of it. Require transparency. That is what the DISCLOSE Act is all about.

So this is another chance for every Member of the Senate to align themselves with the overwhelming majority of the American people. Eighty percent support transparency disclosure, and they know it is the kind of thing that is important if we want to keep our democracy. Get your vote for this.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin?

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, first of all, I want to thank Senator Van Hollen for his incredible work over the years and his leadership both in the House and in the Senate. And thank you for taking on this fight and working so hard to expose the bright light of truth and transparency about what is happening around secret money.

And I want to thank Senator Whitehouse for his dogged focus on the issue of secret money influencing elections. Thank you for all of your wonderful work, and to all of our colleagues who have joined us on the floor and to all of my Democratic colleagues, all of whom are supporting the DISCLOSE Act.

The Members of this Chamber have a choice to make, and it is really pretty simple: You can be on the side of the American people or you can be on the side of the rich and powerful.

We cannot pass the DISCLOSE Act, let the public know what is happening, put limits around it, stop all of this; or you can vote against it and vote with the powerful and the wealthy.

The DISCLOSE Act is going to keep our elections in the hands of voters, not the highest bidders. That is really the bottom line. And you don’t have to look very far for examples of why we need to pass this legislation.

Colleagues have all been talking today about, stunningly, how a conservative group has received a $1.6 billion donation from a single donor—one man, $1.6 billion; and one mission—one mission—to put his finger on the scale of our democracy.

If you don’t think that guy isn’t going to have an undue influence on our elections in the coming years, then I have a bridge across the Straits of Mackinac I would like to sell you.

And this very rich man isn’t alone, unfortunately. As my colleagues have said, there has less than a 5 billion in dark money spent on our elections—5 billion. Then, in 2010, the Supreme Court handed down its Citizens United decision, which opened the floodgates, and it didn’t take long for the volume to rise. In 2012, more than $300 million in dark money—dark money—in elections, and in 2020, more than $1 billion was spent in dark money in elections. And now we know, in 2022, that we have one person who has already given $1.6 billion to try to influence this election.

If you laid those billion-dollar bills end to end, they would extend around the Earth nearly four times—extend around the Earth four times. That is how much we are talking about here, and we don’t even know where all this anonymous spending is coming from.

But we do know this, and Senator Wyden—Chairman Wyden—spoke earlier. We are in Big Pharma to lower prescription drug prices, not one Republican voted yes. When we took on Big Oil to lower energy costs and attacks the climate crisis, not one Republican voted yes. When we took on corporations that pay zero in taxes, not one Republican voted yes.

The American people deserve to know why. How much dark money is coming in from those powerful interests to protect their profits? Dark money could also be coming from foreign actors who wish to harm our country.

What has been reported, though, again, is that dark money is coming in from one really rich guy—one really rich guy who wants to make our Nation a little bit more toward his liking. American voters deserve to know who is spending huge—huge—sums of money to influence our democracy. And under the DISCLOSE Act, they will know that. It will strengthen our democracy to make sure foreign actors can’t influence our elections. It requires corporations and other groups to disclose their donors.

Right, left, Democrat, Republican: DISCLOSE!

And it expands disclosure requirements to online ads and other types of ads as well. As for all of those campaign text messages that are blowing up your phone, you deserve to know who is sending them.

These changes are popular. They are common sense, and they are really important. They are really important if we think America deserves to know who is influencing our elections. It is time to make sure our American democracy actually works for the American people.

Again, the Members of this Chamber have a choice to make: We can stand with the American people or we can stand with the rich and powerful. Democrats have made that choice. I have made that choice. We stand with the American people who just want a fair shot to work hard and get ahead. Americans want to know that this is their democracy and that it works for them, and not for rich people.

I urge my colleagues to support the DISCLOSE Act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington?

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I rise today to support the nomination of Arati Prabhakar to be the Director of the Office of Science and Technology.

NOMINATION OF ARATI PRABHAKAR

Dr. Prabhakar has the exact experience we need to advance our domestic semiconductor manufacturing, on bringing the supply chain and security that we need here in the United States, and on continued growth in science and technology jobs that come along with it.

The CHIPS and Science Act directs the National Science Foundation to invest in translational research, including through a new NSF tech directorate.

Before her nomination, Dr. Prabhakar was an important voice in support of this effort of a tech directorate, reaching out to House and Senate colleagues and helping to shape the directorate in its focus on big national and security challenges.

And the CHIPS and Science Act reflects our commitment to diversity in science, to make sure that the engineering, math, and STEM fields are included and that we continue to grow a workforce that is not just dominated by men.

The important aspect of science is not always thought of in every aspect of growing the next generation. That is why I am so encouraged that Dr.
Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, finally, before I yield the floor, I would also like to celebrate the Senate’s historic vote today to approve the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol.

I urge a positive vote.

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. B ALDWIN) will move to reconsider the record.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. Thune. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. Barrasso).

The result was announced—yeas 60, nays 37, as follows:

Amendments in writing were in order.

The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. ThUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. B ALDWIN).

The result was announced—yeas 60, nays 37, as follows: