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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, January 31, 2025, at 10 a.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2025

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Merciful Father, our refuge and strength, we pause to thank You for the courageous contributions of Mark Gazelle during his 34 years of dedicated service with the U.S. Capitol Police. Be with him in all of his tomorrows, doing for him more than he can ask or imagine.

In the midst of our gratitude, our hearts are also filled with sorrow. We mourn the loss of precious life last evening at Reagan National Airport because of the collision of a jet with an Army Black Hawk helicopter.

Our grief reminds us of Your words in Proverbs 27:1, which states:

Don't brag about tomorrow; you don't know what may happen then.

You are kind, Lord. Please have pity on us and all who mourn.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGERTY). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Douglas Burgum, of North Dakota, to be Secretary of the Interior.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The President pro tempore.

NOMINATION OF DOUGLAS BURGUM

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, Governor Doug Burgum of North Dakota will soon be our next Secretary of the Department of the Interior. I am going to support that nomination.

I think he will be confirmed, but until that happens, we always say "if confirmed."

If confirmed, Mr. Burgum will play a critical role in balancing the importance of conserving our wildlife and natural resources, while also assisting in the enhancement of domestic energy production.

Now, we must remember, over the last 4 years—in other words, under the Biden administration—many of our Nation's Federal lands were off limits for any type of use, and the excuse was for the sake of conservation. Though that is a broad stroke—the word "conservation"—it wasn't made very clear what was meant.

Many know that I have been a longtime advocate for transparency in the public's business because transparency brings accountability. Mr. Burgum will be expected to be transparent and forthcoming when leading the Department, and I expect that he will be, but especially when responding to letters from Members of Congress.

If confirmed, Mr. Burgum will oversee several Bureaus and Agencies that all work together supporting the Interior Department's mission of protecting, of managing, and of honoring our Nation's natural resources and lands.

On the topic of our country's resources, the United States has ample resources for energy production and generation, and President Trump winning the election has made clear that that is a top priority for him. And the President has created a special council on energy, and Mr. Burgum will be chairing that council.

Now, I happen to be a believer, as I am sure Mr. Burgum is, in what you call an "all of the above" strategy on energy. An "all of the above" strategy really means just that, in other words, an emphasis upon what we have got energy from—fossil fuels—and that is declining in use, but it is still going to be around for a long, long time. It means

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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all the energy—alternative energy—that we can create. It means conservation, and not necessarily conservation promoted by government but individual conservation. And, of course, nuclear, and nuclear brings to our attention a whole new generation of ways to produce nuclear energy. That is “all of the above.”

And, of course, we ought to, in order to accomplish that, cut back on Biden-era regulations. These regulations seem to be very opaque. And, consequently, we would forge a fiscally sound path forward in regard to everything that less regulation would bring us.

I believe that Mr. Burgum understands the need to support an “all of the above” approach to energy policy, given his leadership on that issue as Governor of the State of North Dakota.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT FLIGHT ACCIDENT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I begin, I want to comment on last night's horrific tragedy. As most now know, last night, around 9 p.m., a passenger flight out of Wichita, KS, coming into Reagan National Airport collided with a Black Hawk helicopter based out of Fort Belvoir.

As recovery efforts continue, authorities confirmed that they do not expect any survivors.

Mr. President, there are few words in instances like this, only our heartfelt prayers for those who have received unbearable news over the past few hours and our gratitude for rescue personnel who spent the night searching for survivors and remain on the river.

It is too early to know why last night's crash occurred, but we are going to find out. Congress and Federal Agencies will be closely examining this tragedy to ensure that America's skies are safe.

My prayers today are with all those suffering, with our first responders, and with our Kansas Senators and everyone affected by this terrible event.

NOMINATION OF DOUGLAS BURGUM

Mr. President, later today, the Senate will vote on former North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum's nomination to be Secretary of the Interior.

Governor Burgum knows that America's natural resources are our greatest national asset. And in the spirit of Teddy Roosevelt, he believes energy can be a big stick to promote peace and prosperity. But we have to be able to leverage our resources.

Too often, under the Biden administration, the Interior Department was

the tip of the spear in restricting development of America's resources. The Biden administration seemed to believe that land use and conservation were mutually exclusive. But people in places like my State and Governor Burgum's, where the land is part of our way of life, know that the farmer, the rancher, the forester, and other landowners are some of the best conservationists.

And I am pleased that Governor Burgum is committed to restoring the multiple-use approach to managing public lands.

I might argue with Governor Burgum over whether North Dakota's Badlands are, in his words, “significantly badder” than South Dakota's, but I can't argue with his record of success. He literally bet the family farm on a small technology company, and he grew it into a major player in a then-nascent sector.

When he turned his sights on public service, he made a huge impact on North Dakota. He leveraged the State's natural resources to grow its economy and attract talented people to move to the Great Plains, and he will bring the same data-driven, consensus-based, “think big” work ethic to his work as Secretary of the Interior.

I look forward to working with him to protect our public lands and leverage some of America's greatest assets for a safer and more prosperous future.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. CAPITOL EMPLOYEES

Mr. President, I have said it before, and I will say it again: Not one of us would last a day here in Congress without our staffs. But it is not just our staffs; there are a lot of other people on this campus who are essential to ensuring the continued running of this institution: the men and women who clean our offices, who perform ongoing maintenance around the Capitol Complex, who ensure that Members and staffers have some place to get food, who issue ID badges, who run the Press Galleries, who maintain our historic buildings, who set up for events—sometimes very big events—and then break things down afterwards.

The list is long. Day-to-day operations in the Capitol Complex are significant in themselves, but there have been some particularly noteworthy events recently: President Carter's lying-in-state, a Presidential visit, and President Trump's inauguration. Every one of these events required substantial planning and coordination and a lot of extra work for a lot of people, and today, I want to say thank you.

There is no way to name all of the people who were involved in pulling off these events, but I want to make sure to recognize the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies, ably led by Senators KLOBUCHAR and FISCHER and by Mike Wagner and Julia Daniel, executive director and chief of staff of the committee. The inauguration would not have happened without these folks, and I am very grateful for their work.

I also want to thank the Architect of the Capitol, Tom Austin, and his incredible staff. From preserving the historic treasures in this building to tending the gardens around the Capitol Complex, staff of the Architect of the Capitol Office make sure that our Capitol continues to stand as a visible beacon of freedom and the rule of law. The work they did for the inauguration and for President Carter's lying-in-state was tremendous.

From building an inaugural stage and then another inaugural stage once freezing temperatures forced the inauguration indoors, to setting up chairs, providing support for TV and press operations, and decorating the building, Tom and his staff worked tirelessly.

I want to give special thanks to Raynell Bennett in Tom's office, who plays a key role in ceremonial events here in the Capitol and whose unfailingly can-do attitude makes planning these events a lot easier.

In addition to the Architect of the Capitol Office, I also want to recognize Jennifer Hemingway, the Senate Sergeant at Arms, and her office. Members of the Sergeant at Arms Office perform essential security and preparedness functions in the Capitol. They monitor the doors to the Senate floor, maintain order in the Galleries, and they are custodians of Senate protocol, including providing key ceremonial support when dignitaries visit. They were essential to both the inauguration and President Carter's lying-in-state, and I am very grateful for their work.

I also cannot fail to mention the Secretary of the Senate's Office as well as members of my staff, who worked on both the lying-in-state and the inauguration.

My deep thanks to all those who maintain the cleanliness of the Capitol and Senate buildings and ensured that so many spaces were ready to welcome visitors.

Finally, I want to recognize all of the women and men of the Capitol Police who stand on guard for us every day but whose workload was vastly increased by these events. They put a lot of effort and a lot of overtime into ensuring safe and successful events, and I am grateful every single day for their service.

Thanks is also due to other law enforcement agencies and officers who contributed to these events, including the Secret Service as well as members of the National Guard. I am grateful for every man and woman in this country who put themselves on the line to protect their fellow Americans.

TRIBUTE TO KAREN PAUL

Mr. President, before I close, I want to mention another Senate employee, the first and so far only archivist of the Senate, who is retiring after an incredible 40-plus years. As the first-ever Senate archivist, Karen Paul has played a significant role in creating archiving standards for the Senate and in drawing attention to the need to preserve records of the work we do for posterity.

Her publications as archivist include the "Records Management Handbook for United States Senators and Their Archival Repositories" and the "Records Management Handbook for United States Senate Committees"—key references for Senate staffers working to ensure that the documents of democracy are preserved for the long term.

I want to thank Karen for her decades of work and her dedication to the Senate. Not everyone can say that he or she has played a key role in safeguarding the history of an American institution, but Karen can, and I wish her the very best in her well-deserved retirement.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT FLIGHT ACCIDENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this morning, our hearts go out to everyone impacted by the horrible, heart-breaking incident at Reagan Washington National Airport last night. I have been briefed on the horrific incident at DCA and have continued to monitor the situation. My heart goes out to everyone who was impacted by this incident. I am praying for the victims, their families, and our brave first responders as we monitor the situation.

But I have to tell you, I just watched President Trump's news conference. Listen, it is one thing for internet pundits to spew off conspiracies; it is another for the President of the United States to throw out idle speculation as bodies are still being recovered and families are still being notified. It just turns your stomach.

In the meantime, we are keeping the families and loved ones of the victims in our prayers, and we are keeping our brave first responders in our prayers as well.

NOMINATION OF RUSSELL VOUGHT

Mr. President, now on OMB and Russell Vought, this week, the American people saw firsthand just how destructive the impact of Project 2025 could be. In the blink of an eye, President Trump ordered OMB to illegally freeze trillions of dollars in Federal funding for families and kids, for hospitals and fire stations and police departments, impacting almost every single community in the United States.

Thankfully, the American people fought back and made their voices heard. Trump was forced to retreat, rescinding his disastrous memo—for now. But make no mistake, as long as Russell Vought is Donald Trump's pick for

OMB Director, the American people can bet he will try again to illegally seize the funding for their communities.

Now that Donald Trump rescinded the OMB order, he should rescind the nomination of Russell Vought as well. The chaos of this week should be a lesson to President Trump: Following Russell Vought and Project 2025 is a loser. It is a loser, of course, for the American people, but it is also a loser for Donald Trump, as this week has shown.

Given the unlawful behavior of OMB this week, Senate Democrats will not move to advance Mr. Vought's nomination any further until he gives the American people more answers.

If Mr. Vought, the chief architect of Project 2025, intends to continue breaking the law at OMB and harming our communities in so many ways, he should return to the committee and explain himself. He should answer for the mess he launched upon the American people this week. The committee's hearing was held last week, before the funding freeze was issued. The American people need new answers. And if he is doing the right thing and communicating what he is going to do in this powerful position at OMB, he should return to the committee for another hearing.

Mr. Vought tried to hide the truth during the hearing last week, but the truth of his plan was on full display this week.

The future of our hospitals and schools and food banks should not be in the hands of an ideologue who substitutes the rule of law for his own ultraright ideology. This is bad faith, and Mr. Vought needs to return to the committee to give the American people some honest answers—or at least some comprehension as to what the hell happened this week and what is the plan for moving forward.

Until then, I stand with Ranking Member MERKLEY and my colleagues when they said that they should do nothing to advance Mr. Vought and not go to the markup today which is, at best, premature. I support them fully in what they have done.

STATE AND LOCAL TAXES

Mr. President, SALT. This week, House Republicans released their laundry list of priorities for this Congress. What Republicans included on the list is truly awful—draconian cuts, tax breaks for the ultra-, ultrarich, and the same ultraright ideology that most Americans, even most Republicans, reject.

But what is equally bad is what House Republicans left off their list. SALT, state and local tax, and that is what I want to focus on today. Republicans are saying that they don't have any plans to get SALT done this year, to get rid of the cap this year, and that should leave a bad taste in everyone's mouth, especially for New Yorkers in higher cost areas like Hudson Valley and Long Island, especially for police

officers and firefighters and teachers who work hard, who are middle class, and get clobbered by SALT and the cap on the deduction.

With the absence of SALT from House Republicans' priority list, it is clear that the upcoming budget will be nothing more than a Trump budget grab. By omitting any SALT fix, this is what Republicans are telling hard-working Americans in New York, in Massachusetts, in California, and so many other States. It is saying: We don't give a hoot about lowering your costs. In fact, let's raise them. Imagine that. Imagine that.

Any Republican, particularly those in New York or New Jersey, who claim to care about helping our teachers, our firefighters, our police officers, our construction workers save money should be outraged. They should be blasting this proposal and calling on House Republicans to eliminate the SALT cap. But so far, all we hear is crickets or sort of shoulder shrugs of reassurance. Oh, it will work out. My question is: For who and when?

These Republicans from New York should listen to their constituents because New York taxpayers and other taxpayers across the country are sick and tired of unnecessary costs by the unfair SALT cap. People who live in the Hudson Valley, people who live on Long Island, and in many other places are severely affected by the cap.

And we should hear from our Republican colleagues that they won't vote for any tax package unless it eliminates the cap, which is a dagger at the heart of New York.

I will continue to do everything I can, first, to remove the entire SALT cap tax; and, second, to never let a new proposal that, for the first time, imposes SALT cap on businesses, small and large, to be put into effect.

CABINET NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, OK. On the Patel and Gabbard nominations, today the Judiciary Committee, Senate Judiciary, is hearing testimony from Kash Patel, President Trump's nominee for FBI Director. The hearing is still ongoing, but it is already very clear Mr. Patel is not remotely prepared to serve as FBI Director.

Mr. Patel has failed to answer how his confirmation as one of the Nation's chief law enforcement officers will make Americans safer. He has failed to convince Americans that he will serve their interest and not Donald Trump's. It is no wonder that so many of Patel's colleagues from the first Trump administration have spoken out against him, saying he has ludicrous ideas and "virtually no experience . . . to serve at the highest level of the world's [most prominent] law enforcement agency."

No one who has a long history of spreading lies about the FBI and smearing the public servants who work there like Mr. Patel should be the FBI Director.

And, today, another nominee that defies belief and imagination, the Senate

Intelligence Committee is also hearing testimony from President Trump's nominee for Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard. If confirmed, Ms. Gabbard would be a walking liability to our intelligence community and our national security. She has a long and troubled history of spreading falsities and sympathizing with the likes of Vladimir Putin and Bashar al-Assad.

And given her history, it is not unreasonable to ask if Ms. Gabbard would use the DNI to push misinformation for political ends.

Our intelligence Agencies are a place where truth and facts must prevail, or we become much less prepared in terms of protecting American security. And yet someone who is so immune to a fact-based analysis of things, who makes up conspiracy theories left and right, is the last person who should be the Director of National Intelligence. It would be antithetical to elevate somebody who is known to make things up out of thin air like Ms. GABBARD to the highest levels of our intelligence community which is, as I said, fact-based.

TRIBUTE TO KAREN PAUL

Mr. President, finally, today the Senate says farewell to a longtime and wonderful colleague, the first ever archivist in Congress, Karen Paul. Before Karen joined the Senate in 1982, the Senate didn't have an archival records program at all. She arrived in a moment of chaos and confusion and concern about how the record of the works Senators do would be preserved. Karen saw this blank canvas as an opportunity, a chance to develop the standards for how records and papers preserved here in Congress are done.

For over four decades, she has been at the heart of nearly every effort to establish and modernize the policies and procedures related to congressional records.

I don't know if she is here. Is she?

I note the word "trailblazer" and "archivist" are probably rarely used in the same sentence, let alone to describe the same person, but that is Karen to a tee.

We thank her for her service in the Senate and the Nation and wish her and her family the very best in their next chapter.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT FLIGHT ACCIDENT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, first let me start that all of us here in the Senate and around the country, having seen what we saw that happened last night at Reagan National Airport, it was tragic. It was heartbreaking.

There are many questions that need to be answered in the coming days, but

today all of America is praying—praying for the 64 individuals on the American Airlines flight that lost their lives, praying for the 3 soldiers aboard the Army helicopter, praying for the families of the victims. It truly is a heartbreaking moment for our country.

We are so grateful for the bravery of the first responders. We thank the Metropolitan Airport Authority's Fire Department, the Washington DC Fire Department, the Metropolitan Police Department, the U.S. Park Police, and all the more than 300 first responders who are assisting in the recovery efforts.

CABINET NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, I also want to talk today about prices, about energy, and about our economy. The message is simple: Unleashing American energy will help lower prices. It is essential. Energy is often called the master resource. By controlling our own energy production, we are able to control our own future.

Not long ago, America was the leading producer of energy in the entire world. President Trump had made America energy independent, and he did that for the first time in decades.

Well, that changed in 4 short years under the prior administration. We went from a Nation of energy dominance to a Nation of energy dependence. The previous administration went on a regulatory rampage. It was disastrous for our economy. The results were painfully high prices—prices for food, prices for fuel, all sky-high.

Suddenly, Washington was attacking energy producers and energy workers in States like my home State of Wyoming. Our Nation found itself turning to adversaries for our energy.

Let me ask a simple question: Does anyone—anyone—believe that we are better off relying on dictators in China or Russia or Venezuela or Iran to help power our country? Does anyone believe we are better off when energy prices are sky-high? Were we, as a Nation, more prosperous?

Well, the answer to all of these is no.

For the past 4 years the previous administration treated energy as an enemy. Governor Doug Burgum and Chris Wright will treat American energy as the God-given blessing that it is. It is available, affordable, and reliable. American energy is an asset. Energy is the source of our strength in America. It is a solution to help bring down painfully high prices. America is an energy super power, and we should act like it.

Working together, Governor Burgum and Chris Wright will be a powerhouse energy team for our Nation.

Governor Burgum grew up in Arthur, ND, population 400. He studied business at Stanford University. He built Great Plains, a software company, and he built it into a global public company.

As Governor of North Dakota for the last 8 years, he drove his State's transformation into an energy and technology leader. Instead of blocking en-

ergy production, he invited and incentivized companies to operate in North Dakota, and it worked. In turn, his State produced more and more energy. So there was more and more success.

In his Senate hearing, Governor Burgum explained the success. He said:

We live in a time of tremendous abundance, and we can access that abundance by prioritizing innovation over regulation.

He is right on.

I questioned Governor Burgum in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

In Wyoming, we have more than 600,000 acres of Federal land that were previously approved for energy production, but for the last 4 years, the previous administration never offered those acres for lease. It also blocked using that land even though energy explorers purchased the right to that land over 4 years ago, before they even came into office.

I am so glad that Governor Burgum has committed to quickly addressing this issue. He is going to take the commonsense action of unlocking our lands for oil and for gas production, and we need the energy. We need all of it in this country.

Chris Wright is also an innovative leader. He studied nuclear fusion at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He then worked in solar and geothermal engineering. At Liberty Energy, a fracking company he founded and where he is currently the CEO, his creative, data-driven leadership kick-started the American fracking revolution.

What I like most about Mr. Wright is that he tells the truth about energy production. He acknowledges that climate change is real. He knows more American energy is the solution, not the problem. His energy realism is welcomed news.

When I spoke with Mr. Wright in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, we agreed about the need for an "all of the above" energy strategy, including nuclear energy. Mr. Wright agrees with me that it is not in America's best interest to be dependent on imported uranium from Russia. Congress passed my legislation to ban the import of Russian uranium into the United States. The Secretary of Energy has the discretion to provide waivers to companies that import that uranium, and I am pleased that Mr. Wright has committed to using these waivers only in very limited and extreme circumstances. He also pledged to work with all of us to end uranium imports from communist China. These are very positive steps that need to be taken for rebuilding America's nuclear energy supply.

Both Governor Burgum and Mr. Wright are optimistic about America's energy future, and they should be. I strongly support them. They are America's energy all-stars. They have laid out an inspiring vision for lowering

prices, for building up our energy supply, and for dealing with our adversaries from a position of strength.

Later today, the Senate will vote to confirm Governor Burgum as Secretary of the Interior. Chris Wright's confirmation will follow soon thereafter. They deserve strong support here in the Senate. With their leadership, the age of climate alarmism is over. The golden age of American energy dominance is here.

Additionally, I just heard the minority leader talk about the hearing today for Kash Patel as the nominee to be the Director of the FBI. The minority leader said he hadn't heard anything at the hearing that adequately addressed what Mr. Patel would do to make America safer. I would just refer to what was written today by Mr. Patel in the Wall Street Journal when he wrote an article that said: "How I'll Rebuild Public Trust in the FBI."

That will make America safer.

He wrote:

If confirmed, I will remain focused on the FBI's core mission and not involve the bureau in prosecutorial decisions. Determining whether someone should be charged with a crime is the responsibility of the Justice Department, not the FBI. If confirmed, I will guide the agency in investigating criminals and safeguarding the homeland.

To me, that answers the question.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Alabama.

CABINET NOMINATIONS

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I would like to start by thanking Leader THUNE for pushing to confirm all of President Trump's Cabinet nominees so far. President Trump is on the verge of having his full team. We have confirmed Pete Hegseth, Kristi Noem, Scott Bessent, and many others who are doing an outstanding job implementing President Trump's America-first agenda. But there are more critical nominees that President Trump still needs confirmed. This includes Robert Kennedy, Kash Patel, and Tulsi Gabbard, along with a few others.

I have gotten a chance to meet with each of these nominees and have been very impressed. They are all outstanding choices and should be confirmed to President Trump's Cabinet as soon as possible.

First, I would like to express my complete and total support for Robert F. Kennedy's nomination to be the next Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Last November, we saw millions of Americans—especially young Americans—flock to the MAGA movement after Bobby Kennedy endorsed Presi-

dent Trump. Both my sons, 28 and 30, Tucker and Troy, were huge fans of RFK, and I know there are just millions of young people who RFK has brought to the table and into the fold, opening their eyes towards something they had never really been involved in, and that is the health of their generation and all generations across the country. As we know, Bobby started the Make America Healthy Again movement, known MAHA, which eventually joined forces with President Trump. MAHA is not just a political slogan; it is a movement that has swept our Nation.

For the first time, important issues like the effectiveness of vaccines, the dangers of prescription medicines, and the chemicals in our food and household products are part of our national political disclosure, as they should be. And it is all because of the work of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

You know, before entering the arena, Bobby spent four decades in environmental law and in healthcare policy, specializing in issues like water pollution, vaccines, and food safety—four decades. He is an accomplished attorney who attended Harvard, the London School of Economics, and the University of Virginia. And he has authored multiple best-selling books that I would suggest anybody that is concerned about the health of our country should read.

Throughout his career, he has committed to discovering the truth about what is causing the chronic disease epidemic in America today, and his Presidential campaign exposed the fact that we have a serious—a very serious—public health crisis facing our country today and in the future. For example, in his hearing yesterday, Bobby Kennedy laid out that over 70 percent of adults and one-third of our children are overweight or obese. The rate of diabetes is 10 times more prominent today than it was in 1960. Cancer among our young people is rising by 1 or 2 percent every year. Autoimmune diseases, neurodevelopmental disorders, and addiction cases are hugely on the rise. Depression and anxiety rates are absolutely through the roof.

Meanwhile, more Americans are relying on pharmaceutical drugs than ever before. I saw that in my former life of being a coach of players. Years ago, very few of them were on any kind of drug, such as Adderall or Ritalin, for attention deficit. But in the last few years, there was a huge uptick in prescription drugs for many, many young people across the country. These findings are alarming, and they should and they had better shock all of us.

Thank God, Bobby has dedicated his life to getting to the bottom of what is causing these trends. As he did in his hearing yesterday, Bobby is an expert on the health issues facing our country and has the facts, the data, and the evidence to prove it, and he will bring his commitment to evidence-based science transparency to our national health Agencies.

And it is simple. Americans want access to all the facts so they can decide what is best for themselves and for their families. Bobby has committed to giving Americans the information that they need to be informed and make informed decisions.

Recently, I have seen the mainstream media and some politicians attempt to smear Bobby Kennedy as anti-vax, anti-industry, or an enemy of food producers. All of this couldn't be further from the truth. It is just a political attack.

We have even heard from prominent Republicans, like former Vice President Mike Pence, who is running ads on TV criticizing Bobby Kennedy for not being sufficiently pro-life. Bobby addressed this himself yesterday. He believes every abortion is a tragedy, and he will work with President Trump to implement his pro-life policies.

These attacks are nothing more than dishonest attempts by the DC establishment to tank his nomination. We have seen that in the last couple of weeks on all nominees.

Sure, Bobby Kennedy may not be the typical pick for the job, but the American people don't want a typical pick.

The one we picked 4 years ago for President Biden was a lawyer living in California and very seldom came to Washington, DC. He worked from home. We got nothing done in Health and Human Services.

They gave us a mandate in November—77 million people—to deliver President Trump's agenda, and that includes making America healthy again.

As far as I am concerned, Bobby is not part of being the healthcare establishment class. That is a really good thing. We don't need that. Look at where it has gotten us.

The pharmaceutical industry and the industrial food complex won't be running the show anymore when Bobby Kennedy is confirmed. Instead, he will restore our health Agencies to the gold standard of specific research and explore historic healthcare alternatives as part of our efforts to end chronic disease epidemics across this country.

Ultimately, this will lower costs for Americans and ease the burden on our entire healthcare system, which is being overrun by all of the conditions that we have popping up today. With the many public health crises we are facing as a country, we have no time to waste.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting Bobby for HHS Secretary and help President Trump make America healthy again.

For our next nominee, I would like to turn to Kash Patel. He is on the Hill today going through his confirmation hearing.

Kash is President Trump's pick to be the FBI Director, who testified in front of the Senate all morning long. Kash is an excellent choice, and he has my full support.

It is clear to the American people that the culture at the top of our top

police Agency in this country, the FBI, is rotten. It is rotten to the core. We have some good people, but the people in charge have made devastating decisions against a lot of people across this country. It is far past time to clean house at the FBI.

Over the last 4 years, we have seen the Bureau become politicized and weaponized. The Biden administration turned the FBI into the “Fake Bureau of Investigations.” The scales of justice were never fair and balanced under the last administration.

Christopher Wray, the Director, went after parents and school boards, proliferators. He went after Catholics. He went after grandmas who peacefully protested right outside this building on January 6. He went to their homes and arrested them—not to mention the unprecedented raid on President Trump’s home in Mar-a-Lago, FL.

What we have seen unfold at our Nation’s premiere law enforcement Agency over the last 4 years is a complete and absolute disgrace to the American people and our Constitution. Not only has the public’s trust in the FBI been completely eroded, but it has been a disservice to all the great men and women in the FBI who commit every day to defending the Constitution and protecting us as American citizens.

It is going to take a lot of hard work to right this ship. Trust has to be put back into the FBI. Kash Patel is the right man to do the job.

He is qualified and has an impressive resume. He served in several national security and intelligence roles as a Federal prosecutor and as a public defender.

Not only is Kash qualified, but he also has the courage and the resolve needed to restore our faith in the FBI.

Despite the media’s lies, Kash won’t have his enemies list when he takes the job—unlike the Biden administration. If crimes are committed, he will open investigations, follow facts wherever they lead—no bias, no partiality. Kash will bring back truth and transparency, uphold the rule of law and the Constitution, and protect Americans against its enemies, foreign and domestic. He will ensure that the government works for the American people, and not the other way around.

Let’s confirm Kash quickly and give President Trump an important component of his national security team. I look forward to supporting Kash Patel and hope my Republican colleagues will do the same.

Finally, we need to confirm Tulsi Gabbard to be our next Director of National Intelligence. Like Kash, Tulsi will play a critical role on President Trump’s national security team.

She just had her hearing in front of the Senate Intel Committee this morning. Her hearing only further confirmed to me that Tulsi is the perfect candidate for the DNI role.

She is a decorated lieutenant colonel, with over 20 years of service in the military. Tulsi served in combat in the

Iraq War and is currently active in service.

She has a top security clearance, having passed five background checks to receive it. Tulsi served in Congress for 8 years, where she sat on the Homeland Security, Armed Services, and Foreign Relations Committees. And as a Member of Congress, she consistently participated in high-level intelligence briefings.

As she has displayed throughout her entire career in the military and as an elected official, Tulsi will bring a fearless spirit to the DNI role.

I have to tell you, my meeting with Tulsi was one of the most impressive meetings I have had since I have been in this office, going on 5 years. Her depth of knowledge and expertise is unmatched. I have no doubt that she will keep our country secure while protecting the Constitution and the constitutional rights of all Americans.

She will help us return to “peace through strength” and put an end to America’s costly foreign wars.

The attacks on her, questioning her loyalty to the United States, are absolutely disgusting. It is insulting. Tulsi has devoted her entire life to serving this country, the military, and in public service.

To the Senators criticizing Tulsi for not fitting the typical mold of a DNI director, might that be a good thing? Have the last several years shown us that the status quo is working? I don’t think so, and I don’t think the American people think so either, and they are the ones that count.

Tulsi brings a fresh perspective to the job and the America that we all want and deserve. We do not need another James Clapper.

Like the FBI, we have seen our intelligence community weaponized to target opponents of the regime. The IC conspired to take down President Trump in 2016 and 2020 and, maybe, most recently, in the election a couple months ago. For that reason, I think Tulsi is exactly the change agent we need leading our intelligence community.

Like Bobby Kennedy, Tulsi switched her party affiliation because she saw the status quo as a threat to the American people and our constitutional rights. As Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi will check her politics at the door, just like she has done the last 20 years serving in our military. She will come to DNI without any bias. She will fix our broken intelligence community—and, folks, it is broken.

I look forward to confirming Tulsi to DNI. I urge all my colleagues to join me in voting for Tulsi. She will play a major role in President Trump’s team and restoring faith in our intelligence community.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRUMP EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, the American public won yesterday. After 36 hours of public panic and confusion and outrage, the Trump White House rescinded the illegal and unconstitutional order to freeze Federal funding for every State in the country.

It was an obvious attempt to usurp power, designed to hurt people by cutting off access to the things that they need most. When you say “Federal grants,” you might think it is just some subcategory—nonprofits or something—and that they are just doing a review, but let me list the things that were cut off over that 36-hour period: meals, schools, healthcare, childcare, roads and bridges, public safety. So it was no surprise that people all across the country were so outraged. They called our offices; they spoke up online; and they let their frustrations be known.

It was a little different than a normal political argument, because it was very real. It was, Do I have to send my people home today? It was, Hey, with the Federal funding portal—basically, a website—we take a drawdown, and then those dollars allow us to make our payroll for this domestic violence shelter or this construction project. If it is shut down, I am not going to make payroll, and if I am not going to be able to make payroll, you guys have to go home. I can’t pay you.

So this wasn’t something just to argue about online. This was across the country—people trying to figure out whether society as we knew it was going to continue.

This was not just a review of Federal funding or an effort to allow a new administration and a new Congress to put its stamp on the appropriations process. This was an attempt to take an enacted law and say: You know, I would like to take the parts of this law that I like and implement them, and I would like to take the parts of this law that I don’t like and not implement them.

Look, I would like to be 6 feet tall. I would like to dunk a basketball. I would like to be able to surf a pipeline. I would like to be able to take all of the waste in the Department of Defense and pour it into the native Hawaiians’ needs around housing and healthcare, but I am not a monarch, so I have to do this the old-fashioned way, which is to argue with my colleagues, to cajole my colleagues, to work with my colleagues, to do a little horse trading with my colleagues and get a law enacted. And there are going to be parts of that law that we enact—because it is big; it is Federal spending; it is a lot of spending—that I am not going to like, and there are going to be parts that I will love, but once it becomes the law, it is not within anyone’s discretion—

not a President, not head of the Office of Management and Budget, not the majority leader, not the minority leader, not an individual Member of Congress, not a Federal judge—to say: Pick what you like in this law; implement it; pick what you don't like in this law, and don't implement it.

So the judge said in Federal court yesterday: "The administration is acting with a distinction without a difference. While the piece of paper may not exist"—that is the rescinded budget memo—"there's sufficient evidence that the defendants"—the government—"collectively are acting consistent with that directive."

So we won the first battle, but, look, we understand this is probably going to last a thousand days or so. We are ready, and we will win this battle.

Look, I am not naive about what happens when you lose the House, you lose the Senate, and you lose the Presidency to the other party. You are in for some policy outcomes that you don't like. But, you know what, do it the old-fashioned way. Enact a law. Work within the law. Because the door does swing both ways in this town.

I just want every Republican who may be watching this speech, every person who cares about democracy itself who may be watching this speech, every staffer who may be watching this speech—I want you to imagine a President that you didn't vote for with this kind of authority. I want you to assume that sometimes there will be a Democratic President and sometimes there will be a Republican President, and that is the way it goes, that is the way our system is set up, and it is OK to suffer through and try to slow down or even thwart bad policy outcomes, but it should not be within the authority of a President to say: I won, and so I am just going to hand-wave away the parts of Federal law that I find objectionable.

I think that is such a high principle for anyone who spent all of this time and, frankly, money to get to the U.S. Senate, right? It is a sacrifice. It is a great job. There are Senators who spend so much time, and then they get here, and they kind of hate it, and they are kind of whining about it. I don't do that. I love this job. But it is a sacrifice, and there are a lot of very talented people who could be elsewhere working less hard and making more money. We get here because we want to get something done.

We all swear an oath to uphold the laws and the Constitution of the United States of America. The Constitution is not unclear. There are places where the Constitution, as Madeleine Albright said, is an invitation to struggle. In particular, on foreign policy, the Constitution is an invitation to struggle. It was intentionally made kind of opaque or even confusing between the article I and the article II branch. It was actually supposed to be not clear who was to drive foreign policy. So we have the Foreign Relations

Committee, we have the Appropriations Committee, and we have the Senate State and Foreign Ops Subcommittee, of which I am ranking member. That is a place where we are going to kind of do battle with each other between the branches of government and among the parties and between the two Chambers. That is all fine, and that is how the Constitution is set up.

But let's be clear. The Constitution is not at all unclear about the power of the purse. The power to appropriate money, the obligation to appropriate money is squarely in the hands of the legislative branch.

So it is not like a State government. It is not even like a county government, where you can go: Hey, I know you want that swimming pool in your district. Can we talk about how I need your vote on X, Y, Z?

That is how counties work sometimes, unfortunately. That is how even State governments sometimes work, unfortunately. But in the Federal system, once the law is enacted, the executive branch has discretion within that law, but they can't just ignore it, and when it is spending, they can't ignore it. That is what a Federal judge confirmed yesterday, and they will continue to confirm it.

Look, I worry about a lot of things, and I think we should all be vigilant, but I also don't think we should act as though we are powerless. We are out of power, but we are not powerless, because this President, just like any other President—it is not personal—is constrained by the law, is constrained by the Constitution, and is constrained by politics, which is to say, doing unpopular things is going to make him unpopular.

Shutting down VA home loans is unpopular. Telling people who are showing up to work on a highway maintenance project, with all their equipment staged, "Sorry, there has been a freeze on grant funding, and you have to go home" is unpopular.

Taking Medicaid—by the way, Medicaid comes to State government and then to hospitals and to clinics and to elder care facilities as a grant. So when you think "grant," I don't want you to think about a \$1.2 million grant to a nonprofit, although that is very important too. Most of the money that flows to State and county government, most of the money that flows to the private sector, they are grants.

So everybody needs to understand this lesson this week, which is, we did not elect a monarch. What I mean by that is, for my fellow travelers on the left, everybody has to understand that things are scary. We should be vigilant. This is going to be rough. I understand all that. But we don't catastrophize to the point where we think that this man is above the law. He is not above the law, and yesterday was a good reminder that nobody in this country is above the law.

So I am reminded of what the former speaker of the Hawaii State House used

to say—Calvin Say, who I was friends with, but then I tried to topple him, and so he relegated me to the back bench, but now we are friends again—he said: Be like the Bamboo—bend, but don't break.

So I do think democracy is going to be tested. I do think this institution is going to be tested. I think we are going to bend in ways that are super uncomfortable, and I am going to hate it. But we have to bend but not break. We have to bend but not break.

That goes for both political parties because, I promise you, it is not worth it. This person is not going to be President forever. A lot of people have safe seats, and a lot of people are in 6-year terms, and a lot of people are about to retire. I do think that oath to uphold and defend the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America has to continue to count for something.

So there was a lot of good, frankly, bipartisan pushback on what was clearly an unlawful Executive order and an implementing memo.

Look, it has been a rough couple of weeks if you are on my side of the aisle. I get that. Elections have consequences, and it has been really, really painful and scary, and really bad consequences happen. But we also have to understand that we won one yesterday and that Federal funds appear to be flowing again for State and county governments and that a couple of judges basically said: You can't do that. You can't do that.

So whether it was the birthright citizenship loss in court that the Trump administration experienced or this about the power of the purse, we just need to remember that we are still a democratic system with three coequal branches of government.

CABINET NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, we are voting on several nominees who will be in charge of executing Donald Trump's environmental and energy agenda, including Doug Burgum for the Secretary of the Interior.

Of course, the Trump administration's climate and energy policies are not a mystery. It is to exacerbate the climate crisis.

I think there is a healthy debate to be had, and I think some of my Republican colleagues know that I can be shockingly reasonable in the policy space around energy. The reason is, even though I have devoted my entire political career to climate action, I also come from a State that is highly dependent on low-sulfur fuel oil for electricity. So the pragmatism has to kick in because as much as I want us to be 100 percent renewable, and I think we will eventually get there, in the meantime, I have no interest in turning off the lights. In the meantime, we have a tourism industry to support. In the meantime, INDOPACOM is located on the island of Oahu.

So the closer you get to operationalizing a clean energy transformation, the more reasonable, I think, you become because you understand that we are currently using electrons that are derived—at least on the electricity transmission, distribution, generation side—that are derived from fossil energy. So we are going to have to make a transition.

So most of us—some people want to cease all fossil fuel generation. Some people want to, you know, go a little more slowly in the direction of transition, but most of us are probably in this band where we are just arguing about how fast we need to make this transition.

But I just want everybody to understand that the Trump administration's position is not that we are making this transition too fast but that we should never make it.

One of his first Executive orders was to shut down a bunch of offshore wind. So we have gone from energy abundance, energy dominance, all of the above, to, actually we don't really want energy dominance or energy abundance; we only want one category of energy because a lot of these offshore wind projects, which, by the way, were in the tens of billions of dollars—very exciting things—were coming in really low, cheaper than the current power purchase agreements that the utilities on the east coast were under. So this was about cheap and abundant energy.

So to the extent that there are some folks who thought that we were moving too fast in the direction of a clean energy transformation and that maybe we should slow down and that maybe we should look at the mix and maybe we should do natural gas if we can get the methane part of this under control—all of that I might not agree with, but I can kind of see where you are coming from, depending on your geography and depending on your politics.

But that is not what just happened. What just happened is they said wind is dead on the offshore, and they are trying to do as much of this as possible to create a demand for coal, right, for fossil gas.

So I am deeply worried about Lee Zeldin and Mr. Wright and Mr. Burgum.

I will also tell you that I was inclined to be openminded on Mr. Burgum because he has a very good relationship with his Tribes.

As the ranking member of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, I have come to take seriously the idea that, as I work with MARKWAYNE MULLIN and LISA MURKOWSKI and JERRY MORAN and JOHN HOEVEN and a bunch of people with whom I don't necessarily vote the same way, we have common cause when it comes to protecting the treaty and trust obligations and rights—I was just complimenting you, Mr. MORAN—of Native people: Native Hawaiians, Native Alaskans, and Native American

Indians. So I was inclined to have a good conversation with Mr. Burgum and at least consider voting for him.

Let me tell you why I am voting no—two reasons. One is, I do believe what happened this week is unlawful, I think it is unconstitutional, and I think it was presenting us with a constitutional crisis. So in a moment of it being a close call, I am going to err on the side of expressing my opposition to what the Trump administration is doing as it relates to Federal spending.

But I also specifically said I would like to have a phone call with Mr. Burgum. Look, I have an ego like the rest of us, but I am not one to get my nose out of joint—except playing basketball against my older brother—about someone not getting back to me or treating me, you know, with the proper protocol. But one of the reasons you vote for a Secretary is to have a working relationship should anything come up, whether it has to do with Tribal equities or Native Hawaiian issues or Federal land in the State of Hawaii or anything that comes under the Department of the Interior, and Mr. Burgum, I guess, just doesn't feel he needs my vote because we were never able to land a phone call.

So I will vote no today, and I hope we can continue to explore the possibility of working together and compromising where we can and fighting where we must.

This week was a rocky, rocky road, but week 2—democracy is still standing.

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

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

Mr. JUSTICE. Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent to address the Senate while seated.

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

CABINET NOMINATIONS

Mr. JUSTICE. Mr. President, I can clearly tell you that it is a real honor to be addressing you, addressing my address on the Senate floor. Also, it is a real honor from the standpoint of being the new kid on the block. You know, you got several new kids now, but it is a real honor to be here and be with you.

I want to tell you just one thing about me real quick. I am all about the truth and, today, what I say to you will be just that. I challenge the media from time to time and say: Find something that knowingly I have told you is not true. And they can't do it. Now I make plenty of mistakes, but I speak just the truth.

So I am here today not to waste anybody's time. You know, I really truly

will never do that. I absolutely when I speak, I hope that others will listen because I am speaking from the heart, and I am speaking just purely the truth.

Doug Burgum is a really special man. His wife Kathryn, absolutely a wonderful lady. I know them well. It is a great man and a great family.

I can tell you just this: If you are looking for a Secretary of the Interior that is a smart guy, a super experienced guy, a compassionate guy, a guy that absolutely has unbelievable knowledge, Doug Burgum is the guy. That is all there is to it.

You know, being the Secretary of the Interior, I know you wear lots and lots and lots of hats. You look after lands and Tribes, and you are really, truly the doorkeeper of God's gifts.

Absolutely, from my standpoint, anybody and everybody that knows JIM JUSTICE, knows that I absolutely love the outdoors, and I truly, absolutely am a person that gets it, gets it all about God's gifts, gets it about the beauty of all of our lands in all of our country all across all of our lands, gets it about nature.

I can promise you, Doug Burgum sees just these things because I see them. He not only sees them, but he hears them. And not only does he hear them, but it touches his soul.

You know, Doug Burgum has seen the brilliance of the red on a scarlet tanager on a real crispy early morning as the Sun comes up. He has heard a wild turkey thunder as it gobbles, and he has seen the majesty of a great big bull elk, and he has seen the discipline of a bird dog.

You know, many dogs when they are hunting or whatever, they chase after and they bark. But a bird dog runs its heart out, finally finds the bird, and freezes and stops. The discipline of a bird dog is something really, really special.

Many people don't see all these things, but Doug Burgum does. And being the Secretary of the Interior with all of our millions of acres of lands, we expect that of that man, and he gets it. He truly, truly gets it.

Also, way beyond that, he will protect our ability to be able to hunt. He absolutely will protect our lands because they touch his soul. It is really, really special.

He also knows something about energy. He has vast, vast knowledge about energy. He has got to protect our natural resources. So just step back and think: Here is a man for whom, really, nature and the beauty of our lands touch his soul. He will protect that.

Absolutely, on top of that, we have an energy crisis in this country like you can't imagine. West Virginia knows energy, and JIM JUSTICE knows energy. Doug Burgum knows it, too, and President Trump knows that absolutely, of everything, energy is the most important of all today. It solves inflation; it provides for our defense. It

is absolutely the key—the answer—to everything. Now, I promise you that President Trump knows this, and Doug Burgum knows this.

I can tell you, from the bottom of my heart—and I hope everyone will listen to just this—if we don't get a handle on our energy situation in this country, a year and a half from today, we will be deciding between homes and jobs. We will be deciding between homes and opportunity for all of our people. We will be deciding between homes and industry. We will have the biggest crisis that you can ever imagine. And it will absolutely come down to just this: Are we going to give all of the advancements—are we going to give China every opportunity under the Sun or, are we going to have those opportunities?

I also believe just this: In this world, as a businessman, I have never seen a situation where you can purely cut your way out of a mess. I have never seen that. Does that mean we don't mind the store? Of course, we do. Does that mean we don't cut out unnecessary waste? We had best better. That is all there is to it. We had better mind the store and do what is right in the greatest way imaginable.

But, with all that being said, we have got to grow revenue. We have a \$2.5 trillion hole in the bucket. We have got to grow revenue. Well, what is the secret to Emerald City? What is the secret, right now, to Emerald City? It is the energy—it abounds all around us—and the United States of America could dominate as an energy leader throughout the entire world. It is absolutely ridiculous for us to blow our own legs off while, in China, they are building coal-fired power plants absolutely faster than you can possibly imagine, and the energy that they produce to fuel those coal-fired power plants is filthy compared to our energy.

I would also say one other thing: You had better always protect the Eastern Coalfields because, if you were to have an emergency—a real, real emergency—our eastern coalfields could bail us out. Two-thirds of the population is within a truck's driving distance of the eastern coalfields. They are really, really important. Doug Burgum gets all of this.

Absolutely, with all in me, I am amazed at President Trump's nominees. You just think of who he has come up with as his nominees. This is a great, great nominee, and I support him wholeheartedly, in every single way.

I would say just this: As impressed as I am with President Trump's nominees and as impressed as I am with Doug Burgum, I would just say just this: In my world, the pick of the litter is Doug Burgum, and absolutely, we ought to unanimously—unanimously—confirm his nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

TRUMP EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, over the last few days, the American people

have felt the painful consequences of Trump's disastrous funding freeze.

Seniors who count on Meals on Wheels have wondered whether they would have dinner this week. Head Start teachers in red States and blue States have panicked over whether they would have the funds needed to keep their doors open and take care of kids. Disaster relief for people who have endured the unimaginable and have been knocked off their feet was thrown into jeopardy. Grant programs to help firefighters do their jobs, to combat the fentanyl crisis, to get families healthcare—and so much more—have been, in an instant, at risk of evaporating into thin air.

I heard from a Tribe in my State concerned they would have to lay off hundreds of staff providing essential services for the Tribe. That could mean putting everything from providing healthcare to housing in jeopardy because of the President's freeze.

A shelter for homeless youth in my State still—still—can't access its HUD funding and is staring down a \$3 million deficit, forcing them to hold an emergency board meeting to figure out what, if anything, they can now do.

Hospitals in my State are worried that programs which are appropriately focused on someone's gender or race are in jeopardy, like how pulse oximeters don't work as well as on dark skin, so they need other pathways to be found.

The chaos and the confusion, the needless stress and distraction are the result of having a President who is more focused on the billionaires who now fill his administration than on the plight of regular people all over this country. But yesterday, because the American people spoke up loud and clear, Donald Trump retreated from his devastating blanket funding freeze.

However, make no mistake, there is still far too much chaos on the ground, and Trump is still blocking billions of dollars for communities across the country—in every one of our States—through these Executive orders. We are talking about critical funding to rebuild our roads and bridges, resources that are already creating thousands of good-paying, new clean energy jobs in every State of this country, and critical global investments that help keep America safe.

This is so completely unacceptable. So, today, I am calling on President Trump to take four simple, common-sense steps.

First of all, he needs to ensure that every last dollar—down to the last penny—that was caught up in this disastrous blanket funding freeze gets out the door.

Secondly, he needs to rescind his Executive orders that are still, at this very moment, ripping funding away from American families and communities.

Third, he needs to withdraw Russell Vought's nomination to oversee our Nation's budget. It is clear that the

person who masterminded so much of this chaos doesn't belong anywhere near the Office of Management and Budget.

Finally, President Trump needs to abandon, once and for all, his illegal scheme to skirt around our laws and block funding that American workers and families are counting on.

I am not asking for a lot here: Ensure every dollar held up by this illegal freeze is restored; stop the ongoing effort to block funding; withdraw the mastermind of this chaos; and simply follow the law.

The American people deserve better than the catastrophe we have witnessed this week. They deserve to know that the investments Trump is currently holding up—to rebuild the highway they drive to work on or to lower their energy costs or so much more—will make it out the door.

If the President is so intent on opposing funding for infrastructure projects and good-paying American jobs, he needs to sit down at the negotiating table and make his case to Congress. I will not let the President rip up the Constitution or rip money away from our communities.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I rise today to speak out on behalf of the American people about the Trump administration's unjust and unconstitutional cutoff of Federal grants and assistance programs.

Donald Trump's administration isn't governing. It is not delivering for the American people. It is stealing from our public services, from Meals on Wheels to community health centers, to housing for our veterans.

From day one, Donald Trump's administration has careened from chaos to self-induced crises. American families and workers are left guessing whether lifesaving services, school lunches, help paying for home heating, basic healthcare, and public safety are going to be funded day by day.

The collective outrage of literally everyone in this country, along with lawsuits filed over its illegal behavior, got Donald Trump's administration to rescind its latest memo to cut off Federal money. But the chaos continues. The confusion continues. The Federal funding witch hunt continues.

The Trump administration has made clear they intend to proceed with their cruel plan of stalling or stopping essential Federal funding. They will lie, disregard Congress, and now they are bypassing the courts.

We will need all of our collective engagement to make sure that Donald

Trump, Elon Musk, and their unelected, unqualified henchmen keep our services going and stop breaking the law because the American people are paying the price on a daily basis.

