

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 do it because they know how important it is to our democracy. Let's vote for this.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

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 can 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, in 2006, there was less than \$5 million in dark money spent on our elections—5 million. Then, in 2010, the Supreme Court handed down its Citizens United decision, which opened the floodgates, and it didn't take long for the water to rise. In 2012, more than \$300 million was spent in secret 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. When we took on Big Pharma to lower prescription drug prices, not one Republican voted yes. When we took on Big Oil to lower energy costs and attack 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, huge—sums of money to influence our democracy. And under the DISCLOSE Act, they will know that. It will strengthen the foreign money ban 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 your donors.

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, not just a few rich people.

I urge my colleagues to support the DISCLOSE Act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

NOMINATION OF ARATI PRABHAKAR

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I rise today to support the nomination of Dr. Arati Prabhakar to be the Director of the Office of Science and Technology. Since 1976, the Office of Science and Technology Policy has worked to ensure that the United States leads in science and technology, to promote STEM education, and to make sure that our science Agencies

share the common purpose of benefiting all Americans.

Dr. Prabhakar is very well qualified for this job. As an engineer, physicist, leader, venture capitalist, and pioneer, she has had a trailblazing career, accomplishing a lot in a time period where she was Director of the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency, DARPA, and the first woman to lead the National Institute of Standards and Technology, NIST.

And under Dr. Prabhakar's leadership, DARPA kick-started the development of a rapid-response mRNA vaccine platform. This platform was the basis for the fast, safe, and effective COVID-19 development.

Under her leadership at NIST, she worked to expand the Manufacturing Extension Partnership to boost the competitiveness of small- and medium-sized American manufacturers.

Just last year, the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program helped our domestic manufacturers capture \$3.9 billion in new sales. In my State alone, that translated into over \$186 million and more than 2,000 jobs created or retained.

Perhaps even more impressive, back in the 1990s, when Dr. Prabhakar was just in her twenties, she helped launch DARPA programs that made essential leaps forward in semiconductor manufacturing technology. Dr. Prabhakar's programs laid the groundwork for five generations of chip manufacturing technologies to help demonstrate leadership right here in the United States.

Dr. Prabhakar is now ready to lead again, and now we are asking for her to lead this important Agency. We have just passed the CHIPS and Science Act, which is a renewed commitment to domestic semiconductor research and manufacturing and U.S. leadership in the next generation chip technology.

Dr. Prabhakar has the exact experience we need to advise the President on 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 needed.

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.

Prabhakar is very committed to increasing the talent pool that we need in our country.

For the first time in our country's history, the President has elevated the Office of Science and Technology Policy Director to a Cabinet-level post, meaning there will be a scientist in the room for our Nation's most important discussions.

And for the first time in history, with the support of my colleagues here today, Dr. Prabhakar will be the first woman and person of color to serve as the Senate-confirmed OSTP Director.

Dr. Prabhakar will have a lot to do, including developing the whole-of-government science and technology strategies for issues ranging from security to commercial space exploration. And at a time of growing competition, OSTP needs to tell the President and advise our leaders what we need to do to maintain our competitiveness as a nation.

I know, coming from an innovation State, how important the Office of Science and Technology Policy strategies can be in helping our Nation attract and keep the best and brightest and prioritize collaboration between academia and industry. And since Washington has been a STEM leader—in fact, I think we are the most STEM-focused State in the Nation; that is, by number of people involved in STEM—we know that this partnership between the existing workforce and the workforce of tomorrow needs to grow.

I know that, as a former DARPA Director, Dr. Prabhakar will help us with this engine of innovation and growing STEM education in America. Moreover, I know that Dr. Prabhakar will, on many issues, help to improve the participation of women and girls in the issues of STEM.

This is such a big, important issue for us today. But just being at the helm of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, being a woman, being there at the Cabinet level, and advising the President of the United States, I know she will help to deliver a message that young women all across America need to be involved in the sciences to help our Nation in the next phases of innovation. I am so excited that she will be in this position.

I ask my colleagues to support her as a devoted, experienced, and exceptional public servant. These are the kinds of people who we need in government. These are the kinds of people who can make America stronger, safer, and more competitive. I urge my colleagues to support the confirmation of Dr. Prabhakar as the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NOMINATION OF AMANDA BENNETT

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I rise today in support of Amanda Bennett to be the Chief Executive Officer of the U.S. State Agency for Global Media.

When autocrats around the world have been cracking down on independent media; when regimes silence opposition with repression and fear; when they shut down the internet, as we have seen in countries like Cuba and Iran; when they actively target the United States and like-minded democratic nations with disinformation campaigns, it is critical for the United States to have a champion of democracy and free speech leading the U.S. Agency for Global Media, someone who can meet the challenge posed by the spread of digital authoritarianism around the world.

Ms. Bennett is prepared to take on that task. She has over two decades of experience in journalism, including as the director of Voice of America. For 23 years, she worked at the Wall Street Journal, including as a correspondent in Beijing, where she came face-to-face with China's authoritarianism. She has seen how their state security forces watch and detain journalists to suppress the truth.

As a former director of Voice of America, she understands the importance of the U.S. Agency for Global Media's networks and American public diplomacy efforts.

Over the course of her career, she served on the boards of the Lenfest Institute and Committee to Protect Journalists.

In short, Ms. Bennett is without a doubt the right person for this position. She will be a tireless advocate for the journalists working at USAGM and an effective steward of its operations. She will also be an invaluable ally to USAGM's independent partners, including Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and Radio Free Asia. She will defend the importance of Radio and TV Marti. And she will be accountable to Congress in these efforts.

It has been almost 2 years since the Agency has had a Senate-confirmed CEO at the helm. It is in dire need of steady leadership that supports independent media.

I enthusiastically support Ms. Bennett. I respectfully urge my colleagues to support her confirmation as well.

TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 117-1

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.

In approving the Kigali Amendment, the Senate took an important step that will have enormous economic and trade benefits for American manufacturing and jobs, but it was also the single most important climate action the Senate and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee have taken in more

than 30 years. As wildfires ravage the West, hurricanes devastate Puerto Rico, and catastrophic flooding inundates the Midwest, strong action to fight climate change has never been more urgent.

By voting for the Kigali Amendment today, we voted for maintaining a livable planet with clean water to drink. We voted for a stable food supply for all of humanity. We voted, in a strong bipartisan coalition, to keep American innovation and business at the forefront of the transition to clean energy.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude for the support and cooperation of the Foreign Relations Committee's ranking member, the senior Senator from Idaho, Senator RISC. His partnership and the tireless efforts of his staff were essential in the Senate's success on Kigali.

I want to thank my staff on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee: Damian Murphy, staff director; Andrew Keller, chief counsel; Josh Klein; Josh Kretman; Julia Greensfelder; and Megan Bartley. They were essential in getting it to the committee and making us successful.

I urge a positive vote.

I yield the floor.

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 undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 1055, Amanda Bennett, of the District of Columbia, to be Chief Executive Officer of the United States Agency for Global Media.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Ben Ray Lujan, Chris Van Hollen, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeff Merkley, Jack Reed, Jeanne Shaheen, Elizabeth Warren, Tammy Baldwin, Christopher A. Coons, Tina Smith, Michael F. Bennet, Jacky Rosen, Edward J. Markey, Angus S. King, Jr.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Amanda Bennett, of the District of Columbia, to be Chief Executive Officer of the United States Agency for Global Media, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISC).

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