to in subsection (a)(1); or

(2) for any direct operating expenses incurred by the eligible entity, as determined by the Secretary.

(e) Appropriation.—(1) IN GENERAL.—Out of any amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there is appropriated to the Secretary $1,000,000,000 to carry out this section.

(2) RESERVATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—The Secretary shall reserve 3 percent of the amount appropriated by paragraph (1) for administrative expenses incurred by the Secretary in carrying out this section.

(3) Availability.—The amount appropriated by paragraph (1) shall remain available through December 31, 2022.

SA 1464. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 914, to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize programs under those Acts, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 3. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN CONTRIBUTIONS BY GOVERNMENT ENTITIES AS CONTRIBUTIONS TO CAPITAL.

(a) In General.—Section 118 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e), and

(2) by striking subsections (b) and (c) and inserting in their stead—

(“b) Contributions in Aid of Construction, Etc.—For purposes of subsection (a), except as provided in subsection (c), the term ‘contribution to the capital of the taxpayer’ does not include any contribution in aid of construction or any other contribution as a customer or potential customer.

(c) Special Rules for Water and Sewerage Disposal Utilities.—

(1) General Rule.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘contribution to the capital of the taxpayer’ includes any amount of money or other property received from any person (whether or not a shareholder) by a regular customer which provides water or sewerage disposal services if—

(A) such amount is a contribution in aid of construction,

(B) in the case of contribution of property other than water or sewerage disposal facilities, such amount meets the requirements of the expenditure rule of paragraph (2), and

(C) such amount is at fair market value.

(2) Expenditure Rule.—An amount meets the requirements of this paragraph if—

(A) an amount equal to such amount is expenditure for the acquisition or construction of tangible property described in section 1231(b)—

(i) which is the property for which the contribution was made, or is of the same type as such property, and

(ii) which is used predominantly in the trade or business of furnishing water or sewerage disposal services,

(B) the expenditure referred to in subparagraph (A) occurs before the end of the second taxable year after the year in which such amount is received, and

(C) accurate records are kept of the amounts contributed and expenditures made, the expenditures to which contributions are allocated, and the year in which the contributions and expenditures are received and made.

(2) Definitions.—For purposes of this subsection—

(A) Contribution in Aid of Construction.—The term ‘contribution in aid of construction’ includes any amount paid or expended for the acquisition or construction of property not included in the taxpayer’s rate base for ratemaking purposes.

(B) Predominantly.—The term ‘predominantly’ means 80 percent or more.

(C) Regulated Public Utility.—The term ‘regulated public utility’ means any corporation, partnership, or other entity described in section 7701(a)(33), except that such term shall not include any utility given such term by section 7701(a)(33), except that such term shall not include any utility which is not required to provide water or sewerage disposal services to members of the general public in its service area.

(D) Disallowance of Deductions and Credits, Adjusted Basis.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle, no deduction or credit shall be allowed for, or by reason of, any expenditure which constitutes a contribution in aid of construction to which this subsection applies. The adjusted basis of any property acquired with contributions in aid of construction to which this subsection applies shall be zero.

(d) Statutory Period.—If the taxpayer for any taxable year treats an amount as a contribution to the capital of the taxpayer described in paragraph (c), then—

(1) the statutory period for the assessment of any deficiency attributable to any part of such amount shall not expire before the expiration of 3 years from the date the Secretary is notified by the taxpayer (in such manner as the Secretary may prescribe) of—

(A) the amount of the expenditure referred to in subparagraph (A) of subsection (c)(2),

(B) the taxpayer’s intention not to make the expenditures referred to in such subparagraph, or

(C) a failure to make such expenditure within the period described in subparagraph (B) of subsection (c)(2), and

(2) such deficiency may be assessed before the expiration of such 3-year period notwithstanding the provisions of any other law or rule of law which would otherwise prevent such assessment.

(e) Effective Date.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to contributions made after December 22, 2017.

SA 1465. Mr. PADILLA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 914, to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize programs under those Acts, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 309(a), strike subparagraph (B) and insert the following:

(B) The Administrator shall make determinations as to—

(i) the ownership of the lead service line;

(ii) whether the lead service line is publicly owned or privately owned; and

(iii) whether the cost of the replacement of any portion of the lead service line by any individual home owner.

(2) Priority.—In awarding grants under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall give priority to eligible entities that serve disadvantaged communities (as determined under subsection (b)(3)(A)).

(f) No Cost-Share.—The Administrator shall not impose any cost-sharing requirements on an eligible entity receiving a grant under paragraph (1)."

SA 1467. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. KELLY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 914, to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize programs under those Acts, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 150, strike lines 15 through 18 and insert the following:

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “construction” before “funds”;

(B) by striking paragraph (2); and

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2);

SA 1468. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1460 proposed by Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) to the bill S. 914, to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize programs under those Acts, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 4. DEPLETION RATES OF FRESHWATER AQIERS.

Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall conduct, and submit to Congress a report describing the results of, a study analyzing—

...
(1) the depletion rate of freshwater aquifers as a result of overuse of those aquifers by public water systems (as defined in section 1401 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f)); and

(2) the likelihood and results of saltwater intrusion into freshwater aquifers due to the overuse described in paragraph (1).

SA 1469. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1460 proposed by Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) to the bill S. 914, to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize programs under those Acts, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 1. ANNUAL STUDY ON BOIL WATER ADVISORIES.

(a) In General.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall conduct a study on the prevalence of boil water advisories issued in the United States.

(b) Report.—

(1) In General.—The Administrator shall submit to Congress a report describing the results of the most recent study conducted under subsection (a) as part of the annual budget request transmitted to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code.

(2) Requirement.—In the annual report required under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall include a description of the reasons for which boil water advisories were issued during the year covered by the report.

SA 1470. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1460 proposed by Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) to the bill S. 914, to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize programs under those Acts, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 102, add the following:

(c) ALLOTMENT REQUIREMENT.—Section 1452(m) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f–14(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) Requirement.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, of the amounts made available under paragraph (1) for capitalization grants to State loan funds, the Administrator shall use 5 percent to make capitalization grants to States in which the majority of public water systems are at least 50 years in age for the purpose of modernizing those public water systems.”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I have 13 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, at time to be determined, to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, at 9 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AND Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security

The Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

The Subcommittee on Climate Change and Nuclear Safety is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

The Subcommittee on Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Growth is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL SPENDING OVERSIGHT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF ESCORT COMMITTEE

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Presiding Officer of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort the President of the United States into the House Chamber for the joint session to be held at 9 p.m., on Wednesday, April 28, 2021.

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

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to Public Law 96–114, as amended, appoints the following individuals to Congressional Award Board: The Honorable Cynthia Lummis of Wyoming and Mr. Shawn Whitman of Virginia.

The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 85–874, as amended, appoints the following individuals to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: The Honorable Roy Blunt of Missouri (re-appointment).

The Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 107–252, Title II, Section 214, appoints the following individual to the Election Assistance Commission, Board of Advisors: Sarah Ball Johnson of Colorado.

SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF APRIL 26 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2021, AS ‘‘NATIONAL SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL APPRECIATION WEEK’’

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 180, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 180) supporting the designation of the week of April 26 through April 30, 2021, as ‘‘National Specialized Instructional Support Personnel Appreciation Week’’.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. I know of no further debate on the measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

APPOINTMENTS

The Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to Public Law 96–114, as amended, appoints the following individuals to Congressional Award Board: The Honorable Cynthia Lummis of Wyoming and Mr. Shawn Whitman of Virginia.

The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 85–874, as amended, appoints the following individual to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: The Honorable Roy Blunt of Missouri (re-appointment).

The Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 107–252, Title II, Section 214, appoints the following individual to the Election Assistance Commission, Board of Advisors: Sarah Ball Johnson of Colorado.
CONSIDER TEACHERS ACT OF 2021

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S. 848 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 848) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.), during a qualifying emergency, to improve the service obligation verification process for TEACH Grant recipients, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
This Act may be cited as the “Consider Teachers Act of 2021.”

SEC. 2. TEACH GRANTS.
Section 420N of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070g-2) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “(referred to in this section as the ‘service obligation window’)” after “under this subpart”;

(B) in subparagraph (C)(vii), by inserting “or geographic area” after “field”;

(C) by striking subparagraphs (D) and (E) and inserting the following:

(D) submit a certification of employment by the chief administrative officer of the school in accordance with subsection (d)(5); and

(E) meet all State certification requirements for teaching (which may include meeting such requirements through a certification obtained through alternative routes to teaching);”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “in the event” and inserting the following:

(1) in general.—In the event; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

(2) RECONSIDERATION OF CONVERSION DECISIONS.—

“(A) REQUEST TO RECONSIDER.—In any case where the Secretary has determined that a recipient of a grant under this subpart has failed or refused to comply with the service obligation described in subsection (b)(1) and (c), the Secretary shall, upon such reinstatement—

(i) extend the period for which the recipient is required to meet the service obligation described in subsection (b)(1) to a period of time equal to the number of years the recipient has failed or refused to comply with the service obligation described in subsection (b)(1);

(ii) adjust the submission deadline to account for the period in which the recipient did not meet the service obligation described in subsection (b)(1); and

(iii) if the recipient has other loans under part D during such period, apply any payments made for the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan under part D during such period to the other loans under part D;

(B) RECONSIDERATION.—If, in reconsidering an initial determination under subparagraph (A), the Secretary determines that the reason for such determination was the recipient’s failure to timely submit a certification of employment required under subsection (b)(1)(D) as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Consider Teachers Act of 2021, the Secretary shall, after an appropriate processing delay by the Secretary, as soon as is practicable after the date that such request was received:

(i) request that consumer reporting agencies remove any negative credit reporting due to the conversion of the TEACH Grant to a loan; and

(ii) require that the school certify that the recipient has made and will continue to make payments on the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan under part D during such period;

(C) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall notify TEACH Grant recipients of the required submission deadlines described in this paragraph.

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF TIME TO FULFILL SERVICE OBLIGATION DUE TO COVID-19.

(a) Section 420N(a) of the CARES Act (Public Law 116-136; 20 U.S.C. 1001 note) is amended—


(2) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(3) in paragraph (2), by striking “such section 420N,” and inserting “section 420N of such Act,”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) shall extend the service obligation window (as described in section 420N(b)(1)(A) during the period when the TEACH Grant was in loan status; and

“(ii) treat any full academic years of teaching that the recipient completed prior to the TEACH Grant under subsection (b), including any years of qualifying teaching completed during the period when the TEACH Grant was in loan status; and

“(iii) if the recipient has other loans under part D during such period, apply any payments made for the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan under part D during such period to other loans under part D; and

“(iv) if the recipient does not have other loans under part D during such period, apply any payments made for the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan under part D or the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan under part D as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Consider Teachers Act of 2021, to the other loans under part D;“.

SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF TIME TO FULFILL SERVICE OBLIGATION FOLLOWING A QUALIFYING EMERGENCY.

(a) Section 420N(e) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070g-2) is amended—

(1) in subsection (B), by striking “(A) the Secretary shall, upon such reinstatement—

(i) extend the period for which the recipient is required to meet the service obligation described in subsection (b)(1) to a period of time equal to the number of years the recipient has failed or refused to comply with the service obligation described in subsection (b)(1); and

(ii) adjust the submission deadline to account for the period in which the recipient did not meet the service obligation described in subsection (b)(1); and

(iii) if the recipient has other loans under part D during such period, apply any payments made for the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan under part D during such period to the other loans under part D;“;

(2) in subsection (C), by striking “request that consumer reporting agencies remove any negative credit reporting due to the conversion of the TEACH Grant to a loan; and”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) submit a certification of employment required under subsection (b)(1)(D) to determine the progress the recipient has made in meeting the service obligation;”;

(4) by adding a new subsection (D) to read as follows:

“(D) submit a certification of employment by the chief administrative officer of the school in accordance with subsection (d)(5); and

“(E) meet all State certification requirements for teaching (which may include meeting such requirements through a certification obtained through alternative routes to teaching);”;

(5) in subsection (E), by striking “in the event” and inserting the following:

(1) in general.—In the event; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

(2) RECONSIDERATION OF CONVERSION DECISIONS.—
ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:10 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, April 28, 2021, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ROBERT FARRELL BONNIE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE FOR FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION, VICE WILLIAM NORTHEY.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GILBERT RAY CISSENBEE, JR., OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE JAMES N. STEWART.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

FRANK A. ROSS, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE PRIMARY CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY, VICE WILLIAM B. BEACKER.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DEBORAH D. ROSENBERG, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE JAMES G. DODSON.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

JOHN D. SAMPSON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF the UNITED STATES ENERGY INFORMATION AGENCY, VICE ROBERT A. KOPACZ.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BUILDING SCIENCES

EMILY L. JONES, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BUILDING SCIENCES, VICE RAYMOND J. TURCOTTE.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

SOLOMON JEFFREY GREENE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, VICE RICHARD D. WHITFIELD, RESIGNED.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

MARGARET V. SCHWARZ, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, VICE PAUL W. DENTON.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

RICHARD W. SNODGRAS, OF OREGON, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR OCEANS AND ATMOSPHERE, VICE DR. KENNETH W. EVANS, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

CHRIS INGLIS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE NATIONAL CYBER DIRECTOR, VICE MICHAEL ATWOOD.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

KIMBERLY L. JONES, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR ENERGY, VICE RICHARD L. SIMERLY, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

MELANIE ANNE EGGINN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE SANDRA BENNETT.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MONICA P. MEDINA, OF MARYLAND, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR OCEANS AND INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS, VICE KIRI-BINDI JONES, RESIGNED.

TODD R. ROBINSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A CAREER MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MANAGERS, VICE BRIAN P. KEEFER, RESIGNED.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

CATHARINE A. MCLAUGHLIN, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 8, 2023, VICE SHIRLENE G. WATKINS, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

MIRIAM E. DELPHIN-RITTMON, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE, VICE DEIRDRE M. MCCANN.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DEBRAE HAMILTON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2025, VICE BRIAN S. HEFFERNAN, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

RAJESH D. NAYAK, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR, VICE WILLIAM E. SPRIGGS, RESIGNED.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

SHERIE SACH SAGAWA, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 23, 2022, VICE JASPER W. BROWN, RESIGNED.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

CHRIS ENGLISH, OF MARYLAND, TO BE NATIONAL CYBER DIRECTOR, VICE DONALD R. BOYD, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

ROBERT PETER SILVERS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLICY, PLANNING, AND STRATEGIC AFFAIRS, VICE DOUGLAS J. GIBBON, RESIGNED.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

STACEY A. DIXON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE PRINCIPAL DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, VICE SARAH C. ARBES.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ELAINA ANN GREENFIELD, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, VICE TARA SWENSEN.

SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

DONALD R. KARLSON, OF NEW YORK, TO BE NAVY SECRETARY, VICE CHRISTOPHER W. GLENN.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

RICHARD M. MURPHY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY, VICE ROBERT A. GIBBS.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

CAPTAIN C. WILLIAM G. BOYD, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY, VICE CRAIG R. NELSON.

IN THE ARMED FORCES

CAPTAIN RICHARD E. BUSH, OF GEORGIA, TO BE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER, VICE JAMES E. BRYNE.

IN THE NAVY

CAPTAIN WILLIAM E. BIRMINGHAM, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY, VICE RICHARD W. GIBBS.

IN THE AIR FORCE

CAPTAIN LAWRENCE A. TAYLOR, JR., OF MARYLAND, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY, VICE JAMES E. BRYNE.