The consequences—the consequences—of Trump's Federal funding cutoff are already far-reaching, and they are devastating. Doctors were told to turn away patients when the Medicaid payment portals were down. The organizations that are the backbone of our country—food pantries, vocational services—are looking at laying people off. Veterans might be getting evicted as their rent payments don't come through. There might not be someone on the other end of the phone at the national suicide hotline. Think about what that might mean to someone in crisis.

I say again, this funding was sent by Congress to provide necessary services to our constituents in all States, red and blue alike. It is essential, and it has already been signed into law—passed by the U.S. House, passed on the floor of the U.S. Senate, and signed by a President.

This is what the American Revolution was all about. When the redcoats were coming down Massachusetts Avenue, heading toward Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts in 1775, the Minutemen and -women were coming out, and they were all saying the same thing: no taxation without representation.

The King would not give the American Colonies any members of Parliament. They kept begging for the ability to have representation.

So after the American Revolution, and they wrote the Constitution, the first article is to create a House and Senate and to give that first article the power of the purse, the power to spend money. They made it very clear. That is what the Revolution was about.

So I say again, this funding was sent by Congress—article I—to provide necessary services to our constituents in all States. If the Trump administration claims this funding “does not improve the day-to-day lives of those we serve,” then there is just one question every American should be asking the President: Who do you serve? Because it certainly isn't the everyday Americans who will wake up tomorrow without heat in their house, their medicine, or a roof over their head.

The Trump administration said it is targeting “Green New Deal social engineering.” When Trump says he wants to end the Green New Deal, he wants to end union battery manufacturing jobs in Ohio; he wants to end rebates that help American families afford new air-conditioners and heaters; he wants to keep school districts from getting clean buses to take kids to school; he wants to end programs that help our communities rebuild after a disaster, such as the fires in Los Angeles or the hurricanes that devastated Georgia and North Carolina.

What Trump is doing with this so-called freeze, with his Executive or-

ders, with his firing of inspectors general and government regulators, is an unconstitutional, illegal power grab.

But here is the truth: Trump can't get rid of the Green New Deal because there is no stopping a mobilization and a movement once it is galvanized. The Green New Deal doesn't stop until the climate crisis stops. The Green New Deal doesn't stop until fossil fuel billionaires stop lining their pockets while our cities burn to the ground.

I introduced the Green New Deal resolution nearly 6 years ago with Congresswoman ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ. Its values and jobs and justice and climate action are now core parts of our economy and our society. Clearly Trump's unelected bureaucrats are terrified of the power of union jobs, clean air and clean water, and climate action. They are trying to break our country's laws in order to break our movement. We cannot let them do that.

We know we face an uphill battle with a climate denier-in-chief. He doesn't have a Cabinet that he has appointed; he has a cartel that he is putting in place.

You know the saying “money talks”? Well, we heard the money talk loud and clear with Donald Trump's day-one Executive actions, which were a parade of price-gouging fossil fuel giveaways. His energy agenda isn't American dominance; it is the dominance of his donors over our energy policy. It is not “all of the above”; it is “oil above all.” Yes, drill, baby, drill, but kill solar. Kill wind. Kill all-electric vehicles. Kill the Green Revolution. Kill it. It is not “all of the above”; it is taking care of all of his fossil fuel donor buddies.

He made a promise that if he won, he would kill the competition; he would kill the Darwinian paranoia-inducing competition that is happening with wind and solar and all-electric vehicles and battery storage technologies and any technologies that reduce greenhouse gases, which are dangerously warming our planet. And why are they doing that? Because Big Oil and Big Gas are running scared. Fossil fuels have been getting outcompeted by wind and solar and all-electric vehicles. The Big Oil and Big Gas barons see people rejecting their products and having an alternative, and they want to choke out the competition.

That is what the fossil fuel fat cats demanded when they got Donald Trump elected, and that is what Trump is delivering on with his orders to attack climate action, attack offshore wind, attack international climate agreements, and attack our movement, the Green New Deal movement of young people across our country demanding that this government do something about the threat of climate change that was ignored for generations. That is what young people are saying all across our country: Protect us. Protect us from the threat of climate change.

Instead, what Donald Trump is trying to do is to kill all of the protections. All of them. All of them.

So just think of what has been happening. As the rest of the country is sitting around the kitchen table debating necessities to sacrifice this month, they are wondering if they can rebuild after a wildfire or if they can keep the lights on when prices spike as energy gets exported overseas.

I want everyone to understand this: He wants to export oil and export natural gas out of our country. That is his promise to the oil and gas barons. Do you know what that does domestically? It increases the price for everyone here. Consumers and businesses have to pay more because there is less oil and gas here—inflation. Yes, that is the plan—increase the profit for the big fossil fuel plants.

So we can't allow Trump and Republicans to throw families into financial instability just to pay for tax breaks for the ultrawealthy.

Just like climate change won't be solved by any one President, climate action won't be stopped by any one President.

Look at what has happened in the past week. This isn't business as usual, and we have to stop acting like it. That is why I won't be supporting any Trump nominee who will only do his illegal bidding.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in rejecting those who will reject the will of Congress and reject the needs of the American people.

From day one, Donald Trump has been singularly committed to abandoning working people, their future, our very democracy—all for the power of wealth. That is absolutely unacceptable.

Donald Trump isn't just ignoring the promise to lower costs for families and make our Nation safer; he is inflicting harm on millions of Americans, taking away funding for critical, lifesaving health research, from cancer to Alzheimer's. The potential ramifications of Trump's Federal funding freeze are endless.

Trump is trying to bully the American people and public servants into submission by ignoring the law and cutting off funding to take away the services the public needs to get by. This is what dictators do. He wants us to forget what he stands for, for us to either give up either slowly or all at once. We cannot do that. We must stand up.

So whether it is racial justice, the rule of law, reproductive freedom, economic equality, immigrant and refugee rights, our LGBTQ community, universal healthcare, consumer protections, protecting clean air and water, creating union jobs and supporting our union workers, fighting the climate crisis, holding the fat cats accountable for their greed and corruption, more than ever, we must be the fearless voice for a livable future. That is my pledge to you.

It is time to be brave. It is time to stand up for the protection of the most vulnerable in our country and our vulnerable planet.

He is trying to frighten people. He is trying to scare people. That is what his agenda has been right from the beginning. And even when his henchmen put out that first statement in terms of the freeze, the cutoff of funding on Monday night, what does he attribute it to? They want to root out Marxism in our country, they want to protect against transgender people, and they want to kill the Green New Deal. That is what he puts out on the first night.

Well, just so everyone understands, when Republicans are talking about Marxism, they are talking about Social Security; they are talking about Medicare; they are talking about Medicaid; they are talking about public education. That is what they call Marxism, just so everyone understands.

They are going to need hundreds of billions of dollars and more in order to have tax rates for the billionaire boys' club that was sitting right behind the President at the swearing-in. He promised them tax breaks. Where is the money going to come from? I will tell you where it is going to come from—from the programs that they call the Marxist programs. Those are all the healthcare programs. Those are all the education programs.

He has nominated a Secretary of Education who has had to promise to try to end the Department of Education in our country—end it. They need money for billionaires.

In the Department of Education, title I—that is for the poor children in America to get an education, money in there for the kids with disabilities. End the Department of Education? Yes. Marxist. Get that money into the hands of billionaires and millionaires.

Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act, Medicare—those three programs provide healthcare for 170 million Americans to get the healthcare, which they need—170 million Americans. That is where the money is—healthcare. You have to call it Marxist. You have to try to demonize it. That is because they have to pay back all of those people who gave them money in order to win in November.

And he then moves on to transgender kids, trying to demonize them. And we know why he does that. He is just trying to scare people. It is part of who he is.

And then the third part of what he mentioned on Monday night was the Green New Deal. The Green New Deal is the ultimate payback because the President met with the oil and gas executives in April of 2024, and he said to them: If you give me \$1 billion, I will kill all of the renewable energy projects in America. I will take all the money away.

They gave him the money, and now they are going to get paid back. So when they say Green New Deal and they want to kill it, just understand

they want to kill all the competition to the oil and gas industry.

The natural gas industry wants all of offshore wind all along the east coast to just be destroyed because those 30,000 new megawatts would make obsolete the need for more natural gas pipelines to be built along the east coast, and he wants to take care of the natural gas boys. That is what it is all about.

When he says he is going to roll back electric vehicles, roll back fuel economy standards for the vehicles we drive, he is doing that for the oil industry. We put 70 percent of the oil which we consume in our country into gasoline tanks. The more people who drive electric vehicles, the higher the fuel economy standards, the less oil people have to consume, the less money in the pockets of the oil barons—but more money in the pockets of consumers.

So that is what this fight is all about. It is pretty simple. And I am glad they put it up there on Monday night, what this battle is about, because I know it is going to create a movement across this country in the same way that the Green New Deal created a movement that created the momentum that made it possible for us to pass the IRA in 2022.

But another way of saying IRA is “the largest climate bill in the history of the world.” That is what is scaring—totally scaring—the oil and gas industry, because they can see they are losing in the marketplace. They can see that that is where Americans are moving.

So I will just conclude with this one brief history lesson. Back in 2009, when Joe Biden was sworn in as Vice President, we had 2,000, total, electric vehicles in the United States. That is all. We had 2,000 total megawatts of solar in the United States.

Do you know what is frightening to the oil and gas industry? Last year, 40,000 new megawatts of solar in 1 year—frightening to them. All-electric vehicle revolution? Millions have been purchased just in the last 2 years. The oil industry is petrified because we have gone from 2,000 megawatts of solar, total, in the whole history of our country, and 2,000 all-electric vehicles to a revolution, and they want to stop this revolution.

That is what Trump is all about: the payback to big industries that want to thwart Americans who are playing a role in being the leader in the world on all of these green energy and climate issues and then saying to the rest of the world: We will partner with you to solve this problem.

But you cannot preach temperance from a barstool. You cannot tell the rest of the world to stop if you are not doing it yourself. You lose all credibility, which is why Trump just pulled totally out of the Paris climate agreement at the same time. He doesn't want to be part of the world. But that is not how greenhouse gases travel. They travel with the clouds. They trav-

el all over the world. And unless we lead, we are going to pay a tremendous price in subsequent generations for what Donald Trump is trying to perpetrate on our country.

I yield the floor, and I thank the Presiding Officer for his indulgence, and I thank the Senator from Delaware for his indulgence as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I rise today to address the chaos that has been caused by this week's disastrous, unprecedented, and unconstitutional funding freeze directive.

Then-Candidate Trump said on the first night of the Republican National Convention: Starting on day one, we will drive down prices and make America affordable again.

I don't think the actions of this week have contributed to making America affordable again or driving down prices at all. Instead, when the White House abruptly announced a complete halt to all domestic grants—grants that covered trillions of dollars of spending to thousands of organizations, from medical research to police and fire, from construction projects to daycares and senior centers—it caused great chaos and concern. I got calls, texts, and emails from hundreds of Delawareans—from the State and local governments, from nonprofits, from business leaders—saying: What does this mean?

Meals on Wheels, school lunches for Delawareans in schools, opioid prevention programs and community healthcare centers, critical programs for military families stationed at Dover Air Force Base, and police and fire departments up and down the State raised their hands, digitally, to say: What does this mean, and where are we going?

The Delaware delegation convened a conference call that day with 250 different participants to try and give them clarity on the path forward. I hope that this disastrous directive has been rescinded, but I only can say “I hope” because I don't truly know.

The White House Press Office tried to rescind the rescission. So it is unclear exactly what its status is now. There have been filings in court, both in the District Court for DC and for Rhode Island. There is an injunction against the OMB order here in DC. There is an injunction or a TRO under consideration up in Rhode Island. But it created a mess. It created a mess at a time when Americans need clarity.

What I have heard from business and business leaders for decades is that predictability is the most important part for businesses to grow, and what I have heard from families and friends at home was that this was not the sort of start they had expected to the Trump administration.

I want to caution folks: We may not know when or if the administration will try this order a second time or a third time. I will remind you that at the beginning of the last Trump administration, he tried to pass a Muslim

travel ban—a ban on people coming to this country from a series of Muslim-majority countries. That ban was enjoined in Federal court. It was blocked. They tried again. It was blocked. They tried a third time. It was ultimately found to clear judicial muster.

So, frankly, an administration that has said over and over again they believe that impoundment is within the scope of power of the President is likely to try again and again. Impoundment sounds like a fancy way of putting your dog on a leash in the backyard. What it means is violating our constitutional order.

Article I of the Constitution sets the powers of Congress, and the power of the purse—the ability to say what will and won't be spent—is central to the relevance and the authority of the U.S. Congress.

And I will say there is a reason this is dangerous; this is bad. I am an appropriator. Those of us who serve on the Appropriations Committee, every year, participate in a difficult and complex process where we pull together all the different requirements and requests and issues and concerns from across our States and departments, and we pass a bill here on the floor. We pass it through the House. We send it to the President. The President signs it, and then the directives go out for what grants and what funding will be available.

I understand; President Trump won the election. There is a new majority in Congress. I fully expected that this year's appropriations process would reflect those different priorities. That is the normal order of things. But this order is reaching back to last year's appropriations and the previous President and trying to freeze it and reallocate.

That has real consequences for our ability to come to bipartisan agreements and pass legislation on appropriations if, in the going-forward years, Presidents can say, "I am not actually going to do disaster relief for this State because I don't like them," or, "I am going to freeze and cut funding for this program because it doesn't fit with my priorities," when he has already got signed legal orders.

There are still impacts on the ground. I am still hearing from Delawareans that funding for construction of roads or bridges under the bipartisan infrastructure law and new energy sources and tax credits under the Inflation Reduction Act are frozen or facing freezes.

And I want to turn to another concern of mine that is critical, important, and ongoing, but let's just focus on this first point. Until Trump backs down on these illegal orders and respects Congress's power of the purse and puts his focus back on helping Americans and reducing costs, this place and our country will not function and will not get better. Nothing about this order makes us safer, more prosperous, or more secure.

Mr. President, I am speaking today in strong opposition to President Trump's illegal Executive order of last Friday night that pauses all of our foreign assistance and development assistance. Let's be clear. Our development assistance, our foreign aid, isn't about charity; it is about security, and it is about values. We have alliances and partnerships around the world that are undergirded by our soft power, by our partnerships and investments in helping make the world safer, more stable, and more secure.

And what happened last Friday night at the end of the workday, when there was no one there to answer urgent questions, was a freeze on all foreign assistance, with a very narrow exception for food aid, and it has caused chaos in the global community that delivers aid and assistance around the world. For days, there were questions unanswered—what did this mean?—in Ukraine, in Lebanon, where there are wars and ceasefires, where critical grant funding and work by contractors help put the lights back on after Russian attacks on the electrical infrastructure in Ukraine, where a ceasefire implementation in Lebanon was ongoing; in parts of the world where we were continuing to bring home to the United States those who had served alongside us in Afghanistan, Afghan SIVs and their families, waiting for processing, abandoned from Qatar and here in the United States; a halt on drug supplies that help keep 20 million people living with HIV through the program PEPFAR, long supported by Presidents and Congresses of both parties; a freeze on activity to counter fentanyl and narcotics trafficking, to push back on Chinese and Russian disinformation, and to promote democracy. With urgent upcoming elections, the International Republican Institute and the National Democratic Institute are frozen in their activities and forced to lay off or furlough their workforce.

Let me thank Secretary Rubio for responding to urgent calls to broaden the aperture for humanitarian waivers for this freeze, but let me also say that with dozens and dozens of the most senior people at USAID put on furlough—so implementing this got harder—and with thousands of contractors who work for USAID in countries around the world dismissed or laid off, the consequences will be severe.

I will just give you one example. I suspect everyone listening has heard of the disease Ebola. I suspect not everyone has heard of the disease Marburg. They are related. They are highly transmissible and deadly viruses. There is a new outbreak of Ebola in the capital of Uganda. There is an ongoing outbreak of Marburg in the neighboring country of Tanzania. This freeze pauses the pandemic surveillance work, the urgent public health work, the assistance we provide that makes sure that we are safe from a rapidly emerging and lethal global pandemic that we put in place after the last pandemic.

When we halt foreign assistance, it has consequences. It is just 1 percent of our total budget. Most Americans think it is a big percent of our spending, but it is 1 percent—actually, less than 1 percent—of the total Federal budget. And there is a winner here. It is not the American taxpayer. Freezing programs like this causes chaos and often causes more to restart them after a review.

The winner is China. Our biggest global competitor and adversary is delighted that we have handed them an opportunity to say to communities and countries around the world that we are not a reliable partner; that despite contracts and promises, commitments and programs, they now have months to crow about how we have abandoned our partnerships with country after country around the world. China is delighted when we lay off or furlough or cut the resources that help fuel the work of our diplomats and our development professionals.

And China has seen its opportunity to expand its influence through programs like the Belt and Road Initiative. They have spent a trillion dollars in projects across the global south in the last decade, and our ability to counter Chinese influence, to make strategic investments, has been put gravely at risk by putting on hold the workforce and the contracts that help deliver.

The administration may be claiming that this pause is temporary, but its effects will not be. The lasting impacts on small businesses, on contractors, on NGOs, and loss of expertise, loss of their workforce, and loss of their credibility I think will be lasting, dangerous, and harmful.

NOMINATION OF TULSI GABBARD

Mr. President, I rise today to warn my colleagues about the risks posed by the nomination of Tulsi Gabbard to be Director of National Intelligence. As ranking member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, I have a substantial role with our Nation's intelligence community.

And what we have seen already from former Congresswoman Gabbard in her hearing is alarming. Refusing to speak clearly to the actions of Edward Snowden that have earned him the title "traitor."

Bemoaning the rise of HTS in Syria without mentioning the fall of the brutal dictator Assad. Repeatedly dodging relevant, timely, and pointed questions about FISA and section 702, critical to America's security.

All of this, sadly, is in keeping with a longstanding record as an apologist for authoritarians and enemies of our Nation. She has repeatedly blamed the United States and NATO for Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. She visited Syria and met with Assad, a brutal dictator, in 2017, and relied on pro-Assad sources to cast doubt on his horrific use of chemical weapons to attack his own people.

And former Congresswoman Gabbard's long history of repeating

pro-Kremlin talking points, such as the false claim the United States was operating biological research labs in Ukraine has made her a favorite guest on Russia state media.

We should be working together to elevate people in our national security apparatus who are sanctioned and banned from Russia because they have worked hard to oppose our enemies, not praised by them.

Our Nation faces real and growing security threats daily. We need an intelligence service resourced, equipped, and led to capably oppose them.

Can we count on Tulsi Gabbard to provide that leadership? I don't think so. And I cannot support her nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). The Senator from Iowa.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, every so often, I come to the Senate floor to bring my colleagues up to date on the lack of financial management system in the Department of Defense.

I am here again to address what I consider a festering bureaucratic sore. The Pentagon can't keep track of the taxpayers' money. And as I just indicated, I speak about this many times. In 30 years of watchdogging, little or nothing has happened.

Internal controls over the taxpayers' money remain weak or nonexistent at the Department of Defense. And I am here today to speak specifically about a recent inspector general's audit, driving home that point. Specifically, auditors discovered \$1.1 billion in undocumented payments by the Pentagon using funds Congress provided to assist Ukraine.

They examined 479 transactions for the calendar year 2022, totaling \$2.1 billion dollars. The auditors determined that 65 percent of the transactions could not be verified for a lack of documentation.

If the sample were doubled in size, the inspector general estimated a staggering 94 percent would be unsupported.

Now, we all agree that is unacceptable; or if we don't agree that that is unacceptable, there is something wrong with our thinking.

The rules are crystal clear. Supporting documentation is required when paying bills. Proper documentary support should include a contract, travel authorization, invoice, receipts, payment voucher, or things like that.

And I don't mean you have to have all those available to pay a bill, but you ought to have at least one of them or more before you spend the taxpayers' money.

Now, taken together, these records form an audit trail essential for payment verification and fraud detection.

If the documents match up, a bill is ready to pay. So \$1.1 billion went out the door, and there is no documentation to back it up.

I want to make very clear: That is an audit report, not CHUCK GRASSLEY say-

ing that. So we don't know how that money was used. Was it spent to assist Ukraine as required, or was it misused or stolen? We simply don't know.

Clearly, unsupported payments leave the door wide open to fraudsters. Paying bills without documentation shows neglect and indifference. It is reckless and should not be tolerated.

These undocumented expenditures occurred on the watch of Chief Financial Officer—or as we know him CFO Mike McCord. Though Mike McCord has departed the Department, he and his deputies are accountable. They failed to exercise due diligence over the public's money.

Such gross mismanagement is made worse by the Pentagon's pitiful accounting system—or as I said in my opening, the lack of a financial management system.

Top managers turned a blind eye to this problem as well, just like a long line of their predecessors. Instead of modernizing, they kept pouring out billions down a rathole to upgrade ancient systems that belong on the junk heap.

Why did such smart, experienced managers go down that rabbit hole? Why did they fail to acquire modern systems that could produce reliable information, effective controls, or clean opinions? Why has this problem not been fixed?

There once was a bravehearted watchdog in the Air Force's Comptroller's who claimed to know the answer. Ernie Fitzgerald was that person's name. I knew him in the 1980s. He worked in the Defense Department until he retired maybe 20 years ago, and he probably died about 3 or 4 years ago.

He had this to say:

Leaders in the Pentagon don't want to fix it. Sloppy accounting gives them flexibility to hide their shenanigans.

When there is no audit trail to follow, it is easy to make sneaky accounting adjustments to cover your backside. Pentagon managers have some explaining to do, and I am all ears. I want to give you just one recent example, and I am following up with the inspector general in the Pentagon to get some answers on this.

Over a period of 6 years, until earlier last year when she pleaded guilty to—can you believe this—stealing \$106 million out of the Defense Department. She was buying all kinds of homes and all kinds of expensive cars, and I don't have a long list of where \$106 million went, but can you believe over a period of 5 years, there was nobody in the Defense Department who caught it? Eventually, after 6 years, the IRS discovered it, but she got away with it for 6 years. Now, she is prosecuted and 15 years in prison. She wasn't prosecuted—she pled guilty.

But so I write to the IG to get an explanation of how come they have a financial management system—or a lack thereof—that doesn't catch somebody stealing \$106 million. So I sent along,

with those questions I am asking the IG, a report that I put out in 1998 that was a report of people stealing money at the Air Force base in Dayton, where they had this check-writing machine, and we found out that the person managing that check-writing machine could make checks out to people in his family. And there was about \$5 million stolen at that particular time.

And so we went to Dayton to study what was wrong, and what was wrong is exactly what this audit report shows today, they were writing checks without invoices.

Now, you see, we pointed something out, what, 26 years ago or something like that, that was wrong with financial management in the Defense Department, and I—so I guess you could say the Defense Department has learned nothing in the last 26 years.

And I just hope that they would take my report of 1998 and what is wrong with Janet Mello stealing \$106 million and try to change the system.

Now, we, in the Congress, with our power of oversight, or as you study in high school government, checks and balances of government, we appropriate money, we pass laws, but we don't enforce those laws. We have a constitutional responsibility to point out when the executive branch of government or the people in the executive branch of government aren't faithfully executing the laws that we pass or properly appropriate spending the money the way we appropriated.

So we don't enforce the laws; we make the laws. We have oversight.

But what do you do? You come to the floor of the U.S. Senate and try to raise Cain about it and get some changes made. But the Defense Department is a little bit different than any other Agency of the Federal Government because they are the only Agency of the Federal Government that has never had a clean audit.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT FLIGHT ACCIDENT

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, a lot of Americans turned on the TV today hoping that the President of the United States was going to make a non-political, nonpartisan statement grieving the loss of those who died in the awful plane crash last night. Instead, he almost immediately launched into a political tirade, blaming what he called DEI. That accusation was echoed by the new Secretary of Transportation and the new Secretary of Defense.

Apparently, the allegation is that by hiring non-White men at the FAA, this plane crash occurred. That is not true. That is offensive. It is not grounded in

fact. It is just not accurate that by hiring women or Black people or Hispanics that the safety of this Nation is compromised. That is offensive.

What we have just learned, though, is that the initial FAA report suggests that the tower staffing was not normal during the crash, that the controller on duty last night was doing a job traditionally handled by two people. There is supposed to be someone handling helicopter traffic and someone guiding planes into the airport. There was one person doing that job last night.

We will learn more about what caused this crash. But it is not lost on us that the President of the United States made a choice when he came into office. He threw the FAA into immediate crisis. He ousted the Administrator, replaced the Administrator with no one, and spent the first week trying to bully and intimidate Federal employees. He fired the entire FAA Safety Advisory Board.

So we will take the time to find out what actually happened, but this happened under President Trump's watch. Clearly, something was not right in that tower last night, and it is important for us to follow the facts instead of making quick accusations.

TRUMP EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Mr. President, I came to the floor to continue the discussion that my colleagues have been having over the course of the last 2 days about something fundamentally dangerous that the President is engaged in: an attempt to seize power from Congress.

I don't understand why my Republican colleagues aren't outraged by President Trump's announcement 2 days ago that he was suspending all Federal spending. I don't know why my Republican colleagues don't see how that essentially makes us irrelevant if we spend hundreds of hours of time engaged in very difficult, bipartisan negotiations to come up with a Federal budget every year, as is our constitutional responsibility under article I, and then the President of the United States decides to cancel all spending for weeks or months or longer. That is what the President did 2 days ago.

Now, the courts have put a stay on that order, but the White House Press Secretary yesterday afternoon made it clear that they are still intending to pursue a shutdown of Federal spending. And notwithstanding the very confusing set of news that came from the administration yesterday, notwithstanding the court order, my office has continued to be peppered with phone calls from organizations in Connecticut that are doing incredibly important work that can't get paid.

One of our most critical homeless shelters called this morning to tell us that the disbursement system was still down. This is a homeless shelter that relies on Federal dollars in order to pay the bills. Right now, they are potentially not going to be able to pay certain rents for their clients that are in emergency housing right now. They

are facing an immediate cash flow issue. They will be able to make payroll this week but not next week. They still haven't been able to get paid by the Federal Government because their payment system was shut down yesterday. It is still not back up.

Another not-for-profit in Connecticut that relies on Federal funding to provide food for families and children that are having trouble putting a meal or two meals on the table reports that they are still not able to log on to get reimbursement. This is, again, a small not-for-profit that helps keep people alive with emergency food, that does not have ample cash flow in their bank account, that is still unable to get Federal reimbursement. The result of them shutting down or suspending operations is literally kids going hungry tomorrow, the day after, the day after that.

The State of Connecticut has a really important series of grants still suspended. Payments have been suspended for a Federal grant that helps install solar and clean energy projects in Connecticut. That is not back up and running either.

This is just the tip of the iceberg, so nobody should think that this crisis has passed. Donald Trump suspended Federal spending. The Medicaid system got turned off. Many other important payment systems got turned off. Some of them got turned back on after the order went into place or after it was clear that there was going to be a court order to stop the President from engaging in this unconstitutional action, but many of these Federal programs are still suspended.

There are literally people who may be tossed out on the street and become homeless. There are kids who may go hungry because this crisis has not been fixed.

This is a fundamental corruption, what is happening right now, because what Donald Trump will be able to do, if he seizes control of Federal spending from us, is to be able to use his unilateral discretionary power to be able to send money to people that agree with him and deny it to people who don't agree with him; to send money to his billionaire friends' companies and deny funding to the competitors of those companies; to decide that this disaster in a red State will get funding, but this disaster in a blue State won't get funding.

And if you don't believe me, just look at the way that Donald Trump and Republicans are behaving right now about the wildfires in California. All of a sudden, Republicans are talking about applying conditions to saving people's lives and saving people's property in California.

California is going to have to comply with an unknown set of conditions designed by Donald Trump and Republicans, conditions that were never even contemplated by Republicans when there was a hurricane in Louisiana or in Florida, when there were floods or devastating tornadoes in the Midwest.

People aren't dumb; people know what is going on. There is a different standard if you are a friend of President Trump than if you aren't. There is a different standard applied to aid that goes to States represented by Republicans than aid that goes to States represented by Democrats.

And if we hand the unilateral decisions about where to spend money and where not to spend money to the Chief Executive, there is no going back. This is unconstitutional because the Founders and the Framers thought about this. We are article I, not article II for a reason. We have the spending power for a reason.

Our Founding Fathers were scared to death about the second coming of a monarchy. They were scared to death about putting too much power in the hands of the Executive. So they said that Congress decides the big questions: where and how to spend money; the conditions applied to how that money is spent; whether or not the country goes to war or not. Those decisions are made by us, and when you hand them to any Executive without check, it is a violation of the Framers' intent, it is a violation of the letter of the law of the Constitution, and it is a recipe for corruption.

And so I am angry that a lot of my Republican colleagues that I believe in, that I have worked with, that I have sat and negotiated tough bipartisan pieces of legislation with, aren't raising alarm over what President Trump has done, and what he is continuing to try to do. If you believe that this pause is good for 90 days, then I have a handful of bridges to sell you.

If it is for projects in Democratic States or projects that don't align with the President's personal political priorities, I mean, nobody should believe that that pause is just going to last 90 days.

This is a constitutional crisis, and, yes, the courts have stepped in and put a stay on the President's order, but, ultimately, we should stand up for ourselves. We should stand up for congressional prerogatives—Democrats and Republicans.

And what pains me even more is that my Republican colleagues don't see the story and the broader danger to our democracy, to our country, that is posed by the actions of this President in the first week. There was a handful—a small handful—of my Republican friends who stood up and said it was wrong for Donald Trump to pardon the most violent of the January 6 rioters.

Now, it was wrong for him to have pardoned any of the rioters, the people who sought to do violence to us. I hear a lot of Republicans claiming that, you know, these were just tourists. Yes, there were a couple of bad apples in the bunch, but most everybody just kind of got pushed into the building by accident. They thought they were coming for a tour of the place.

I was here that day. I don't remember a single one of my Republican colleagues staying in the Chamber, after

we were told to flee, to greet the tourists. Everybody knew, that day, that our lives were all in jeopardy, that they were looking for blood. One of the rioters—one of the most violent rioters—who beat police officers, who was let out of jail last week by Donald Trump, went to the scaffold in the gallows after he beat up police officers, and he posted on social media: Too bad there aren't any Democrats hanging.

I don't know why more of my Republican colleagues—and I thank Senator GRASSLEY for speaking up on this—don't realize what happens when darkness descends on our Agencies. I remember a time when Republicans believed in stewardship of the dollars that we appropriated. We wanted to see what happened inside these Agencies.

Donald Trump fired all the inspectors general—like, they are our people; they are there for us, for the American people, to make sure there is not thievery happening in these Agencies. If you want to fire inspectors general and replace them with somebody better, fine, there are no inspectors general in our Agencies. They are gone. And as far as I can tell, there is, like, one Republican that raises an objection to this.

You put all of this together—the abolition of political violence; the darkening of operations in the Executive branch through the firing of the inspectors general, and the seizure of spending power—and that is all a recipe for despotism.

And I understand that some people might think that that is hyperbolic, but I will just tell you that democracies do not die in an instant. Very few democracies that have perished have a day, a before-and-after moment. It is a descent, and, then, all of a sudden, you wake up one day, and you discover that you are not in a democracy any longer; that the leader, that the President, has so much power that it can never be taken away.

And the steps that have been taken by Donald Trump, in the first week, are a master class in the kind of plan that you would undertake if you wanted to grab power permanently. You say to your supporters: If you threaten or intimidate my opposition, I will let you off the hook. You cast darkness over what happens inside the Agencies so the President can move money anyway that he wants without any accountability. And you seize control of spending so that you can use money to reward your friends and punish your enemies.

One of the things that my Republican friends may not understand is what has happened, since the January 6 pardons, to Democrats. A lot of us don't talk about this because we, frankly, don't want to legitimize the people who are making the threats. But when Donald Trump's supporters are told that if they engage in violence in support of their President that they will be let out of jail or face no consequences, they believe him.

And so I will just tell you, the calls and the threats that I have received

since those pardons are serious. They have changed the way that I have to think about protecting my family. And I know that Republicans have received those threats over the years as well. I understand that these threats of violence do happen to both sides.

But this is a specific immunity that has been given by Donald Trump. He has now given a broad immunity to people for beating up police officers. He gave pardons to a specific set of people who beat up police officers. If you are beating up police officers to further the political agenda of Donald Trump, you have immunity. And so, all of a sudden, a lot of unhinged people out there believe that if they engage in violence to further Donald Trump's political ambitions, they have immunity too.

Now, maybe at some point, they will believe that they are furthering Donald Trump's political ambitions by making threats against Republicans, but, right now, the threats that they are lodging are against Democrats—especially those Democrats that have spoken up most vocally against the pardons of the violent January 6 rioters.