IN THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE

CAPTAIN JASON L. MORRIS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY, VICE RICHARD W. GIBBS.
To be rear admiral (lower half)

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Air Force under Title 10, U.S.C., Section 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

The following named officer for appointment to the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under Title 10, U.S.C., Section 624:

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Air Force under Title 10, U.S.C., Section 12203:

To be major
To be major
THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE OR SPACE FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

JOHN T. TERINO
WILLIAM C. THOMPSON
PAUL M. THASHEER
CARL D. TOWELL III
ZACHARY J. TOBIN
EMILY TRAP
JIAN D. TRUONG
JONATHAN S. TURNER
JESSE C. TUPHIAN
KEVIN P. UMUDU
DANIEL L. USTUEN
ARTURO L. UQUINCA
BRYTON J. VALLADARES
DONALD A. VAN PATTIN II
CORRY J. VAN SEEP
JOSH R. VANDEVERE
ANDREW W. VANGROENHUIZEN
ROBERT ANTHONY VANJUS
MARY KATHRINE VASTPA
STEPHANIE L. VAUGHAN
KASEY C. VAUGHEN
ZAPPR VUSQDN
KATHERINE L. WADDEL
BARBARA D. WAGNER
THOMAS WILLIAM WALKER
KYLE W. WALLS
KEVIN D. WALTERS
MICHAEL K. WARD
JASON V. WARE
KYLE L. WEATHERSPOON
ANDREW H. WESSER
ANDREW P. WIEHNER
KIMBERLY SOLHEIM WEST
MITCHELL K. WESTLUND
JORDAN A. WHYLE
BENJAMIN J. WIEGERS
ANDREW D. WIGHT
RANDI DYLAN WILLIAMS
PAUL S. WILSON
SAMUEL C. WINELAND
MITCHELL M. WONG
CHRISTA S. ZAISER
ZHONG ZHENG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE OR SPACE FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

KAILA WEAVER ACKAS
AARON J. BOWOYUTI
ADAM J. BRECKEN
SCOTT A. BROBERG
JASON B. BRYSON
LAURA SABLE CARROLL
ADAM T. CASKERWELL
MICHELE A. CASEWELL
DANIEL S. CIBI
LEAH F. CIOINO
HEATHERLY SPOOK CORRAGAN
JEFFREY GARETH CUMMINS
TIMOTHY P. DOMINICE
ANDREW G. ENGLISH
JARED WEST FAIRCHILD
LYNNAE A. FORD
MATTHEW A. FORST
DOMINIQUE Y. GRAY
MATTHEW D. RAGGIO
CAROLYN M. ROBBADAY
KEILY R. RODGES
THOMAS G. ROEMEN
TIMOTHY J. RODRI
STEPHANIE C. ROSSVALLY
MICHAEL W. KRAFT
JILLIAN C. LAWRENCE
TEVOR RYAN MARTIN
JEFFREY M. MATTHEWS
MELANIE K. MATTU
KIRSTIN M. MCKENZIE
HAYDEN M. MCGEOE
AMBER D. MOORE
ANASTASIA D. OPIEDRIN
JESSICA T. PRAM
DAVID P. QUIMBY
JASON MICHAEL PONCE
ROBERT K. SCHEFF
KELLY L. SCHWEITZER
COBY R. SHATTON
BRADY R. SHERGAR
DANIEL J. SHARP
CHRISTOPHER M. SMITH
RYAN PATRICK CALLAHAN SMITH
GREGG W. SAWYERS
ERIN C. TATI
CHARLES W. WEB IV
JOSEPH P. WHEELAN II
KRYSTAL L. WILDE
RODNEY W. WILKINSON III
JAIMI M. WYCKOFF

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY OR SPACE FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

CHRI T. AROSENIMA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

REGINA N. MORELL
SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ALAN B. WINDSOR, OF FLORIDA

KATE W. APPRILL, OF VIRGINIA

ASHLEY M. APOSTOLOU, OF FLORIDA

MONICA L. LASKER, OF CALIFORNIA

MEHBAB BAIROU, OF VIRGINIA

SARAH JAMES, OF MANISTEE, MICHIGAN

BRIAN A. BARONE, OF ILLINOIS

BRIAN R. BARRY, OF NEW YORK

ADAM W. RISTEL, OF CALIFORNIA

JENNY L. WING, OF NEW YORK

EVE C. BENNET, OF CALIFORNIA

DAVID L. HIRLSKI, OF FLORIDA

DANIEL M. BINGHAM-PANKRATZ, OF NEW YORK

ALAN TURLEY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

SAMUEL E. BELL, JR., OF SOUTH CAROLINA

CHAD D. KINNEAR, OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENG JAE KIM, OF MISSOURI

JENNIFER E. KENNEDY, OF FLORIDA

JAMES BRICE JORDAN, OF NORTH CAROLINA

JOHN I. HOUSTON, OF TEXAS

DAVID CHARLES HORN, OF FLORIDA

TESSA HENRY, OF PENNSYLVANIA

BRET M. HEIDEMANN, OF FLORIDA

FREDERICK D. HAWKINS, OF CALIFORNIA

LINDSAY D. HARRISON, OF MONTANA

HOUSTON R. HARRIS, OF TEXAS

MARK Z. HANDLOFF, OF VIRGINIA

JUAN J. GERMAN, OF FLORIDA

EDMUND M. FERGUSON, OF VIRGINIA

DANIELE FAIETA, OF VIRGINIA

JULIE A. ESPINOSA, OF MARYLAND

SUSAE JANANI ELANCHENNY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLOMBIA

WYATT MATTHEW DUEA, OF COLORADO

JOHN R. DOW, OF NEW YORK

CHRISTOPHER J. DEVITO, OF NEW YORK

AMY C. DELAMAIDE, OF KANSAS

BENJAMIN T. DANFORTH, OF VIRGINIA

JENNY L. CURATOLA–WOZNIAK, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ERIN F. COZENS, OF VIRGINIA

ANTHONY JOHN CIRCHARO, OF FLORIDA

JOHN A. BRUNETTI, OF NEW YORK

MICHAEL RYAN BOWERBANK, OF CALIFORNIA

ARYN LYNN BLOODWORTH, OF MICHIGAN

DANIEL M. BINGHAM–PANKRATZ, OF NEW YORK

DAVID L. BIELSKI, OF FLORIDA

ADAM W. BENTLEY, OF CALIFORNIA

BRIAN A. BARONE, OF ILLINOIS

SARAH JANE BANNISTER, OF FLORIDA

MERAH BAIRD, OF VIRGINIA

KATIE W. APPLEGATE, OF VIRGINIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

April 27, 2021

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate April 27, 2021:

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

JANET GARVIN MCCAREY, OF IOWA, TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

JASON SCOTT MILLER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR MANAGEMENT, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

COLIN HACKETT KAHN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY.


Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2203–S2255

Measures Introduced: Twenty-eight bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 1372–1399, and S. Res. 180. Pages S2224–25

Measures Passed:

National Specialized Instructional Support Personnel Appreciation Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 180, supporting the designation of the week of April 26 through April 30, 2021, as "National Specialized Instructional Support Personnel Appreciation Week".

Consider Teachers Act: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of S. 848, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to improve the service obligation verification process for TEACH Grant recipients, and the bill was then passed.

Measures Considered:

Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act: Senate began consideration of S. 914, to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize programs under those Acts, after agreeing to the motion to proceed, and taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto:

Pending:

Duckworth (for Carper/Capito) Amendment No. 1460, in the nature of a substitute. Page S2221

Prior to the consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 92 yeas to 2 nays (Vote No. 172), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. Page S2220

Appointments:

Congressional Award Board: The Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to Public Law 96–114, as amended, appointed the following individuals to the Congressional Award Board: Senator Lummis and Mr. Shawn Whitman of Virginia. Page S2245

Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 85–874, as amended, appointed the following individual to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: Senator Blunt (re-appointment). Page S2245

Election Assistance Commission, Board of Advisors: The Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 107–252, Title II, Section 214, appointed the following individual to the Election Assistance Commission, Board of Advisors: Sarah Ball Johnson of Colorado. Page S2245

Joint Session Escort Committee—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Presiding Officer of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort the President of the United States into the House Chamber for the Joint Session to be held at 9 p.m., on Wednesday, April 28, 2021. Pages S2245–46

Power Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Samantha Power, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, ripen at 12:30 p.m., on Wednesday, April 28, 2021. Page S2247

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 81 yeas to 13 nays (Vote No. EX. 167), Jason Scott Miller, of Maryland, to be Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget. Pages S2205–07

By 52 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. EX. 169), Janet Garvin McCabe, of Indiana, to be Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Page S2210
During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:
By 52 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. EX. 168), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

By 49 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 171), Colin Hackett Kahl, of California, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:
By 49 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. EX. 170), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:
Robert Farrell Bonnie, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm Production and Conservation.
Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr., of California, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.
Brenda Sue Fulton, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.
Ely Stefansky Ratner, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.
Frank A. Rose, of Massachusetts, to be Principal Deputy Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration.
Deborah G. Rosenblum, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.
Shawn Graham Skelly, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.
Kimberly L. Jones, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Institute of Building Sciences for a term expiring September 7, 2023.
Solomon Jeffrey Greene, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.
Margaret Vo Schaus, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
Amitabha Bose, of New Jersey, to be Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration.
Robert Cornelius Hampshire, of Michigan, to be an Assistance Secretary of Transportation.
Carlos Alberto Monje, Jr., of Louisiana, to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy.
Carol Annette Petsonk, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation.
Richard W. Spinrad, of Oregon, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.
Shalanda H. Baker, of Texas, to be Director of the Office of Minority Economic Impact, Department of Energy.
Asmeret Asefaw Berhe, of California, to be Director of the Office of Science, Department of Energy.
Cynthia Weiner Stachelberg, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.
Tracy Stone-Manning, of Montana, to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management.
Radhika Fox, of California, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.
Melanie Anne Egorin, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.
Monica P. Medina, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.
Todd D. Robinson, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs).
Catherine A. McLaughlin, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring October 6, 2024.
Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, of Connecticut, to be Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, Department of Health and Human Services.
Deirdre Hamilton, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2022.
Deirdre Hamilton, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2025.
Cynthia C. Hogan, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring February 8, 2024.
Rajesh D. Nayak, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.
Shirley Sachi Sagawa, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring October 6, 2024.
Chris Inglis, of Maryland, to be National Cyber Director.
Bryan Todd Newland, of Michigan, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.
Stacey A. Dixon, of the District of Columbia, to be Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence.
Helaine Ann Greenfeld, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General.
Donald Michael Remy, of Louisiana, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.
1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

Measures Placed on the Calendar: Page S2223
Executive Reports of Committees: Pages S2223–24
Additional Cosponsors: Pages S2225–27
Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S2227–29
Additional Statements: Pages S2221–23
Amendments Submitted: Pages S2229–45
Authorities for Committees to Meet: Page S2245
Record Votes: Six record votes were taken today. (Total—172) Pages S2207–08, S2210, S2220

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:10 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, April 28, 2021. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S2247.)