And what happens when people start to feel those threats of violence? What happens when people worry about their safety if they engage in political action is that they don't—is that they don't. What happens to organizations when they fear that they won't get a grant from the Federal Government if they don't pledge loyalty to the President is that they don't speak up.

Democracies don't die in a moment. They die when the rules get rigged so that there is a price to be paid—a bodily or financial price to be paid—for standing up to the leader. That is what Donald Trump is constructing in his first week, a system of rules in which you as an American will pay a financial price or a physical price for criticism of the regime. That is not allowed in a democracy.

And so I do not understand why we have been totally unable to find unanimity in two simple ideas: The President of the United States cannot, should not, excuse and encourage political violence; and that the President cannot and should not seize control of the spending power in this country to decide for himself which of us and which of our States get money and which of us and which of our States do not.

Those are fundamental corruptions that make our country weaker, that destroy the democratic norms that are existential to our sense of patriotism and Americanism, but, also, ultimately allow this administration to facilitate a kind of corruption that happens to almost every country that slides away from democracy, in which the leader, unbound, gets to reward friends around him who are loyal.

So this crisis has not passed. As I said, there are organizations in my State that today cannot receive Federal funds—a homeless shelter that is thinking about whether it is going to

have to put people out on the street very soon if that funding portal doesn't get turned back on.

But I will leave you with this. I get it that today it feels like everything has to be partisan; everything has to be us versus you. And I will admit that I, you know, sometimes fall for that trap. All of us sometimes fall for that trap of just evaluating everything based upon red versus blue. If the other side is for it, I have to be against it. I admit that I will fall for that trap sometimes.

But I also, you know, have my bona fides. I have sat down and negotiated with Republicans I disagree with on some really tough issues, like guns and immigration, and came to some conclusions on those issues.

So I have been willing to put my action where my mouth is and say, even on the tough stuff, we can find accommodation and agreement. But I don't know; I am heartbroken. You know, I am heartbroken that more of my Republican colleagues didn't stand up and say: Mr. President, you shouldn't have pardoned the people who tried to kill us, the people who tried to steal the ballot box, the people who desecrated our Capitol. You shouldn't have pardoned them.

I don't think that that should have been so hard for us to agree on. It shouldn't have required courage for my Republican colleagues to stand up and say: Those pardons were wrong, Mr. President.

And I don't think it should have taken courage, yesterday, for more Republicans to say: You can't seize control of Federal spending. It is not constitutional to cease paying people and paying nonprofits and paying for homeless services and paying for nutrition services while you evaluate whether the programs line up with your political priorities.

We passed a budget. We hammered out an agreement, a budget that has amounts and numbers, conditions on it. The President doesn't get to exercise independent authority. He has to implement the budget we pass.

That weakens the institution. That weakens Republicans and Democrats. And I will guarantee you, what comes around, goes around. Sometime down the line, a Democratic President will do the same thing, will just suspend money for things that Republicans care about. That will end up hurting you too.

So I am mad, I am angry, I am heartbroken, and I hope this crisis will pass. But my belief is that the only way that it passes—this crisis caused by the endorsement of political violence by this President, the shuttering of the inspectors general, and the seizure of spending power—I think the only way that this crisis passes—and it is a crisis, a constitutional crisis—is if we find a way to come together, Republicans and Democrats. That is not happening today. My hope is that it happens tomorrow.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

NOMINATION OF DOUGLAS BURGUM

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the confirmation of Governor Doug Burgum from my home State of North Dakota to serve as our Nation's 55th Secretary of the Interior.

Whether it is energy, grazing, outdoor recreation, water supply, the National Park Service, or Tribal relations, Doug Burgum is an outstanding choice who fully understands the vast responsibilities under the Department of the Interior.

I have had the pleasure to know Doug for over 30 years, and throughout his career, Doug has gained well-deserved national recognition as an innovative leader.

Governor Burgum is a proud native of Arthur, ND, earning his bachelor's degree from North Dakota State University—home of the Bison—and his master's in business administration from the Stanford Graduate School of Business.

After working as a consultant at McKinsey, he returned home to North Dakota, and he literally bet the family farm to purchase a nascent accounting software company, Great Plains Software. Over time, Doug hired thousands of North Dakotans to build and grow Great Plains Software, eventually launching a public offering in 1997. Then, ultimately, Great Plains Software was purchased by Microsoft in 2001, and it is now known as Microsoft Business Solutions. The vision of Microsoft actually goes back to the company that he built and to this day I think employs several thousand people in and around Fargo, ND.

Great Plains Software, as I said, became Microsoft Business Solutions. He remained at Microsoft for a number of years, actually hiring the current CEO during his time there. He then left Microsoft in 2007, started a number of other companies, went into philanthropy and helped really revitalize downtown Fargo, continued his support for NDSU, and just had a very significant impact in many different aspects of business of philanthropy.

It is because of his countless contributions to North Dakota that, in 2009, during my time as Governor, I named Doug as the 37th recipient of the Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider Award, which is our State's highest honor.

I remember he looked at me at that time and said—it was kind of funny. We had this big event for him and gave him this nice State honor. He looked at me and said, "Gee, JOHN, this is really great, but I sure hope I am not done accomplishing things at this point," you know, as he was getting the award. I remember that very clearly. Obviously, he was far from done.

In 2016, Doug was elected as the 33rd Governor of North Dakota, and then he was reelected in 2020. He has been a true partner as we worked together to

grow North Dakota into an energy powerhouse for our Nation.

When I started as Governor, we produced less than 100,000 barrels of oil a day, going down, and we have gotten it up all the way to 1.5 million barrels of oil a day—at that point, second only to Texas. It has gone back a little bit under the Biden administration, but we look forward to continuing to grow not just oil and gas but all the different sources of energy—coal-fired electricity, renewables, hydro. Just a real energy powerhouse for our country. So he brings that incredible energy experience to his new role.

Doug did a great job as Governor, and then he ran for President. He was the first Presidential candidate, when he left the race, to endorse President Trump—first one to do it.

President Trump knows the importance of a big energy agenda, and he knows what energy dominance means for our country, for our economic and national security. President Trump saw that Doug is not just the right fit to head the Department of the Interior as Secretary; President Trump also tapped Doug to lead the newly formed National Energy Council. Doug will do a tremendous job leading this integrated effort to truly make our country energy dominant, and he will work with President Trump to do that—vitally important for our economy, vitally important to bring down inflation, vitally important for national security, and vitally important to our allies so that they get energy from the United States rather than buying oil from countries like Russia or Iran and fueling either Russia's war machine or Iran's state sponsorship of terror.

But Doug not only understands energy, he is also a rancher, a hunter. He loves our national parks, and he loves the great outdoors. That is what you want in a Secretary of the Interior because all of those are part of his portfolio at Interior.

He has extensive experience in Native American affairs, and not only does he have the support of all of the Tribes in our State, he has the support from more than 180 Tribes from across the Nation.

Doug received overwhelming bipartisan support from our Energy and Natural Resources Committee. He came out of committee 18 to 2. So I strongly urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote for his confirmation when we vote here very soon on his approval to be the next Secretary of the Interior for the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on confirmation of the Burgum nomination at 6:15 p.m. today and that if cloture is invoked on the Wright nomination, all postcloture time be considered

expired and the Senate vote on cloture of the Collins nomination; further, that if cloture is invoked on the Collins nomination, all postcloture time be considered expired and the votes on the confirmations of the nominations occur at times to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democrat leader, no earlier than Monday, February 3.

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

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls with respect to the Wright and Collins nominations be waived.

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

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT FLIGHT ACCIDENT

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleagues in mourning the 67 people who were killed in the tragic aircraft collision last night near Reagan National Airport.

Among the victims, as reported in the news: a woman from my State, from Mahtomedi, MN—a wonderful town. It will be very hard to talk to her family; figure skaters we lost from the U.S. team and Russia who will never get to compete in the world championship; families flying in from Wichita to Washington, DC, who will never get to see our Nation's Capital; and three American soldiers, whose moms and dads will get the call that every parent dreads when their son or daughter signs up to serve our country.

This was a horrific tragedy. While there is still so much more that we need to know about this crash, we know we must get to the bottom of what happened.

My thoughts are with the victims' families and loved ones and the first responders who led the recovery operation last night and then, of course, are leading the operation today in the icy waters of the Potomac.

TRUMP EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Mr. President, I turn to another topic that is completely different, which is what is going on right now in the Halls of Congress and over at the new administration.

I also join my colleagues in expressing serious concern about the chaos that we have seen in just the first week of this new administration.

Earlier this week, the administration issued an order to cut off support that families across the country rely on, including funding for first responders. It was actually a two-page memorandum from a guy named Mr. Vaeth in the Office of Management and Budget. I have never heard of him, but he issued this two-page memorandum that made the intent very, very clear. He cut off loans and grants and announced that this was, in fact, the position of the administration and that they were going to freeze—or pause, in their words—loans

and grants for everything from funding for childcare, for health centers, for medical research, and for the heating assistance that millions of people rely on in my State, especially on these cold, cold days. This order—made with a stroke of a pen by a single, unelected bureaucrat—opened the door to stalled projects, economic uncertainty, and confusion across the country.

Yesterday, the administration—Mr. Vaeth himself—actually put in a one- or two-sentence memorandum that rescinded the one he had made just the day before. So that was a moment to say: OK. We are looking forward to working with our Republican colleagues and with the administration to make government more efficient and to look at reforms in the way things are done. OK. That is great. Let's do it together.

But it wasn't over because then the administration created more confusion by putting out a series of contradictory statements and a social media post from the press secretary in the White House that, in fact, that wasn't true; that, in fact, the funds were still frozen.

So we have still been getting calls throughout the day trying to figure it out. We have heard reports of some portals that have been shut down—I have heard that from other Senators as well—and then of some that have been opened up and some that, of course, have been opened up because of the temporary court stay that was put in place.

This chaos—here is the point—does nothing to actually bring down the cost of housing, childcare, healthcare, energy bills. But it reminds us that it is our job for those of us who took an oath of office just about a month ago—that it is our job to protect and defend the Constitution because, honestly, this was a defiance of the Constitution. Congress is set up in article I. It is our job to make these decisions, and these were funds that were voted on and passed by Democrats and Republicans in working together when we got the last budget done, and then we got it extended.

So this isn't a game. What Americans are feeling is real. A number of them voted for change—they wanted to see something new—but for them, that meant there actually being new things that helped them with costs.

I think about the mom who was unsure if she could get her child into childcare yesterday when she saw the news.

I think about the teenager in a cancer study when those funds were frozen.

I think about the woman in an abusive relationship who has nowhere to go because her local domestic violence shelter was cut off from funding. My office heard yesterday from a domestic violence organization that couldn't access their funding.

I think about the firefighters who rely on grants to hire and retain fire-

fighters, as well as grants for equipment.

I think about the 30,000-plus American veterans. I think about how our leading organization fighting veterans' homelessness gets half of its funding through Federal grants.

I think about the construction workers who are worried they could lose their jobs if they are working on infrastructure projects right now—projects where the money has been not only voted on and signed into law but also where the money is actually out, and they are working on the projects, but then they don't know. The questions we got are, So are these funds frozen too?

I think about the seniors who rely on Meals on Wheels. We have heard from volunteers with that program who are worried. What should we do? Should we keep serving the seniors? Are they going to have meals? What should we tell them when we go to the door and they ask us?

I think about the small business owners who get their support through SBA loans.

And I think about the rural families who count on electric co-ops—we have one of the highest percentages, in my State, of smaller co-ops—to keep the lights on.

At a time when rural families are already dealing with the uncertainty of proposed tariffs and how that is going to affect them, particularly in farming communities, on workforce issues, with input costs, and more, the last thing they need right now is more chaos and confusion.

As I said, article I of the Constitution makes it clear that it is Congress's job to direct funding through laws passed by both Chambers. It is a system of checks and balances. And I mentioned this at the inauguration: Why do we have the President's inauguration not at the White House or at a gilded executive office building, but we have it at the Capitol? Why do we do that? Because it is very clear: This is a country wherein the Founding Fathers set up a system of checks and balances with three equal branches of government. That is the foundation of our democracy.

Fortunately, actually, there was pushback from this Chamber—there was pushback from our side of the aisle at least—and there was pushback when they looked at the law. Two Federal courts have said: No, that is not how this works.

Despite all of that, everyone, I believe, in this Chamber is ready to work with the administration on some new ideas for reform, but that was not how this was handled. This was handled by a faceless bureaucrat, Mr. Vaeth, whom I have never met—I look forward to meeting him one day—who was able, with the stroke of a pen, to kind of call all grants and loans for all of these people and businesses to a halt—just like that. The result was just more confusion, more commotion, and more

chaos, but maybe the chaos is the point.

This was a moment where I was hopeful we could find common ground on some issues. Of course, I knew we would stand our ground on some things—that is how this place works—but we are not going to find common ground if we are in the middle of chaos, because then everyone rushes to defend the people in their States, which is what they have to do because their constituents are, like, What is this?

With the three Chambers that we have here—with the executive branch and with the House and the Senate—we should try to work these things out. In fact, given that Republicans run all three branches right now, at least they should be able to work it out in a way that is legal. Instead, what do we hear about? We hear about tax breaks for billionaires at the expense of everyone else and of dismantling the healthcare system.

This is a big deal—or as maybe the former President said in his words—a “big ‘hmm’ deal.”

We have got to get this right if we are going to do this, if we are going to make change. But the way this happened—what happened here—was wrong. I am glad there was pushback, and we are going to continue to lead that fight, but I hope our colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle, the next time, will join us.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

VOTE ON BURGUM NOMINATION

Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Burgum nomination?

Mrs. BRITT. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Booker), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Fetterman), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. Ossoff), are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 79, nays 18, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 26 Ex.]

YEAS—79

Alsobrooks	Britt	Cotton
Baldwin	Budd	Cramer
Banks	Cantwell	Crapo
Barrasso	Capito	Cruz
Bennet	Cassidy	Curtis
Blackburn	Collins	Daines
Blumenthal	Cornyn	Durbin
Boozman	Cortez Masto	Ernst

Fischer	Klobuchar	Schmitt
Gallego	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Gillibrand	Lee	Scott (SC)
Graham	Luján	Shaheen
Grassley	Lummis	Sheehy
Hagerty	Marshall	Slotkin
Hassan	McConnell	Smith
Hawley	McCormick	Sullivan
Heinrich	Moody	Thune
Hickenlooper	Moran	Tillis
Hoeven	Moreno	Tuberville
Husted	Mullin	Warner
Hyde-Smith	Murkowski	Warnock
Johnson	Paul	Welch
Justice	Ricketts	Whitehouse
Kaine	Risch	Wicker
Kelly	Rosen	Young
Kennedy	Rounds	
King	Schatz	

NAYS—18

Blunt Rochester	Merkley	Sanders
Coons	Murphy	Schiff
Duckworth	Murray	Schumer
Hirono	Padilla	Van Hollen
Kim	Peters	Warren
Markey	Reed	Wyden

NOT VOTING—3

Booker	Fetterman	Osoff
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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.

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:

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. 10, Christopher Wright, of Colorado, to be Secretary of Energy.

John Thune, Markwayne Mullin, James C. Justice, Tom Cotton, John Barrasso, David McCormick, Steve Daines, Joni Ernst, Roger Marshall, Deb Fischer, Chuck Grassley, Bernie Moreno, Ted Budd, John Kennedy, John Boozman, Tommy Tuberville, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

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 Christopher Wright, of Colorado, to be Secretary of Energy, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 62, nays 35, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 27 Ex.]

YEAS—62

Banks	Grassley	Moran
Barrasso	Hagerty	Moreno
Bennet	Hassan	Mullin
Blackburn	Hawley	Murkowski
Boozman	Heinrich	Paul
Britt	Hickenlooper	Ricketts
Budd	Hoeven	Risch
Capito	Husted	Rounds
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Collins	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Justice	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Kennedy	Shaheen
Cramer	King	Sheehy
Crapo	Lankford	Sullivan
Cruz	Lee	Thune
Curtis	Luján	Tillis
Daines	Lummis	Tuberville
Ernst	Marshall	Warner
Fischer	McConnell	Wicker
Gallego	McCormick	Young
Graham	Moody	

NAYS—35

Alsobrooks	Kelly	Schatz
Baldwin	Kim	Schiff
Blumenthal	Klobuchar	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Markley	Slotkin
Cantwell	Merkley	Smith
Coons	Murphy	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murray	Warnock
Duckworth	Padilla	Warren
Durbin	Peters	Welch
Gillibrand	Reed	Whitehouse
Hirono	Rosen	Wyden
Kaine	Sanders	

NOT VOTING—3

Booker	Fetterman	Osoff
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The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. MOODY). The yeas are 62, the nays are 35.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Christopher Wright, of Colorado, to be Secretary of Energy.