Committee Meetings
(Committees not listed did not meet)

MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense concluded a closed hearing to examine the Missile Defense Agency, focusing on a program update, after receiving testimony from Vice Admiral Jon A. Hill, USN, Director, Missile Defense Agency, Department of Defense.

BUSINESS MEETING
Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported routine lists in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Space Force.

DOD MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES
Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Department of Defense’s management challenges and opportunities, after receiving testimony from Elizabeth A. Field, Director, Defense Capabilities and Management, Government Accountability Office; Peter Levine, Institute for Defense Analyses, former Deputy Chief Management Officer for the Department Of Defense, Alexandria, Virginia; and Adam Grant, University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business, Philadelphia.

CURBING COVID CONS

FUTURE OF AUTOMOBILES
Committee on Commerce: Subcommittee on Surface Transportation, Maritime, Freight, and Ports concluded a hearing to examine the future of automotive mobility, safety, and technology, after receiving testimony from John Bozzella, Alliance for Automotive Innovation, and Ann Wilson, Motor and Equipment Manufacturers Association, both of Washington, D.C.; Rana Abbas Taylor, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Northville, Michigan; and Reuben Sarkar, American Center for Mobility, Ypsilanti, Michigan.

ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ON FEDERAL LANDS
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine energy development on federal lands, focusing on the current status of the Department of the Interior’s onshore oil and gas leasing program, after receiving testimony from Nada Wolff Culver, Deputy Director, Policy and Programs, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior; Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon, Cheyenne; Governor Brian Vallo, Acoma Pueblo, New Mexico; Vicki Hollub, Occidental, Washington, D.C.; and Kathleen Sgamma, Western Energy Alliance, Denver, Colorado.

NATIONAL CLIMATE BANK ACT
Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate, and Nuclear Safety concluded a hearing to examine S. 283, to establish a National Climate Bank, after receiving testimony from Senator Van Hollen; Rusty Bell, Campbell County Commissioner, Gillette, Wyoming; Reed Hundt, Coalition for Green Capital, Chevy Chase, Maryland; Duanne Andrade, Solar and Energy Loan Fund, Port Pierce, Florida; and Jason Isaac, Life: Powered, Austin, Texas.

CLIMATE CHALLENGES
Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine climate challenges, focusing on the tax code’s role in creating American jobs, achieving energy independence, and providing consumers with affordable, clean energy, after receiving testimony
from Jason Walsh, BlueGreen Alliance, and Alex Brill, American Enterprise Institute, both of Washington, D.C.; Maria M. Pope, Portland General Electric, Portland, Oregon; and Kevin Sunday, Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, Harrisburg.

FAIRER TAX SYSTEM
Committee on Finance: Subcommittee on Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Growth concluded a hearing to examine creating opportunity through a fairer tax system, after receiving testimony from Abigail E. Disney, Fork Films, New York, New York; Cheryl Straughter, Soleil, Boston, Massachusetts; David Gamage, Indiana University Maurer School of Law, Bloomington; Scott A. Hodge, Tax Foundation, and Kyle Pomerleau, American Enterprise Institute, both of Washington, D.C.; and Jeff Hoopes, University of North Carolina Kenan-Flagler Business School, Chapel Hill.

U.S. POLICY ON AFGHANISTAN
Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine United States policy on Afghanistan, after receiving testimony from Zalmay Khalilzad, Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation, Department of State.

21ST CENTURY IT MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight concluded an oversight hearing to examine controlling Federal legacy IT costs and crafting 21st century IT management solutions, after receiving testimony from Kevin Walsh, Director, Information Technology and Cybersecurity, Government Accountability Office; Renee P. Wynn, former Chief Information Officer, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Annandale, Virginia; Max Everett, former Chief Information Officer, Department of Energy, Charlotte, North Carolina; and Casey Coleman, Salesforce Global Public Sector, Cookville, Texas.

STRENGTHENING AMERICA’S CHILD CARE SECTOR
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine supporting children, workers and families by strengthening America’s child care sector, after receiving testimony from Susan Gayle Perry, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Raleigh; Myra Jones-Taylor, ZERO TO THREE, Washington, D.C.; Khadija Lewis Khan, Beautiful Beginnings Child Care Center, Providence, Rhode Island, on behalf of the Rhode Island Association for the Education of Young Children; and Dasja Reed, New Orleans, Louisiana.

SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS
Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and the Law concluded a hearing to examine how social media platforms’ design choices shape our discourse and our minds, focusing on algorithms and amplification, after receiving testimony from Monika Bickert, Facebook, Menlo Park, California; Lauren Culbertson, Twitter, Inc., and Tristan Harris, Center for Humane Technology, both of San Francisco, California; Alexandra N. Veitch, YouTube, LLC, San Bruno, California; and Joan Donovan, Harvard Kennedy School’s Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

SUPREME COURT FACT-FINDING
Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Federal Courts, Oversight, Agency Action, and Federal Rights concluded a hearing to examine Supreme Court fact-finding and the distortion of American democracy, after receiving testimony from Thomas M. Fisher, Indiana Solicitor General, Indianapolis; Allison Orr Larsen, William and Mary Law School, Williamsburg, Virginia; Theodore M. Shaw, University of North Carolina Center for Civil Rights, Chapel Hill; and Paul M. Smith, Campaign Legal Center, and Ilya Shapiro, Cato Institute Robert A. Levy Center for Constitutional Studies, both of Washington, D.C.
House of Representatives

Chamber Action
The House was not in session today. The House is scheduled to meet at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 28, 2021.

Committee Meetings

THE CONSUMER PROTECTION AND RECOVERY ACT: RETURNING MONEY TO DEFRAUDED CONSUMERS

MEMBER DAY HEARING
Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Member Day Hearing”. Testimony was heard from Chairman McGovern and Representative Moore.

THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN AFRICA
Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Global Human Rights held a hearing entitled “The Effects of Climate Change in Africa”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AT THE BORDER: STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES ON THE WAY FORWARD
Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation, and Operations held a hearing entitled “Unaccompanied Children at the Border: Stakeholder Perspectives on the Way Forward”. Testimony was heard from Robert Garcia, Mayor, Long Beach, California; and public witnesses.

ACCESSIBILITY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ON NATIONAL PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS
Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Accessibility for People with Disabilities on National Parks and Public Lands”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING AND THE GROWING ONLINE MARKETPLACE
Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife held a hearing entitled “Wildlife Trafficking and the Growing Online Marketplace”. Testimony was heard from Stephen Guertin, Deputy Director for Policy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

THE LEADING EDGE: INNOVATION IN U.S. AEROSPACE
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Aviation held a hearing entitled “The Leading Edge: Innovation in U.S. Aerospace”. Testimony was heard from Eric Garcetti, Mayor, Los Angeles, California; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings
No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, 9:30 a.m., SD–192.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine health disparities in Indian Country, focusing on a review of the Indian Health Service’s COVID response and future needs, 10 a.m., SD–138.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Library of Congress, the Congressional Budget Office, and the Government Accountability Office, 2 p.m., SD–192.

Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine health disparities in Indian Country, focusing on a review of the Indian Health Service’s COVID response and future needs, 10 a.m., SD–138.

Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine the VA telehealth program, focusing on leveraging recent investments to build future capacity, 3 p.m., SD–138.

Subcommittee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, to hold hearings to examine United States Special Operations Command’s efforts to sustain the readiness of special operations forces and transform the force for future security challenges, 2:30 p.m., SR–232A.
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, to hold hearings to examine defense acquisition programs and acquisition reform, 2:30 p.m., SR–222.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine United States nuclear deterrence policy and strategy, 4:30 p.m., SD–562.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the reemergence of rent-a-bank, 10 a.m., WEBEX.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: business meeting to consider S. 15, to require the Federal Trade Commission to submit a report to Congress on scams targeting seniors, S. 115, to direct the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on the effects of the COVID–19 pandemic on the travel and tourism industry in the United States, S. 120, to prevent and respond to the misuse of communications services that facilitates domestic violence and other crimes, S. 163, to address the workforce needs of the telecommunications industry, S. 198, to require the Federal Communications Commission to incorporate data on maternal health outcomes into its broadband health maps, S. 316, to establish a temperature checks pilot program for air transportation, S. 326, to require the Secretary of Commerce to conduct an assessment and analysis of the effects of broadband deployment and adoption on the economy of the United States, S. 381, to establish the National Ocean Mapping, Exploration, and Characterization Council, S. 558, to establish a national integrated flood information system within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, S. 576, to amend title 14, United States Code, to require the Coast Guard to conduct icebreaking operations in the Great Lakes to minimize commercial disruption in the winter months, S. 593, to restrict the imposition by the Secretary of Homeland Security of fines, penalties, duties, or tariffs applicable only to coastwise voyages, or prohibit otherwise qualified non-United States citizens from serving as crew, on specified vessels transporting passengers between the State of Washington and the State of Alaska, to address a Canadian cruise ship ban and the extraordinary impacts of the COVID–19 pandemic on Alaskan communities, S. 735, to amend the Scientific and Advanced-Technology Act of 1992 to further support advanced technological manufacturing, S. 1106, to prohibit the sale of shark fins, S. 1259, to provide that crib bumpers shall be considered banned hazardous products under section 8 of the Consumer Product Safety Act, S. 1260, to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program, an original bill relating to marine mammals, and the nominations of Donet Dominic Graves, Jr., of Ohio, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce, and Bill Nelson, of Florida, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year 2022 for the Environmental Protection Agency, 10 a.m., SR–301.

Committee on Foreign Relations: business meeting to consider the nomination of Bonnie D. Jenkins, of New York, to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, and other pending nominations, 10 a.m., SD–106/VTC.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine the response to COVID–19, focusing on using lessons learned to address mental health and substance use disorders, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: business meeting to consider the nominations of Kiran Arjandas Ahuja, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management, and Anton George Hajjar, of Maryland, Amber Faye McReynolds, of Colorado, and Ronald Stroman, of the District of Columbia, each to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service, 9:30 a.m., SD–342.