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 legislative 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. 7, Douglas Collins, of Georgia, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

John Thune, Markwayne Mullin, James C. Justice, Tom Cotton, John Barrasso, David McCormick, Steve Daines, Joni Ernst, Roger Marshall, Deb Fischer, Chuck Grassley, Bernie Moreno, Ted Budd, John Kennedy, John Boozman, Tommy Tuberville, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

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 Douglas Collins, of Georgia, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 83, nays 13, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 28 Ex.]

YEAS—83

Baldwin	Graham	Murkowski
Banks	Grassley	Murray
Barrasso	Hagerty	Paul
Bennet	Hassan	Peters
Blackburn	Hawley	Reed
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Ricketts
Blunt Rochester	Hickenlooper	Risch
Boozman	Hoeven	Rosen
Britt	Husted	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Cantwell	Johnson	Schiff
Capito	Justice	Schmitt
Cassidy	Kaine	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kelly	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shaheen
Cortez Masto	Kim	Sheehy
Cotton	King	Slotkin
Cramer	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Cruz	Luján	Tillis
Curtis	Lummis	Tuberville
Daines	Marshall	Warner
Duckworth	McConnell	Wicker
Durbin	McCormick	Young
Ernst	Moody	
Fischer	Moran	
Gallego	Moreno	
Gillibrand	Mullin	

NAYS—13

Alsobrooks	Murphy	Van Hollen
Coons	Padilla	Warren
Hirono	Schatz	Wyden
Markey	Schumer	
Merkley	Smith	

NOT VOTING—4

Booker	Lankford
Fetterman	Osoff

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 83, the nays are 13.

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 Douglas Collins, of Georgia, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 12.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Pamela Bondi, of Florida, to be Attorney General.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative 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. 12, Pamela Bondi, of Florida, to be Attorney General.

John Thune, Ashley B. Moody, Mike Rounds, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mike Lee, Thom Tillis, Bill Hagerty, Ted Budd, Ron Johnson, Katie Britt, Deb Fischer, Rick Scott of Florida, Dan Sullivan, John Barrasso, Tom Cotton, Josh Hawley, Eric Schmitt.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 11.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Eric Turner, of Texas, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative 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. 11, Eric Turner, of Texas, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

John Thune, Markwayne Mullin, James Justice, Tom Cotton, John Barrasso, David McCormick, Steve Daines, Joni Ernst, Roger Marshall, Deb Fischer, Chuck Grassley, Bernie Moreno, Ted Budd, John Kennedy, John Boozman, Tommy Tuberville, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

CONFIRMATION OF KRISTI NOEM

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, had I been present for rollcall vote No. 17 of the 119th Congress—confirmation of Kristi Noem, of South Dakota, to be Secretary of Homeland Security—I would have voted nay. As a Senator who represents nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon, I am deeply disturbed by Ms. Noem's poor relationships with Tribal governments.

In fact, Ms. Noem spread disinformation about Tribal communities in her home State which resulted in her banishment from lands held by nine different Tribes. Likewise, Ms. Noem has repeatedly peddled baseless claims about violent crime in several cities—to include my hometown, Portland, OR. Considering Donald Trump's chilling deployment of Homeland Security personnel to Portland and other cities in 2020, I am concerned by how Ms. Noem, with her prejudiced views, may implement similar orders in the coming years.

Additionally, Ms. Noem, as Governor of South Dakota, mishandled the response to devastating floods in her State, to include delaying an emergency declaration, evacuation orders, and deployment of appropriate assets. As Oregon faces worsening storms, floods, and wildfires annually, I have no confidence in her ability to lead the Federal response to disasters and emergencies.

Finally, she has fully endorsed controversial policies many of my constituents oppose, such as broad travel bans and militarizing the southern border. For all these reasons, I would have voted nay on Ms. Noem's confirmation.

TRIBUTE TO BETH NIELSON

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam President, I rise today to honor the service of my administrative director Beth Nielson. Soon, Beth will retire from the U.S. Senate with more than 26 years of service to the U.S. Senate and to our Nation.

Beth joined my staff as administrative director in early 2019, merely the most recent stop on a wonderful journey of service to many Senators from across our Nation. Beth brought with her a great breadth and depth of knowledge about the U.S. Senate and how this institution works for Senators and staff. She quickly garnered the trust of my staff with her cheerful attitude to service and deft ability to navigate the many rules of the Senate. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Beth

helped our team immediately pivot to working from home, providing information, support, and guidance as we learned to work together but apart.

A South Dakota native, Beth first came to the Senate to intern in the office of Senator Tim Johnson. From there, she spent time in the office of Senator Tom Daschle, learning the ropes of the Senate and managing vast volumes of mail sent to the Senator from across the country. She returned to Senator Johnson's team and served as his deputy office manager for 5 years. From there, she joined the staff of Senator Ben Nelson as his administrative director for 3 years and then took a brief pause off Capitol Hill. She quickly returned to the Senate and served in the same roles in the offices of Senator Bill Nelson and then Senator Heidi Heitkamp before joining my staff. Beth has also worked for Senator RAPHAEL WARNOCK, to aid his staff as they began their time in the Senate.

My staff and I have been reflecting over the many gifts that Beth has shared with us over these past 6 years. She has been a guide to new staff, easing their transitions into the Senate and greeting them with a welcome smile. Beth has served as a mentor and sounding board to more established staff who have taken on new positions or responsibilities, helping them succeed in their roles. She was ready to answer our calls and our questions, to celebrate our milestones and ease our sorrows. We do still question her allegiances to the New York Yankees and the Chicago Bears but have agreed to let those slide.

Beth, thank you for your service to our Nation, to all the staff and Senators you have served with, and to the U.S. Senate.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MARY SCHAUB

• Mr. WICKER. Madam President, on behalf of the people of Mississippi, I commend Mary Schaub, an educator in Hattiesburg, MS. Through her five-decade career as a speech-language pathologist, she has devoted her life to giving children a voice.

Mary was integral to the creation of the Children's Center for Communication and Development at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM), and she has faithfully served the center for many years. After completing her education at the University of Wyoming, Mary identified a crucial gap in Mississippi's education system: preschool children who needed language intervention before entering kindergarten. She designed a program to fill that divide. The initiative was first called the Preschool Language Program and served six local preschool-aged children in a small office space on USM's campus.

Since those humble beginnings, the program has blossomed. Now called the

Children's Center, it serves an average of 140 children every year, from infants to 5-year-olds. The children benefit from comprehensive services that include speech therapy, special instruction, social work, audiology, auditory-verbal therapy, physical therapy, and occupational therapy. In short, Mary has revolutionized the treatment Mississippi's children receive when they are struggling with complex communication disorders.

Mary's work continues today. She is helping facilitate the growth of the center through a position on its advisory board. She also teaches as a professor in the School of Speech and Hearing Sciences at USM's College of Nursing and Health Professions.

Mrs. Schaub's career is a testament to the impact one educator can have on countless lives. I join my fellow Mississippians in thanking Mrs. Mary Schaub for her half-century of work in the classroom and for the gift of speech that she has given to thousands of children.●

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-216. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Paper and Paper-Based Packaging Promotion, Research and Information Order; Clarifying Changes" (Docket No. AMS-SC-23-0080) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-217. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Plant Records To Include Grade Label Butterfat Testing" ((RIN0581-AE20) (Docket No. AMS-DA-22-0064)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-218. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Poultry Grower Payment Systems and Capital Improvement Systems" ((RIN0581-AE18) (Docket No. AMS-FTTP-22-0046)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-219. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Milk in the Northeast and Other Marketing Areas; Amendments to the Orders" (Docket No. AMS-DA-23-0031) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 29, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-220. A communication from the Attorney, Office of the General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Certificates of Compliance" (Docket No. CPSC-2013-0017) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 27, 2025;

to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-221. A communication from the Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalties - 2025 Adjustment" (Docket No. EP 716) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 27, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-222. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Updated Document Submission Process for Compliance with Electronic Records Mandate" ((RIN1625-AC93) (Docket No. USCG-2023-0584)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 27, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-223. A communication from the Attorney for Regulatory Affairs, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Standard for Soft Infant and Toddler Carriers" (Docket No. CPSC-2013-0014) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-224. A communication from the Chief for Regulatory Development, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Broker and Freight Forwarder Financial Responsibility; Extension of Compliance Date" (RIN2126-AC76) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-225. A communication from the Director of Operations, Management, and Information Division, Office of Science and Technology, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Confidentiality of Information" (RIN0648-BM26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-226. A communication from the Attorney Advisor of the Regulatory Affairs Division, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pipeline Safety: Safety of Gas Transmission Pipelines: Repair Criteria, Integrity Management Improvements, Cathodic Protection, Management of Change, and Other Related Amendments: Corrections to Conform to Judicial Review" (RIN2137-AF39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-227. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes; Amendment 39-22881" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-0228)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 27, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-228. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Class D and Class E Airspace; Abbotsford Airport, Abbotsford, BC" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2440)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate

on January 27, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-229. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of the Prohibition Against Certain Flights in Specified Areas of the Sanaa Flight Information Region" ((RIN2120-AL96) (Docket No. FAA-2015-8672)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-230. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of the Compliance Date to Designate a U.S. Agent for Service for Individuals With foreign Addresses Who Apply for Certain Certificates, Ratings, or Authorizations" ((RIN2120-AL85) (Docket No. FAA-2023-1194)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-231. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 4146" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31583)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-232. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 4145" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31582)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-233. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Pontiac, IL" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2366)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-234. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Smith Carter, KS" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2368)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-235. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Gaylord, MI" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2369)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-236. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of

Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class E Airspace; Giddings, TX” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2367)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-237. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class E Airspace; El Dorado, AR” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2429)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-238. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revocation of Class E Airspace; Follett, TX” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2431)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-239. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2293)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-240. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Establishment of Class E Airspace; Redfield, SD” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2023-2222)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-241. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Establishment of Class E Airspace; Ashley, ND” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2024-1710)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-242. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Modification of Class D Airspace; Revocation of Class E Airspace; Centennial Airport, Denver, CO” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2023-1477)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-243. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Modification of Class D and Class E Airspace; Camp Guernsey Airport, Guernsey, WY” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2024-1856)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-244. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of

Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Modification of Class D and Class E Airspace; Revocation of Class E Airspace; Buckley Space Force Base, Aurora, CO” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2024-1857)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-245. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Establishment of Class E Airspace; Austin Airport, Austin, NV” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2104)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-246. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Yabara Industria Aeronautica S.A.; Embraer S.A) Airplanes; Amendment 39-22903” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2550)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-247. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Yabara Industria Aeronautica S.A.; Embraer S.A) Airplanes; Amendment 39-22906” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2551)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-248. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; CFM International, S.A. Engines; Amendment 39-22904” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-1898)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-249. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company Engines; Amendment 39-22909” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-0755)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-250. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation Airplanes; Amendment 39-22905” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2021)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-251. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes; Amendment 39-22911” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-0762)) received

in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-252. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes; Amendment 39-22910” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-1689)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-253. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Defense and Space S.A. (Formerly Known as Construcciones Aeronauticas, S.A.) Airplanes; Amendment 39-22907” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2024)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-254. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH Helicopters; Amendment 39-22916” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2670)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-255. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Leonardo S.p.a. Helicopters; Amendment 39-22923” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2719)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-256. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters; Amendment 39-22915” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2669)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-257. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Inflation Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties” (RIN3072-AD03) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-258. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Definition of Unreasonable Refusal to Deal or Negotiate With Respect to Vessel Space Accommodations Provided by an Ocean Common Carrier” (RIN3072-AD03) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-259. A communication from the Fish and Wildlife Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Modification of the Duration of Certain Permits and Letters of Confirmation Under

the Marine Mammal Protection Act” (RIN0648-BK65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-260. A communication from the Supervisory Program Analyst, Office of Engineering and Technology, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Allocation of Spectrum for Non-Federal Space Launch Operations” ((ET Docket No. 13-115) (FCC 24-132)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 11, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-261. A communication from the Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Communications Commission released a Report and Order entitled Connect America Fund, the Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund and the Connect USVI Fund, Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, Letters of Credit for Recipients of High-Cost Competitive Bidding Support; Connect America Fund Phase II Auction, Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Auction; Establishing a 5G Fund for Rural America” ((RIN3060-AK57) (FCC 24-127)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-262. A communication from the Deputy Bureau Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Wireless Emergency Alerts; Amendments to Part 11 of the Commission’s Rules Regarding the Emergency Alert System” (PS Docket Nos. 15-91 and 15-94) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 27, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-263. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Chief Counsel, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Railroad Administration Accident/Incident Investigation Policy for Gathering Information and Consulting with Stakeholders” (RIN2130-AC98) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 27, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-264. A communication from the Assistant Chief Counsel, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Minimum Standards for Driver’s Licenses and Identification Cards Acceptable by Federal Agencies for Official Purposes; Phased Approach for Card-Based Enforcement” (RIN1652-AA77) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 27, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-265. A communication from the Management Analyst, Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Joint Policies of the Departments of the Interior and of the Army Relative to Reservoir Project Lands” (RIN1093-AA29) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 27, 2025; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-266. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Delay of Effective Date for 4 Final Regulations Published by the Environmental Protection Agency be-

tween November 29, 2024 and December 31, 2024” (FRL No. 12583-01-OA) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 27, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-267. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Standards of Fill for Wine and Distilled Spirits” (RIN1513-AC86) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 27, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-268. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Automatic Consent for Revocation of Section 831(b) Elections” (Rev. Proc. 2025-13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 27, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-269. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Domestic Content Bonus Credit Amounts under the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022: First Updated Effective Safe Harbor modifying Notice 2024-41” (Notice 2025-8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 27, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-270. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification of the Department’s intent to obligate fiscal year (FY) 2024 Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs funds to support activities of the Nonproliferation and Disarmament Fund received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-271. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed transfer of major defense equipment with an original acquisition value of approximately \$16,000,000 (Transmittal No. RSAT-24-10632) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-272. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-640, “Residential Tranquility Temporary Amendment Act of 2024”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-273. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-681, “DMPED Grantmaking Authority Temporary Amendment Act of 2024”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-274. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-682, “Entertainment Establishment Employee Safety Temporary Amendment Act of 2024”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-275. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-683, “Streatery Program Endorsement Extension Temporary Amendment Act of 2024”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-276. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report

on D.C. Act 25-614, “Initiative Measure No. 83 - Ranked Choice Voting and Open the Primary Election to Independent Voters Act of 2024”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-277. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-623, “Office of District Waterways Management Establishment Temporary Amendment Act of 2024”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-278. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-624, “CRIAC Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2024”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-279. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-626, “DC Circulator Transition Temporary Amendment Act of 2024”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-280. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-656, “Sign Regulations Amendment Act of 2024”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-281. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-657, “Uniform Civil Remedies for Unauthorized Disclosure of Intimate Images Act of 2024”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-282. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-659, “Uniform Community Property Disposition at Death Act of 2024”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-283. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-662, “Evanti Court Designation Act of 2024”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-284. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-654, “Uniform Powers of Appointment Act of 2024”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-285. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-655, “Uniform Trust Decanting Act of 2024”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-286. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-658, “Uniform Commercial Real Estate Receivership Act of 2024”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-287. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-660, “Bruce Monroe Extension of Disposition Authority Amendment Act of 2024”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-288. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-661, “Ballpark Budget and Maintenance Amendment Act of 2024”; to the

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-289. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-647, "Seizure Safe Schools Amendment Act of 2024"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-290. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-648, "Retired Firefighter and Police Officer Redeployment Amendment Act of 2024"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-291. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-649, "Automatic Voter Registration Amendment Act of 2024"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-292. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-650, "Rulemaking Public Comment Modernization Amendment Act of 2024"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-293. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-651, "Notarial Acts Clarification Amendment Act of 2024"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-294. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-625, "Comprehensive Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Access, Readiness, and Sustainability Amendment Act of 2024"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. RISCH for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Elise Stefanik, of New York, to be Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations.

Elise Stefanik, of New York, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

FEDERAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION REPORT

Nominee: Elise M. Stefanik.