Government Operations and Border Management, to hold hearings to examine the non-governmental organization perspective on the southwest border, 2:30 p.m., VTC.

Committee on Indian Affairs: to hold an oversight hearing to examine the COVID–19 response in Native communities, focusing on Native education systems one year later, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Ketanji Brown Jackson, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, Candace Jackson-Akiwumi, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, Julien Xavier Neals, and Zahid N. Quraishi, each to be a United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, and Regina M. Rodriguez, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Subcommittee on the Constitution, to hold hearings to examine stopping gun violence, focusing on extreme risk order/"red flag" laws, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: to hold hearings to examine S. 89, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to secure medical opinions for veterans with service-connected disabilities who die from COVID–19 to determine whether their service-connected disabilities were the principal or contributory causes of death, S. 189, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of living adjustment for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, S. 219, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase the amount of certain payments during the emergency period resulting from the COVID–19 pandemic, S. 437, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law and to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide or assist in providing an additional vehicle adapted for operation by disabled individuals to certain
eligible persons, S. 454, to provide health care and benefits to veterans who were exposed to toxic substances while serving as members of the Armed Forces at Karshi Khanabad Air Base, Uzbekistan, S. 458, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide the representative of record of a claimant for compensation or benefits administered by the Secretary an opportunity to review a proposed determination regarding that claim, S. 565, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the treatment of veterans who participated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll as radiation-exposed veterans for purposes of the presumption of service-connection of certain disabilities by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, S. 657, to modify the presumption of service connection for veterans who were exposed to herbicide agents while serving in the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam era, S. 731, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the management of information technology projects and investments of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 810, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the list of diseases associated with exposure to certain herbicide agents for which there is a presumption of service connection for veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam to include hypertension, S. 894, to identify and refer members of the Armed Forces with a health care occupation who are separating from the Armed Forces for potential employment with the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 927, to improve the provision of health care and other benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans who were exposed to toxic substances, S. 952, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a presumption of service connection for certain diseases associated with exposure to toxins, S. 976, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and to expand eligibility for dependency and indemnity compensation paid to certain survivors of certain veterans, S. 1031, to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on disparities associated with race and ethnicity with respect to certain benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, S. 1039, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve compensation for disabilities occurring in Persian Gulf War veterans, S. 1071, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide pension claim enhancement assistance to individuals submitting claims for pension from the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 1093, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, S. 1095, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the disapproval by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of courses of education offered by public institutions of higher learning that do not charge veterans the in-State tuition rate for purposes of Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program, S. 1096, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship to include spouses and children of individuals who die from a service-connected disability within 120 days of serving in the Armed Forces, and S. 1188, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to notify Congress regularly of reported cases of burn pit exposure by veterans, 3 p.m., SH–216.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 1:30 p.m., SVC–217.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, hearing entitled “Coast Guard Readiness”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of Labor, 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Department of Defense’s Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness Plan: Fiscal Year 2020 Audit Results and the Path Forward”, 11 a.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.


Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “The Long Haul: Forging a Path through the Lingering Effects of COVID–19”, 11 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Examining the Role of Municipal Bond Markets in Advancing—and Undermining—Economic, Racial and Social Justice”, 12 p.m., Webex.


Committee on House Administration, Full Committee, business meeting on Disposition of Contested elections, and for other purposes, 12 p.m., Webex.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship, hearing on Request for a DHS Departmental Report on the Beneficiary of H.R. 681, 2 p.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship, hearing entitled “‘Why Don’t They Just Get in Line?’ Barriers to Legal Immigration”, 2:15 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 443, the “Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Land Transfer Act”; H.R. 1029, the “Free Veterans from Fees Act”; H.R. 1492, the “Methane Waste Prevention Act of 2021”; H.R. 1503, the “Restoring Community Input and Public Protections in Oil and Gas Leasing Act of 2021”; H.R. 1505, the “Bonding Reform and Taxpayer Protection Act of 2021”; H.R. 1506, the “Transparency in Energy Production Act of 2021”; H.R. 1517, the “Ending Taxpayer Welfare for Oil and Gas Companies Act of 2021”; H.R. 1884, the “Save Oak Flat Act”; and H.R. 2348, the “Advancing Conservation and Education Act”, 11 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Ending Hunger in America: Challenges, Opportunities, and Building the Political Will to Succeed” [Original Jurisdiction Hearing], 12 p.m., Webex.
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Research and Technology, hearing entitled “National Science Foundation: Advancing Research for the Future of U.S. Innovation”, 10 a.m., Zoom.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Harnessing the Power of Immigrant-owned Businesses to Build Back Better”, 12:15 p.m., Zoom.


Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Charting the Path Forward for Telehealth”, 2 p.m., Webex.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
10 a.m., Wednesday, April 28

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will be in a period of morning business.

At 12:30 p.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Samantha Power, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

(At 8:15 p.m., Senators will gather in the Senate Chamber and proceed as a body to the Hall of the House for a Joint Session to receive an address from President Biden.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
6 p.m., Wednesday, April 28

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Joint Session with the Senate to receive an address from the President of the United States.