Post: Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations and Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: Please see attached.
2. Spouse: Matthew Manda \$1000, 9/28/13, Elise for Congress.

3. Children and Spouses: Samuel Manda—None.

4. Parents: Melanie Stefanik: \$2700, 3/31/16, Elise for Congress; \$3500, 12/30/14, EPAC; \$2600, 8/26/13, Elise for Congress; \$2600, 8/26/13, Elise for Congress; \$1000, 3/22/11, Pawlenty for President; \$1000, 6/11/10, Freedom First PAC. Kenneth Stefanik: \$2600, 8/26/13, Elise for Congress; \$2600, 8/26/13, Elise for Congress.

5. Grandparents: Cecilia Stefanik—deceased, none. Stanley Stefanik—deceased, none. Tony Mauro—deceased, none. Geraldine Mauro, none.

6. Brothers and Spouses: Matthew Stefanik: \$2600, 9/30/13, Elise for Congress; \$2600, 9/30/13, Elise for Congress; \$500, 3/22/11, Pawlenty for President.

7. Sisters and Spouses: None.

By Mr. GRAHAM for the Committee on the Budget.

*Russell Vought, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

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

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

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 Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 326. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to provide fair treatment of radio stations and artists for the use of sound recordings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 327. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny any foreign tax credit or deduction with respect to taxes paid or accrued to the Russian Federation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MURPHY:

S. 328. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to direct the Federal Communications Commission to promulgate regulations with respect to rebates for certain video programming blackouts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 329. A bill to authorize grants to implement school-community partnerships for preventing substance use and misuse among youth; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CURTIS:

S. 330. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to persons that operate in a sector of the economy of the People's Republic of China in which the person has engaged in a pattern of significant theft of the intellectual property of a United States person, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. DAINES, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KING, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 331. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of

fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 332. A bill to require a study on Holocaust education efforts of States, local educational agencies, and public elementary and secondary schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SHEEHY (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. SCHMITT, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. JUSTICE):

S. 333. A bill to repeal certain provisions relating to taxpayer subsidies for home electrification, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. PAUL, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 334. A bill to permanently enact certain appropriations Act restrictions on the use of funds for abortions and involuntary sterilizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MORAN, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. KELLY):

S. 335. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to rebase the calculation of payments for sole community hospitals and Medicare-dependent hospitals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. BUDD, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 336. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income amounts received from State-based catastrophe loss mitigation programs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 337. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to clarify the authority of the Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration relating to the shipping of household goods, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 338. A bill to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Fred Korematsu, in recognition of his contributions to civil rights, his loyalty and patriotism to the United States, and his dedication to justice and equality; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 339. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 340. A bill to direct the President to designate a month as African Diaspora Heritage Month; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 341. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to establish a grant program for supporting local communities in detecting, preparing for, communicating about, or mitigating the environmental and public health impacts of wildfire smoke and extreme heat, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. KING, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 342. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize an individual who is awarded the Purple Heart for service in the Armed Forces to transfer unused Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to a family member, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. REED, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. SMITH, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 343. A bill to require full funding of part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Ms. ERNST):

S. 344. A bill to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to identify and conduct recurrent vetting of evacuees from Afghanistan found not to be properly vetted before entering the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. CURTIS, and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 345. A bill to provide that silencers be treated the same as firearms accessories; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 346. A bill to protect the right of law-abiding citizens to transport knives interstate, notwithstanding a patchwork of State and local prohibitions that burden citizens; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. 347. A bill to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to reauthorize brownfields revitalization funding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. KAINE):

S. 348. A bill to limit the authority of the President to impose new or additional duties with respect to articles imported from countries that are allies or free trade agreement partners of the United States; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. DAINES):

S. 349. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to permit removal of trees around electrical lines on National Forest System land without conducting a timber sale, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. DAINES):

S. 350. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to select and implement landscape-scale forest restoration projects, to assist communities in increasing their resilience to wildfire, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 351. A bill to establish a pilot grant program to improve recycling accessibility, to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to carry out certain activities to collect and disseminate data on recycling and composting programs in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BUDD (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 352. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide assistance for common interest communities, condominiums, and housing cooperatives damaged by a major disaster, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S.J. Res. 8. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Homeland Security relating to "Increase of the Automatic Extension Period of Employment Authorization and Documentation for Certain Employment Authorization Document Renewal Applicants"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. SHEEHY):

S.J. Res. 9. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission relating to "Commission Guidance Regarding the Listing of Voluntary Carbon Credit Derivative Contracts"; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 47. A resolution designating January 30, 2025, as "Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MORENO (for himself and Mr. HUSTED):

S. Res. 48. A resolution congratulating The Ohio State University football team for winning the 2025 College Football Playoff National Championship; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KELLY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SHEEHY, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. WARREN):

S. Res. 49. A resolution designating the week beginning February 3, 2025, as "National Tribal Colleges and Universities Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 50. A resolution designating the week of February 3 through 7, 2025, as "National School Counseling Week"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 93

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 93, a bill to amend the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 to address harmful algal blooms, and for other purposes.

S. 134

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 134, a bill to place limitations on excepting positions from the competitive service, and for other purposes.

S. 222

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 222, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to allow schools that participate in the school lunch program to serve whole milk, and for other purposes.

S. 250

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 250, a bill to restrict the availability of Federal funds to organizations associated with the abortion industry.

S. 258

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 258, a bill to improve forecasting and understanding of tornadoes and other hazardous weather, and for other purposes.

S. 292

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 292, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for charitable donations to nonprofit organizations providing education scholarships to qualified elementary and secondary students.

S. 315

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) were added as cosponsors of S. 315, a bill to require the Secretary

of Transportation to issue a rule requiring access to AM broadcast stations in passenger motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 4

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 4, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Gas-fired Instantaneous Water Heaters".

S. CON. RES. 6

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 6, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that tax-exempt fraternal benefit societies have historically provided and continue to provide critical benefits to the people and communities of the United States.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 47—DESIGNATING JANUARY 30, 2025, AS "FRED KOREMATSU DAY OF CIVIL LIBERTIES AND THE CONSTITUTION"

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 47

Whereas Fred Toyosaburo Korematsu was born on January 30, 1919, in Oakland, California, to Japanese immigrant parents;

Whereas Fred Korematsu attempted to enlist in the United States National Guard and the United States Coast Guard after the United States entered World War II and was rejected because of his Japanese ancestry;

Whereas after the signing of Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942, by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, which authorized the forced imprisonment of 120,000 people of Japanese descent into prison camps, the majority of whom were American citizens, Fred Korematsu resisted that infringement of American civil liberties and attempted to continue his life as an American citizen until he was arrested, convicted, and incarcerated at a concentration camp in Topaz, Utah;

Whereas, in 1944, Fred Korematsu appealed his case to the United States Supreme Court, which ruled against him, declaring in *Korematsu v. United States* that Japanese incarceration was a "military necessity" rather than an egregious act of racial discrimination;

Whereas, in 1980, President Jimmy Carter created the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC), which concluded in 1983 that the forced removal and imprisonment of people of Japanese ancestry was motivated by "race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership";

Whereas during this time, researchers at the University of California, San Diego uncovered documents from the United States Department of Justice in which intelligence agencies, including the FBI, the FCC, and the Office of Naval Intelligence, denied that Japanese-Americans ever committed wrongdoing, but which were never presented to the United States Supreme Court during *Korematsu v. United States*;

Whereas following the conclusion of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians and the findings on governmental misconduct, Fred Korematsu reopened his case, and on November 10, 1983, the United States District Court of Northern California in San Francisco overturned his conviction;

Whereas Fred Korematsu's courageously fought injustice by challenging the constitutionality of Executive Order 9066, and his lawsuit remains an important lesson about the fragility of individual civil liberties during a time when the Nation is experiencing threats to its national security;

Whereas Fred Korematsu continued to fight injustice and defend the liberties of Muslim people when, in 2003, he warned in an amicus brief that the United States extreme national security measures following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, were reminiscent of the mistakes of the past that undermined American civil liberties, including the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798, the suspension of habeas corpus during the Civil War, the prosecution of dissenters during World War I, the Red Scare of 1919–1920, the internment of people of Japanese descent during World War II, and the era of loyalty oaths and McCarthyism during the Cold War;

Whereas the democratic character of the American people will be nourished and enhanced by opportunities for civic education on the significant challenges that have been posed to our Constitution;

Whereas a day of annual national reflection on how the Fred Korematsu quest for justice is important to educating the American people about preserving civil liberties and the principle of equality before the law; and

Whereas the States of California, Florida, Hawaii, Virginia, Arizona, New Jersey, and Michigan have already designated January 30 as Fred Korematsu Day to commemorate his lifelong fight for civil liberties and the Constitution: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates January 30, 2025, as "Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution";

(2) recognizes Fred Korematsu's bravery and resilience in the face of adversity; and

(3) encourages all people to reflect on the importance of political leadership and vigilance and on the values of justice and civil rights during times of uncertainty and emergency.

SENATE RESOLUTION 48—CONGRATULATING THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2025 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. MORENO (for himself and Mr. HUSTED) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

Whereas, on January 20, 2025, The Ohio State University Buckeyes won the first-ever, 12-team College Football Playoff National Championship with a 34 to 23 victory over the 7-seeded Notre Dame Fighting Irish;

Whereas head coach Ryan Day led the Buckeyes to a national championship win in

his sixth year as head coach, bringing the total of national collegiate football championships won by The Ohio State University to 9;

Whereas the Ohio State Buckeyes were led by an exemplary group of seniors, many of whom deferred the opportunity to enter the National Football League draft and returned to the school for 1 final season;

Whereas quarterback Will Howard completed 17 of 21 passes for 231 yards and 2 touchdowns, earning the title of Offensive Most Valuable Player;

Whereas linebacker Cody Simon recorded 8 tackles, earning the title of Defensive Most Valuable Player;

Whereas the Ohio State Buckeyes finished the 2024 season with 14 wins and 2 losses;

Whereas the Ohio State Buckeyes faced the most challenging path to a championship in the history of college football, playing 4 top 10-ranked teams in their path to the championship game;

Whereas defensive end Jack Sawyer ensured the team reached the national title game with a sack and fumble return touchdown in the College Football Playoff semifinal;

Whereas safety Caleb Downs was unanimously selected for the 2024 All-American Team, just the 39th player to receive such an honor in the history of the football program of The Ohio State University;

Whereas center Seth McLaughlin won the Rimington Trophy as the country's most outstanding center and was recognized as a consensus All-American;

Whereas wide receiver Jeremiah Smith was recognized as the most outstanding wide receiver and the most outstanding freshman player in the Big Ten Conference;

Whereas 7 Ohio State Buckeyes were selected for the All-Big Ten First Team;

Whereas The Ohio State University president, Walter "Ted" Carter, Jr., the senior vice president and athletics director, Ross Bjork, and the football head coach, Ryan Day, have stewarded a tradition of athletic and academic excellence at the institution;

Whereas The Ohio State University, founded in 1870, is one of the nation's top land-grant and sea-grant institutions, with more than 67,000 students, 15 colleges, and over 200 academic centers and institutes; and

Whereas The Ohio State University marching band, cheerleaders, students, faculty, alumni, and fans worldwide have supported the football team through a season filled with adversity and triumph: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates The Ohio State University Buckeyes football team for winning the 2025 College Football Playoff National Championship;

(2) recognizes the players, coaches, staff, and fans whose hard work led to the championship; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate prepare an official copy of this resolution for presentation to—

(A) the president of The Ohio State University, Walter "Ted" Carter Jr.;

(B) senior vice president and athletics director, Ross Bjork; and

(C) the head coach of The Ohio State University football team, Ryan Day.

SENATE RESOLUTION 49—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING FEBRUARY 3, 2025, AS "NATIONAL TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK"

Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO,

Mr. BENNET, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GALLEGOS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KELLY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SHEEHY, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 49

Whereas there are 34 Tribal Colleges and Universities operating on more than 90 campuses in 16 States;

Whereas Tribal Colleges and Universities are tribally chartered or federally chartered institutions of higher education and therefore have a unique relationship with the Federal Government;

Whereas Tribal Colleges and Universities serve students from more than 230 federally recognized Indian Tribes;

Whereas Tribal Colleges and Universities offer students access to knowledge and skills grounded in cultural traditions and values, including indigenous languages, which—

- (1) enhances Indian communities; and
- (2) enriches the United States as a Nation;

Whereas Tribal Colleges and Universities provide access to high-quality postsecondary educational opportunities for—

- (1) American Indians;
- (2) Alaska Natives; and
- (3) the other individuals that live in some of the most isolated and economically depressed areas in the United States;

Whereas Tribal Colleges and Universities are accredited institutions of higher education that prepare students to succeed in the global and highly competitive workforce;

Whereas Tribal Colleges and Universities have open enrollment policies and enroll Native and non-Native students; and

Whereas the collective mission and the considerable achievements of Tribal Colleges and Universities deserve national recognition: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning February 3, 2025, as “National Tribal Colleges and Universities Week”; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States and interested groups to observe National Tribal Colleges and Universities Week with appropriate activities and programs to demonstrate support for Tribal Colleges and Universities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 50—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 3 THROUGH 7, 2025, AS “NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK”

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 50

Whereas the American School Counselor Association has designated February 3 through 7, 2025, as “National School Counseling Week”;

Whereas school counselors have long advocated for all students;

Whereas school counselors help develop well-rounded students by guiding students through academic learning, social and emotional development, and career exploration;

Whereas personal and social growth can help lead to increased academic achievement;

Whereas school counselors play a vital role in ensuring that students are ready for both college and careers;

Whereas school counselors play a vital role in making students aware of opportunities for financial aid and college scholarships;

Whereas school counselors assist with and coordinate efforts to foster a positive school climate, resulting in a safer learning environment for all students;

Whereas school counselors have been instrumental in helping students, teachers, and parents deal with personal trauma as well as tragedies in their communities and in the United States;

Whereas students face a myriad of challenges every day, including peer pressure, bullying, mental health issues, the deployment of family members to serve in conflicts overseas, and school violence;

Whereas a school counselor is one of the few professionals in a school building who is trained in both education and social and emotional development;

Whereas the roles and responsibilities of school counselors are often misunderstood;

Whereas the school counselor position is often among the first to be eliminated to meet budgetary constraints;

Whereas the national average ratio of students to school counselors is 376 to 1, far exceeding the 250 to 1 ratio recommended by the American School Counselor Association, the National Association for College Admission Counseling, and other organizations; and

Whereas the celebration of National School Counseling Week will increase awareness of the important and necessary role school counselors play in the lives of students in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of February 3 through 7, 2025, as “National School Counseling Week”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe National School Counseling Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the role school counselors play in schools and the community at large in preparing students for fulfilling lives as contributing members of society.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have six 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 Armed Services is authorized to meet in open session during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 30, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., to consider a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 30, 2025, at 10:25 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 30, 2025, at 10:30 a.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 Thursday, January 30, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 30, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 30, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct an open nomination hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Bianca Routt, a fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the day.

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

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to grant floor privileges to my interns for their shadow days on the following dates: Olivia Sumerfield for February 4, 2025; Kira Shertz for February 6, 2025; Eleanor White for February 12, 2025; Ji Reichle for February 19, 2025; Diya Jaisankar for February 25, 2015; Lauren Pak for February 27, 2025; Reuben Hallsworth for March 5, 2025; Lila Batcheller for March 12, 2025; and Lucy Eckel for April 2, 2025.

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

CONGRATULATING THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2025 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 48, which is at the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 48) congratulating The Ohio State University football team for winning the 2025 College Football Playoff National Championship.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 48) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

NATIONAL TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 49, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 49) designating the week beginning February 3, 2025, as "National Tribal Colleges and Universities Week".

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 49) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 50, which was submitted earlier today.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 50) designating the week of February 3 through 7, 2025, as "National School Counseling Week".

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 50) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, February 3; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate be in a period of morning business

for debate only with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each until 5:30 p.m. and that at 5:30 p.m., I be recognized; further, that at 6:30 p.m., the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Bondi nomination; finally, that if any of the nominations are confirmed during Monday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, for the information of all Senators, Senators should expect three votes starting at 5:30 p.m. on Monday; a procedural vote in relation to the Vought nomination; a confirmation vote on the Wright nomination under the order of January 30; and cloture on the Bondi nomination.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2025, AT 3 P.M.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:56 p.m., adjourned until Monday, February 3, 2025, at 3 p.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate January 30, 2025:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DOUGLAS BURGUM, OF NORTH DAKOTA, TO BE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.